

Ravenwood's Lady Sintana Explains Wicca Witch Faith

By Cathy Dalton

*"Double, double, toil and trouble
Fire burn and cauldron bubble..."*

Do witches really commune with Satan, stir up hideous potions, and make blood sacrifices?

No so, according to Lady Sintana, head witch of Atlanta's Wicca Coven, House of Ravenwood. "Although we do have cauldrons," she added.

Billed as "boutique of the unusual," House of Ravenwood is a rambling, old Victorian structure which houses eight of the 20 members. Despite the abundance of strange-looking objects and artworks, it has a curiously low-key atmosphere.

A variety of weird paintings fill its dark rose-colored walls, many of them depictions of horned creatures. (The Wicca consider horns to be symbolic of wisdom.) Statues and carvings of a supernatural nature also abound.

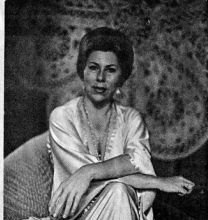
One prominent design seen throughout the house is the pentagram, which Lady Sintana explained is the witches' symbol. The pentagram must not be inverted, that is, with two prongs pointing up instead of one, she cautioned, since that is the Satanists' symbol.

As we sat in a circle of huge pillows on the floor of her office, Lady Sintana assured me that witchcraft is an ancient religion and "has nothing to do with evil or the devil."

"We merely follow universal laws instead of man-made laws," she said.

Self-proclaimed nature worshippers, those at House of Ravenwood are oriented toward privacy, but went public here in Atlanta about two years ago to "correct the blasphemies" done to witches through the ages.

In October of 1976, Lady Sintana was arrested for operating a business without a



Lady Sintana, leader of the Wicca Coven at the House of Ravenwood, offers her views on witchcraft and religion.

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