



5 Starter Facts About Paganism

1. Contemporary Paganism is the restoration of indigenous religion, especially that of ancient Europe. It is a polytheistic or pantheistic tradition. Wicca, or Witchcraft, is the most popular expression of Paganism.
2. Paganism is rooted in recognizing nature as divine. Most Pagans are eco-friendly, seeking to minimize harm to the natural environment.
3. Paganism is not based on doctrine or liturgy and there are no building designated for worship. Instead, Pagans believe ceremonies are best outdoors.
4. Ceremonies usually begin with marking a ritual circle, a symbol of sacred space. The four directions and the four elements are welcomed. According to the purpose of the ceremony, there may follow meditation, chanting, music, prayer, dance, libations, poetry, performance of sacred drama, and the sharing of food and drink. Lastly, the circle will be formally unmade, the directions, elements, and the forms of divinity that have been called upon thanked, as the rite ends.
5. Pagan symbols differ by sect. Wiccans often wear the pentacle, an interlaced five-pointed star pointed up to align with the human body. It is a symbol of life and union of the elements with spirit, though often misrepresented as a symbol of evil in media. Northern Europeans may wear Thor's hammer, a traditional pendant worn by those resisting Christian conversion in medieval Scandinavia. Images of nature, such as trees, or abstract Goddess figures are also popular.

Learn more at:

<http://pluralism.org/religions/paganism/the-pagan-tradition/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/paganism/>

These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.

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