

Peppermint And Sage Alabon 2015

Number 16 September 2015



September 2015

We are very late this issue. Mostly my fault - had other things going on and a crappy Internet connection. We moved less than 500 feet, we are on the same pole - we had DSL Extreme and now we have DSL Lite. ATT told us DSL Lite is the only speed in this area, yet we had extreme for over five years. Hope to have 17 on time, but I will need submissions sent in on time or early.

Download our prototype issue at
<http://www.dragonpalm.com/peppermintandsage.pdf>

And you will know all the types of submissions we want. It gives the formats and what we are looking for., We are always looking for letters of comment. This lets us know what you thought of an issue or an article. Also to let us know what you would like to see in future issues.

TIL NEXT ISSUE

BLESSED BE

DREAMWEAVER

Peppermint And Sage Issue 16 Mabon 2015

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Editor/Publisher: Dreamweaver

All submissions should be sent to
pas@dragonpalm.com

Peppermint And Sage is published eight times a year: Samhain, Yule, Imbolc, Ostara, Beltane, Litha, Lammas, and Mabon.

All issues are free in PDF format. Permission to print as long as all content is included and nothing is added.

Peppermint And Sage is created using Page-Plus X8 by Serif.

1	Tue	
2	Wed	
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8	Tue	
9	Wed	
10	Thu	
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15	Tue	
16	Wed	
17	Thu	Dragon Palm PNO
18	Fri	Earth'sWeb Harvest Gather
19	Sat	Earth'sWeb Harvest Gather
20	Sun	Earth'sWeb Harvest Gather
21	Mon	
22	Tue	
23	Wed	MABON
24	Thu	DPC Mabon Rit and Full Moon
25	Fri	
26	Sat	EarthsWeb Full Moon
27	Sun	Full Moon
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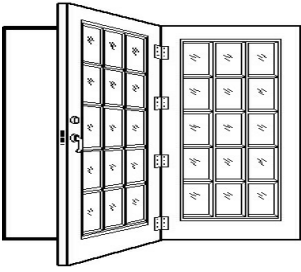
October 2015

Calendar Events:

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3	Sat	
4	Sun	
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8	Thu	
9	Fri	
10	Sat	
11	Sun	
12	Mon	Columbus Day
13	Tue	WIP
14	Wed	
15	Thu	DPC PNO
16	Fri	EarthsWeb Samhain Rit
17	Sat	EarthsWeb Samhain Rit
18	Sun	EarthsWeb Samhain Rit
19	Mon	
20	Tue	
21	Wed	
22	Thu	
23	Fri	
24	Sat	EarthsWeb Full Moon
25	Sun	Issue 16 deadline
26	Mon	
27	Tue	Full Moon
28	Wed	
29	Thu	
30	Fri	
31	Sat	Halloween / Samhain/DPC Rit

For more information on Dragon Palm Circle Events join the Dragon Palm Events group on Facebook or contact:
dreamweaver@dragonpalmcircle.org
For Earth's Web events information go to their web site: EarthsWeb.org
If you have a calendar event mail the information to: pas@dragonpalm.com. The calendar can be used for festivals, retreats, open rituals, PNO's, concerts and other events of interest to pagans.





The Door to the Beyond: Mental Health and Paganism by MOSS BLISS

Door to the Beyond: Paganism and Mental Health Part XVI

"So there were myself and over 5,000 other people, throwing eggs and bottles at the Pfizer labs. And then the police came, and started beating on us, and hauled us all off to jail..."

Ouch. I just had a dream where someone saw two of my activities, and liked the second, more violent one, better. Thought the first one was too soft. I wonder how many of us think like that?

Well, it's not the way *I* think, and it's *MY Door*. So let's take another walk through it together, shall we?

July was the month for MadPride activities, sponsored and somewhat coordinated by MindFreedom, International, an organization which I proudly belong to. MadPride is a way for we Labeled People (your doctor chooses the diagnosis, and you are no longer a real person) stand up for our civil rights. I "disorganized" Asheville's first-ever MadPride Day... I had tried to get people to come together last year, to no avail, and this year I at least got a few people wishing me well if not working with me... So it wasn't great, but it wasn't destructive, and as there was another quiet protest going on at the same site, we made some friends and connections. I managed to keep Asheville MadPride going to 3 years before moving West.

The MadPride events in London and Toronto were week-long events, with movies, coffee or tea house meetings, bed push events (you read that right -- teams each take a hospital bed and push it through the streets or a park), all kinds of "crazy" things. The Portland, Oregon event in 2009 had a ritual where they were worshipping a giant pill... there is video and pictures at the MadPride page (<http://mindfreedom.org>). Wish I could have done something like that, but...

