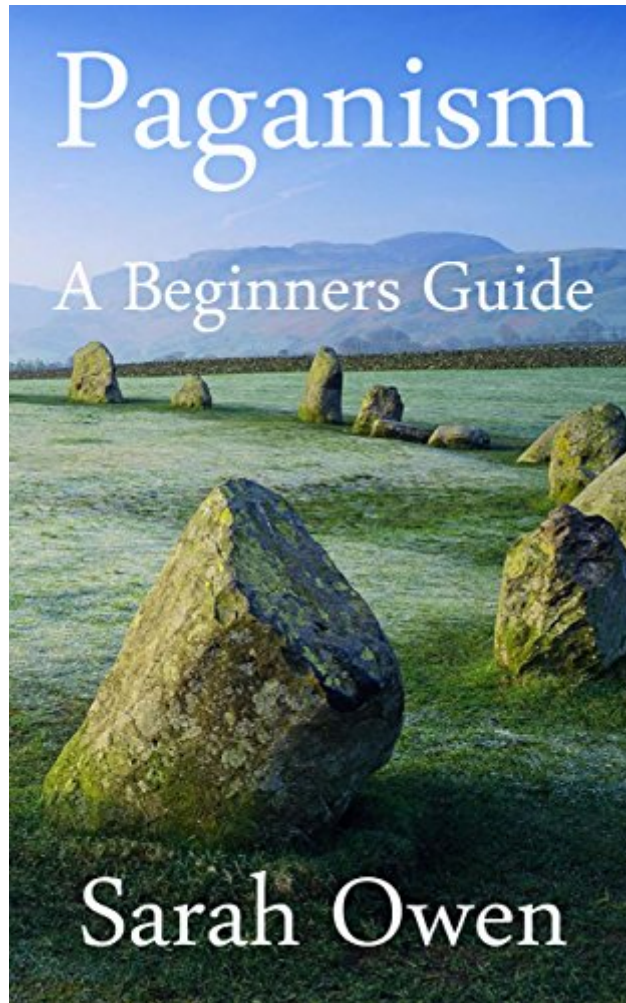


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Paganism: A Beginners Guide To Paganism



Synopsis

Interest in Paganism is steadily increasing and, while rooted in ancient tradition, it is a living religious movement. With its reverence for all creation, it reflects our current concern for the planet. This introductory guide explains:â € what Paganism isâ € the different Pagan pathsâ € what Pagans doâ € how to live as a Pagan. Paganism is one of the fastest growing spiritual movements in the West today. Pagans are those who worship the ancient pre-Christian Gods of our ancestors and of our lands. Originally, the word 'Pagan' was applied to those who worshipped the Gods of the pagus, which in Latin means 'locality'. Pagan was also used in another sense by Christians - to mean 'country dweller'. 'Heathen', of German origin, is also used by those who worship the Northern European Gods. Heathen means the someone of the heath who worships the Gods of the land. 'Paganism' is not a word that our ancestors would have used and it is seen by some as derogatory. Outside Europe, Pagans often reject it as an example of Western colonialism denigrating their traditional beliefs. In West Africa, the followers of indigenous spirituality refer to their beliefs as African Traditional Religion. In the West, the terms Native Spirituality, Celtic Spirituality, European Traditional Religion, the Elder Faith and the Old Religion are also used to describe the Pagan religions. Pagans have a variety of beliefs, but at their core are three which many would share: 1) The Divine has made itself manifest through many Deities in different places and at different times. No one Deity can express the totality of the Divine. This can be called polytheism - the Gods are many. 2) The Divine is present in Nature and in each one of us. This can be called pantheism - the Divine is everywhere. 3) Goddess and God: The Divine is represented as both female (Goddess) and male (God) while understanding that It is beyond the limitations of gender. 4) A fourth principle that some Pagans would share is called the Pagan Ethic: 'If it harms none, do what you will.'

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Customer Reviews

I found this book communicated paganism very well from a historical as well as current perspective. I love the way the author described the deep spiritual beliefs of pagans.

I loved this book it was articulate, interesting, and really spoke to my person camp in paganism. I loved how Owens was able to make the Gods, revival of old traditions and reverence towards nature simple and still beautiful. She, in my opinion, successfully gave examples of paganism without focusing on one tradition too heavily and I was thrilled that she doesn't talk about outer court Wicca ideas like they are the universal pillars of paganism. I almost gave her 5 stars but I do feel that in a guide meant to represent all paganism some section was needed to discuss atheistic pagans as well. I know that Owens presents a description of paganism that states following Gods is an implicit part of the pagan path and while I personally follow gods, I know you don't have to work with Gods to be pagan. I was disappointed by her exclusion of pagan atheists whose practices are often very similar to our own when it comes to aspects of community revival and natural reverence. Overall, I would happily add her book to my personal collection and I do think she is excellent reading for any beginner. Her work like any other beginners guide in a topic so broad just needs added supplements to give a more complete picture.

This book is a very good summary of Paganism. Brief and succinct, easy to read. Would recommend as a primer to the subject.

I'm beginning a spiritual journey. I do not know where this will take me, but I am excited to learn more.

A great little basic introduction to Paganism and an enjoyable read.

Between this and another book entitled Paganism: An introduction to Earth-Centered Religions, the latter has a little more information and a kinder flow to the reader.

I learned a lot that I didn't know before.

A good beginning to a great religion.

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