



Intro to Circle of the Dark Mother for Initiates and Members

Why Circle of the Dark Mother?

When deciding on a name for our group we wanted to capture the idea of people who are equals coming together to study and practice for transformation in both them and the world. We chose Circle as the representation of people coming together in unity. The Dark Mothers are the deities that for us represent the power of change.

What Is Circle of the Dark Mother About?

The Circle is a framework of spiritual teachings and practices that are used by individuals for their personal path. There is no dogma or specific requirements (other than to be kind to others and respectful of all beliefs). We use Kabbalah, Meditation, Gnosis (personal experiential knowledge), and various aspects of deity to aid us in our endeavors. Every practitioner has the freedom to use the tradition however they choose. We embrace every spiritual path as valid and able to be incorporated into our teachings.

Dark Gnostic Tradition

Dark Gnostic Tradition is a specific form of Gnosticism, so all the tenants that define Gnosticism also apply to Dark Gnosticism. The difference lies in how the Dark Gnostics approaches their path and what it encompasses. Most Gnostic Traditions focus on the bright side of divinity and consciousness. Their belief is that to reach enlightenment, a practitioner must focus on the bright side of consciousness and spirituality to raise themselves forward. Dark Gnostics disagree on this point and believe that we need to work with both the bright and dark sides of consciousness to raise our awareness and make progress.

One of the most important aspects of Dark Gnostic Tradition is to do shadow work, looking into self and finding anything hidden that needs addressed. This does not necessarily mean purging these hidden feelings or desires, but instead finding the root of them accessing healing so that they can be brought forward in a healthy and productive way.

Meditation is a key practice. This can be done with breath and silence, with a mantra, or with a guided meditation (even if guided by the practitioner themselves). Dark Gnostic Tradition also uses ritual and in some cases Kabbalah for magick and transformation. When Kabbalah is used by the Dark Gnostic, it is not necessarily from a Jewish perspective (and may be pagan in nature). Kabbalah becomes a framework and not a religion. In either case, both the Tree of Life and the Tree of Shadows is used to obtain balance for the practitioner.

There is an excellent tradition called Dark Paganism. It has much in common with Dark Gnostic Tradition. The two main differences are that most Dark Pagans do not use Kabbalah because of its association with Abrahamic religion. In Dark Gnosticism, we use Kabbalah, but only as a framework and not necessarily associated with Judaism. The second main difference is that Dark Pagans tend to use rational thought and not include gnosis in their tradition. There are, of course, some Dark Pagans

who do include gnosis, but the general tenants of Dark Paganism do not include it. With that being said, Dark Paganism and Dark Gnosticism are very compatible and compatible traditions.

One of the first questions I am asked about Dark Gnostic Tradition is whether it is Left Hand Path (LHP) or Right Hand Path (RHP). The RHP is the bright side of consciousness and deals mostly with bright deities, what is called “white” magick, and if applicable angels. The LHP is the dark side of consciousness and deals mostly with dark deities, what is called “black” magick, and if applicable demons. It is important to not fall into stereotyping – as RHP and LHP are not inherently good or evil... It is more about polarity. In a RHP path that uses Kabbalah, the Tree of Life is used, while in a LHP path that uses Kabbalah, the Tree of Shadows is used.

Dark Gnostic Tradition is non-dual, so we use both what is considered LHP and RHP and both the bright and dark trees. We feel that embracing both sides is our best way to finding our true selves. We must integrate all of ourselves to find enlightenment.

The Circle of the Dark Mother is a Dark Gnostic Tradition. We are gnostic because we believe in both rational thought and experiential knowledge that sometimes manifest internally and spontaneously. We use meditation, ritual, Kabbalah, and any other practice that works for the individual toward their spiritual path. We work with both the RHP and LHP, both the bright and dark tree, and with anything that works for us.

We are not limited to any pagan pantheon, any religion, or any set of practices. We are anti-dogma, so we have a set of teachings that are conveyed, but never meant to be THE way or THE truth for any particular individual. They are guide-posts and examples to spark movement in our practitioners. For more information, watch videos on this YouTube Channel or check our website at Circulos-Matrem.com. Many of us work with Dark Mother goddesses (thus the name), but individuals can work with any deities or none – their choice.

Open and Affirming

Circle of the Dark Mother is an Opening and Affirming organization that believes in the equality of all people no matter of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, or anything else. True humanity loves all beings no matter what their differences.

Membership

Membership in the Circle is completely free. Anyone who wants to be part of the lineage can email Mark H. Williams and declare their intent. At that point a person is considered an associate member. Once someone completes the online course and participates in an initiation ceremony, they become an initiate of the Tradition.