I did something. Some people noticed us and supported us vocally. Nobody got into trouble, and we made friends. We struck a blow for the civil rights of "crazy" people, and nobody pointed angry fingers at us and say we were "crazy" for doing so. On top of that, we now have an event under our belts, and people interested in joining us next year for a similar action. I call that a success.

Mike Adams, The Health Ranger© has been running article after article on the continuing fraud which is the pharmaceutical industry, or Big Pharma. Dr. Rima Laibow has been hopping all around the world with her Natural Solutions Foundation, trying to stop an evil law called Codex Alimentarius from going into effect December 31, 2009. Codex will essentially define all vitamins, minerals, and herbs as toxins, and make about 70% of them illegal (even if you grow them yourself!) and limit the others only to amounts that are not enough to "poison" your body (if the substance has any effect, it is defined categorically as a "toxic effect", whether harmful or beneficial). Canadians are up in arms about a bill in Parliament called C-51, which in effect "harmonizes" (Dr. Laibow says "HARMonizes") Canadian law with Codex.

Some of these may turn out to be bogus, but we have to get interested enough to take action, even if the action is merely that of investigating the claims rather than dismissing them outright. We may be rapidly losing our rights to live healthy lives. We're being lied to about everything from the latest drug to the latest war to the latest law. (If you want to see for yourself, check the archives at Brasscheck.com.) It's not just the people with mental health diagnoses anymore, it's everyone. We are rapidly losing our complete civil rights, and it's being swept under legislative carpets all over the world.

So what do you do about it? Get mad and start sending letter bombs to legislators and drug companies? Curl up in your closet and never come out again? Well, I would say somewhere in the middle.

I'M INFORMED AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE ANY MORE.

Do some study, and learn what is going on, and decide for yourself if you need to do something. Then let everyone know that you know what is going on -- friends, legislators, enforcement agencies, the companies themselves.

But you can't do it angry. We Labeled People fall apart when we get mad. Here are some quotes from the late Abraham A. Low, M.D., to put things in as good of perspective as I can:

"Temper is your worst enemy, humor is your best friend."

"Do the thing you are afraid to do."

"Take part-actions (i.e., baby steps)."

"Lower your expectations and performance will rise."

"Endorse for the action, not the outcome."

In other words, if you let your anger get control of you, you will be taken out of the game by your own psyche... if you expect it to end after one big push, you will be disappointed, angry, and afraid to try again... but if you don't do anything, nothing will get done.

The minds behind Codex are claimed to *literally* be the same minds behind the Nazi death camps. If they can control what you can and cannot eat, and what you can and cannot keep yourself healthy with, which they fully intend to do, they expect nearly 90% of the human population to die of malnutrition and its diseases. Many of the chemicals being put in our foods may be there to help us contract malnutrition diseases. Eating every day at McDonalds is something they WANT us to do. They get all our money, and we die of poor nutrition.

OK, this sounds like a madman throwing up puppet villains, or going into a paranoid schizophrenic delusion. I wish it were that. The only difference between Codex and Nazi Germany is who the beneficiaries are -- they are willing to accept non-Aryans, so long as they are rich and will support the program -- but the instigators were, originally, the same people. I wish this were a delusion.

Let's put this in a Pagan perspective. Codex Alimentarius classified you - and about 5.5 billion other people - as "useless eaters". They will depopulate the Earth of these people. They do not care about the environment, they are doing this out of greed, not worship. If they denude the Earth of the Warriors of the Goddess, there will be no one left to stand up for Her, and they will then denude the Earth of anything they can consume for themselves. They are doing this with the same cold precision which they used in the 1930s and 40s. They expect us to either make some futile, grandiose flame-out of a gesture, or to have our rights taken from us without even finding out about it. There is a bumper sticker: "Earth First: We Can Rape The Other Planets Later".

This is a call to action. But beyond that it is a call to humor. If people are laughing *with* you, they listen more to what you are saying. So do something kooky, but thought-provoking. Pass out fliers describing what you know to be the situation, wearing a clown costume, or dressed like a giant pill, or ... be creative. You can do it. I know you can. I'm doing what I can, whether that informs 2 people or 200,000. Endorse (pat yourself on the back) for doing something. If you can't do a lot, do a little. The effort is what is important, and your effort could mobilize many others to do what they can do.

