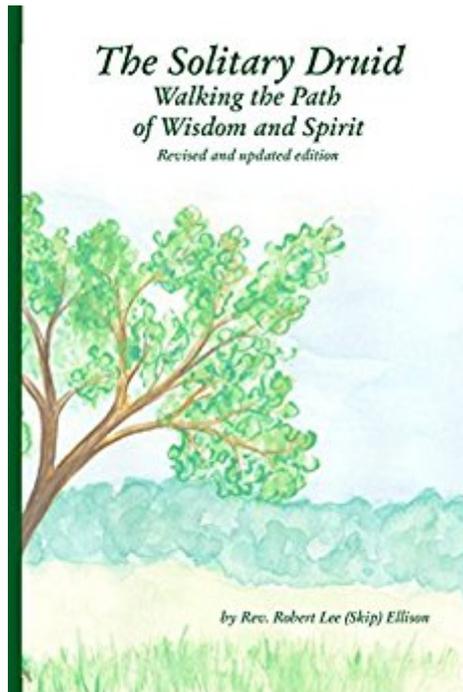


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The Solitary Druid: Walking The Path Of Wisdom And Spirit



Synopsis

Ellison lays out the basics of Celtic Paganism in a scholarly yet accessible way. He supports each of his assertions about Druidic beliefs and practices with citations from ancient sources and from archeology, and lays it all out in an outline that allows students to get started immediately with a Druidic spirituality. Far from being duotheistic, the book gives advice for constructing your Druidic pantheon of worship based on the realities of the local land, and the spirits proper to each individual worshipper. From there, he presents a full system of Druidic ritual, as used in Ar nDraiocht Fein - about as far from a Wiccan form as one could get. It involves offering to the Gods & Spirits, divining their blessing, and then receiving that blessing. Ellison gives solitary rituals for each of the Celtic holy days (and for the solstices and equinoxes), as well as ideas for Druidic funeral and wedding rites. There is a section on spells and practical magic as well, and the book ends with a listing of every Druidic group and order of any size at all. This is a valuable resource - one of the very first books on Druidry drawn from a non-wiccan, scholarly perspective, adapted to practical use.

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Customer Reviews

Although Ellison's *The Solitary Druid* may contain many basic facts about druids and modern druidic practice, the way in which he organizes and presents this material makes this book practically useless. The most comprehensive, coherent and helpful chapters of this book deal with his discussion of the eight yearly holidays, in which he provides Celtic myths and deities appropriate to the more traditionally Wiccan themes already well established for each celebration. In these two chapters he also presents a general outline for ritual structure (which, yes, is markedly different from Wiccan rituals); unfortunately, a reader must wade through a large amount of repetition before getting a feel for the practices themselves. The first several chapters of this book are highly disorganized, often attempting to clarify one idea by referring casually and haphazardly to other ideas or activities that have not even been discussed yet, only adding to the reader's sense of confusion. (There are also a glaring number of typos and grammatical/syntactical mistakes in the writing itself.) Considering Ellison's own emphasis on the scholarship and creative artistry of the druid path, this book shows very little of either. It's scholarly work is bumbling at best, merely citing out-of-context references and "facts" from various sources in repetitive list form without making any attempt to draw general conclusions or theories of relevance. For example, his use of citations to support modern sexual practices (many of which are, even out of context, clearly accusing the Celtic culture of barbarism in the form of child-abuse and rape) belies a very shallow understanding of analytical scholarship and historical research.

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