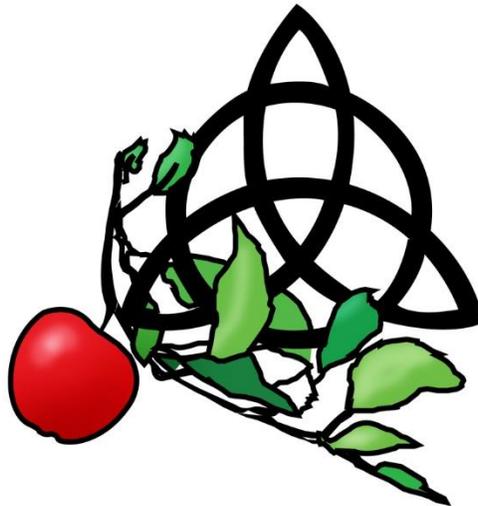


# The Apple Branch

*Greenman Program*



## Introduction

The Apple Branch offers full training for both Priests and Priestesses. We call our Priests – Green Men. Within Dianic Tradition, a priestess has been taught to not only channel for the Goddess, but also to hold and maintain the energies within the Circle. He also provides energetic protection for the Circle (Sacred Space). We have found that while this can be done, there are those whose natural inclinations lean in this direction. For the most part, they are not interested in holding "center" in sacred rites but prefer to be what we call "edge walkers" and monitor not only the energies of those in sacred space, but also provide energetic protection against any outside forces beyond the boundaries of the Circle. A big part of their task is to monitor the energies of the Priestess, making sure that her energy levels are maintained appropriately. This is not a gender specific role – but rather a focus for either a man or a woman.

Men who wish to study as Green Men who have applied to the Apple Branch will follow the same studies as everyone else with special emphasis on working with energy and shamanic techniques needed for "edge walking."

Service to the Goddess and to humanity is an important part of our life and character. We believe that there are many paths to enlightenment and to truth...no one path is "better" than another. All have validity. As such those of the Apple Branch serve in a variety of ways.

Magic is viewed as a potential for creation, potential that exists within all things, living and non-living. We draw upon this energy and the energy within ourselves to bring into manifestation that which is needed for the highest good of all. We give thanks and offerings respectfully as we know that we still have much to learn.

We identify as Witches but we believe that much of what we do was done by our ancestors the Druids and Bandrui of the Celtic people and those who practiced Seidr and Galdr of Northern Europe. As such, we are creating a sacred life based on nature as did those ancestors. They began in a time when men and women were equal in all ways. Certain distinctions, did of course exist, but were not prohibitive.

We incorporate a way of life that is based on the beliefs and practices of our ancestors. Our teachings evolved from the animistic philosophies of the early people who merged to form the Celts and other European cultures. Thus, our ways are deeply rooted in the Ways of Nature and the Otherworld, a belief structure centered around the concept of "balance in all things".

The cosmos is made up of three interconnected realms...Land, Sea and Sky interwoven with the Sacred Fire, the Divine Spark within all living and non-living beings. We of the Apple Branch follow the Lunar Cycles applying our knowledge of the Ogham as our guide. Work is done on the 13 New Moons, as well as on the Full and Dark Moons. We keep the Cycle of the Year, that Great Spiral that guides us in our daily lives. The pantheon followed is a personal choice. We believe that "like attracts like" thus, we work with the female divinities to allow for greater focus on feminine forces in the world. We do honor gods as well especially at certain times of the year, but as Dianics, we know that gods are of the Goddess just as we are.

The Apple Branch opens their practices to welcome deities from all cultures, so long as the practice is in keeping with a nature based philosophy.

## **Overview of the Components of the Studies**

- Ogham
- Historical and Anthropological Roots of Goddess Worship
- Core Shamanism
  - Shamanic Studies Around the World
- Nature Studies
- Divination
  - Ogham
  - Runes
  - Other
- Eco-Spirituality
- Personal Interest Studies
- Mythology
  - Celtic
  - Northern European
    - Focus on finding core truth from prior to power over concepts
- Working with Energy
  - Protective
  - Healing
- Effective Communication
- Body Awareness
- Health & Nutrition

- Being a Spiritual Warrior
- Security and Safety
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation
- Alternative Healing Practices and Emergency Safety