



## *Sacred Order of Living Paganism*

Lesson Outline

Shanddaramon

Level 1 Class 1: Introduction

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### **Preparation**

Review your preparation for beginning.  
Begin a Book of Days (Journal)  
Begin a Book of Whimsy  
Write and perform a Dedication Ceremony  
Make or obtained a ritual robe or other costume  
Place a white rope or belt around the robe  
Obtain a sacred pendant with a white cord  
Be sure to celebrate all Sabbats, Esbats, and Astors

### **Questions to consider:**

What is Paganism?  
What is Neo-Paganism?  
What are some Pagan forms of practice?  
What is the Sacred Order of Living Paganism?  
What are the requirements of the First Degree?  
What are the three pillars of Paganism?  
What are the Thirteen Principles of the Order?  
What, in your own words, does each mean?  
Discuss whether you agree or disagree with each tenet and why or why not

### **Study:**

First Degree Requirements  
Three Pillars of Paganism  
The Thirteen Principles of the Order

### **Activity:**

Add the Three Pillars and the Thirteen Principles to your BoW  
Create your own personal basic tenets that reflect your practice  
Place this list of tenets into your BoW

### **Recommended Reading:**

Self-Initiation for the Solitary Witch - Shanddaramon, New Page Books, 2004  
The Practical Pagan - Dana D. Eilers, 2002 New Page Books  
Paganism: An Introduction to Earth-Centered Religions - Joyce and River  
Higginbotham, 2002, Llewellyn.

### **Follow-Up**

Send me the answers to the above questions  
Report on your experience of creating tenets

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## SOLP First Degree Requirement Checklists

### First Degree

- Begin a Book of Whimsy
- Begin a Seeker Journal
- Learn the following concepts:
  - Introduction to the Order
  - The Five Precepts and Ethics
  - The Elementals
  - The Wheel of the Year
  - Pagan Symbolism
  - Deities
  - A History of Neo-Paganism
  - Developing A Personal Ritual Practice
  - Basics of Meditation
  - Spells and Magick
  - Methods of Magick
  - Basics of Divination
  - Basics of Numerology
  - Basics of the Tarot
  - Basics of the Runes
  - Basics of Astrology
  - The Pendulum
  - Spiritual Healing
  - The Aura and the Chakras
  - Basics of Herbalism
  - Mythology
  - Basics Teachings of World Religions
  - Magickal Alphabets
- Degree Review
- First degree initiation

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### The Three Pillars of Paganism

1. All things are sacred for the divine exists both within and beyond us.
  2. We are free to choose our spiritual path and are responsible for the choices we make.
  3. We honor and celebrate the natural cycles of the universe.
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## The Sacred Order of Living Paganism - Thirteen Principles of Belief

- 1) We believe in a single mysterious source of all existence which we call the Eternal Spirit.
- 2) We believe in the division of the one source into two equal and complimentary entities whom we call the Goddess and the God and whom we may honor through our own deities.
- 3) We believe in honoring, respecting, and revering the Eternal Spirit by celebrating the cycles of Nature and our lives through joyous personal and group ritual.
- 4) We believe that the cycles of Nature also teach us about the cycles of life including the cycle of life and death. Therefore, we believe that life can be renewed through the Eternal Spirit, that we can learn from the experiences of the past and that what we do now affects the future lives of ourselves and others.
- 5) We believe that the physical world is not the only reality and that others realm may be explored and engaged.
- 6) We believe in the power to focus and direct the will in order to enact transformations for the good of the self and all others.
- 7) We believe in free will and understand the responsibilities inherent in acting in accordance with this freedom.
- 8) We believe that good and evil are the result of the consequences of free will. Thus, we seek to act and lead our lives in ways which, to the greatest degree possible, do not cause harm to the self or others.
- 9) We believe in the application of ethical principles such as the Wiccan Rede, the Threefold Law and the Five Precepts to our daily lives.
- 10) We believe that all sacred paths and practices which do not cause harm to others are worthy of toleration and respect and that we can learn and grow from the wisdom of the world's religious philosophies.
- 11) We believe in the use of the circle and the four elements in our rites.
- 12) We believe in celebrating the solstices, equinoxes and cross quarter days (sabbats) in public ritual, the full moons (esbats) in small group ritual, and the dark moons (astors) in personal ritual.
- 13) We believe that each person has the ability and right to become a member of the clergy and that no single person has the right to dominate the spiritual life of another. Therefore, we seek to avoid authoritative structures in spiritual growth.