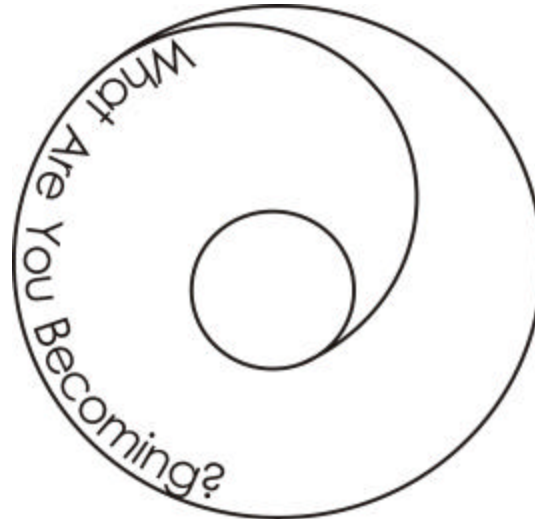


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## **Introduction to the Journeys**

The Journeys are Becoming's unique degree program for members. Each Journey is a course of study and personal experience that will be developed by you and your Guide. The difference between a Journey and just doing things is awareness, intentionality, and an enhanced sense of purpose. For example you may be taking music classes; that in itself does not constitute a Journey. Those same music classes may however be the foundation for your Journey when you integrate into a mindset that lets you use it for spiritual growth. The key is intention.

### ***What is a Journey***

There are seven Journeys for you to complete. You do not have to complete or even begin all of them. You can choose which of them will help to enhance your spiritual practice and life. An individual Journey should take between three and six months, but must be completed within one year. Each Journey should only be completed once, but if the first Journey is more of a survey or comparative study, then a second Journey with a more specialized focus may be approved. Some Journeys have more than one path. Once you have completed a Journey on one path you are more than welcome to begin the next, or move on to another Journey.

### ***Beginning a Journey***

To begin a Journey, arrange a meeting with the Celebrant or Steward to discuss your entrance into the degree program. At this meeting we will discuss your goals and which Journey may be best for you to begin, along with who should be your Guide and developing your "Journey Plan," e.g. what the exact requirements will be for completing the Journey. Once you have completed your Journey, you will be awarded "Mastery of the Journey" for whichever Journey you completed and will be able to act as a Guide for others who embark on that Journey.

### ***Guides***

Although the Celebrant, Steward, and Journey Masters will always be available to act as Guides, there may be others who would also be appropriate. Your Guide should be someone who can not only develop your Journey Plan, but also available to help you along the way. Guides must be approved in advance by the Journey Advisory Committee.

### ***Journey Plan***

The Journey Plan is your map. Although there will be many twists and turns along the way, this plan will set out the milestones you must pass in order to complete the Journey. Beyond a few basic requirements, Journey Plans will be individually designed using your goals, experience levels, and interests. Journey Plans must be approved by the Journey Advisory Committee prior to beginning the Journey, although some details may change during process.

### **Elements of a Journey Plan may include:**

- Classes and Training
- Projects
- Reading Materials
- Attending or Participating in Rituals, either with Becoming or Other Groups
- Oral and Written Reports or Presentations
- Status Reports with Guide
- Final Project

## ***Journey Advisory Committee***

The Journey Advisory Committee is comprised of the Celebrant, Steward, and up to three Member Representatives. This committee will serve as the body which oversees the administration and growth of the program, Guides, Journey Plans and awards recognition of Journey Masters.

## ***Ordination***

Although Becoming does not currently offer an ordination program, one is carefully being crafted. The Journeys will be a core requirement for any ordination program.

## ***Required Reading***

Each Journey will have one or two books that all Journey participants will have to read. This will help to create a common experience for those who follow a Journey. We have included books that the required reading will, most likely, be drawn from. These selections will be finalized in the near future and may be adjusted from time-to-time.

# **Journey of Personal Transformation**

Take the Journey of your life. Are you stuck in your chrysalis and just waiting to become a butterfly? The Journey of Personal Transformation is all about you. This, the most personal of Journeys, is entirely up to you and your Guide. Whether you want to use it to lose fifty pounds, dedicate to a tradition or school, or embark on a course of therapy – all of these are a Journey of Personal Transformation.

## **Path of Beginnings**

Are you embarking on a life-cycle change? Life-cycle changes such as weddings, divorces, births, educational or career change, and croning/saging can be extremely transformative. Use this experience as the springboard for your Journey.

## **Path of the Shadow**

It's there is all of us. Do you need to delve into the dark to find a balance with the light? This is one of the most challenging Journeys any of us can take; dealing with the dark parts that can hold us back or give us great power.

