



the real teenage witch

What do we understand by the practice of witchcraft? Are all witches to be feared? Forget Sabrina and Mildred Hubble, - What about the real white witch living in your towns and going to your schools?

Alaa Eltom reports on white witch beliefs and rituals.

Sabrina, Mildred Hubble and Harry Potter; what do they all have in common?

No, it's not the fact they have become major television stars, but they are all witches of some sort. However, what about the real deal - the real 'witches' living among us today? The ones who aren't just something thought up by a creative mind... the Real Teenage Witches.

This implication of witches living amongst us is a bit of a shock. The idea of a witch coming to our schools and living in our towns is almost frightening to any of us. However, this situation has gone from hypothetical to real life. There are witches among us, but not the type you are thinking about. These are white witches, or Wicca's and in this article the truth will be exposed about their way of life and practices in general.

This report is based on real research carried out from reliable sources. Everything you read is true. There are no lies and most importantly no stereotypes. I have based my report on purely factual research that I have gathered.

Firstly, we must all get rid of the stereotypes in our minds, be it a green monster or a freak

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dressed in strange robes. This is important if you want to gain a true understanding of witch craft. When I first came across the subject of witchcraft I approached it with curiosity, however, I must admit I had my reservations. I simply did not know what to expect. Firstly it is important to deal with the 'inaccuracies,' primarily the assumption that modern witches worship the devil. This is simply not true; witchcraft is very, if not totally different to Satanism. It can easily be argued that this belief is what causes the fear of witches that is seen today.

As can be seen there is no Satanism in the above list. However, the common question that is often asked is 'what is a witch?' This is a fair question. The web dictionary's definition is 'female sorcerer' or 'magician.' However, Wicca's believe the true definition is 'one who

worships the Goddess (es) and/or God(s) of Paganism, practices magic, and considers her/himself to be a follower of the spiritual path of Witchcraft.' These definitions are very different to other definitions I found as part of my research, such as the long known tale of witches worshipping the devil.

There are many symbols to this craft, some of the most famous are perhaps; the pentagram which is a five pointed star, this is used for protection and conjuring; another famous symbol is the Ankh, which is associated with the worship of Isis. (This links to the idea that this practice links with others as Isis was in fact an ancient Egyptian God). These symbols have grown to become more common in our society and many are now beginning to accept them as a sort of religious practice.

The number of books about the craft taken out of public libraries has greatly increased over the last ten years and is still steadily increasing. More so, the vast majority of people who take out these books are teenage girls. This is again a sign that witch craft is not as rare as one may primarily have thought. One writer wrote that 'twenty years ago, young girls would watch 'The wizard of Oz' and want desperately to be Dorothy, but nowadays, they

prejudices. Nevertheless, it has had some serious results. In some cases acts of violence have been made towards Wicca's. These acts of violence occur mainly in the United States, where the belief that witches worship Satan is prominent. One top student at her school also practiced Wicca and was literally persecuted for her belief. Others were simply tortured as a result of their theories and practices.

The media has had a lot to do with the spread of witchcraft and the opinions that people have about Witchcraft. Such hit television shows such as 'Charmed' and the classic 'Sabrina the Teenage Witch' must have had an influence on the rising amount of young people becoming increasingly interested in the practice.

Let us face it, who wouldn't want to have powers like Sabrina, Pru, Piper or Phoebe? Many have condemned the media for their portrayal of Witchcraft; some believe that youths are growing more influenced into the side of Witchcraft and further into Satanism as a result of such popular television dramas. This negative opinion is leading to some forms of prejudices against currently practicing witches or Wicca's.

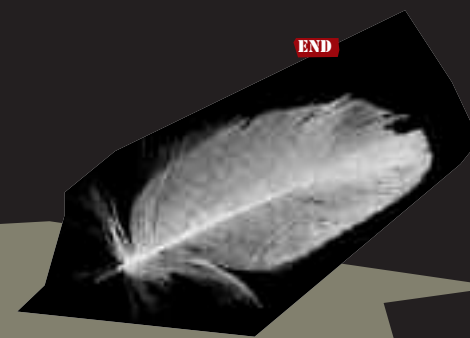
Hopefully in the future people will learn to understand such practices as Wicca and Witchcraft and form an acceptance for the faith. The more we learn to understand the more we can begin to accept them.

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The outright fear of witches is of great interest as many people living in society are afraid of the craft. This could be as a result of the limited understanding of the practice or of

Wicca belief is based upon the following:

- ▶▶ Everyone has the divine (or goddess) within.
- ▶▶ One should develop natural gifts for divination or occult magic (often spelled 'magick' by occultists.)
- ▶▶ Divine forces or nature spirits are invoked in rituals.
- ▶▶ The Goddess, as either a symbol or a real entity, is the focus of worship.
- ▶▶ Nature and the earth are sacred manifestations of the Goddess.
- ▶▶ Everyone has his or her own spiritual path to follow.
- ▶▶ Rituals and celebrations are linked to the seasons and moon phases.
- ▶▶ Meditation, visualisation, invocation (calling on forces or gods/goddesses), chanting, burning candles and special rituals trigger a sense of the mystical, thus reinforcing the core belief system.



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