

Why the Priestess Path?

There is a secret that has been hidden in plain sight for centuries, millenia even, and is now ready to come into our consciousness in a new and very powerful way: every woman has priestess potential within her. This potential can be developed very simply and gently to help connect with and guide spiritual energy in our lives, or pursued, educated and practiced to a professional level. Priestess is an aspect of every woman, an archetype, and can also become a job title once again, as it was in ancient cultures for untold centuries. I think "Ministress of Magic" has a nice ring to it. I also like to use the word "priestess" as a verb, as in priestessing energy, priestessing a ritual. In this usage it means to sense visible and invisible energies and patterns and to actively participate and consciously guide these energies, whether in a formal ritual or simply as a matter of normal everyday living.

In response to inspiration and encouragement from my spirit-sisters I have decided to distill the foundational elements of ritual down to a 13-day course that will bring forth your inner priestess - if you set her free. Awakenning the priestess means taking responsibility for your own power, tuning into the energies around you, acting in an ethical manner in alignment with Earth and Spirit, respectful of others and their paths. You will truly co-create your own experience based on simple readings and exercises designed to share traditional teachings and discover your own intuitive abilities. You know if this is calling to you and you say, Yes!

I believe that more women are ready for this now in many ways. In the last half-century or so, women have both excelled in realms and roles traditionally reserved for men, and resurrected history/herstory, mythology and reverence for the divine feminine in many cultures. The Earth Herself is suffering from patriarchal enslavement along with human women and the other creatures of this living planet. Spirit allies in all the realms call to us to awaken and arise to the challenge of maturing spiritually as healers and leaders and outgrow authoritarianism, oppression and victimization in all forms. This we do within ourselves, our families and our communities and by creating new ones. By this transformation and transcendence, we are priestesses, caring for the well-being of our "tribe" as well our individual selves and our divine souls, all aligned with the greater good, spiritual truth and the Great Work of co-creating a

consciously evolving humanity in harmony and partnership with Earth and Spirit.

We are not the new messiahs. There is no rescue mission, no battle to be waged against evil enemies. We are not here to save anyone who does not want to be well, whole, happy or fulfilled or to conquer and punish those who resist. We can offer compassion and support for every being and still protect ourselves without interfering with their own freedom of choice. Yet we can help lift the collective burden of toxic energy and cultural confusion by learning to connect with and conduct vital energies beyond the usual coping and rationalizing habits most adults settle into. This is the intention of Essential Arts, of which this course is one offering. As a wise friend and colleague reminded me, we need to put on our own oxygen masks first. This means carving out the time and space for ourselves, physically, mentally and in all ways, to truly rejuvenate, energize and educate ourselves alone and together, to empower ourselves as fully as possible, or we will be no use to anyone except as a resource to be mined and discarded like so many others. We have this choice.

To be a priestess is to be sovereign in oneself, yet in service to humanity, Earth and Spirit. It means being willing to transcend the dominant cultural paradigms and see plainly the flows of energy in Nature, hear clearly the calling of the heart, speak the truth, act on our beliefs and be filled with Spirit. There is no need to leave your present life and circumstances, though at some time you may feel called to do so - it is always a possibility, and all growth means change. But this path can begin right now, where you are, and enhance and enrich your current situation with beauty, holiness, healing and wisdom, step by step, in the company of friends yet more fully yourself.

You can revisit Awakening to the Priestess Path as often as you like, or advance to the 13-week Stepping Stones course which covers each topic in more depth and detail. And if you're not feeling ready for Awakening to the Priestess Path, you may enjoy Through the Garden Gate, a simple 13-day introduction to intuition, visualization and attuning with Nature, Humanity and Spirit. Your path will unfold as you learn and you will be divinely guided as you co-create your own Priestess Path.

Deep blessings to you on your path, wherever it may lead!