

Shamanism Mysticism

Is the oldest noted religion, it is not based on one god, but more so on animism.

Shamanism stems from nature, shamanic peoples tap into the power of nature to create spells.

Indigenous teachings are derived from simplistic truths within nature.

Shamanism has many religious practices, such as spiritual practice, which involves connecting with your inner self and attempting to understand the spirits around us.



Shamanism looks at the livelihood of the community as well as that of the individual. This includes people, plants and animals. Pilgrimage is also an important part of shamanism, learning to approach and connect to sacred places is essential. This honours nature and reawakens the energy of the land.



A shaman is in essence, a medicine man. They have abilities to heal people and hear voices from near by spirits. People who follow shamanism see the shaman as a master of energy.

Shamanism is a prehistoric religion, dating back to Palaeolithic cultures. Cave art shows evidence of shamanic practices, while materials used in rituals have been found in the iron age. It has cross cultural references, from a variety of tribes. Shamanism is referenced in a variety of cultures and religions, from early Greek Paganism to Buddhist teachings. It is one of the earliest accounts of religion, which has meant it has left a mark on most religions. The Shaman is an early interpretation of a priest and the central part of the shamanist teachings. Shamanism originated in Siberia, when many tribes would gather, nominate one person in the tribe to eat a highly psychoactive mushroom, known as Amanita Muscaria.



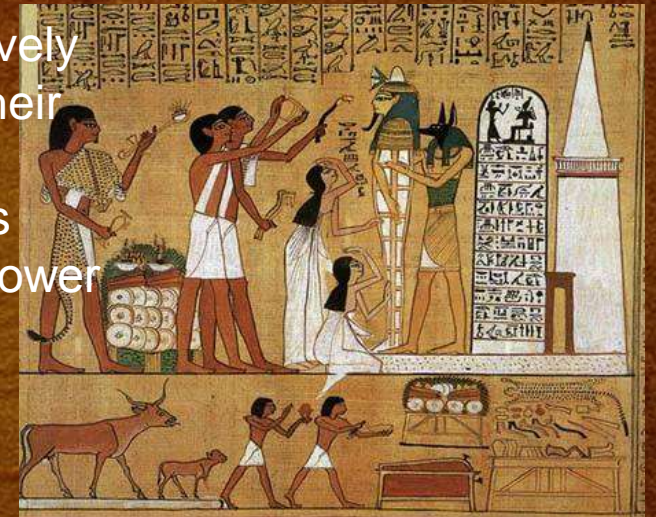
Ancient Egypt.



Magic, sorcery and spells were an essential part of Ancient Egyptian society. There was a strong belief that man was connected to nature and a plethora of Unseen beings surrounding us.

The Egyptians believed magic could heal any everyday inconvenience. The practice was very scientific and organized, rather than believing in witches, they believed in the general practice of magic rather than specific witchcraft. It was an essential part of religion and therefore became incredibly culturally significant.

The ancient Egyptians practiced with many magical artifacts that are still relatively popular today, such as spells and amulets. They were especially famous for their writing and inscriptions, which were used to create some of the ever popular Spell books. The pharaoh used spells to solve more difficult problems, such as economic stress. The main goal of the pharaoh's use of witchcraft was to empower Men (soldiers) or motivate their population.



Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egyptian witchcraft is seen as the basis of witchcraft. The materials used have followed through into modern witchcraft. The Egyptian Goddess Isis

Is seen to be the goddess of magic and fertility. Isis was daughter of the earth God, Geb.

Isis used magic and spells to help those in need.



Celtic magic

Celtic magic is based around two deities, the horned god and the earth mother goddess, both are also referenced in the wiccan faith. What separates Celtic magic from other iterations is the 'good neighbors. These are more commonly known as elves, fairies and gnomes. In Celtic witchcraft, magic is everywhere. It is believed to be woven into clothes, consumed in food and part of all every day activities.

The 'priests' of Celtic witchcraft were known as druids. They used wisdom and magic to provide support to the Celtic people.

Celtic witchcraft heavily works on the connection with nature and seeks to utilize this to their advantage. They also prioritize the elements, using them to their own advantage.



Witch trials and the inquisition

Witch trials became popular in England when the catholic church gained power in England. Pagan practicing people were hunted and usually burned to death. The Catholics of the inquisition were notorious for killing witches. The common people were convinced by the church that witchcraft had associations with Satan, due to the church wanting to decrease the amount of practicing pagans in the UK. There was approximately 5000 deaths from the executions for witchcraft.



Witch trials.

Witch trials were also extremely popular in Scotland, North Berwick was also notorious for commencing witch hunts. People believed there were deals made with the devil, therefore making Scottish women witches. Many of the women convicted were unmarried and seen as unruly, which could correlate with why there were so many convictions.



de haeretico comburendo

Regarding the heretic who is to be burnt

This was the law passed that officially banned witchcraft. In 1401 King Henry VI passed the first official law against heresy. This led to thousands of women being burnt at the stake. This law was to counteract illegitimate expressions of religious belief. Those who counteracted the beliefs of the church were burnt at the stake in reference to de haeretico comburendo.

¶ The burning of William Sawtre.



de haeretico comburendo

The blur between religion and state was commonplace in the medieval period .

The action of de haeretico de combuerno can be traced back to the lollard reform movement in the late 14th and early 15th centuries. People began questioning the role of the church and monasticism, many people who believed in the reform denied heretical learnings whereas others wanted the church to be more focused on the common people.



William Satyre was the first person to be burned under De Haeretico Combuerdo due to the Lollard reform. After being questioned by a ruthless man, Satyre was convicted after several hours of questioning.

SALEM

Salem witch trials is one of the most iconic accounts of witchcraft in history. In the spring of 1692, a group of girls claimed they had been possessed by the devil and claimed six of the women in their town were witches. The accused included a Caribbean slave and a homeless woman along with two women who lived next door to one of the girls. A wave of hysteria swept through Salem and lead to a special court being conducted in Salem.



SALEM



BETTMANN / GETTY

The first convicted witch was a woman named Bridget Bishop, who was hanged in the June.

18 more followed Bishop's conviction, but over 180 people were tested for witchcraft.

Two women denied their guilt whereas another woman confessed. Which led to a growing hysteria in Salem, she claimed that they were acting against the Puritans on behalf of the devil.

Wicca

Wicca was popularized in the 1950s when

The laws against witchcraft were officially dropped. Wicca draws from a variety of traditional elements within witchcraft and creates a more modern platform for the practice.

Wicca and witchcraft share many things in their practices, but are not the same.

Wicca is a fully recognized religion.

Wicca can be traced back to a retired British civil servant named Gerald Brousseau Gardner. Gardner spent a vast majority of his working life in Asia, where he became familiar with many occult practices.

With the repeal of Britain's laws against witchcraft, Gardner formed his first coven. The idea of Wicca spread in America and England extremely quickly,



Wicca

Wicca has grown to be one of the most prominent forms of witchcraft, currently a vast majority of modern witches follow wiccan practices. Gardner's practices have become old fashioned, but many other paths have formed, making the practice more accessible today. Due to the up rise in social media, many witches have become known and celebrated and the imagery associated with witchcraft has become less taboo over the years.