



Ask Rose Ariadne
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A List of Pagan Religions

According to author, folklorist and scholar of magic, Zora Neale Hurstone, "Magick is older than writing. So nobody knows how it started". Although the word "pagan" may be interpreted in many ways, for the purpose of this article, "pagan" refers to the ways of live that existed around the world before the advent of the Judeo-Christian religions.

Many people assume that "pagan" religions existed only in pre-Christian era Europe. However, history has proved that the Sumerian, Egyptian and African cultures, followers of the Hindu ways of life in ancient India, the Native Americans of North America, Aztecs and Mayan Civilization of South America, etc practiced some form of animism including nature based worship.

Most people know that a large cache of papyri was found in Alexandria, Egypt some time ago. This cache helped us understand some of the pagan ways of life in 5th century CE, including the way they lived, their marriage customs, daily problems expectations of life and death and their spiritual outlook.

However, we don't know from where they got this information. It could've been from anywhere in the world since trade routes were already established millenniums ago. Alexandria had achieved the reputation as a world capital of magick. Diviners, spell casters, dream interpreters, palm readers, etc were living in a city which was divided into many quarters, including the Greek, Egyptian and Jewish quarters.

As you can see from the list of pagan religions in the world, there are still huge portions of the world that have not been "converted" by the monolithic business style religions and which continue to flourish in many parts of the world. Here is the list of Pagan Religions from Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/>: Traditionally, these faiths have all been classified "Pagan", but scholars prefer the terms "indigenous/primal/folk/ethnic religions".





African

Akan Ashanti (Ghana) Mahoney (Fun) Efik (Nigeria, Cameroon) Igbo (Nigeria, Cameroon) Isoko (Nigeria) Yoruba (Nigeria, Benin) Bushongo (Congo) Bambuti (Pygmy) (Congo) Lugbara (Congo) Akamba (East Kenya) Dinka (Sudan) Lotuko (Sudan)
Masai (Kenya, Tanzania) Khoikhoi Lozi (Zambia) Tumbuka (Malawi) Zulu (South Africa)

American

Abenaki Aztec Blackfoot Cherokee Chickasaw Choctaw Creek Crow Ghost Dance Guarani Haida Ho-Chunk Hopi Huron Inca Inuit Iroquois Kwakiutl Lakota Leni Lenape Longhouse religion Maya Midewiwin Native American Church Navajo New Orleans Voodoo/hoodoo Nootka Olmec Pawnee Salish Seneca Selk'nam religion Tsimshian Urarina Ute Zuni Eurasian Bîl'ân Chinese Japanese Koshinto Siberian Shamanism Tengriism Estonian Eskimo religion Finnish and Finnish paganism Hungarian folk religion Sami religion (including the Noaidi) Tadihya

Oceania/Pacific

Australian Aboriginal Austronesian beliefs Balinese Javanese beliefs Melanesian Micronesian Modekngei Nauruan indigenous religion Philippine Anito Gabi' ½ Kulam Polynesian Hawaiian Maori Maori religion Rapa Nui Moai Tangata manu

Ancient Near Eastern

Ancient Egyptian religion Ancient Semitic religions Mesopotamian Arabian (pre-Islamic) Babylonian and Assyrian religion Babylonian Chaldean Canaanite Hittite Persian Sumerian

Indo-European

Zoroastrianism Historical Vedic religion Baltic Celtic (precursor of Wicca) Brythonic Gaelic Germanic polytheism Anglo-Saxon religion Norse religion Continental Germanic religion Greek polytheism Hungarian polytheism Finnish polytheism Roman polytheism Slavic polytheism Hellenistic
Mystery religions Eleusinian Mithraism Orphism Pythagoreanism Early Christianity

Gallo-Roman religion

Neopaganism

Anthroposophy Christian mysticism Hindu mysticism Martinism Meher Baba Nazi mysticism Occultism Rosicrucian Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis Ancient Order of the Rosicrucians Rosicrucian Fellowship Tantra Sufism Thelema There are many more pagan religions, ancient and current, that are not included in this list.

However, the tenets or rules of these religions vary so much that we may not find any common threads among these paths other than a reverence for nature and life as a whole.





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