## **Path of the Butterfly**

Time to break free and fly! What is it you want to change? Where do you want to go? Take this Journey and transform yourself into that butterfly already!

Required reading will be drawn from:

- Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss
- Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler
- Thorson's Principles of Jungian Spirituality by Vivian Crowley
- The Right Questions by Debbie Ford
- Shadow on the Path : Clearing the Psychological Blocks to Spiritual Development by V. J. Fedorschak
- Taming Your Gremlin (Revised Edition): A Surprisingly Simple Method for Getting Out of Your Own Way by Rick Carson

Journey Completion Requirements:

- Approved Guide
- Approved Journey Plan
- Required Reading
- Completed Final Project

## **Journey of Creativity**

Explore your spirit through creativity. On this journey you will learn new skills, explore new artistic endeavors, and learn to speak in visual, oral, and word-based metaphors. Try poetry. Try prose. Try painting or sculpture. Wander and wind through all manner of creative expression.

For those with little or no experience, the Path of Exploration is the way to go. For those with more experience consider specialization in: Poetry, Journals, Scrapbooks, Sculpture, Magickal Tool Designs, Prose Writing, Musical Composition, Drumming, Dancing, Cake Decorating and on and on!

## **Path of Exploration**

Explore a variety of creative techniques and forms. Never heard of abstract impressionism? Always wanted to make beautiful things, but never knew where to start? Take this Journey and explore the world of Art and Music in both appreciation and hands on practice.

## **Path of Specialization**

Already have a strong background in the arts or completed the Path of Exploration, then this path is for you. Choose your focus and start your Journey.

Required reading will be drawn from:

- The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity by Julia Cameron
- Soul Mapping: An Imaginative Way to Self Discovery by Nina Frost, et. al.

Journey Completion Requirements:

- Approved Guide
- Required Reading
- Approved Journey Plan with Minimum of Three Projects
- Completed Final Project

## **Journey of Ritual**

Delve in to the world of creating, participating in, and leading ritual. Begin with attending a study of the techniques and theories of ritual. Move on to a study of rituals in practice and then begin to participate in a variety of roles. Finally, create and lead your own!

Required reading will be drawn from:

- The Art of Ritual by Renee Beck and Sydney Barbara Metrick
- Rites of Worship: A Neopagan Approach by Issac Bonewits
- Liberating Rites: Understanding the Transformative Power of Ritual by Tom Driver
- Elements of Ritual by Deborah Lipp
- The Book of Sacred Jewish Practices: CLAL's Guide to Everyday and Holiday Rituals and Blessings

Journey Completion Requirements:

- Approved Guide
- Required Reading
- Attendance a Minimum of Three Rituals at Three Different Groups
- Approved Journey Plan with Minimum of Three Projects
- Completed Final Project

## **Journey of Scholarship**

Think Pagan scholarship is lacking? Then choose your subject and help to improve it. On this Journey you will tackle whatever subject you like, but be ready to defend your thesis not only to the Advisory Committed, but also to a panel of your peers. Simple answers will not be enough on this Journey. You will be required to dig deeper, looker closer, and hardest of all, think for yourself.

Required reading will be drawn from:

- Pagan Theology by Michael York
- The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft by Ronald Hutton
- A History of Pagan Europe by Prudence Jones and Nigel Pennick
- Voices from the Pagan Census: A National Survey of Witches and Neo-Pagans in the United States by Helen A. Berger et al
- Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves: Contemporary Pagans and the Search for Community by Sarah M. Pike

Journey Completion Requirements:

- Approved Guide
- Required Reading
- Approved Journey Plan and Topic
- Completed Final Project

## **Journey of Service**

The Journey of Service is an incredibly important one. Sometimes it's hard not to be in charge. Sometimes we're afraid to take a leadership position. Sometimes it's hard to think of others first. Sometimes we need to do just that. On this Journey you will be the first to show up and the last to leave. You will learn to ask not just what needs to be done, but what can you do to help. This Journey specifically relates to service for Becoming. Here you will help your friends and spiritual community. You will work with them and see the best, and possibly the worst in leadership techniques. By serving others you will see what it's like to be on the receiving end as well as providing valuable service to your community.

Required reading will be drawn from books to be announced at a later date.

Journey Completion Requirements:

- Approved Guide
- Required Reading
- Approved Journey Plan with Minimum of Five Projects
- Completed Final Project

## **Journey of Community**

There are two distinct paths on the Journey of Community. One is of community service. The other brings understanding of greater the Pagan community. You may only follow one path a time, but will be welcome to come back to this Journey and complete the second path at any time.