I am not nearly as radical as I was when I first wrote this article, but there continue to be unanswered questions and very few people asking them. But here's what you can do whether you believe this stuff or not:

Make 'em laugh. Honor the passing of such greats as George Carlin. But, like George, keep on message. Maybe, just maybe, they'll notice that you're Pagan, and that your actions are performed out of love. The more people see us as part of the "Good Guys", as they are doing in many cities throughout the country and the world. "By starting to work on the outside, we're gonna fill up the walls within." (Melanie Safka)

I hope to be with you next issue for another walk through the Door. Perhaps it will be less rabble rousing, but there are times the rabble needs to be roused. May the blessings of the Lady go with you.

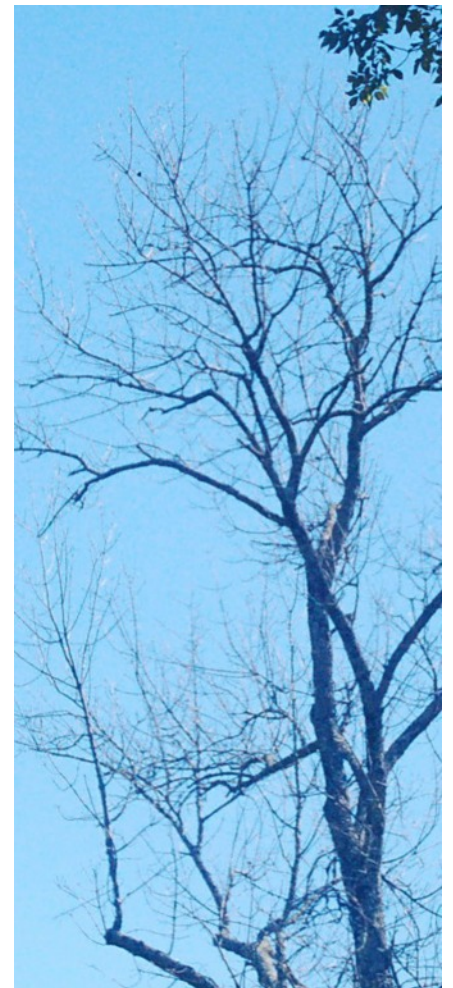
Hugs,
Moss

A graphic with a dark brown background featuring a subtle, repeating pattern of a stylized figure. In the center is a large, dark brown pentagram with a circular border. The text "Magickal Tip" is written in a large, white, serif font at the top. Below it, the text "Burn powdered cloves for protection against magickal attack." is written in a smaller, white, serif font, centered within the pentagram. At the bottom, the website "CharissasCauldron.com" is written in a white, serif font.

Magickal Tip

Burn powdered cloves for protection against magickal attack.

CharissasCauldron.com





(c) 2013 Terrie Brookins ~ Oshawa, Ontario, Canada



As we get further into the campaigns we need to check facts on what the candidates say. The second GOP debates had so many non-facts that it makes one wonder about the people who want to run the US. The memes on Facebook are in some cases out and out lies. And it so easy to find facts today – Google it, and check as many sources as you can. (In my youth to find out facts you might send a few days of searching in a library)

We have people on the far right that want to take away our religious freedom by saying it's their religious freedom to do so. Do we really want these people in power? I live in the Bible belt and I've seen the type of people who have no concept of religious freedom. They feel it alright to be a bigot as long as they are doing it because it is the "Christian" thing to do. Look at what the person you want in power thinks about our religions. What they feel freedom of religion is about. Separation of church and state. A state over from where I live we had a court clerk violate the first amendment and federal law. She was tossed in jail for contempt of court because of it. Two Presidential hopefuls have praised her. She broke the law and she failed to uphold the oath of office she took – yet people are on her side. She had three choices 1) Obey the law and do her job 2) resign from her job since she felt it interfered with her religious belief or 3) go to jail. She wanted to go to jail and to top it all off she doesn't even know Kentucky law dealing with the office she holds (and neither does her lawyers or they just want the ten minutes of fame).

The sad thing is that many times we must vote for the lesser of two evils. I know that sometimes there are third parties that really sound great. But wen was the last time a third party won the Presidential election? For a third party to win it needs to grow with local, state, and federal elections – to get a foot hold in, so that they have some sort of party to put a President into office. I have voted the lessor of two evils- when there was a third party I felt would be better, but they didn't have a snowball chance in you know where of winning. But they would take votes from the next best person – giving the election to the one that you really didn't want in power. I know this is a hard thing to do. But I look at some of the people running and I am willing to do what I can come voting day to keep them out of the White House. I do not want someone in power who wants to make this a Christian Nation, or take away my Social Security, or Medicare. I don't want someone in power who feel you should reward companies for sending American Jobs overseas, I don't want someone in power who feels war is always the best way. I want to see someone in power who wants truly affordable healthcare (Universal healthcare), Affordable higher education, people making a living wages, bringing jobs back to America or taxing the companies that took them away, making it more expensive for companies that take their HQ overseas so they don't have to pay taxes to the US. Someone who wants to get our roads and bridges repaired, get us into the 21st Century with technology. (There are third world countries that have better and cheaper internet than we do – and most of the rest of the word doesn't allow cell phones to be sold by the companies that sell you your cell service – this makes the service cheaper – and the phones cheaper)

