



# **Enchantment Encumbered**

## **The Study and Practice of Wicca in Restricted Environments**

by Carol Garr and Ashleen O'Gaea  
339 pages; illustrated  
CreateSpace, 2009  
\$16.95

MOTHER EARTH MINISTRIES-ATC  
P.O. BOX 35906  
TUCSON, AZ 85740-5906  
[www.MotherEarthMinistries.org](http://www.MotherEarthMinistries.org)



*Enchantment Encumbered* is useful as a handbook for beginners and experienced practitioners who want to get back to basics. It's encouraging to military personnel stationed where Wicca is frowned upon, and to people in nursing homes or dorms or Pagan-unfriendly households. Reassuring to parents concerned about their children's interest in Wicca, *Enchantment* is also a handy reference for law enforcement personnel, sociology and religion teachers, and administrators responsible for facilitating other people's practice of Wicca.

Though practical for these and many other people, *Enchantment* was written especially for inmates, with the restrictions they face in mind. Because most inmates have limited income – and these days, don't we all? -- it's important to know more about a book than the publicity blurbs say before spend money on it. So you'll know before you buy, here's a summary of the Table of Contents for this 339-page book written by Carol Garr and Ashleen O'Gaea.

### **PART ONE: An Introduction to the Craft**

This section begins with a note about Wicca's history and segments about Traditional and Eclectic Wicca and covens and solitary Wiccans.

- **ETHICS** discusses the Wiccan Rede and the Three-fold Law, and talks about ethics in action and etiquette.
- **BELIEFS** opens with commentary about the Goddess and the God, and includes Charges as well as looking at how to find "your" Goddess and God. The section goes on to talk about the Elements, karma, and reincarnation.
- **A WITCH'S ALTAR AND TOOLS** illustrates Altars, talking about the Goddess and God on the Altar and the Directions on the Altar. A consideration of "what's essential" opens to a wider discussion of tools ("rites and responsibilities") and the process of consecration, and concludes with a glossary of tools and their uses.
- **HOLY DAYS** gives an overview of the Wheel of the Year and common meeting times and meeting places.
- **MYTHOLOGY** offers discussions of creation myths, new myths, and myths at the heart of Wicca. This section includes a glossary of (some Irish) Celtic Gods, and a look at some ancient Celtic cycles, Arthurian legends, and Robin Hood. It ends with a consideration of what myths are really about.
- **WICCA HERE AND NOW** presents a general Wiccan world-view, touching on sexuality, sin and evil, diet, and the environment.

### **PART TWO: Circles Behind Bars**

Here's the nitty-gritty.

- **BASIC SKILLS** opens with grounding and centering, and offers a Tree of Life meditation, along with examples of shielding exercises, one of which (The Aura Condom) was written by Carol Garr just for this book. There are Elemental meditations to hone visualization skills, and suggestions for releasing anger and stress.
- **CASTING A CIRCLE** explains the Order of Circle, and offers step-by-step instructions for grounding and centering, preparing the ritual space, blessing the Salt, blessing the Water, mixing Salt and Water, consecration, drawing the Circle, cleansing and charging the Circle, calling the Quarters, performing a self-blessing, invoking the Gods, celebration or work (magic), consecrating Cakes and Ale, making an offering and libation, thanking the Gods, dismissing the Quarters, and undrawing the Circle.
- **ESBATS, SABBATS, AND PASSAGES** offers a Moon ritual and Sabbat rites, plus some chants. Also included are discussions and examples of various passage rites: handfasting, initiation and restricted initiation, self-

dedication, a naming rite and a milestone recognition ritual. There are two requiems: one for a loved one, and one for a victim.

- **MAGIC** opens with a discussion of magical physics, and goes on to talk about what you need to get started and what a Book of Shadows is. There are some simple workings for protection, healing, and personal growth. After a little bit about divination, there are some additional practical spells, for healing, success, reconciliation, and letting go. (This whole section emphasizes ethics.) There are also place blessings and (one's own) attitude adjustment spells – and who doesn't need those? This section concludes with an exploration (and a chart) of correspondences.

### **PART THREE: Wicca in the World**

- **ANSWERING OTHER PEOPLE'S QUESTIONS** offers some good advice.
- **WHAT TO EXPECT** gives a heads-up about ritual preparation, ritual garb, jewelry, covens, socializing, and gatherings.
- **THE LINGO** offers a glossary of some Wiccan terms.
- **DIANIC WICCA** answers a few questions from its founder's viewpoint.
- **GOLDEN AGE GODDESS WORSHIP** explores a controversial theme and some books about it.
- **OTHER PAGAN RELIGIONS** offers an overview of Ásatrú and Druidry.
- **WITCHCRAFT OF WITCHCRAP?** is an important section, contributed by a British Traditional priest because everybody needs to know how to tell the difference.
- **SOME RECOMMENDED BOOKS** is a list that will get readers started, and includes some "tips on reading" that answer frequently asked questions (like what the blank line means in front of a book title in a bibliography, what "c.e." stands for, and how much of an ingredient to use when a recipe calls for a number of "parts").
- **COMMUNITY RESOURCES** lists a few and discusses how to find Pagan churches and religious organizations and a few catalogs and magazines.
- **BECOMING WICCAN** looks at ways to change your religion of record to Wicca or another Pagan/Heathen faith.
- **THE FUTURE OF WICCA** is an essay review of Wicca's past and how today's practitioners influence how it will grow and adapt to coming social and scientific changes.
- **APPENDICES** include a review and consideration of Ronald Hutton's *The Triumph of the Moon*, a look at some magical alphabets, and a collection of filked Yule carols (with an explanation that yes, we should be writing our own, but when you can't read music, you need familiar tunes).

Naturally, the book includes some information about MEM and the authors, and an apology for any typos or errors that occur in PDF conversion. Since publishing *Enchantment*, we have noticed a few typos, and one of these days we'll submit a new PDF in which they are corrected. If you find "oopsies" in *Enchantment*, just chuckle and let us know; don't let it keep you from taking what this book has to offer.

*Enchantment* is available from [www.CreateSpace.com](http://www.CreateSpace.com), online from Amazon, through some book stores, and by snail-mail from Mother Earth Ministries-ATC (Post Office Box 35906, Tucson, Arizona, 85740-5906) for \$20. Although MEM prefers payment by check or money order, we will accept stamps – and currently, that cost is forty-five 45¢ stamps. (This will change when the price of stamps changes.)