

# *A Guide for Perspective Students of the Craft*

*The principal reason to study the Craft of the Wise is to train as a strong, caring, and competent priest or priestess who follow a clearly defined Pagan path.*

*The degree system varies by tradition, some even avoiding the concept all together. One concept remains constant though... call the phases what you will, there are graduating levels of responsibility. Most Wiccan covens recognize three degrees of initiation. To quote an initiation ritual: "At First Degree, we give you back to yourself; at Second Degree, we give you back to the Community; and at Third Degree, we give you back to the Gods." It follows therefore that:*

- 1. A First degree initiate demonstrates both the knowledge and the abilities to take care of his or her own spiritual needs.*
- 2. Beyond the responsibilities of a First Degree, a Second Degree initiate demonstrates that he or she has the knowledge, skills, willingness, and capability to minister to the needs of others.*
- 3. Beyond the responsibilities of a Second Degree, a Third Degree initiate demonstrates that he or she is competent to lead his or her own Coven and represent the Craft publicly.*

*The process of becoming an initiate Witch is different for each person who experiences it. The single common factor in every such experience is that no one emerges from the process unchanged. It is not an undertaking into which one should enter lightly, without serious contemplation and reflection. When someone asks to study for initiation, it's presumed that that individual has some comprehension of what it means to be a priest or priestess, and that he or she is prepared to commit the time, effort and energy necessary to serve in that role. Understand that there is a cost to the individual, not in terms of money, but in terms of actions mandated by the knowledge you will receive. With knowledge comes power, and with power comes responsibility and accountability. While you're not usually asked to begin filling these shoes until you've been initiated, this fulfilling path will last the rest of your life.*

*If you are serious about becoming a student of the Craft, we ask that you take some time, and consciously and deliberately think about following:*

- Why do you want to be a Witch?*
- What do you want from the Craft?*
- What do you are bring to the Craft?*

*Write down your immediate answers, then take at least two weeks to review and mediate on these points. Feel free to make changes and edits to your answers as needed. If questions arise in your mind, contact an initiate, get answers, and then think about those answers. At the end of this time, if you are still resolved on becoming a student of the Craft, contact us.*