Now if you are over 18 you need to register to vote if you haven't. Do so now, as some states have a cut off time when you can register. (This is a form of voters' fraud that claims it is to prevent voters' fraud). Now I know some of you may not be able to legally register for one reason or another, but you can still campaign for the person you want in power. And remember the statement "My vote doesn't really count" is wrong. The midterm elections proved that when many on the left stayed home. Every vote counts. Even more so in a presidential election when you have got to win your state. (There needs to be an amendment to do away with the Electoral College – the presidential

election is the only election in the US in which a person can win the popular vote and lose the election.)

Get out and Vote! Don't vote against yourself because of a lie. (The left isn't going to take away your guns). Fact check things. Understand what the people running stand for. I think most Pagans believe in a lot of the same things. But if you do not vote you are helping the other side win – it is that simple. Not voting is voting against who you want. If they win it's not because you didn't vote – but if they lose it is because you didn't vote. One vote matters – Each vote matters. Your Vote matters. VOTE.

Ode to Autumn

By Lady Sky

Autumn is on the way,
Green will soon give way
To a multi-colored landscape.
Our nights will start getting cooler
And our days will start getting shorter.
At the rate this year is going
Soon it will be snowing!
I'm not ready for the cold
I must be getting old,
But the weather gets my body aching
And doesn't like to let go.
Ah well, that's okay.
It gives us a chance to look forward to spring!
We have to have the changes in season
So we can slow down a little bit
And remember to dream and breathe
And plan and grow!
Autumn colors will soon arrive
And the leaves will put on a show,
Glorious colors and crisp air
Sweaters and jackets will soon be everywhere.
I love the fall, with the colors and all
But I don't necessarily look forward to the cold,
Winter can take its time this year
Let fall linger as long as it likes!

Magickal Tip

**Rub cut onions
over parts of
body affected by
illness. Then
toss in running
water to carry it
away.**

CharissasCauldron.com

To walk alone

By Faucon

There are roads of hussle-bussle best traveled in a crowd,
and pathways meant for two lovers strolling hand in hand.
The trails of Shernai force a person to wander alone,
for the journey is not for here to there –
but from without to inner peace.

We are all seekers ... solitude can be a wondrous thing

One might answer the call to the mountain,
or succumb to the waving of the sea;
but now there's a field to be tilled,
and rocks have fallen from the aged wall,
so that I can but listen to whispers –
all that will be kind and mentor to me.

Somewhere between the stars and the sand
is a balance of nature and spirit –
and I need not go hither if here I am,
with hand to the work and heart to the need,
with voices of ancients released from the earth,
and courage of stones and wisdom of trees.

I have flowed down from the barren mountain
and been misted up from the birthing sea,
for I am of creation as much as they;
but I can choose to nurture seeds of when,
while they each can but be antipodes
of what my soul knows and whispers might sing.

and I will emerge from Shernai reborn a bit –
ready to join with he and she and we.

I left a bit of my pain in the bole of birch, you see –
and should you find it on your journey,
know that it is now free of me as well.

or so it seems in the forest by the stream.



SINGING IN THE TREES: THE MAKING OF BARDS

by Moss Bliss, Steward of Shemai



Singing in the Trees Harvest 2015

by Moss Bliss

Steward of Shernai and Master of Bards of Earth's Web Family

As I am writing this, it is less than a week before Earth's Web Harvest Gather, at which I will be giving a workshop with lots of goodies and running two Bardic Circles, and less than 2 weeks before my own Barding at the hands of Lady Emrys of Triad Bardic College, so I kinda have my hands (and brain) full, but we gotta fill these pages.

Has anyone seen my muse? She ws hanging around me all the time back in 1998, and has poked her face in every now and then since, but nothing new for quite some time (the last new song I wrote was pretty mediocre pop, like an Eddie Vedder imitation).

