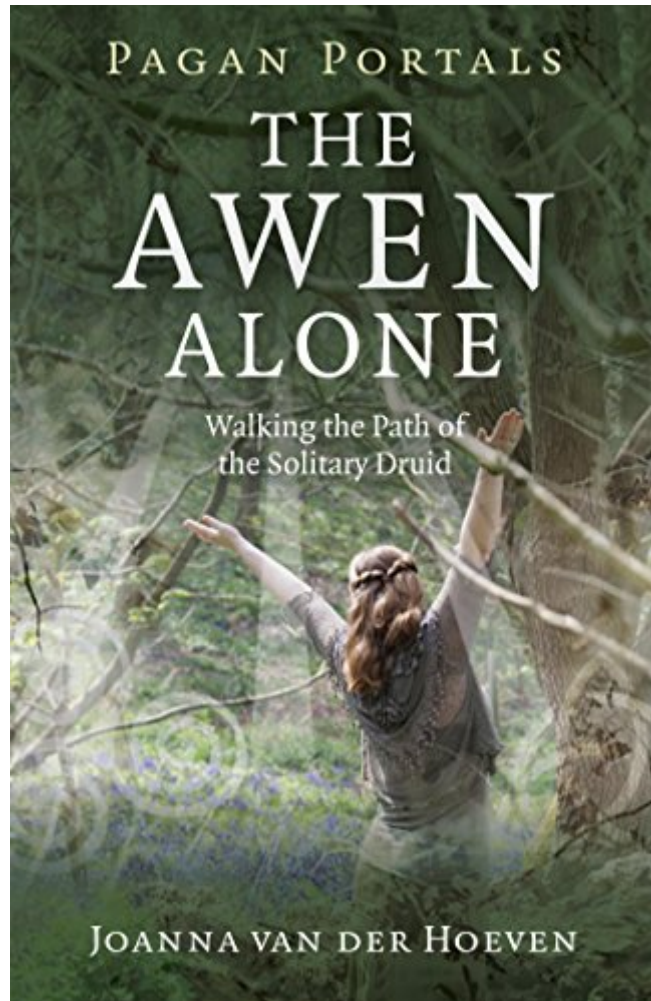


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Pagan Portals - The Awen Alone: Walking The Path Of The Solitary Druid



Synopsis

Druidry is a wonderful, spiritually fulfilling life path. Through the magic that is Druidry, we build deep and abiding relationships with the natural world around us, and through our connection to the natural environment we walk a path of truth, honour and service. We aim to immerse ourselves in the present moment, in the present environment, in order to share in the blessing that is the cycle of life. Throughout the ages, people have withdrawn from the world in order to connect more fully with it. This book is an introductory guide for those who wish to walk the Druid path alone, for however long a time. It is about exploration and connection with the natural world, and finding our place within it. It covers the basics of Druidry and how, when applied to the everyday life, enriches it with a sense of beauty, magic and mystery. This book is for those people who feel called to seek their own path, to use their wit and intelligence, compassion and honour to create their own tradition within Druidry.

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Customer Reviews

The Awen Alone, by Joanna van der Hoeven, is an economically and elegantly written introduction to modern Druidry for readers with a serious interest in practising. I like the use of awen,

Druidryâ€™s subtle magic, as the key word in the title. In the way that the author uses the term, it gets us straight to the point of why we practice. The introduction skilfully builds rapport by bringing us into the rhythm of a normal working day. Only it isnâ€™t quite everybodyâ€™s normal â€“ itâ€™s a reframed normal for a re-enchanted world and an intentional relationship with it. Joanna starts, in a matter-of-fact way, with a âœHail to the Day and Days Sons; farewell to Night and her Daughtersâ• and ends with âœFarewell to Day and Dayâ€™s Sons; hail to night and her Daughtersâ•. In between, there are grumbles about the price of ethical toiletries alongside an affirmation of their value; a commitment to emotional intelligence amidst the stresses of working life, a noticing of what is going on in the landscape whilst travelling and in the garden at home, a soft threshold prayer to Nemetona, Lady of the Sanctuary, and a period of formal meditation. The messages I would get from this as an inquiring reader are the intended ones. Druid life is shown to be the same life as anyone elseâ€™s, albeit lived with a distinctive quality of wonder and attention. Moreover, it is entirely possible to live such a life without being part of a Druid community. The book is carefully structured into three parts.â• The first is about the basics of Druidry.

Amen to Awen \/ This is a fine introduction to the Druidic solitary path. It combines useful guidance at ground level for the lone practitioner, with valuable insight into the Awen as an unlimited source of spiritual and creative inspiration. Joanna van der Hoeven speaks with clarity and reminds us that with greater understanding of this awareness and the Druidic sense of inter-connectedness, we can never be alone, not really. From this panoramic viewpoint she welcomes the reader into the world of the solitary Druid as one who already knows and lives in it. By way of introduction, the scene is set with a glimpse from the authorâ€™s personal diary and immediately we are experiencing this world with her. We are aware of a living, breathing and sacred way of livingâ• of being and becoming. From the start, the reader is reassured that a solitary pathâ• -â• through our connection to the natural environment we see that ideas of separation are illusionâ™- â• neednâ€™t be a lonely one. This is the voice of the solitary traveller. This is the realm of inspired solitude. This is the Awen alone. All questions are explored comprehensively and answers clearly explained in each of the three parts: Section one covers the basics of Druidry - a brief history, what the Awen is, the Gods, the Ancestors and a description of the eight festivals of the year. Section two explores the practice of Druidry - from meditation and prayer, altar creation and sacred space to seasonal rites and craft names. Creating your own path concludes in section three, from designing a ritual to daily practise. I loved this book. Personally, it resonated at a deeply spiritual level, appearing at just the right time on my own path.

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