

## How Do I Know What Path is Right for Me?

With so many different Pagan paths, it can be difficult to know which path is the right one for you. A good way to go about it is to talk to people who practice various paths and see if you might be able to attend some celebrations or even take an introductory course. It is probably a good idea to check out a bunch of options before dedicating to any one particular path. Once dedicated, you will likely focus on that one path exclusively for a set time period (usually a year and a day) after which you will decide if that is the right path for you. It is okay if it isn't and a good group or mentor will understand if their path just isn't the right fit.

If you are not learning from a group or mentor, you can follow the same system through reading books and websites. First check out the different options, and when you find one that speaks to you, change your focus to that path exclusively.

There is also no rule that says you can only follow one path of Paganism. Many Pagans follow multiple paths (often calling themselves eclectic Pagans) and many more start out following one path but then later as they evolve, they move to a different path.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*(Continued)*

### What are the Different Kinds of Paganism?

Paganism has no formal structure or organization on a whole. Many pagans are known as solitaires and practice their path alone in their home. Some pagans gather in groups known as collectives, covens, groves, or many other names.

The following is a list of five common Pagan paths (in alphabetical order):

#### Druid

The Order of Bards, Ovates & Druids defines Druidry as such: "The Order of Bards, Ovates & Druids works with Druidry as a spiritual way and practice that speaks to three of our greatest yearnings: to be fully creative in our lives, to commune deeply with the world of Nature, and to gain access to a source of profound wisdom. Each of these yearnings comes from a different aspect of ourselves that we can personify as the Singer, the Shaman and the Sage. In Druidry, Bardic teachings help to nurture the singer, the artist or storyteller within us; the creative self; Ovate teachings help to foster the shaman, the lover of Nature, the healer within us; while the Druid teachings help to develop our inner wisdom: the sage who dwells within each of us."

For more information about Druidry, see their website: <http://www.druidry.org/>

## Heathen

The Troth describes Heathenry thusly: “ This religion is known by various names, including Ásatrú, Heathenry, the Elder Troth, Urglaawe, Forn Sed, Anglo-Saxon Heathenry, and many others. Although there are many variations in beliefs and practices within this faith, and many ways of describing and classifying these differences, we all share a defining personal loyalty to, or "Troth" with, the gods and goddesses of the Northlands, a deep respect for our Germanic religious, cultural and historical heritage; and a strong determination to practice the moral principles followed by our noble predecessors, including Courage, Truth, Honor, Loyalty, Discipline, Hospitality, Industriousness, Self-reliance, and Steadfastness.”

For more information about the Heathen path and The Troth, see their website: <http://www.thetroth.org/>

## Shaman

The Sacred Circle of Great Mystery Shamanic Society defines their 10 principles as:

1. The source of all is through the Will and Love of the Universal Creator Spirit, The Great Mystery. This is our beginning, our journey and our ultimate destination.
2. Recognising that we are each a spirit with a body, mind and soul, not each separately. Our spirit is in essence who and what we are; it is the essential 'I'; the experience, the singer of the song.
3. Our spirit is our Greater self, not the mortal self, the more than, the sojourner and is the Great Mystery inherent within us.
4. Establishing contact with the spirit within, our own spirit, which is the source of personal empowerment and creativity and not relying or depending on some external power or authority.
5. All wisdom is the essence of the Great Mystery and all wisdom is incarnate holistically in all creation. Realising that everything is alive. Animals, trees, rocks, oceans & mountains, the earth and stars, each has an 'aliveness' that may be a different experience from our own, but nevertheless living. This will open our eyes to our way of being with all around us and in communion with the Universal Creator Spirit, The Great Mystery.
6. Accepting that there are companion and Otherworld zones of reality which affect and regulate what we experience outwardly and impact us inwardly. Within these zones are helpers and guides to enable our own change. Shaman are workers of and with Spirit.
7. Everything external is a reflection of an internal process or journey that is calling for attention.
8. The Source, The Great Mystery sings a song that our spirit is drawn to – there is but one song though many tunes.

9. That diversity is a demonstration of the magnitude of the Great Mystery that offers us many paths of revelation and experience in our journey home.
10. Nothing is measured by Good & Evil, Positive & Negative; these concepts are illusory and open us to judgement. There is but the Centre of all, that fear calls us or drives us from.

For more information about the Shamanic path, see their website: [circleofgreatmystery.org](http://circleofgreatmystery.org)

## Reclaiming

Reclaiming is defined as “Reclaiming is a community of people working to unify spirit and politics. Our vision is rooted in the religion and magic of the Goddess, the Immanent Life Force. We see our work as teaching and making magic: the art of empowering ourselves and each other. In our classes, workshops, and public rituals, we train our voices, bodies, energy, intuition, and minds. We use the skills we learn to deepen our strength, both as individuals and as community, to voice our concerns about the world in which we live, and bring to birth a vision of a new culture.”

For more information about reclaiming, see their website: <http://www.reclaiming.org/>

## Wiccan

Wicca is defined by The Covenant of the Goddess as “Wicca, or Witchcraft, is an earth religion — a re-linking (re-ligio) with the life-force of nature, both on this planet and in the stars and space beyond. In city apartments, in suburban backyards, in country glades, groups of women and men meet on the new and full moons and at festival times to raise energy and put themselves in tune with these natural forces. They honor the old Goddesses and Gods, including the Triple Goddess of the waxing, full, and waning moon, and the Horned God of the sun and animal life, as visualizations of immanent nature. Our religion is not a series of precepts or beliefs, rather we believe that we each have within ourselves the capacity to reach out and experience the mystery — that feeling of ineffable oneness with all Life.”

For more information about Wicca and the Covenant of the Goddess ,see their website: <http://www.cog.org/>