Reconciling the Divine Paradox
Along the Pentacle Path of Elemental Witchcraft
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The Workshop Presents…

- The Pentacle Path of Elemental Witchcraft - Fivefold magickal system of balance
- Mysteries of Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Spirit help reconcile the paradoxes created by the illusion of material separateness from God/dess in the middle world.
- Paradoxes are worked throughout the Wheel of the Year
- Elemental lessons are tools to transform society into Cooperative culture inspired by a God/dess in balance.
Divine Paradox

- Panentheistic tradition based in Hermetic philosophy

- "The Kybalion: Hermetic Principle of Polarity, states "all truths are but half-truths; all paradoxes may be reconciled."

- Hermeticists call this the "divine paradox" between the absolute and relative truths.
Divine Paradox

- The paradox lies between the absolute truth of the God/dess and the relative truth perceived by every iota of matter, organism and individual in the cosmos.
- Pentacle Path Magick attempts to reconcile the "divine paradox" created when God/dess emerged into the material world and their oneness was cast into the illusion of our separateness.
- Those seemingly opposing truths create a tension that Elemental Witchcraft may reconcile.
Pentacle Paths

- Based on five strokes of Pentacle Star, encircled.

- Named paths for the elemental qualities embodied by the Witch's altar tools named by Christopher Penczak in Outer Temple of Witchcraft: "The four tools of the elements symbolize the most important internal ingredients--will, truth, love, and sovereignty."

- Spirit's path of completion was inspired by Vivianne Crowley's discussion in chapter 12 of her book Wicca: The Old Religion for the New Millennium.
Note that the point assignments in the Pentacle Path imagery are re-arranged from the typical order, which is arranged by Alchemical density: Spirit, Fire, Air, Water, Earth.

When re-mapping the points as a spiritual journey corresponding to the Wheel of the Year, the Elemental Mysteries flow from Spirit at top, to Earth at lower right Earth, then deosil to Air, Fire, and Water.
Pentacle Paths

- Witchcraft is about conquering our fear of a lack of love, and knowing ourselves within and without.

- Maintaining balance comes first. So, we work on the five-fold path of aligning ourselves within divinity.

- Follow along the symbol.

- All beings in spirit, which we symbolize as the top point.
Pentacle Paths

As we are born, spirit is drawn down, through the celestial spheres, to the earth point, which is symbolized as drawing the line down to the lower right point, and elemental earth.

Spirit blooms into the middle world and our spirit emerges as a baby. Then follow the remaining strokes around clockwise, or deosil.
Earth - Sovereignty

Now that we’re born, first things first, we have to figure out how to drive the meat-suit, taking care of our physical needs, until we are independent and self-sufficient.

The Earthy Path of Sovereignty establishes our independent physical lives.

As adults, sovereignty enables our pleasurable pursuit of fulfillment on all the other levels.
Air - Truth

Next up, is our education.

The Airy Path of Truth, aligns our mental bodies and thoughts within the Highest Divine Mind.

We study and experience life, honing raw data into complex understanding of our interconnection.
Fire - Power

- Then we get to work. The fiery Path of Power aligns the body of Will, our little ego, passions and drives, with the Highest Divine Will.
- Sacred mission = personal destiny.
- We activate, work hard and accomplish what we were sent to earth to do.
Water - Love

- In time, we rise in leadership, and relationship.
- Aligns our emotional bodies, our feelings, intuitions, and relationships within Divine Love.
- We seek out partnership and engage meaningfully with other people.
- We realize the importance of our interconnections, and our interdependence, then engage compassionately and ethically for mutual benefit.
Spirit - Completion

- The Path of Completion balances and integrates the god and goddess within ourselves.
- Reconciles tension between Anima and animus, projective and receptive sides, underworld and upperworld.
- Completion = peace + wholeness.
The Path of Return

- Ultimately, the wholeness we attain allows a transcendent view along The Path of Return.
- We discover that all began in spirit, all returns to spirit, and that path brings us home to ourselves.
- God/dess is “that which is attained at the end of desire.”
- All of these efforts open us like a channel-lock between all three worlds, with our lives as the conduit. This open channel becomes our source of empowerment.
Elemental Mysteries and Pentacle Paths Mapped to the Wheel of the Year
Elemental Tides Counterbalance Seasonal Tides

The Pentacle Path of Elemental Witchcraft

By Heron Michelle
Earth: Path of Sovereignty

- Practical magick of this path asserts our own authority over our lives and establishes self-sufficiency.
- We take responsibility to become a beneficial steward of the earth throughout our sphere of influence.
- Earth’s projective lesson is one of silence and stillness. Where we shut up, pay attention, and hold open space for the incoming bounties we’ve been manifesting.
- Earth’s receptive lesson is one of resonance. When we look to the future and ask what’s next through divination and prayer. We seek the next Great Work intention, then we strike the cosmic gong of possibility and tune into the new frequency.
No witch is an Island. Independence might isolate a Witch with the lonely assumption that they are separate, abandoned to fend for themselves.

