



House of Grimassi

Pathways to Knowledge

Old Ways Witchcraft



Merry Greet,

Thank you for your expressed interest in receiving material about our unique course in "Old Ways Witchcraft". Included in this information and registration packet is an outline describing the course, how it works, and the approach to studying the course material.

The "Witchcraft and the Old Ways" course you are about to consider is unique in many ways. It has been created and prepared by two practicing elders of the Old Ways of Witchcraft with the combined experience and knowledge of over 40 years. This includes training in Celtic, Brittic, Pictish-Gaelic and Italian Witchcraft traditions. In the packet you will find personal biographies and a description "Course Description".

The purpose of this course is to establish a sound and cohesive understanding of Witchcraft as a religion, spirituality and magical path. The creators of this course have used as a basis for these teachings the commonality of pre-Christian European Witchcraft/Paganism. This commonality is the primary format for the lesson material. Please note that this course is not tradition specific. You will come to understand that specific traditions of Witchcraft simply convey the cultural expression of the pre-Christian European Witchcraft/Paganism commonality. Therefore "the one truth" is expressed through the many cultural perceptions such as found in Celtic, Stregheria, Germanic, Teutonic, and Saxon traditions, etc.

Ultimately the intent of the course is to provide you with the spiritual tools that allow for personal transformation. This is achieved by applying the information, techniques, and exercises supplied in this course to a life style of living in "common cause" with Nature. Personal transformation and enlightenment is a lifetime endeavor and process. The course is a guide and map to help you on the Path you choose to walk.

Now that we have provided an introduction to "Witchcraft and the Old Ways" please read through the information packet in the order provided. Do not skim read or you will misunderstand the structure, the way this course works, and the two different approaches to taking this course.

Bright Blessings on the path!

Raven Grimassi and Stephanie Taylor



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ABOUT THIS COURSE

This is a course about the Old Ways of Witchcraft, which existed long before the modern adaptations and modifications of the contemporary Craft. The Old Ways are the root connections to the vital essence of the wisdom and knowledge preserved and passed on by our ancestors. Witchcraft, the Old Religion, is a great ancient tree that contains all that has come before. The fruit it produces is the nourishment of enlightenment that joins one generation to the other. But, like any tree, it is the roots that keep the tree alive and established.

This course that we offer is all about alignment with those ancient roots. This ancient tree was there before any cultures arose to establish themselves as Etruscan, Roman, Celtic, Germanic, Nordic and so forth. So, to limit our understanding of Witchcraft by focusing primarily on any one tradition is to miss the wholeness of the tree itself. Therefore this course is designed to provide you with the untainted core teachings, beliefs and practices from which all European-based traditions have drawn. However, supplement lessons pertaining to Italian Witchcraft and Celtic Witchcraft are supplied in addition to the primary 13 lessons of the course. This is provided in order to compare the northern European view with the southern European view. So, if your interest is the Path of Stregheria or Celtic Witchcraft, the course will provide the necessary interfaces and expand your understanding of those traditions.

The material in the Witchcraft & the Old Ways is not a rehash of widely available writings. It is instead a unique opportunity to explore and understand many concepts not brought forth from the shadows in any books or articles to date. The instructors of this course are lineage Witches initiated and trained in non-public traditions. Therefore the material presented is not an eclectic patchwork creation, nor is it watered-down for the masses. This is authentic old Witchcraft as once taught by the hearthside, from master to apprentice.



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INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Raven Grimassi and Stephanie Taylor-Grimassi are a teaching team in the ways of Old World Witchcraft.

Raven Grimassi is a practicing Witch, teacher, scholar and an award-winning author of over 20 books on Witchcraft, Wicca, Magic, and Inner Mysteries Traditions. He brings to the table over 40 years of personal experience, study, and an in-depth understanding of these fields. Raven is a popular lecturer and workshop presenter all across the United States. It is his life's work to preserve the roots of pre-Christian European spirituality and mystical themes. His published books include such classic works as *The Witches' Craft*, *Witchcraft: A Mystery Tradition*, *Old World Witchcraft*, *The Grimoire of the Thorn-Blooded Witch*, *The Cauldron of Memory*, and *Communing with the Ancestors*.

