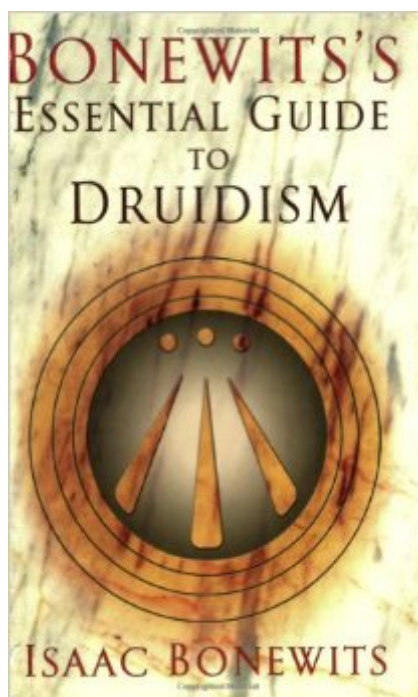


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Bonewits's Essential Guide To Druidism



Synopsis

Complete with spells for love, prosperity and health, a wide-ranging bibliography and an indispensable list of Internet resources, this book is an engrossing introduction to a people and a spirituality that retain both relevance and fascination today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

FIRST, THE QUICK EXECUTIVE REVIEW
Bonewits' Essential Guide to Druidism (BEGD) is a masterpiece in the vibrant growing field of modern Druidism. It is an indispensable library addition not only to the new folk interested in joining a Druid organization, but also to the veteran Druid who is teaching a study course at her/his own Grove. BEGD is a succinct and refined introduction (267pgs) to the variety of Druidisms now practiced in America and Britain. It clearly shows how they developed, compares their structure, and gives enticing examples of their words, sample rituals, and introduces some of their colorful leaders. BEGD is the first book one should read on modern Druidism, but it is certainly not the last one; the reader's appetite should be whetted for yet deeper material afterwards. Indeed, after dispelling myths and correcting misconceptions and providing a framework of accepted facts, history and eye-opening comparisons; the BEGD's priceless bibliography and internet web-links illuminate several ways to pursue further trustworthy academic studies and also where to find 'inspirational' and contemporary works (and he explains the difference between the two). In conclusion, it will give prospective Druids (and less-well-connected old-timers) a firmer foundation of background information, reliable resources, and a view of the "big

picture" of this fascinating religious movement. And now for the rather longer, more nuanced review that this book richly deserves...

Learning about neo-pagan druidism should, at first glance, be easy. The shelves of both "New Age" bookstores and the "Alternative Religion" category at your local Barnes and Noble are sure to be filled with tons of books with words like "Celtic" and "Druid" and "Irish" and so-forth. Simply grab one of those books, and you're on your way. The reality is, of course, quite different. Most of those books are filled with romanticism of the worst sort, outrageously unverified scholarship, 19th century forgeries and errors, etc. While at times they may prove usable in a personal spiritual life, they're hardly accurate and sometimes those sources can be downright deceitful and dangerous (such as the 21 Lessons of Merlyn). Bonewits' book is a breath of fresh air. Bonewits is a man devoted to genuine scholarship, learning and a no-nonsense approach to both ancient druidism (or as he calls it, Paleopagan) and modern Neopagan Druidism. Bonewits' book is filled with scholarship, gentle (and sometimes not so gentle) wit and wisdom regarding Druidism, ancient and modern. As someone who has recently become interested in the subject, I knew immediately that, based upon his previous books and his webpage, that Bonewits' book would not be a "mixed bag" or an outright falsehood like many so-called "Celtic" books are. I am exceedingly glad that I purchased this book and it shall serve as both a reference and a guide to other books on the subject (I've already ordered Ellison's The Solitary Druid: A Practitioner's Guide due to Bonewits' high recommendation of the book).

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