



The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries: Feminist Witchcraft, Goddess Rituals, Spellcasting and Other Womanly Arts

Zsuzsanna E. Budapest

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Women's rights and rites merge in this complete guide to the principles and practices of matriarchal religion.

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From Reader Review The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries: Feminist Witchcraft, Goddess Rituals, Spellcasting and Other Womanly Arts for online ebook

Tepintzin says

Z Budapest's mother Mazika Szilazgy was a brilliant artist. I was deeply impressed by her work, and I'd love to see it in situ in Budapest.

I have now told you the best thing about this book. The photographs of Z's mother's art.

Z drank the Margaret Murray kool-aid a little too deeply. Okay, a lot too deeply. She doesn't have any grasp of history and yet builds her religion upon it.

I still want to know how Alexander the Great (who Z calls "the Pig") managed to burn down the library at Alexandria when it wasn't built yet. According to Z, he did this in order to destroy the matriarchal texts there. Yeah. Right.

Chiara says

I've been waiting to read this book for ages, and now that I finally have started to read it I'm so disappointed and angry! This is so much crap!

Where are all the women's mysteries and magic? It all comes down to "we have to stop this chauvinistic, male-centered, women-oppressing world-spread society!" And what mysterious and magic solution is there? Not teaching men the craft *until the equality of sexes is a reality* (quote!) ... Wait, why isn't everybody just scared to death? Exactly.

There will always be men who think women are a step below, as, apparently, there will always be women who think men are all pigs.

Women (or people) that believe that women are necessarily better than men, or/and that a matriarchal society would be better than a patriarchal one just because women and not men are in charge, are in my opinion not better than men (or people) who believe that women are to stay home and make children because they are good for little more than that.

When will the world stop preaching differences and teaching that one thing is better than the other? Where's the *sacred duality* thing?

This is a bad book and a bad teaching, I honestly wouldn't expect that from people who blare they are connected to Nature, and the Goddess and Mother Earth and blah-blah-blah.

Yes, everything has a mother, a feminine start, but, apart from the son of the Virgin Mary (whose actual virginity is at least questionable), everything has a father, too, a masculine start. I may be an underrated genius, but it seems to me that things couldn't be simpler.

Neither men nor women are the better half of the world, our society should be neither matriarchal nor patriarchal: we are supposed to live together in peace and harmony as *people* and that is what Witchcraft, as any Nature-centered religion/philosophy/way of living, should be teaching.

I surely agree that women must stand for their rights, but I disagree 100% that the way to do so is struggling to "take over" and putting men a step below.

Oh God (Goddess?) am I disappointed!!

Kelly says

I just met Z. what a woman of honor she is and I high recommend this book!

Onyx says

A book that might be too female chauvinistic for some, it may be a good book for others who are looking for inspiration and empowerment in a world devoted to the dis-empowerment and subjection of women under man's ownership. (No, those words are Not too harsh.) For me, I thought the book was good enough to not only buy my own copy, but to trade even this copy in for a hardcover....something I only do for, what I consider, are the best of books.

(Yes, there's actually a hardcover out there that's not in German. You just have to stumble across it.)

I seriously recommend many of Budapest's books anyway, along with books written by Miriam Starhawk. The two authors' books ought to go together on the same shelf of a personal library.

Marty says

Thanks Carrie! This book changed everything, my attitude towards the cosmos, myself, and all women. Zsusanna Budapest is the real deal :)

The Cute Little Brown-haired girl says

Do you think God will strike me down with a bolt of lightening for reading this? Something tells me that even though it is totally Pagan, that learning about it is not such a bad thing.

Haley says

Great primer for female empowerment but is too unbalanced in its premise re: male/female. While it's true that everything begins as a mother-force, and father is not always necessary (i.e. parthenogenesis) demoting the god in us is limiting. The Good Great Mother of us all is both. We need the river (She) and the riverbed (He) in order to be effective in all realms.

Still, for women who have suffered greatly under patriarchal limitations, a visit into all-woman time would not be remiss to build a solid, unshakable base.

While the writing isn't the greatest, if you want a clear look into witchcraft as a path, it's a great start and a staple for your library. Budapest's long experience and contribution is still a must-read.

Maggi Horseman says

Budapest's older stuff is better than any of her new stuff.

Andrea says

A great reference book for Dianic and other pagans (although I would buy a copy as a reference manual, rather than get it out at the library and have to take back!)

Amyd says

I'm only giving this one for the sake of at least giving it a rating. Really disappointed. It took me a really long time to actually get hold of and as a Pagan I was really looking forward to it. I couldn't even finish it. This woman can't tell the difference between feminism and sexism and she's meant to be a feminist priestess and teacher? I pity for future Pagan generations. Bad.

Zoe says

Zsuzsanna comes from a heritage that not only respects women, but is composed of women celebrating the rites of passage at every stage of life. It's about women supporting women. She has opened many roads to the idea of a very organic way of life. Love her books, love her philosophy. This book is spiritual, but not religious, if you understand the difference, which is what attracted me

Araminta Matthews says

I appreciate that she offers up a feminist perspective of religion; but because she lacks references and has a clear agenda of debunking Christianity, the books fails to remain ingenuous.

Deanne Quarrie says

This book is a classic in the category of women's spirituality. When reading, one needs to keep in mind when it was written. The women's movement had not yet combined in any way with spirituality and Z clearly was a path maker in helping women combine female centered spirituality with the feminist movement. This book has been criticized for being militant and sexist in its point of view and in all honesty, it is, but those were times when things needed to be pushed. There were no alternatives for women to worship a divinity that looked like them. In His image just wasn't working for many of us, so yes, it had to push buttons, wake women up and give them some basic material to begin working with.

Aradia V says

The book is cool because she basically created Dianic witchcraft (Goddess worship only) but I always found it a bit dry. Its also very 2nd wave feminist and at this point her politics are, in my opinion, outdated. Its a good reference book, and is worth keeping around for its historical value.

Shawna Ze says

Amazing book- incredibly grateful for this author. Her writing expressed her palpable emotional generosity in her approach to sharing the spotlight with her sisters. As a millennial, this level of demonstrable emotional intelligence is rare in the generations that came before us and it speaks volumes to me that she stands out so much from the usual cognitive dissonance of the times.
