

THE ALEX SANDERS LECTURES

PART TWELVE:

THE HIGH PRIESTHOOD

by ALEX SANDERS

The High Priesthood embraces all the degrees of initiation. A true High Priesthood is based on concepts of physical, mental and astro-spiritual. Those who are truly in the High Priesthood are under the rule of the Witch Queen, who, like the queen bee, is the titular head of two or three covens. It is she who must rise above all the bad feelings, bickerings and back-bitings of the covens and those who are seeking to tread the real way.

All complaints from first degree initiates are made to the Taskmaster of the Coven who generally consults the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders is chosen from among those of the second and third degree who have not found their own coven deliberately so that they may sit as elders within the coven with which they work. After due consideration, listening impartially to both sides of the problem, the question is then taken to the High Priestess of the coven, who may decide that she has not enough knowledge or insight to resolve the problem. The matter is then placed in the hands of the Witch Queen.

After due consideration she may say 'yea' or 'nay', and the responsibility of this decision rests with her. If the Witch Queen wishes she may select various high priests to be her consorts. These must have attained a degree of spiritual progression to be able to take the chosen few out of the rank and file to progress them to the inner mysteries which lie beyond the third degree.

The High Priesthood must be capable of teaching the kernel and essence of all their religious and mystical knowledge, seeking out the inner wisdom in old manuscripts and having access to rare libraries of books. In fact, the people of the High Priesthood are the specialists with the knowledge of the highest teachings of the Wicca in their hands. They must be capable of finding out all the failures and mistakes of the people in the covens and rectifying these mistakes on the inner planes and placing the difficult ones on a worthwhile path.

The Witch Queen is responsible for festivals where two or three covens may wish to convene together and it is she who administers the Law and states the boundaries of a new coven. She must receive responsibility for cases of restraint and all marriage ceremonies and Wiccaning of children rest with her decision.

The Queen is like unto the Goddess for through her she is able to place knowledge in the minds of her people and the power is invested in her, for the good of the Children of the Wicca and the Curse of the Goddess is upon any Queen who abuseth this power.

The male witches shall labour exceedingly to acquire their due wealth but the Witch Queen may take it away from them with a smile on her lips or a lift of the eye. It shall be her right and duty to make a decision, for the High Priesthood is like unto the strings of a harp, which give a clear note and when gathered together in unity, sympathy shall form a beautiful symphony.

Therefore the Goddess decrees unto the High Priesthood that they must be the harp and the strings should be plucked with care that they cause no discord, for discord has no place in the presence of the Queen.



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