



**Ask Rose Ariadne**  
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## **The Practices, Beliefs and Tradition on Faery Wicca**

Shrouded in mystery and somewhat secret, is the Faerie Tradition of Wicca. It was integral part of worship in ancient times and was practiced through the ages by Celtic and European Witches, African Shamans, Indian American Medicine Men and Hawaiian Ka-hunas, amongst others. The modern Faerie Tradition was established in the 1940s under the leadership of Victor Anderson and was developed by him, his wife Cora, and several important Faerie or Feri (as Victor spelt it) teachers during the years that followed.

So, what are the elements of the Faerie tradition and what are the principles?

### **1. Energy**

The Faerie tradition is more an ecstatic than a fertility tradition. Strong emphasis is placed on sensual experience and awareness. Faerie Power is used, which is:

- \* Sensual
- \* Sexual
- \* Ecstatic
- \* Mystical
- \* Creative
- \* Eclectic
- \* Invocatory
- \* Trance-possessory
- \* Imbued with a respect for the wisdom of Nature and a love of beauty
- \* Where the sexual and gender orientation is not limited to

heterosexuality

Exercises such as the Iron Pentacle, the Pearl Pentacle, the Lead Pentacle, and the Blue Fire visualization are practiced to develop and strengthen the Faerie energy current.





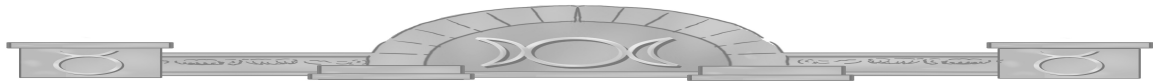
## 2. Lineage

The mystery of the tradition probably stems from the fact that Faerie Wicca in its true form cannot be studied by distance tuition, by means of books or on the Web. Like Egyptian Heka, Faerie Wicca is an oral tradition, very much hands-on and taught in person by initiates of the Craft. This being the case and because each initiate has their own take on the Tradition based on their individual experiences and interests, many authentic branches or lineages of the Faerie Tradition resulted. These include:

- \* Watchmaker. Reclusive group founded by the bardic, shamanic and psychedelic Gwydion Pendderwen.
- \* Vanthi. Faerie group which incorporates Gardnerian elements and which adheres to the three-fold law. Founded by Alison Harlow (1934-2004).
- \* FireDrake. An off-spring of Vanthi founded by Feri priestess J'té Argent, an initiate and spiritual heir of the late Alison Harlow. This line considers itself to be a form of Wicca and adheres to the "Three-Fold Law".
- \* Compost. Eclectic tradition founded by Starhawk, which combines many elements from different traditions.
- \* Silver Wheel. Formed by Steve Hewell, Eldri Littlewolf, and Gabriel Carillo. This group later became Korythalia, and then finally Bloodrose, which is a teaching coven. Although the latter disbanded, its lineage represents what may be the largest faction of the Faerie Tradition today.
- \* Draconian Pictish-Elven. Founded by Brian Dragon and an offspring of the Bloodrose lineage. It draws on the Pictish origins of Faerie, Tolkien and Jim Morrison.
- \* Sacred Wheel. Loose knit group of Faerie teachers and based on material of the Bloodrose group. Now disbanded.
- \* Nighthares. Descendant from Sacred Wheel. Added elements of Tibetan Buddhism, British Traditionalist Wicca, as well as teachings received directly from Victor and his wife Cora.
- \* Dustbunnies. Formed by Valerie Walker, an initiate of both the Compost and NightHares lineages. Teaches eclectic Faerie.
- \* Mandorla. Founded by initiates of the Andersons. Their lineage is known as Vicia which recalls an earlier form of the tradition and their practices are spontaneous.
- \* Morningstar. Founded by Faerie and Reclaiming Priestess T. Thorn Coyle. Her teachings originate in both the Bloodrose-derived lines of Feri, Feri as passed through some lines of Reclaiming, as well as that from the Anderson Clan. She teaches internationally offering 2 year apprenticeships.
- \* Blackheart. Derives its origins in both Anderson Feri as well as the Third Road material.

## 3. Customs and Practices





Some customs and practices are taught whilst other are generally understood as part of the Faerie energy. These include:

- \* Secret names are only revealed to initiates.
- \* Although practitioners of Faerie are responsible for what they do, most lineages do not have rules such as those contained in the Wiccan Rede. When in an enchanted, fey state, they can become a little chaotic, shape shifting, not completely human, or at least inspired by their gods and guardians, on the road to Faerie.
- \* There are deities which may either be the same as or different from other Wiccan traditions.
- \* Faerie has a unique set of guardians and invocations. These may be associated with the quarters or with the elements or at times with both.
- \* Knowledge of the Three Selves forms the basis of Faerie work.
- \* When initiated, the initiate receives a cord or cingulum of a specific color and is passed poetic and liturgical material.
- \* Trainees are taught how to use of the horned (inverted) pentagram.
- \* Workings take place either in small groups or solitary
- \* Trainees are taught the Faerie Warrior Code. This includes the Black Heart of Innocence. The latter is a fierce openness. In the Faerie tradition, weakness is not coddled, insincerities or self-deceptions in others are not supported and submitting one's own Life force to anyone or anything not allowed.

#### 4. Deities

The Faerie tradition has many deities. The primary goddess is the androgynous Star Goddess. All the other deities – there are six - are aspects of the Star Goddess. These are:

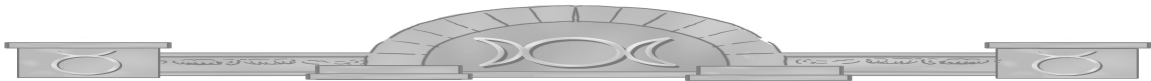
- \* The Blue God
- \* The Corn Maiden
- \* The Harvest Lord
- \* The Great Mother
- \* The Winter King
- \* The Crone

#### 5. Guardians

There are seven Guardians in the Faerie Tradition. They are the Cloud People, the Watchers or the Nephilim. The Guardians are usually invoked during circle casting but may not necessarily be invoked during magical work. The Guardians of the East and South are viewed as male, while the Guardians of the West and North are viewed as female. Their real names are secret. Below is a list of their public names:

- \* Star Finder





- \* Shining Flame
- \* Water Maker
- \* Black Mother
- \* Heaven Shiner
- \* Fire in the Earth
- \* Guardian of the Gates

Although there are some similarities between this and other traditions of the Craft, such as respect of Nature, love of beauty, and appreciation for creativity, the Faerie Tradition is in fact very, very different. Let me explain.

Risk-taking is encouraged to a far greater extent than in other Wiccan traditions. Unlike other Wiccan traditions, which may have specific laws limiting behavior, there is a certain amorality historically associated with the Faerie Tradition. Faerie practitioners see themselves, when enchanted, as "Fay". This means neither black nor white, outside social definitions, on the road to Faerieland, both mad and poetical. For these Initiates, much of reality is unseen and the boundaries of reality uncertain. In Faerie, the Gods are real and possess a morality system different from humans. In Faerie Wicca, possession is practiced. It is a mystery tradition of power, danger, ecstasy, and direct communication with the divine. A fair amount of initiates do not return unharmed from journeys between the worlds.

I conclude that whilst it is a beautiful and exciting Tradition, Faerie is not for everybody and definitely not for the feint of heart..

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