

Few Men Have Strength To Become Wicca Witches

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license.

She "refused to get a license for selling religious articles," so the coven is now set up as a non-profit religious organization, calling themselves "Sisterhood and Brotherhood of Wicca." Classes are even offered there, giving basic instruction in metaphysics, self-discipline, and Wicca doctrine.

Sintana noted that she'd "never had a student come out of a class thinking it had been anything but a beautiful experience." However, since one can only be initiated after a year and a day of instruction, not all the students pursue the teachings to become bona fide witches.

"People have bluffed their way through," she admitted, "but karma will get them."

She would not describe the initiation ceremony, but did liken it to that of a nun's induction into the Catholic sisterhood.

The red-haired Lady alternated between a tolerance for other faiths, ("We don't believe it's the only way—just one way...") and a disdain of them, expressing a special impatience with the "fear of death evident in people of so many religions."

Just what are the beliefs of the Wicca?

Death is not seen as the end of mortal existence, but merely as part of a cycle of "upward spiritual evolution," a form of reincarnation stressing that with each successive life, an individual progresses to a higher state of consciousness.

Scoffing at the idea of orgies as part of witches' rites, Sintana said the Wicca

attitude toward sex is "healthy."

"There are some nude rites in total privacy," she said, "but ours is a robed coven."

When asked about their goddess, Diana, Sintana replied, "That is only one name for her," this deity has three forms: maiden, mother, and crone.

The male deity is a horned god, often called Cernunnos.

"We are matriarchial," she said, "and it takes more strength for a man to become a witch." Still, there are some men in the coven.

Describing magic as self-revealing, she said "discipline must be learned before magic can evolve."

The only comment Sintana would make on the power of witches was they have more awareness of the natural energies around them than most other people.

These witches are a very old society, descended from the pagan Celts who worshipped the forces around them. The ancients focused on the sun (male) and the moon (female) with the female superior (as Mother Earth).

Sintana told me of her hopes for a large witchcraft seminar. The event is tentatively planned for this October and will host several guest lecturers, including Sybil Leek, nationally recognized author of books on witchcraft.

Lady Sintana said she hopes the seminar will increase public awareness of the Wicca religion and help to dispel the "myths" surrounding witchcraft.