



Ask Rose Ariadne
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Three Types of Pagan Religions

Pagan religions were not really "founded" by any particular person. These religions gradually developed from reverence to nature, culture, customs, rituals and beliefs that were prevalent at the beginning of human existence on a brand new Earth.

Although many of these ancient religions did not have messiahs or "written-by-God" holy books, their beliefs were handed down from one generation to the next. As these religions were indigenous, their ideas and beliefs were isolated from foreign influence, particularly the powerful and controlling new religions that were created in the early part of the last millennium.

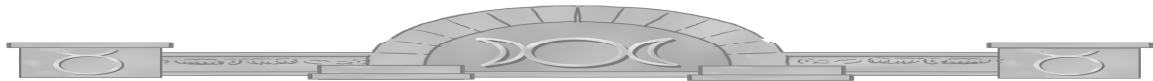
Pagan religions flourished as the numbers of people who followed them increased. From Africa, as the different tribes or cultures struggled to make sense of this new world they were in, the numbers of pagan religions multiplied and spread to Europe and the rest of the world.

There are many ways in which ancient and modern pagan religions can be categorized. One of the crucial ways in which to compare pagan religions is to characterize them according to their belief in divinity as polytheistic, nature based or the sacred feminine deity (or deities).

Polytheistic religions recognize multiple deities in which each deity takes charge of a particular function. For example, one God or Goddess may be in charge of weather, another in charge of fertility and yet another who safeguards our health. All of these deities are believed to be separate entities that appear or emerge when in need. In reality, there are few polytheistic religions.

Most of these religions, including Voodoo, which has a pantheon of deities such as Legba, Orisha, Eshu-Elegbara and others are all considered part of the ONE. The ancient Maya religion was also considered Polytheistic as they had deities governing wild





vegetation, fish, mountain spirits and game animals. Again, they had a principal creator God Itzamna and sky deities including the Sun God (Kinich Ahau) and Maya moon Goddess.

Nature based pagan religions believe that the entire Universe including plants, animals, rocks, sky, etc are aspects of Divine Creation. Every entity in this Universe has energy, power and responsibility. Wicca is a popular religion that has its roots in European origins and assimilates the traditions of many countries including Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

As a result of these various influences, there are many distinctions in the practice of Wicca around the world. The most popular version of Wicca in the US is the Gardnerian tradition which emphasizes the two deities Goddess and God. Wicca does not entertain the belief of the Christian entity "Satan", who represents the evil deity and who is constantly at war with an "all-powerful" God.

However, in enlightened societies, people are aware that females are as important (or more important) for the survival of our civilization. These religions accept and glorify the female divine principle and identify their deity as the Goddess instead of the male God that Abrahamic or patriarchal religions invented.

A variation of Wicca, called Dianic Wicca, founded by Margaret Murray, delegates the divinity entirely to the female deity or Diana, the Goddess. Women as well as men can join this religion and practice it. Similar to Dianic Wicca, there is also Hecatian Wicca in which the practitioners worship Goddess Hecate.

As the world comes together, old assumptions are broken down and people begin to realize that all cultures have intrinsic beliefs that are similar to the rest of the civilization and no one culture is any better or worse than another.

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