Raised by an Italian native mother, Raven's early years were filled with the lore of Old Italy. In the summer of 1969 he discovered Wicca and spent many years involved with various groups and traditions. These included Celtic Traditionalist Wicca, Brittish Wicca, and the Pictish-Gaelic Tradition. Raven also studied under Lady Sara Cunningham in the 1970s. In the 1980s he created the Arician Tradition, which had roots in Italian Witchcraft. He later left the Italian Path in 2004. He is now the co-director of the Ash, Birch and Willow Tradition, a non-cultural system of Old World Witchery, a system rooted in the commonality of old European Traditions without a focus on any singular culture.

Stephanie has been a practitioner of Wicca & Witchcraft for over 20 years. She is a 3rd degree initiate of a Celtic Traditionalist system of Wicca, and a 3rd degree initiate of Italian Witchcraft (the Arician Tradition). She is a legally ordained clergy of Witchcraft. Stephanie has studied, taught, and used the magical arts as tools of transformation throughout her lifetime. She is also a Tarot reader, astrologer, and a teacher of Old World Witchcraft.

They are co-creators and co-authors of the two Oracles decks, *The Well Worn Path*(2005), and *The Hidden Path*(2007; both now out of print.).

In 2006, Raven and Stephanie formed the Ash, Birch and Willow tradition of Witchcraft, and together they co-direct and co-teach the ABW Tradition through the House of Grimassi (a Mystery School devoted to preserving pre-Christian European traditions). Through this school they offer home study courses on older forms of Witchcraft with students around the globe.

Raven and Stephanie currently live in New England and divide their time, respectively, between operating RavensLoft.biz cyber store, teaching workshops, co-directing the Mystery School known as the House of Grimassi, and of course, writing!



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*** Is the course based on the Stregheria (Italian witchcraft tradition)?**

Although the course includes material pertinent to Italian Witchcraft, as well as Celtic Witchcraft, it is not specific to any singular tradition. The material presents the core essence of Old Ways witchcraft before it was given any true cultural expression. Therefore the material is more expansive.

*** Does the course lead to initiation?**

No, the course itself is not intended as a preparation for initiation. However, other courses will be available to guide the student to deeper levels of training and understanding. Students who have taken these courses will be considered for admissions to the House of Grimassi, formerly known as the Fellowship of the Pentacle, which is a Mystery School for in-depth training in the Mystery tradition. Initiation is possible through membership.

***What if I do not like the course after I sign up?**

In such an unlikely event, the student may withdraw after the third lesson, and monthly can stop after that time. Students may keep the materials they have received to date. No future lessons will be mailed and no refund will be given for the first three lessons. For students who prepay the course in advance, they may withdraw from participation after the third lesson and receive a refund for the remaining balance (from which an administration fee is deducted).

*** I thought it was unethical to charge for teaching the Craft, isn't this true?**

Many people have a misunderstanding regarding teaching and being paid by students. What the belief actually refers to is the tenet that it is unethical to charge for initiations or to charge to teach initiated members of your coven or Tradition. Our Course does not violate this code. It should, however, be noted that not all Witches or Witchcraft traditions subscribe to this modern custom.

*** Do I have to pay for the complete course in advance?**

The course provides two options, monthly payments for thirteen lessons or prepayment of the entire course in advance. (see information packet for details)

*** Do you offer any free scholarships for financial hardships?**

Yes, we do consider this on a case-by-case basis. You are welcome to write to us describing your situation. Unfortunately we cannot offer everyone a free scholarship but we will sincerely consider any and all requests. Please use this option only if truly necessary.



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*** What happens after I complete this course?**

Upon successful completion of the course a certificate of completion is mailed to the student. The student is then eligible for future ongoing courses at a discount.

