

BUCKLAND'S  
COMPLETE  
BOOK OF  
WITCHCRAFT



Raymond  
Buckland

## About This Book

The lyrically beautiful rituals of the Old Religion, known as Witchcraft or "Wicca", affect us in many ways. They speak to our present needs, help us to transform the future, and enable us to experience a special link with the Pagan past. Consider this:

"We Wiccans give thanks to the Mighty Ones  
For the richness and goodness of life.  
As there must be rain with the sun,  
To make all things good,  
So must we suffer pain with our joy,  
To know all things.  
Our love is ever with the Gods,  
For though we know not their thoughts,  
Yet do we know their hearts—  
That all is for our good."

The above is taken from Ray Buckland's Summer Solstice rite . . . just one of the very meaningful offerings in his newest volume.

Ray's workbook takes a wholistic approach to the vast body of knowledge that Witches work with, so that information on religion and ritual practices is interwoven with instructions on such diverse topics as healing, herbal lore, dream interpretation, sex magick, the power of colors, runic alphabets, magickal tools, meditation, divination, amulets and talismans, magickal properties of gemstones, candle magick, and so on.

Raymond Buckland is, to my mind, the one person most responsible for getting the Craft so widely spread throughout this country. As long as I've known him, Ray has taken the "long view" towards the Old Religion; it has always been his dream to build a legacy of Wiccan lore for the future.

Buckland has long been an acknowledged master teacher, as well as a superb researcher of rituals and spells. He has been training students for over twenty years, ever since he came to this country to pass on the arcane teachings into which he was initiated before leaving England. His students (myself among them) have always enjoyed and respected his easy, personal, but straightforward and to-the-point style.

True to his usual excellent form, Ray's workbook is arranged by "lessons" rather than by chapters. The lessons here are designed so that the reader can acquire knowledge and experience equal to what Witches in many covens are taught as their Priests and Priestesses bring them up through the traditional three degrees of initiation. Buckland says, "By the time you have finished this training . . . you will be the equivalent of the Third Degree . . ."

I feel that his book of lessons may well become the recognized standard by which those of the Wicca may judge each other and be judged themselves. Many of us have long commented that in various covens and different branches of the Craft the level of background training required for advanced initiations has varied radically . . . from very good (rarely) to satisfactory (sometimes) to atrocious (all too often). Ray's comprehensive training volume should provide the long-awaited basic curriculum that all Witches should be expected to know and be able to practice.

In sharing this material, the author reflects a new era of openness. In the past, Craft secrets of this nature have been highly guarded, and publication of them would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

The lessons in this workbook are positive and ethical. Ray emphasizes that Witchcraft entails "acceptance of personal and social responsibility," and that "it is acknowledgement of a wholistic universe and a means towards a raising of consciousness".

Of course, an ideal workbook should also be a sturdy handbook that provides good, practical information that is easily readable. For anyone looking for a solid education in Witchcraft, Paganism, and magick, this book will prove to be a true treasure. In fact, this book is so jam-packed with information that it may well become the definitive work on this subject! This is just the volume from which to build a basis of solid, valid, most important knowledge, and to use as a foundation from any Craft library. I'd recommend that all who are interested in the Old Religion get this book, study it . . . and treasure it!

—Ed Fitch  
*Magical Rites from the Crystal Well*

### **About the Author**

Raymond Buckland came to the United States from England in 1962. He has been actively involved in the study of the occult for over thirty-five years, and an initiate of the Old Religion for twenty-five. In the past fifteen years he has had more than a dozen books published and has written numerous newspaper and magazine articles.

Considered an authority on witchcraft and the occult, Ray served as technical advisor for the Orson Welles movie *Necromancy* and also worked as an advisor for a stage production of *Macbeth* with William Friedkin (director of *The Exorcist*). He has lectured at universities across the country including Penn State University, University of Western Illinois, University of North Dakota, New York State University and City College San Diego. He has been written about in such newspapers and magazines as *The New York Times*, *New York Daily (and Sunday) News*, *National Observer*, *Look Magazine*, *Cosmopolitan*, *True*, and many others.

Ray has appeared on numerous radio and television talk programs including *The Dick Cavett Show*, *Tom Snyder's Tomorrow Show*, *Not for Women Only* (with Barbara Walters) and the *Virginia Graham Show*. He has been seen on BBC-TV England, RAI-TV Italy, and CBC-TV Canada. He has taught courses at New York State University, Hofstra University and New Hampshire Technical College. He is listed in a number of reference works including *Contemporary Authors*, *Who's Who in America*, *Men of Achievement* and *International Authors and Writers' Who's Who*.

Ray Buckland comes from a family of English Gypsies and is actively involved in researching Romany roots. Today he lives with his wife Tara in Millersburg, Ohio.

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To some people, the idea that "Magick" is *practical* comes as a surprise.

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Llewellyn's Practical Magick Series

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**Raymond Buckland**

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For ...

*Tara*

and in memory of Scire and Olwen

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\*Aidan Breac is a Scottish Highlander who was born and raised in a hereditary Craft family on Priest Island, off the west coast of Scotland. He is descended from the Carnonacae tribe of Picts who lived in the northwest of what is now Ross and Cromarty County. Aidan Breac is believed to be in his nineties, (there are no official records of his birth) and for the past thirty years has devoted his time to teaching the Pecti-Wita tradition (a Solitary one) to students hardy enough to make the journey to the rugged northwest of Scotland and share the rigors of his retreat at Castle Carnonacae.

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