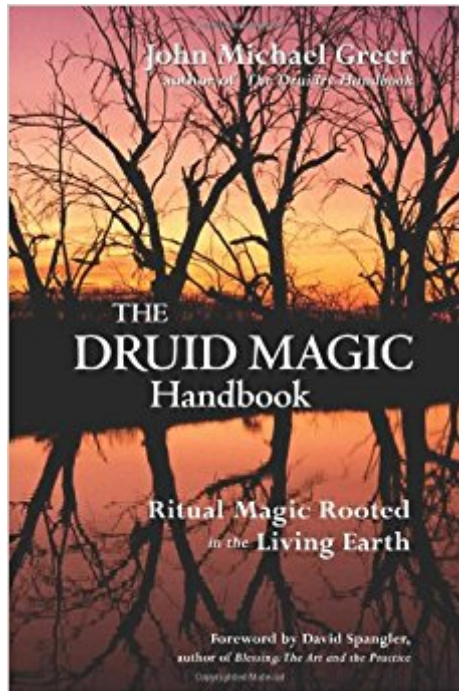




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The Druid Magic Handbook: Ritual Magic Rooted In The Living Earth



Synopsis

The first and only Druidic book of spells, rituals, and practice. The Druid Magic Handbook is the first manual of magical practice in Druidry, one of the fastest growing branches of the Pagan movement. The book breaks new ground, teaching Druids how to practice ritual magic for practical and spiritual goals within their own tradition. What sets The Druid Magic Handbook apart is that it does not require the reader to use a particular pantheon or set of symbols. Although it presents one drawn from Welsh Druid tradition, it also shows the reader how to adapt rites and other practices to fit the deities and symbols most meaningful to them. This cutting edge system of ritual magic can be used by Druids, Pagans, Christians, and Thelemites alike!* The first manual of Druidic magical practice ever, replete with spell work and rituals. * John Michael Greer is a highly respected authority on all aspects of Paganism.

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Customer Reviews

John Michael Greer has been a student of occult traditions and nature spirituality for more than 25 years. He began following the Druid path in 1993 with initiation in the Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids (OBOD). Greer is the author of numerous articles and ten books, including Paths of Wisdom, Circles of Power, Inside a Magical Lodge, Natural Magic, Monsters, and The New Encyclopedia of the Occult. He recently coauthored Learning Ritual Magic (Weiser Books, 2004). He lives in Ashland, Oregon with his wife Sara.

John Michael Greer, who currently resides in Maryland, is a prolific author and blogger. He has published books on such diverse topics as peak oil, sustainable living, UFOs and the future of spirituality. One of Greer's tomes reveals how to create your very own secret society! Another deals with "wait for it - monsters." "The Druid Magic Handbook" is one of several books from this writer about ritual magic. Greer belongs to a Meso-Pagan current known as the Druid Revival and was until recently the "Archdruid" of the Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA). The handbook is mostly based on the rituals practiced by this group. Later, Greer attempted to fuse the Revival with a somewhat different magical tradition, that of the Golden Dawn. Those interested can find the details in "The Celtic Golden Dawn" or contact the author's new group, the Druidical Order of the Golden Dawn (DOGD). Those who believe that magic is similar to Harry Potter's or Tinker Bell's exploits might be confused or disappointed by "The Druid Magic Handbook". While AODA's magic can be used to improve the contents of your purse, Greer emphasizes other and more lofty goals: spiritual enlightenment, reconnecting with Nature, cleansing Nature of negative energies, and developing a more balanced attitude to life. At one point, the author summarizes this as an attempt to "re-enchant the world". It's probably not a coincidence that David Spangler (ex-Findhorn) has written the foreword. Many of the magical techniques described in the handbook are psychological in character. They work on the practitioner's mind, rather than on tangible material reality. Complex rituals, divination with the aid of the Ogham alphabet, and discursive meditation form important parts of the AODA curriculum. The rituals are based on the metaphysical idea that everything in the universe is imbued with a vitalist life force which connects matter and spirit. "Magic" isn't miraculous (or "magical" in the everyday sense), but simply the ability of the mage to work with (or manipulate) this force in its many manifestations. The Earth is constantly influenced by two spiritual energies, known as the solar and the telluric. The solar current comes from the Sun and is also reflected by the Moon and the planets, while the telluric energy rises from the bowels of the Earth itself. The goal of Neo-Druid magic is to combine these two forces, thereby giving birth to the lunar current. This is symbolized by the Holy Grail. One chapter deals with a practice similar to that of "raising the kundalini" and "opening up the chakras", although Greer emphasizes that this should be done gradually, and that the goal is to balance various cosmic energies, rather than the more dramatic space-out typical of kundalini yoga. As already mentioned, the rituals described in Greer's book are complicated and obviously not for everyone. Those who master them will be able to communicate with divine beings and spirit-beings of diverse kinds. Astral travel and communication with trees are other possibilities.

Nothing is said about demons and other malevolent entities. Greer believes that Christians can practice the rituals by simply replacing the Celtic pagan terminology with names of saints and angels, but he never discusses this at length. It's interesting to note that AODA regards the divine beings as real, not as mere projections of the human psyche. Nor are the gods illusions in the Hindu-Buddhist sense. Finally, the gods and spirits are never bound by the magician or forced to do anything. Rather, they chose of their own free will to impart esoteric knowledge onto the mage. The rituals place the practitioner in a right relationship with the life force, but doesn't give him power over the angels. (Hopefully, the Sphere of Protection keeps those monsters at arm's length!) The Druid Magic Handbook can be tedious for the general reader, but if you are seriously interested in ritual magic and what esoteric orders do behind closed doors (or out in the wilderness), this may be worth looking at. Just forget about Harry Potter...

A very clearly written, understandable, comprehensive manual on learning and practicing the druid system of magic. The author, John Michael Greer, is Grand Archdruid of the Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA). Therefore the specific methods described in this book are the ones used by the AODA. However, the methods of other druid societies are much the same and, as one learns from the book, the practice of magic is personal, there is no one exact way. While the description of the rituals is clear, they require extensive dedication in time and effort to master. In reading about druid magic one is also exposed to considerable history of the origins and development of modern druidism. My 5-star rating is for the clarity and readability of the text. How effective one becomes as a mage is up to the reader.

Great how-to book on both theory and practice. JMG has a real talent for writing and decades of experience.

This is a great book for anyone trying to learn to live a life by the path of the druid people. The author is very knowledgeable.

Great to learn more about traditional magic.

I have read and used different books and information online. I really like John Michael Greer's style of writing. He is a very educated author in the Druid practices and beliefs. I like the way he takes

each area of the study and breaks them down in a very well explained manner. I would definitely recommend this if you really are serious about following the Druid Path. I have been following this path for some years and have read different books, but Greer's approach is one that will amaze you. He gets into the true heart and nature of understanding and working a Druid way of life. I intend to purchase more of his writings in the future.

I'm enjoying reading this book. Well written and very insightful.

This book is full of practical exercises which is exactly what I have been looking for. It also provides just enough theory to understand the connections. I recommend this book to everyone who wants to actually practice (not just read about) Druid magic.

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