*** Do I need any special tools or items while taking this course?**

A dedication ritual and the necessary items for performing it are provided for the student. Students will want to have their own ritual tools on hand during the course (such as blade, chalice, pentacle, & wand). Students interested in additional supplies can order them from www.ravensloft.biz with their 10% discount card.

*** Does the course include magic and spellworking?**

Yes, but this aspect of Witchcraft is secondary to the primary focus of the course, which is exploring and understanding our ancestral wisdom and knowledge for our personal growth and expansion.

*** Does the course teach/contain any inner secrets?**

The course is a guide and catalyst to the hidden connections and alignments that lie both within and without us all. From the perspective of this course, secrets are connections, alignments and understandings that have yet to be established or realized.



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers two different option plans to choose from according to the individual needs and desires of each student. It is designed for monthly lessons along with a monthly "Question & Answer" self-test. The course will cover a wide variety of topics, which appear in various lessons of this course. The following are not meant to indicate individual lessons:

Historical and literary roots of Witchcraft

Witchcraft as an Earth religion

The Witches' Goddess

The Witches' God

The Otherworld & Underworld

The Teachings of the Tree

Understanding the Old Ways

Personal empowerment

The Watchers

Ethics

The Full Moon in Witchcraft

The Seasonal Rites

The Tools of Witchcraft

Ritual

Magic

The Witches' Fellowship

Rites of Passage

And much more...

* Unique set of thirteen primary monthly lessons, each with a question and answer review sheet.

* Four free quarterly supplemental lessons to enhance course material.

* Training and personal development exercises.

* Illustrations, graphics and tables/charts.



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LESSON PROTOCOL

The course operates in the following manner. Once the registration form has been received with the first tuition payment, the enrollment process can be completed. Next an “acceptance letter” is sent with several documents pertinent to the course of study. You are then mailed an alignment bag that is used in a personal dedication ritual. The instructions on the rite are included with Lesson 1. The dedication rite is a formal statement on the part of the student to seriously study the material and to remain receptive to the teachings. It is also, in a very real sense, a bond between student and teacher, a mutual commitment to devote time and energy to the course of study.

The Course contains 13 primary lessons and four free supplemental lessons in Witchcraft and the Old Ways. The first lesson is emailed as an attachment to the student between the 1st and the 10th of the month. If enrollment is completed after the 10th of any given month the student will begin the course lessons the following month. Once the first lesson is completed, the student completes the Question & Answer sheet provided. Each lesson includes self-test question and answer sheets and the pre-printed "master" answer sheet to be used for comparison and any needed correction.

One of the flexible features of this course is the personal pace option. Although instructors have designed the lessons for monthly study, reflection, and a review, the course does allow the student to progress at their own pace whenever needed or desired. This feature accommodates any situation the student may encounter that may prevent participation during any given month. The student continues to pay the monthly tuition regardless of participation and can complete the course at their own pace. However, lengthy extended non-participation is not a feature of the course. See Registration form for further details regarding non-participation.

With the thirteenth lesson the student receives a course comprehension exam sheet. It is not a ‘pass’ or ‘fail’ exam. Once the final exam is received and reviewed, a certificate of completion is sent to the student acknowledging that she or he has successfully completed a year of study in Witchcraft provided by the House of Grimassi, formerly known as the Fellowship of the Pentacle.



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COST OF COURSE

If you are like most Witches/Pagans you no doubt have a collection of books in your personal library. You probably have also taken classes here and there in your community, and have purchased ritual or magical tools along with symbolic jewelry and various supplies with which to practice the Craft. Were you to add up the cost of all these things together, what would be the dollar amount that you've spent to date? Whatever the cost may be, because you have requested information about the course Witchcraft & the Old Ways, you are apparently still seeking more understanding and knowledge.

The value of this course is that practitioners of Witchcraft who have devoted several decades to developing their own understanding and knowledge of Witchcraft in accord with time proven training techniques have prepared it. In addition, they are available to you for answering questions and offering guidance throughout the time period of your study. This is something you cannot get out of a book, and it is difficult to place a value on an opportunity of this nature.