Thanks to Lady Emrys, I have been getting out more, including two performances at Hemlock Hollow up on the Tennessee-North Carolina border and just off the Appalachian Trail. It has been rather odd; I have been trotting out my hardest-hitting protest songs from the 60s (not the popular ones, but the ones the media buried). The audience loves the songs, and loves me, but they think I'm funny. I suppose they are hearing the humor hooks which are supposed to lead you to the heavy thought, and miss the heavy thought entirely. But they're listening, and who knows, it might sink in later.

But enough about me. What have YOU written? Where are you performing? What stories have you gotten published (your own blog counts)? I hope to hear some of these at Harvest Gather. Feel free to send stuff to me, or you can just send me links to stuff.

Our stories are what makes us a people. If we forget our stories, we forget who we have been, which is a large part of who we are becoming, individually and together. Tell of that time you got lost in the woods and how you found your way back, write a poem on how you felt when something important happened, to you or to a loved one. Write a song. Nobody is judging; it is all part of The Record.

Most of you know that the majority of my life in Paganism has been in SerpentStone Family. I have been blessed with friends and deep supporters. I came to the Family just after Lord Serphant passed, so I never got to meet the man; some of my friends who knew him tell me he would have really liked me, but that's not why I wish I had met him. The stories that sprung up around that man are wild and free, sometimes not believable but vouched for nonetheless. Let's just steal a verse from that other holy book, "By their fruits ye shall know them." SerpentStone may not be a cohesive Family these days, but just look at all the various fruits (some fruitier than others, LOL). I am proud to have been part of that, and hope that my part has been mostly a treasured memory to others. Audacious, sure, but audacity makes for good stories.

Write yours. Speak yours. "Truth" can be relative, but we're all related anyway.

Hugs,
Moss

[Moss Bliss is a fallible human being who also appears to be a decent musician, singer, and songwriter, and is soon to be an Elder Bard in the Triad Bardic College tradition. He can be reached at zaivalananda@gmail.com.]



Ayesha Khan'

Pagan women of color media project is seeking submissions

by Mistress Belladonna aka Kenya Coviak

This writer is working on a book. A very unique book. A book of images of Pagan Women of Color. And the reason this is happening is because there are so few of them out there in print media right now that are not stereotypes. Actually, they are almost to the point of being like unicorns.

This project is not about being the biggest, baddest, berobed witch in the room. It is about collecting, and preserving, images of real women of Pagan faiths so that other women who find themselves on these paths can look and say, "Hey, there is someone like me". Color is subjective, so it is not going to exclude anyone who feels that they are for this project. And yes, it is open to those who count themselves as allies. All are welcome, but the emphasis is on creating a space that facilitates a gallery of our experiences.

Photographs and artistic renderings depicting women of color in prayer, ritual, in sacred spaces, handling tools, leading groups and more are wanted. Because of the nature of the project, models/participants should be out of the broom closet. But recently, one person came forward from the more conservative segment of our society here in this great nation, and stated that because of her family's strong cultural and religious beliefs, her physical safety would be compromised. With this understanding, if one should wish to submit an image that is veiled or masked, there will be a place for this as well.

Also, interviews of participants would be featured in future features of the Detroit Paganism Examiner in separate stories. This way, the visibility of their voices would be increased. The more reached, the more connected, the more inspired we can all be.

Participants retain their right to reuse their own images from this project, and indeed, they are encouraged to share them. A portion of the proceeds will be donated by the author, from the first run of the publication, to Pagans In Need of Michigan. The hope is that by giving back, it fulfills the giving spirit that this hopeful legacy style project contains.

Image requirements:

These must be photos that can be reproduced and sold without infringement on preexisting copyrights. Also, they must have the express written permission of any persons involved in the photographs if their faces are identifiable.

Attire can consist of mundane clothing, ritual wear, or a mixture of these. No CosPlay images please e.g. Steampunk, Dieselpunk, Disney, Manga, etc. This work is to celebrate your faith, and while it is not meant to stifle your creativity, costume play can take away from the work.

Please note, all images submitted may not be used. Also, the author retains the right to republish the images in derivative works that continue the series, if applicable, such as "Vol. 2", calendars, etc.

This project is a work from the heart. As such, it will be given care and respect, and respectful devotion. This is an attempt to make a difference in how we go forward with our presence in the Pagan communities and how future conversations may be had.

Submissions should contain:

Name you wish to be known by:

Group (if Applicable):

State or Country:

Title (if Any):

Path/Tradition:

A Glimpse into your Practice (A description of what you believe and your history of belief):

Why you feel it is important to have images of Pagan Women of Color:

Your personal motto:

A short biography: No more than 500 words.

The deadline for submissions is Nov 7, 2015.

