



Dark Moon Rising: Pagan BdsM & the Ordeal Path

Raven Kaldera

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Throughout history, from the Hindu Kavadi ceremony to the Lakota Sun Dance, the Ordeal Path has been an honored spiritual road to the magic of the flesh, and to touching the Gods. Today many Pagans are discovering this path, by accident or by design. Simultaneously, many practitioners of secular BDSM are finding themselves having spiritual experiences in the middle of their most secular scenes. This book explores the crossover points between both these communities and practices, a cross-section which is growing steadily, baring controversial articles on topics as diverse as sacred pain, bondage, hook suspension, cathartic Pagan ritual, the spirituality of dominance and submission, and being the slave of the Gods. With contributions by noted authors and activists in both communities, and stunning photography by artist and Shibari-Do master Bridgett Harrington, this book is an awe-inspiring gateway into the Realm of the Underworld. and back again.

Dark Moon Rising: Pagan BdsM & the Ordeal Path Details

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From Reader Review Dark Moon Rising: Pagan BdsM & the Ordeal Path for online ebook

Steve Cran says

When one hears the words like pain, submission, ropes or any other similar word normally one would tend to cringe. If i told you that pain and submission could be used for spiritual growth you would look at me as though I were nuts. Truth be told pain and submission have been used for spiritual growth. Think of monks going into a monastery they sometimes give up their right to talk, they eat set meal times and are forced to live a life of austerity. This is submission to god. In the movie "DaVinci Code" we saw an albino monk whip himself quite regularly and tie something rather painful around his thigh. Thee pain could have been used to toughen him , expiate sins or force him into a certain state of mind. Some of the more painful rituals include the Lakota sun dance where in the celebrant put hooks through his body and suspends himself . those hooks do leave scars. The pain supposedly puts them more in touch with the gods.

With the passing of the rule for gay marriage and Bruce transforming himself into Caitlyn, this is a time of celebration for the communities of alternative sex and lifestyles. Now whether such stuff has appealed to you in the past well that is another story. Using BDSM tactics for spiritual growth will leave some wondering . Many Christians feel that BDSM belongs to the realm of "Fifty Shades of Grey" Many neo pagans are very uncomfortable with inflicting pain and forcing submission . Yet on the the other hand there are people that feel a strong need to live that lifestyle.

In rituals it is the submissive who build the energy and it is the top who guides the energy. The top or master can use the pain to help the submissive reach a gnosis or certain state of mind . The top also acts as a guide for the submissive taking him to the underworld and back. Pain can also be a helpful catharsis to relieve traumatic events.

Raven Kaldera himself a transgendered individual is quite knowledgeable about dwelling in those in between states. This book here which is the first I have read from him represents an excellent book. He has done his research and produced a top rate product. Raven describes the BDSM thoroughly and all the interrelated magical parts that could come along with it. I liked the techniques for charging user specific and purpose specific tools. There are also seasonal rituals which use BDSM. Raven also discusses the top or dominant's obligation towards the submissive and that that the dom is him or herself a slave or the gods meant to do their work.

Several other authors have written pieces and essays that add to the flavor of this book. Galina Krasskova tells how she was selected by ODin to be her bride. Author Jennifer Hunter tells of how she was searching for a dominant pagan man and how the search continues. Joshua Raven's slave also writes several essays.

This book is well researched with plenty of reference to older cultures using pain for spiritual transcendence. Flogging, hook suspension, bondage, different pairings are discussed in detail.No review could capture all the details of this book..

Heathir says

A fantastic book.

Natalie says

Hmmm. This was not what I was looking for, unfortunately.

Eliška says

A really excellent delve into the place where BDSM meets paganism, and the various purposes that this intersection can fill.

Four stars instead of five because of just a few things: there's a huge section in the middle that is merely detailed ritual scripts, that I did not find immediately relevant and skipped at first, coming back to it after I finished the rest of the book. Also, the last quarter or so of the book is a very detailed look into a spiritually-founded 24/7 D/s relationship, which would be extremely useful to anyone contemplating such a thing...and completely useless for me, except as an intellectual exercise and a view towards understanding those who have such relationships.

There's some really good example scenes in here that help illustrate what the authors are talking about (because while the main frame of the book is by Kaldera, there are numerous essays and other contributions from other members of the pagan BDSM community, such as Lee Harrington and Lydia Helasdottir). Overall, I found this to be an incredibly useful and thought-provoking guide.

Harper Jean says

Much of what's here has been published online: essays, personal narratives, poetry, rituals. Even though it was very clear that the author/contributors often were coming from very different places from me in many ways, I got an awful lot out of parts of the book and imagine I will be going back to them. Kaldera's writing come off as pompous and a bit off-putting at times, but there are a lot of ideas here, and a lot of very earnest perspective and experience. Given that there's not a lot in print on the intersections of kink and paganism, anyone interested in both will want to read this at some point.

Emma Sea says

Intriguing

Alex says

This was one of the first books I read after I figured out that there were things bigger than me in the world and it connected my burgeoning spirituality with my well-rooted sexuality. Well written and diverse in voice. My copy has been lent out numerous times and is beat to death, but every so often I pick it up and page through it again.

Kelly says

Addresses many different topics, that aren't usually covered anywhere.

Fulani Fulani says

This is a collection of essays starting from the point that self-knowledge and self-development are hard-won prizes on a life journey and often associated with 'ordeals' of one kind or another. Those who seek understanding, moreover, must often accept that they will be challenged on their quest and the challenges will almost certainly involve emotional and sometimes physical stress. I might add that those who don't seek such understanding often have it thrust upon them, in unexpected ways, and have to cope with the pain and stress anyway.

So what about BDSM? Its practices can, at least sometimes, be framed as the deliberate infliction of an ordeal that leads to self-development; and in other ways they can be ceremonial ordeals that mark, cement and celebrate self-development in very powerful ways.

The book is written by a pagan and for pagans. But if you don't identify as pagan, don't let that put you off (personally I don't, though my partner sometimes accuses me of being a 'oagan in denial!'). It's very accessible, psychologically astute and you don't have to have any pagan leanings or 'buy into' any pagan worldview in order to understand the issues discussed and the logic of the arguments. For my money it's one of the most perceptive and intelligent books on BDSM I've read, and also contains more intelligent advice in its pages than all the other self-help books I've read put together.