In preparing this course, the price of materials has been a factor along with the value of the personal time devoted to each student's lessons during the period of correspondence. The course offers a personal period of training with interaction with the instructors and fellow students. This allows for greater expansion beyond the printed material of each lesson and more additional teachings. Instructors do review the Question and Answer sheets contained in each lesson, but do not necessarily comment unless the student is misunderstanding the material.

When considering the cost of the Course, bear in mind that most people will spend more monthly on Fast Food than the cost of each monthly lesson in the Course of Study!



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If you would like to contact us please do so via one of the following methods

Mail House of Grimassi
 P.O. Box 80607
 Springfield, MA 01138-0607

E-Mail - cf-information@comcast.net

Phone - 413-301-7252

Form check list

All of the following forms must be completed and returned in order for your registration to be complete.



Registration Form



Tuition Agreement



Contractual Agreement



Copyright Notice



My Personal Commitment

Please mail all of your completed forms to

House of Grimassi
P.O. Box 80607
Springfield, MA 01138-0607



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REGISTRATION FORM

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Birth date: _____



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TUITION AGREEMENT

I am registering for the 13 month course of study in Old Ways Witchcraft. I acknowledge that this course has a tuition payment of \$35.00 per month for 13 months (Total \$455.00 study in Old Ways Witchcraft)

Choose method of payment:

Credit Card:

Visa # _____

MasterCard # _____

Discover # _____

Expiration date _____

CCV # _____ (Last three numbers on back of card in signature area)

I authorize the Raven's Loft, on behalf of the House of Grimassi to charge my card as provided in the contractual agreement for the course of study – Old Ways Witchcraft.

Signature

Date

If you would like to pay for the course in full, please send a check or money order made out to **Raven's Loft** along with the registration forms.



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CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read the Course Description, Lesson Protocol, Course Cost, and Copyright notice. I understand that the course is intended to be a monthly lesson format with a \$35.00 payment made in advance of receiving each monthly lesson. I understand that I cannot withdraw from the course of study until completing the first three lessons. I understand and agree that should I want to discontinue participation and withdraw from the course that I must give a thirty day notice in email writing, and I may keep the materials I have already received but am not entitled to any refund for not completing the course.

I certify that I have read the copyright notice and agree not to make copies of the course material or allow copies to be made by others in any form or manner whatsoever. I also certify that I am 18 or older as of the signing of this document.

Student signature

Date



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COPYRIGHT NOTICE

(AND AS IT HARM NONE)

Please note that the writings of any author are considered to be "intellectual property." This means that it is his or her creative production. Authors make a living off of their writings just as anyone does from the work they do or the things they produce. When someone copies an author's work in any manner and either gives it away to someone else or resells it, the author is therefore denied his or her rightful payment for the product. In effect this equates to robbing the author of his or her earnings. Such an act is called "intellectual theft" and is harmful to the author because it decreases his or her ability to make a living.

In consideration of this fact, the student must sign this agreement not to reproduce the material contained in this course, and not to allow others to do so. This signed form must be returned along with the registration form.

I certify that I have read the copyright notice and agree not to make copies of the course material or allow copies to be made by others in any form or manner whatsoever.

Legal Signature

Date

Printed name of student



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MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I accept membership in this Course of Study with the intention to study monthly and to complete the Course. I have considered the time and financial commitment in this decision and feel I am able to apply my time and pay the tuition that will allow me to take this Course without interruption. I understand that a period of commitment between student and teacher is traditional in the study of Witchcraft, and I intend to honor this tradition.

In consideration of the teachings of the Old Ways, we value your word, which speaks to the character and integrity of the individual giving it. Although we do understand that circumstances and events arise in everyone's lives, please communicate with us to keep us informed of any changes that would shift your life focus or incur a financial burden.

All we ask is you honor your agreement and if you cannot please communicate and explain why.

Signature _____ Date _____