Blessed Be



NEXT ISSUE!!!

SAMHAIN 2015

This marks the start of our thrid year

Let's make this the biggest issue yet! We have had two years of PAS - lets start the thrid with a bang



Peppermint And Sage Enters it's Third Year

Next issue will be the first issue of our third year. Samhain 2013 was our first issue. We have gotten a little smaller on the last few issues. Some of this is that the people who were sending in submission every issue – had other things that took up their free time, others needed feedback and they stopped getting it. We have 144 people in the Peppermint And Sage group. The group was made for people who wanted to be part of Peppermint And Sage. The deadline for 17 is October 25th. We can use submissions early so we can start putting it together. Check out www.dragonpalm.com/PAS and you can download our prototype issue which will tell you everything you need to know to be part of Peppermint And Sage.

We can use feedback on our issues. We can use it as much as submissions. This lets our contributors know that their submissions are being seen. It gives us all ideas in what directions to go in. With our third year we want to be larger and better and we can only do that with your help.

Magickal Tip

*Blessed Thistle
drives out
the melancholy.*

CharissasCauldron.com

Parsley, Sage, Marijuana, and Thyme - why herbal identification training is sorely needed

BY Mistress Belladonna aka Kenya Coviak

Bright Blessings.

So, occasionally this column will focus on human interests stories, or person anecdotes. These are presented as such, and are not in any way to be confused with the normal news. This story is one of those anecdotes that deals with the burdens of being an aspiring herb wife and Pagan.

Over the freeway, and through the streets, to my Mother's house, this writer went. To deliver a bundle of freshly picked herbs, my mission was one of pleasant joyfulness. Upon placing a brimming small basket full of greenery on her cocktail table, the bundles and bunches were sorted and identified for her usage in her culinary pursuits. Sage, parsley, thyme, oregano, Tiger Teeth peppers, mint, and a few odds and ends from the garden were sampled, sniffed, and set to the side.

After a few days, a phone call split the mundane pace of my day. It was from downtown Detroit, and on the other line was a laughing, yet slightly offended, mom. As she related the following, the story became more and more absurd until even this writer was puzzled as to how the minds of folks work.

You see, dear readers, an acquaintance had come to her home had spent some time chatting and enjoying the afternoon in her living room area. During this visit, this friend noticed the bundles of herbs. After being informed that they were grown by the daughter, this writer, she inquired as to their types.

As my mother proudly listed each one as best she remembered, the person started acting strangely. Picking up a bundle, she pointedly asked if this bunch was marijuana. You know, cannabis. At this, one can imagine the look of incredulity that passed across my mother's face. The acquaintance became quite insistent that it would be this, as the daughter is strange anyway.

After a moment of weighty silence, she was asked quite directly what would make her think that any daughter would gift her mother with a bundle of "weed" when she was clearly bringing over herbs. Re-evaluation of the mental faculties of this person took place on the spot. The eternal mantra of the unpleasantly surprised came forward, "What is wrong with you?", and she was courteously encourage to consider her stay a tad bit overlong.

The fact that the writer is "strange" was code word for "witch" in these circles. But seriously, when does that make one the local [Cheech and Chong](#) dream delivery franchisee? The fact is, there are so many people who never take the time to look at what herbs, or other foods, look like before they are processed lead to this messiness. Seriously, sage is not cannabis.

