



Why does anybody want to be a witch? It is a question that most people ask. Do they seek sensation or home from home or do they really want spiritual progression? The answer is that people come for all these reasons, neither does the reason matter for one gets out of the Wicca as much as one puts into it.

In the old days, in the temples of Egypt and Greece, the mysteries of the Goddess were so powerful that the High Priests could send the aspirants away to sell everything that they had and to return with the money in exchange for initiation. This led to corruption so that when the Christian mysteries appeared that were free to all they were readily taken up by the people to the detriment of the old pagan gods. Later, in the Middle Ages, when the church had established such power as to be able to suppress the older cult, men and women were forcibly taken into the pagan mysteries and bound to them by an oath upon their life in order that the teachings should survive.

Today, we who have reassembled the ancient wisdom realise that one should not have to pay through the nose for wisdom, neither should the public be press-ganged into acceptance of a creed to which they owe only partial allegiance. Modern day initiates are told in their oaths that they take:

"You are free to come and go as your conscience dictates."  
And so it is.

Initiation, awareness, enlightenment, consciousness begins when the seeker finds that the established forms of religion fail to give him or her what they desire. The people who come to Wicca usually do so through the public media such as books, television etc. The contact being made, a meeting usually follows over a drink or at the dinner table, and if the would be witch finds himself in harmony with the members of that coven, then he is invited to attend one of the meetings. No questions are asked of the enquirer, nor is he expected to give any information concerning himself. All this is left to the intuition of the members of the coven. The witches usually know instinctively whether a person belongs within the mind of their group, for it is their belief that the initiates return to the people they knew in previous lives. If our seeker now decides that he wishes to be initiated he will ask the High Priest of the coven who will tell him if he is suitable to obtain a black handled knife, this is the first of the witches weapons, also he must obtain three cords, each being nine feet in length. The colours are red, white and blue. He will be told to bring these objects to the meeting place whether it be indoors or out, on the night set aside for his initiation. While he is getting prepared a nine foot circle is being made out upon the floor, with an altar placed in the centre, bearing all the regalia and various sacred objects belonging to the mysteries. The witches are taken into the circle by the High Priestess. The Drawing Down of the Moon ceremony is performed, this is the rite of calling the power of the Goddess upon the officiating priestess. The initiate is standing at the entrance to the circle, blindfolded with his hands tied behind his back, another cord is tied loosely round his left ankle. He is attended by one of the devoted servants of the coven. The charge of the Goddess is then read out, this in fact is the instruction that the Goddess gives to the children of the Wicca, with a strict instruction to keep pure your highest ideal. Then the initiate is challenged with the swords naked blade against naked flesh. In other words, you are asked if you wish to proceed further into the mystery. If he gives assent then he is brought into the second stage of the ritual. He is asked if he is willing to suffer an ordeal and be purified and is ceremonially scourged. After this is performed, he progresses into the third stage. His measure is taken and he is asked to swear an oath of allegiance to the Brotherhood even though it should cost him his life.

Progressing into the fourth stage he is anointed and duly consecrated priest and witch or priestess and witch. Cords and blindfold are removed and the fifth and final stage of the ritual proceeds. He is presented with the working tools of a witch.

At the conclusion of his first performance of the sacred mysteries he is welcomed and congratulated by his new brothers and sisters and then plans are made for his training within that degree.

**(for ease of reading)**

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