Distance groups are welcome in Circle of the Dark Mother. Before a group is officially recognized as a

part of the Circle it is recommended that they meet for at least a year and a day as a study group and keep in touch with Mark H. Williams.

Clergy

Circle of the Dark Mother does have clergy as part of our Tradition. Clergy are not part of a hierarchy, but those that wish to help teach and guide the path. No one in the Circle dictates beliefs or dogma. Everything is completely up to the individual and their path of spirituality. To become clergy, a person must be an initiate for at least a year and a day and demonstrate the ability to teach.

About Mark H. Williams

Mark is consecrated as a Bishop in the Independent and Gnostic movement and holds a Masters in Theology as well as a certificate in Transformative Coaching. He has been a student of many religions and spiritual traditions which has led him to starting a new lineage that is open to all.

Kabbalah

When someone hears the word Kabbalah it can bring up a number of connotations including Judeo-Christian tradition, ritual magic, and pop culture. None of these connotations are necessarily wrong in some instances. However, the word Kabbalah actually means "Tradition". Once one understands Kabbalistic teachings, it becomes clear that Kabbalah is a system of understanding the universe, deity, consciousness, and even oneself. It is an extremely flexible system that can work with literally any paradigm.

Gnosis

Gnosis is a Greek word meaning knowledge. It has been associated with early Christian sects, but actually pertains to any Tradition that believes in personal experiential knowledge.

Meditation

Meditation is an important part of the Circle's path. The purpose of meditation is to go within and then live within so that we can take our consciousness toward Liberation and the Supernal light. Our path is to raise our consciousness toward elevated consciousness so that we can realize our unity with the All and reach enlightenment.

Deities

Many Traditions make a big differentiation between monotheistic and "pagan" religions. The theory is that the Hebraic Traditions are monotheistic, and most others are polytheistic. There are also

theologic debates on whether deities are aspects of each other or separate entities. In Kabbalah there can be a synthesis of all these ideas. The Hebrew word Partzufim means "Personality". The concept is that there is one "God" that is beyond all and in complete unity, but as divine light refracts down through the universe, separate deities are produced - all with different personalities and attributes just as people are all different. In the Circle we consider all deities separate yet part of the "whole" beyond creation. These Partzufim are both male and female.

What Are We Trying To Do With All This?

First, we, the founders of Circle of the Dark Mother would like to acknowledge that we are taking paradigms from multiple world religions and spiritual paths. This is intentional. We know that many groups focus on one particular paradigm and take every aspect of it to either recreate or preserve a Tradition. That is a fine endeavor, but not what we are seeking in our lineage. We have found that Kabbalah is a framework that can work with literally any spiritual teachings, so it is the basis for what we are doing. Kabbalah is at it's heart a way to understand deity, ourselves, relationships, and the flow of energy into creation. We are not using the patriarchy or any rules of the Judaeo-Christian Tradition. In fact, we want no dogma at all – so no teaching is absolute or required. We also know that we are drawing deities from all over the world and from many different cultures. That is also intentional as we want to represent the whole world and make a place for anyone if they want to join us.

All of that being said, the Circle is about bringing people together into a spiritual partnership (you can stay in whatever other religious or spiritual Traditions you currently engage in) to help bring enlightenment and transformation to our world. We believe that we are all in this together and can find a way to work together in our own ways and have real positive change.

What Can You Do?

First, if you have interest in the Tradition look at our [website](#) and our [facebook page](#). Get to know us. If you'd like to join in this movement, let [Mark H. Williams](#) know and he will include you in one of our upcoming joining ceremonies where you will be energetically made an initiate of the Tradition. If you'd like, you can take our course on our web site.

If you would like to go deeper, start a daily meditative practice (even 5 minutes of consistent time in meditation can make a huge difference), build a small altar in your home, and begin studying up on whatever deities you resonate with. This is all about you... and thus all about everyone. So, every step you take will energetically assist everyone else in the world.

If you would like to contribute any articles or information on anything, please do. We want this to be diverse but grounded in framework that brings it all together. We are one people that come from the same ancestors in Africa 40,000 years ago, so all of these spiritual movements belong to all of us.

Lastly, let us know how you're doing and what more you'd like to see from our Tradition.

Footnote:

Every effort has been made to cite sources and give credit to authors and artists. However, after so many years of study, gathering information and browsing the internet, certain credits have been lost. If you claim copyright to anything found on our website, please contact us so that we may credit you accordingly and thank you for being such an inspiration to our path of study and the enlightenment of the world.