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Wicca VS. Witchcraft: A Challenge for a Definition

July 06, 2007 by **Don Rainwater**

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Witchcraft, defined is the craft of the witch. It involves the use of personal power to conjure and work magic on oneself and other people. Natural objects such as herbs and roots can be used to make potions to influence the

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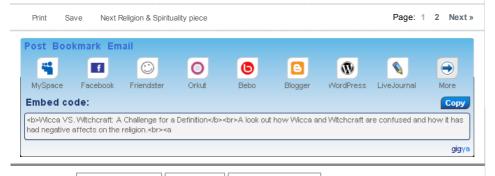
laws of nature and the laws of man. The pre-Christian remnants of witchcraft can be practiced by anyone no matter what religions. Christianity altered the name and the use by putting evil tags upon the practice and aligned the craft as more demonic and dangerous. The emphasis was placed on the witch who practiced destructive practices which, in turn, labeled all the witches as people who do harm to others.

The negative label is still accepted by many religions today without regards to the positive attributes.

The confusion between witchcraft and the Wicca religion is even infused in Wicca itself. Some members use the word

witch and witchcraft to define who they are. Wicca is primarily a pagan religion with roots in Shamanism and a deep relationship with nature. The confusion runs deep. Not all Wiccan are witches, and likewise, no all witches are Wiccan. To elevate the confusion both Wicca and other predominant religions need to make the definition clearer and educate new members of their flock in the social reconstruction of the definition of both.

According to Margot Adler, a confirmed Wiccan, ""We are not evil. We don't harm or seduce people. We are not dangerous. We are ordinary people like you. We have families, jobs, hopes, and dreams. We are not a cult. This religion is not a joke. We are not what you think we are from looking at T.V. We are real. We laugh, we cry. We are serious. We have a sense of humor. You don't have to be afraid of us. We don't want to convert you. And please don't try to convert us. Just give us the same right we give you—to live in peace. We are much more similar to you than you think."



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Freedom of Religion. Religion is very misunderstood no matter what religion it is. People remain ignorant. I consider myself half pagan. I don't normally go to explain that I actually consider myself Pagan/Wicca/Green Magick/Kitchen Witch. Otherwise I'm primarily Christian. Alder is a great author. The most unbiased I've read.

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