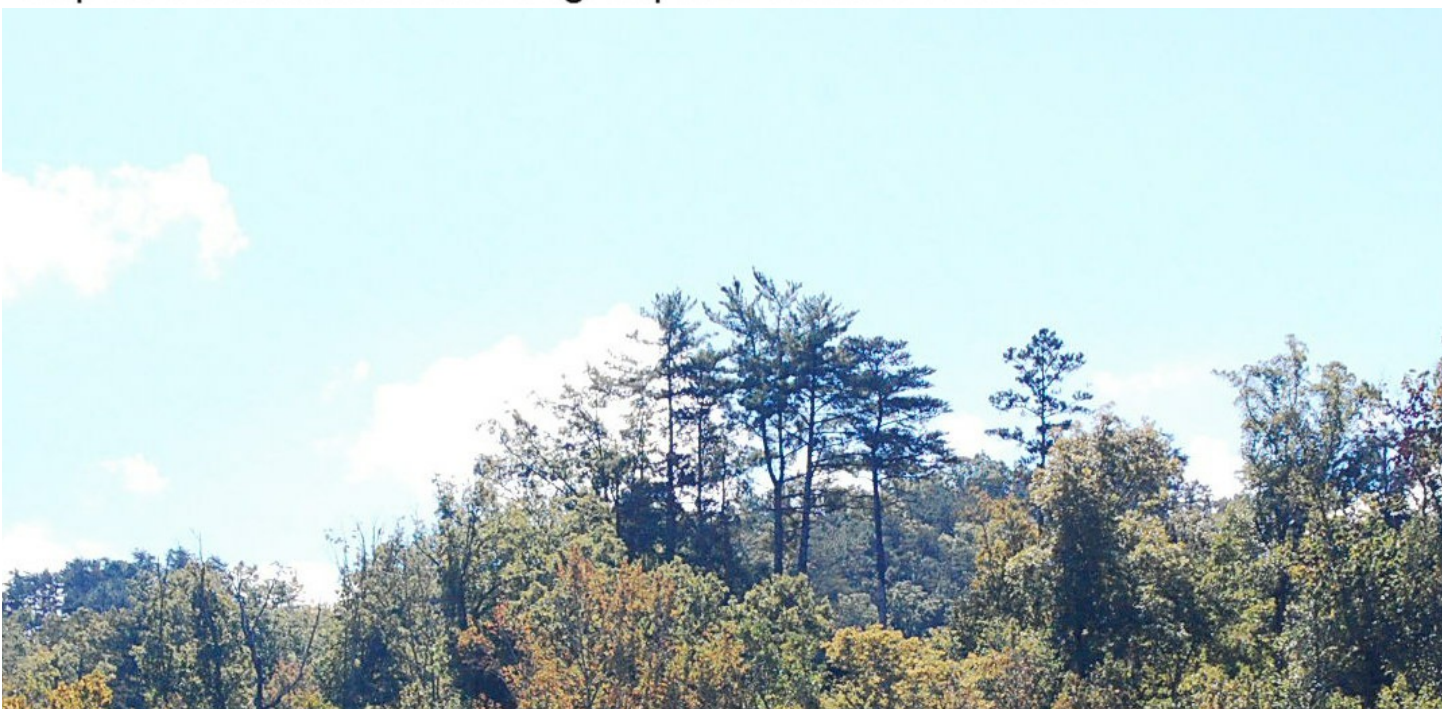
And if she is mistaking it for something she has had before, it is time to reconsider her sources. Though to be frank, she does not seem the type to be featuring a bong display on her tatted lace doily collection. While it is encouraging that she attempted field identification with limited training, it is most unfortunate that that was the first intuitive leap she would make.

Gentle readers, this writer encourages you to take to the highways, the hills, the byways, the streets, and the recreation centers to share your knowledge of actual herbs. Please spread the word that just because it is on a stem, and has flowers and greenery that is not grass or hostas, does not mean it is a drug. Shaking of the heads, indeed, were shared over this phone call. Please don't let it happen to

your friends and loved ones. Only you can inspire a potential wildcrafter my fellow Detroit peeps, only you.



We meet every third Thursday of the Month at 8 PM at the Sevierville Books - A - Million in the coffee shop. If the weather is nice we meet in the outside patio. They are located at 190 Collier Drive, Sevierville, TN. (collier Drive is the light at the Sevierville Walmart). This is not an official BAM event, so do not contact them for information on the PNO, but for directions their number 865-908-8994. Contact dreamweaver@dragonpalmtree.org for more information or join our Facebook group "Dragon Palm Events" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/221898301197684/>



HUMAN

by Ayesha Khan'

