Pagan Spirituality

When the Voice of the Divine is Female
What is Paganism???
Paganism is principally rooted in the old religions of Europe, though some adherents also find great worth in the indigenous beliefs of other countries.

Such belief in the sacredness of all things can be found world-wide. Pagans see this as their heritage, and retain the beliefs and values of their ancestors in forms adapted to suit modern life.

*From the Latin ‘paganus’ “People of the Earth”*

Let’s put this in a little context - it began as something ascribed by the Roman military to indicate civilians, or non-military. From there it was adopted by the general population of Rome and devolved to reflect the non-cosmopolitan - those who followed the old ways, and then, more contemptuously, hillbillies - the unwashed, the uneducated… So - who WERE those people???
Pythagoreans Celebrating the Sunrise
6 BCE
Goddess
Ancient Mothers
“Women’s power to create life, apparently out of their own substance, and to respond with fearful and mystical blood cycles to the phases of the moon, made them creatures of magic in the eyes of primitive men, who knew themselves unable to match such powers. Thus women took on the roles of intermediaries between humanity and spiritual powers. They became seers, priestesses, healers, oracles, lawmakers, judges, and agents of the Great Mother Goddess who gave birth to the universe.”

—Barbara Walker
The Divine Feminine

Priestesses, Prophetesses, Seers, Sorceresses
The Cycles of Nature

- Rising & Setting of Sun
- Phasing of the Moon
- Changing of the Seasons
Moon Rituals

Waxing, Full, Waning, Dark
Maiden, Mother, Queen & Crone
Squire, Sire, King & Sage
Wheel of the Year

- Samhain: October 31
- Autumn Equinox: September 21
- Winter Solstice: December 21
- Lughnasadh: August 1
- Imbolc: February 1
- Beltane: May 1
- Summer Solstice: June 21
- Spring Equinox: March 20
Winter Solstice Blessing

Now is the time to honor the rebirth of the Sun, to remember the light in the darkest part of the season with hope of good things to come, and the promise of a renewed life.

Winter Solstice
Birth of the Sun - December 21
Imbolc
The Seed Stirs in the Belly - February 1
Spring Equinox
March 21
Whatsup With the Rabbits & Eggs?
Beltane

All About Love - May 1st
Summer Solstice

Longest Day - Father’s Day - Male Power at its Height - June 21
Lughnasadh

First Harvest - August 1
Autumn Equinox
Second Harvest, Letting Go, Turning Inward - September 22
The wheel has turned
The veil has thinned

Blessed Samhain

Summers End
Third Harvest
Blood Harvest
Ancestors

October 31
Ritual
“A painting is not just canvas and paint; it goes beyond the physical components. It’s the same with a ritual: if it actually functions, it achieves a wider end than simply performing each of the steps in succession.”

—Michael York, Pagan Ethics
Symbols
Magic/Spellcasting/Prayer
Witch!!!

Divination
Tarot
Meditations
Palmistry
Psychics
Scrying
Ouija Boards
Fortune Tellers
Shamanism
Tea leaves...
Satan

An Abrahamic construct/deity that is unknown in Paganism. Possibly configured from ancient images of the Greek god Pan, or a variety of the green man or Lord of the forest archetypes, who were often portrayed as horned gods; half human, half goat. They were based upon the agricultural cycle that symbolized the concept of an annual god and a perennial goddess.
Animals/Food
“We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate for having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, we greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren; they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the Earth.”

— Henry Beston

The Outermost House
1928
“…all animals speak to those who listen. When we learn to speak with the animals.....the animals are no longer our subordinates. They become our teachers, our friends, and our companions.”

From Animal Speak by Ted Andrews
Ethics/Personal Responsibility
• Health
• Honor/Worship
• Pleasure
• Productivity
• Generosity
• Self-responsibility
• Sustainability
• Don’t be a jerk
Death
Ancestors
Veneration of The Mighty Dead, The Beloved Dead
The After Life

- Summerland
- Return to the Mother
- Soul Contracts
- Reincarnation
- This is it
Fact is no one knows... That’s why they call it a MYSTERY!
Thank you, to all who came to learn today!

With a special thanks to:

- Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord
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- Rev. Shel Skau and
- Rev. Dr. Drake Spaeth
Reading List

Bibliography/Resources

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(Also, Witch Crafting; A Spiritual Guide to Making Magic 2002)

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Christianity & Paganism in the Fourth to Eighth Centuries – MacMullen, Ramsay, Yale University 1997

When God Was A Woman- Stone, Merlin Dorset Press 1976

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(Also - Voices of the Sacred Feminine: Conversations to Re-Shape Our World, and Goddess 2.0: Advancing a New Path Forward)


When the root is deep there is no reason to fear the wind.
End