### **Path of Community Service**

Being an active part of your community can bring great spiritual satisfaction. On this path you will participate in, organize, and lead events to better the world around you. From park clean-ups and food drives to Pagan Pride Day and Kiddy Coven, this Journey will show you the world around you and how you can benefit from serving it.

### **Path of the Pagan Community**

The Pagan community is very diverse. This diversity makes us stronger, but also can lead to misunderstanding and distrust. On this path you will explore the Pagan community and its different facets. By learning about and attending rituals and meetings of different traditions, coven, groves, and circles you will be able to help foster community and understanding in your community.

Required reading will be drawn from:

- Community Building: What Makes It Work : A Review of Factors Influencing Successful Community Building by Paul Mattessick and Barbara Monsey
- Earthly Bodies, Magical Selves: Contemporary Pagans and the Search for Community by Sarah M. Pike
- Contemporary Paganism: Listening People, Speaking Earth by Graham Harvey
- Readings from other traditions and PPD handouts

Journey Completion Requirements:

- Approved Guide
- Required Reading
- Approved Journey Plan with Minimum of Three Projects
- Completed Final Project

# **Journey of Magick**

So many possible paths on this Journey – how do you pick just one! The Journey of Magick could last a lifetime; there is more to learn and master than one person ever could. For those with little or no experience there is the path of exploration. For those with more experience there are more specialized paths to wander down.

## **Path of Exploration**

Start at the beginning and explore a variety of magickal tools, techniques, and systems. From divination to spell work, you'll cover the map on this path.

## **Path of Specialization**

Already have a strong background in the magick or completed the Path of Exploration then this path is for you. Choose your focus and start your Journey.

Required reading will be drawn from:

- Craft of the Wild Witch by Poppy Palin
- True Magick by Amber K
- Psychic Self Defense by Dion Fortune
- Earth Power: Techniques of Natural Magic by Scott Cunningham

Journey Completion Requirements:

- Approved Guide
- Required Reading
- Approved Journey Plan with Minimum of Three Projects
- Completed Final Project

# Sample Journey Plan

Traveler: Carly Lesser  
Journey: Scholar  
Guide: Angela Roberts

## Personal Statement

I am taking this journey because as a Jew learning and spirituality are, for me, forever intertwined. In reflecting on who I am and where I am I realized that this was a part of my spiritual heritage that I needed to explore at this moment in my life. I believe that through the act of learning and writing down – and publishing – what we learn we connect the generations through time. Because many did this before me, I can reach back in time and connect with them. Because I will do this, I can reach forward into the future.

I will be investigating the diversity of what it means to be Jewish. I believe this has relevance far beyond my little tribe. For my Pagan family it will help them to see that there is no shame in diversity of experience, and that even one of the oldest religions still doesn't have a clear and concise answer as to who and what they are. We just know we are Jews.

Specifically I will be researching several less well known Jewish groups and exploring the commonalities and differences among them and as compared to a more conventional vision of Jews and Judaism. My premise is that by exploring and understanding the vast array of traditions world-wide, we (modern American Jews) will be less likely to say "this is what a Jew does," without realizing that our traditions are based on our unique heritage and not necessarily the only way things are done. The greater knowledge and background in the traditions will spiritually provide me with a stronger foundation to explore what the Divine reveals because I will have a greater comfort with what is acceptable and what is not.

## Time Line

Total of 13 Months

Months 1-3

Read: Pagan Theology by Michael York (required reading element)

General background research on Jewish groups (China, India, Ethiopia, Southern United States, AMCHA)

Create matrix of comparatives

Clarify thesis

Assignment

End of Month 3: Check in with Guide - Present final thesis statement to Guide

Months 4-6

Read: Two approved scholarly materials relating to core project

Begin documenting findings from background research

Develop list of possible personal interview subjects

Assignment

End of Month 6: Present preliminary findings to Guide

Month 7

Read: One approved scholarly materials relating to core project  
Draft outline of paper  
Continue research

Assignment  
End of Month 7: Present Outline to Guide

Month 8  
Complete  
Complete personal interviews  
Organize assets and gain any permission necessary to utilize materials  
Begin drafting paper

Assignment  
End of Month 8: Check in with Guide discuss research, any issues, and next steps

Months 9-10  
Develop Draft of Paper

Assignment  
End of Month 10: Present Guide with Draft of Paper for Review

Months 11-12  
Revise draft based on Guide's comments  
Polish and finish paper

Assignment  
End of Month 12: Present final paper to Guide

Month 13  
Develop presentation of materials for Becoming

Assignment  
End of Month 13: Present Journey to Becoming