

## **Terminology and Principles Related to Witchcraft**

Pagan or primitive religions may be due to distorting the principles of Christianity. The motivation behind such distortion was demonic. The Devil saw an opportunity to deceive people and to establish forms of religion in which he could enslave people. Religion is only one way he has endeavored to do this. Consider the power of error, sin, the world, entertainment, etc.

The revelation given before 1400 BC, when Moses told to write things down, may have allowed to fall into disarray. As a result many non-Christian religions resulted. They all show the evidence of man wanting to be in control and self-centeredness.

Almost all spurious religions teach a form of animism.

Belief in a mystic force in the universe (supernaturalism) that can be used for good or evil. Often the “force” was not quite personal but sometimes names given to certain gods that would be identified with water, wind, fire, food, mountains, or activities such as changing of the season of the year, birth, etc. Whatever was mysterious would often be given a name – lightning, etc.

Some people would have unusual ability to contact, represent and use that force. They would be looked upon as mediators or priests.

Certain places and objects were looked upon as sacred.

Certain rituals could influence the mystic force: offerings, taboos, recognition, etc.

Certain words could be used only by certain people: incantation, curses, blessings, etc.

Important times in life: birth, puberty, death. Such times needed a “right of passage.”

Therefore rituals, sacrifice, commitment, markings, etc., were important to maintain peace, prosperity, etc.

Almost universal belief in reincarnation or some form of transmigration.

Divination – An art of foretelling the future. Ez 21:18-3 (Balak and Balaam Num 22ff)  
Seances, Tarot Cards, Fortunetelling, Astrology, Horoscope,

Druid Religion: Dates from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Animistic. Worship the divine element in objects and people. Believed in Guardian Spirits, world thought of as feminine. Seasons of the year important and may be facets of Baal worship (rituals needed to release nature to reproduce Spring, etc.). Principle doctrine was soul immortal and passed at death from one person to another. Evidence of human sacrifice. Rituals often held in the forest.

Rosicrucianism: based on “hidden wisdom,” reincarnation, animistic, largely taken over by Freemasonry in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Spiritualism: belief in a communication between the living and dead by mediums.

Channeling: a way of communication with the spirit world in which a spirit would “possess” a person and speak through them. J.D. Knight.

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