

*Wizards, Witches & Me*

by Chris Carmines September 2019

I can bore you with the linguistic roots of 'witch' (to cast a spell) and 'wizard' (wise woman or man). You can look them up in the OED. I could even meander through their socio-political origins. Right now I'd rather reveal what those terms mean to me, personally.

Many decades ago, as a child while in Wales, one of my magickal teachers asked me: "When you grow up, what do you want to be?" I answered: "I want to be a wizard." He responded: "Love, we no longer have patrons. Pick another profession. What do you want to be?" I insisted: "I want to be a wizard."

Well, I was a little girl. In those days wizards were men. Witches were women. Witches were practitioners. Wizards were also theoreticians. While I might have been young, I still understood that the term 'witch' devalued my ability to think critically, to analyze or to postulate new theoretical perspectives. To that I would not acquiesce.

Today, some fifty years on, I realize such divisions are insidious falsehoods. So while I'd still feel arrogant or even audacious calling myself a wizard, I will admit to being a magickian (the 'k' is silent). Of course any magickian worth his or her salt is also a witch. Consequently, by definition no less, they are also wizards. Why, you might ask.

It's simple. Magickians are simply those who alloy the theoretical with the practical. Without doing such there can be no magick. Without magick one is neither a witch nor a wizard.

Enough then, with divisive terminology. We are what we are. Let's embrace our unique perspectives and be proud of our discipline's contributions to global culture. Magick birthed both science and religion, though it rarely receives the credit outside of academia. It's our oldest spiritual practice, and the only one which pervades every other one. What other perspective can make such an all-inclusive claim? Wouldn't you like to learn more?

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