

# OVERVIEW OF WICCA



## KEY PERSON, DATE, LOCATION

NO ONE PERSON

ROOTS IN 19TH-CENTURY BRITAIN

PARTLY INSPIRED BY MARGARET MURRAY (1862-1963) AND ORGANIZED BY GERALD GARDNER (1884-1964) IN THE 1930S TO 1950S

## KEY WRITINGS

NO HOLY BOOKS | MANY GROUPS USE THE BOOK OF SHADOWS, FIRST COMPILED BY GARDNER AND LATER EXPANDED BY HIM AND OTHER LEADERS

OTHER POPULAR WORKS INCLUDE A WITCHES' BIBLE AND THE SPIRAL DANCE

## WHO IS GOD?

THE SUPREME BEING IS CALLED THE GODDESS, SOMETIMES THE GODDESS AND GOD, OR GODDESS AND HORNED GOD ("LORD AND LADY")

THE GODDESS CAN BE A SYMBOL, THE IMPERSONAL FORCE IN EVERYTHING, OR A PERSONAL BEING

WICCANS CAN BE PANTHEISTS, POLYTHEISTS, OR BOTH

## WHO IS JESUS?

JESUS IS EITHER REJECTED ALTOGETHER OR SOMETIMES CONSIDERED A SPIRITUAL TEACHER WHO TAUGHT LOVE AND COMPASSION

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT PART OF THIS BELIEF | SOME WICCANS MAY REFER TO "SPIRIT" AS A KIND OF ENERGY

## **HOW TO BE SAVED**

WICCANS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HUMANITY IS SINFUL OR NEEDS SAVING  
IT IS IMPORTANT FOR WICCANS TO HONOR AND WORK FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
NATURE (WHICH THEY EQUAL WITH THE GODDESS)

## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?**

THE BODY REPLENISHES THE EARTH, WHICH IS THE GODDESS'S WISH  
SOME WICCANS ARE AGNOSTIC ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH, OTHERS BELIEVE IN  
REINCARNATION  
SOME BELIEVE IN A WONDERFUL PLACE CALLED SUMMERLAND

## **OTHER FACTS, BELIEFS, OR PRACTICES**

WICCANS PRACTICE DIVINATION AND SPELL-CASTING, WITH MOST RITUALS  
PERFORMED IN A CIRCLE  
MANY WICCANS ARE PART OF A COVEN (LOCAL ASSEMBLY), THOUGH MANY  
OTHERS ARE "SOLITARY"  
COVENS MEET FOR RITUAL AND SEASONAL HOLIDAYS, INCLUDING THE EIGHT  
MAJOR HOLIDAYS (SUCH AS VERNAL EQUINOX, SUMMER SOLSTICE, AND BELTANE)  
WICCA IS AN OCCULTIC "NATURE RELIGION" NOT SATANISM