The paradox is that witches also affirm our interdependence within God/dess, the matrix weaving us together. While manifested on earth, we are tasked to govern our personal patch of that matrix.

“With great power comes great responsibility.” The key to the personal sovereignty paradox is that we are interconnected through Divine Love of the God/dess. This unconditional love is “perfect.”

Sovereignty Paradox: Independence vs Interdependence
Sovereignty Paradox: Independence vs Interdependence

- Separateness is the illusion. Me, my neighbor, that tree, the dirt, the ocean, the air, and all the creatures who dwell within the three worlds are all interdependent aspects within the wholeness of God/dess.

- Sovereignty is the choice to fully participate in that wholeness as stewards of Divine Love.

- Interdependent sovereignty means there are no excuses for harmful behavior, including self-harm, or by participating in the injustices of a dominator society.

- We are all here to make this bed we are sleeping in together. The more comfortable the bed we all make, the better we all sleep.
Air: Path of Truth

- Air’s projective mysteries are of knowing: research, academic learning, and personal exploration to both "know thyself" intuitively and well-educate yourself about the world in which you live.

- The receptive mysteries come from airy wonderment through questioning, experimentation, and discovery.

- Occult = hidden truth beneath the surface of the obvious.

- You are responsible for what you “believe” to be true. You can change your mind, evolve, differ from your family or neighbors.
Truth Paradox: Absolute vs. Relative

If everything in the universe is a dream within the Divine Mind and our material separateness is an illusion, then we arrive at an absolute truth: the only thing objectively “real” is the God/dess as a whole. Whatever God/dess knows would be an ineffable, absolute truth.

However, there must be the polar opposite side of truth too. Everything humans understand to be “true” here in the Middleworld with our finite minds and our best attempts at reasoning with mortal senses is a relative truth. What we perceive to be relatively true is based on our point of perspective: what is obvious, touchable, provable, measurable?
“Beware half-truths.” An example of this paradox of truth is in the relative illusion of our material separateness, which is subject to time and impermanence, as opposed to the absolute reality of our spiritual oneness within God/dess, immortal and infinite.

Science presents us with a similar example in the structure of the atom. Matter, which humans perceive as being relatively solid and still, is scientifically affirmed to be mostly empty space, information, and forces that are in constant motion. Electrons are both particles and waves of potential.
Truth Paradox: Absolute vs. Relative

- Both are true at the same time in varying degrees. The paradox can be reconciled, but the mental flexibility we call wonderment allows us to consider more than one perspective at the same time.

- Embrace a subjective reality! Occult studies start with knowing the obvious, observable, scientifically describable relative truth of the Middleworld.

- Then spiritually seek the hidden, opposite, absolute truth on the flip side of the obvious. From this balanced search for the whole truth, witches derive our own beliefs, as revealed through the course of our practices."
Fire: Path of Power

- Fire's projective mystery is about our will. Truly powerful people align their personal ego within the fires of Divine Will to achieve their sacred mission.

- We apply the fires of Will when we go and do things that further our witching sovereignty (earth) and strive toward our ideals (air), when we see an issue that needs improvement, take the lead, rally others to help, and work together to change it (fire).

- Fire's receptive mystery is about surrender, feeding the forge fires of your will. We let go of the old forms, obsessions and addictions which hinder our progress, like the snake shedding a skin that is too small.
Power Paradox: Domination vs. Cooperation

"The paradox of power that Elemental Witchcraft can help to reconcile lies on the range of polarity between the domination and cooperation models of “control.”

The power of the God/dess in equal balance is distinguished by how all beings are interconnected within nature (earth), how the Divine Love of the God/dess drives diverse relationships (water), and how we can wondrously imagine new solutions to shared problems within Divine Mind (air).

The path of power teaches that the most internally powerful people are most aligned within Divine Will (fire). This results in a sacred mission that tends to foster personal empowerment in others.
Power Paradox: Domination vs. Cooperation

- The most spiritually powerful people have the most cooperative power-sharing partnerships and tend to be the most peaceful, which is the paradox!
- The mystery lies in the location from whence that person derives their power: internally or externally.
- Power is like love: the more love we share, the more we empower others, the more power there is to share.
- Hermetic Great Work of Magick: First, we empower ourselves from within, then we share that wisdom to jointly solve the big problems, helping others.
- Internalizing our power is a process of growing up.
Water’s Pentacle Path of Love

Water's projective mystery is one of daring, smashing through emotional barriers to make way for the fulfillment of your Great Work.

Water’s receptive mysteries are of accepting emotional conditions that are beyond our control, and settling into the new mold that is coming into form around us.

Nondiscrimination, boundary definition and tending, and ensuring that our relationships are trustworthy, nurturing and reciprocal.
Love Paradox: Love vs. Fear

- Unconditional Divine Love vs the necessary conditions of human relationships as we navigate the illusion of our separateness.

- Perfect Love versus fear of a lack of love. It all comes down to how we experience the nine Divine Love Conditions and the fear that arises from not having them.

- Resources, affection, free-will, acceptance, security, trustworthiness, expression, authenticity, reciprocity.
Love Paradox: Love vs. Fear

• When those fears come true, we are wounded. To be denied these basic human needs for too long is traumatizing. That trauma causes anxiety and anger. That anger twists until it emerges baneful behaviors.

• The deprivation of Divine Love is how bullies are made. Wounded people tend to wound other people...
Love Paradox: Love vs. Fear

- The divine paradox holds in the balance two simultaneous truths: we are unified within one God/dess of unconditional Divine Love, and we are separate individuals upon the material plane.

- Healthy relationships must hold safe boundaries that do not transgress our diversity and individuality.

- Namaste away: If anyone violates healthy boundaries, you get to define a peaceful distance away from them. This is the promise of Perfect Love and Perfect Trustworthiness.
Love Paradox: Love vs. Fear

- To realize this universal truth allows us to remain centered in compassion, thus reconciling the paradox.
- Elemental water grants us permission to fully accept ourselves and all others for exactly as we are, without judgment.
- Grants us permission to redefine the societal landscape to be radically inclusive, ensuring that unconditional Divine Love is accessible by all beings.
Spirit's Pentacle Path of Completion

- Spirit in alchemical terms is often called "quintessence" or the fifth element which arises as the synergy of the other four.

- It is the balance of the Goddess and God within every being in a unique blending of projective (god) and receptive (goddess) attributes.

- The magick of completion is to realize that divine gender and human gender have always been a spectrum, not a toggle switch.
Spirit's Pentacle Path of Completion

- We must integrate our primary gender identity with the rest of our range, to discover the full rainbow of our potential.

- In completion we are fully empowered; Anima and animus aspects of ourselves may be peacefully reconciled in wholeness.
The Completion Paradox: Unity vs. Diversity

- The paradox reconciled through Spirit’s completion resolves the polarity of unity and diversity.

- Absolute truth vs. the relative truth of God/dess; between monolith oneness (One only One) and the simultaneous diversity of individuals.
The Completion Paradox: Unity vs. Diversity

To reconcile this paradox, we must hold as equally evident that

1) Every possible thing, seen and unseen, sentient and otherwise, is absolutely one being: Divine Love. There could be no superior race, no dominant sex, no “chosen people.”

2) The purpose of the Veil of Illusion is to parse God/dess into diverse individual forms to discover the relative truths in every possible make, model, identity, lifestyle, and demographic. Nature is compelled to seek further diversification!
The Completion Paradox: Unity vs. Diversity

- The Veil was never meant to be a blindfold!
- The illusion of our separateness serves the very useful purpose of relationship. We create ripples of interference patterns as we interact with each other, whether that be love or tension, and God/dess learns from those interactions.
- As we awaken into the absolute truth of our unity, we naturally evolve into inclusivity of relative truths too. All bigotry and phobias about each other fall away.
- In this way, the paradox between unity within God/dess and diversity upon earth can be equally embraced. In Oneness we are a beautiful kaleidoscope of diversity.
The Path of Return

- The path of return is symbolized as the circle around the pentacle and our wholeness within God/dess.

- In Hermetics, this is the long journey through all our many incarnation since the dawn of the cosmos.

- The path of return refers to the natural return of consciousness back to its Source, to eventually re-merge with the God/dess.
The Path of Return

- Like a homing beacon, after birth we instinctively seek reunion with the wholeness we remember from the between.

- The work of the initiate of these mysteries is to awaken from spiritual slumber, to surrender attachment to our limited human egos, so that we may rediscover our divine nature and somehow ease the ache of separation we feel on earth.
The Path of Return

It is said that due to the transient nature of the elements, the four major existential fears that humans face are these: a fear of death, a fear of responsibility for themselves and their own freedom, a fear of aloneness, and a fear of meaning.

The difference between the esoteric (inner) paths and exoteric (outer) paths is whether you’re seeking salvation from these fears from an outside source or from within yourself.
Conclusion

When we are open, balanced and flowing freely through all worlds, this allows us to respond to any challenges effectively, rather than remaining slaves to our reactions. The Witchcraft praxis offers us the handy framework to consider the idea of balance through the five points of the Pentacle, and the five elements: spirit, Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

In order to receive the bounty and Divine Love like we are intended, we must first be opened, cleared and ready to take it all in. You have to relax! (Example, laboring mother)

When we are at ease, we’ve relaxed the tension held along each polarity; we’ve reconciled the paradox.
Questions?

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Meditation 3

Axis Mundi Tree Breathing Through the Elements.