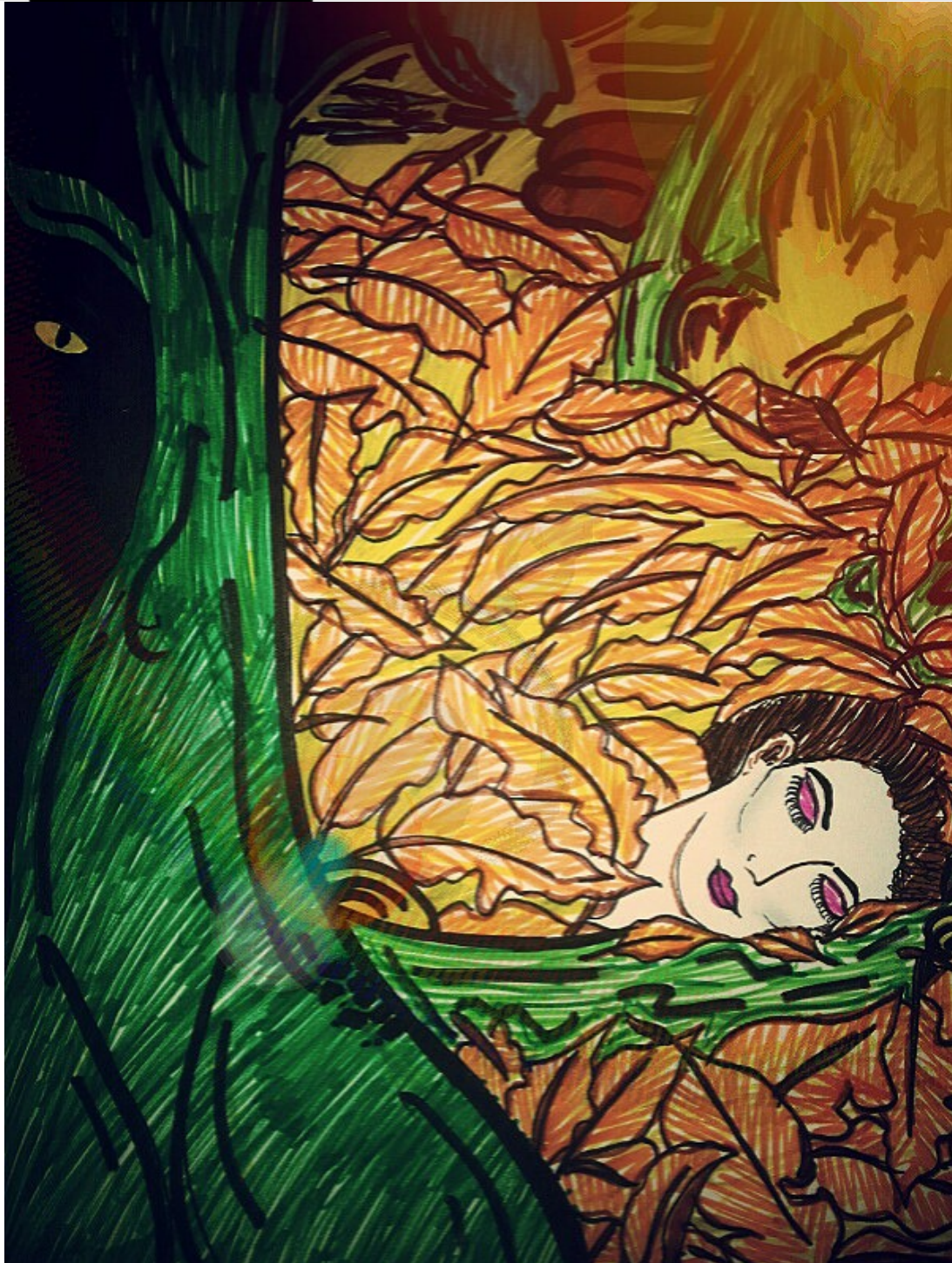
In the city of angels
I could see it all-
Chaotic calmth of the rustling trees
Soft whisper of the slightly wet grass
Mighty clear, blue of the sky
Stretched in the fashion of a never-ending
ocean above;
In the land of peace
I could sense it all-
Joy, happiness, hope
Radiating off every being that breathed
The air itself a perfect mix
Of freedom, trust and love;
In the world of humans
I could feel it all-
Teamwork, mutual cooperation
Sympathy for the weak
Justice for the wicked
For just and heartfelt is what a human should
be after all;
But;
How could it be?
That what you see, sense and feel
Be all just a colorful dream
Only to contain no colors at all.
What you see might not always be the truth
And what you sense might not be the case
For the world of humans was never peaceful
And no angels ever lived here;
Chaos and screams wrap this land
Where sky falls down every day
Betrayal and hatred hold this world in chains
Where blood has turned against blood
Lust and sadness call upon the end
An end that's already here;
Who's to be blamed?
For shattering the peace if
It already were stolen
For how do you break something that's already
broken?
And how do you ruin what's been ruined?
Remember-
Nothing can suck life out of you
If you don't want to die just quite yet
So, pull it together
Each piece you reckoned lost and forgotten
And point the sinking boat home;
It really is true
Never an angel inhabited Earth

But does that mean devils do?
No; certainly not-
For you are human and all that you are meant to be
Somewhere between the ends
Reveling in the ecstatic intensity of light
Worshipping darkness;
Sure would this city of humans be peaceful and cher-
ish able
If you stop trying to be best of all and
Try to be your best, instead
You're doomed star,
Dark Sun.
Misty light and
Dream-like diamond hope.
Demonic angel and
Flawed perfect being.
No strings attached
Rowing into the peaceful ocean;
Of the sky and
Breaking through.
For you are yourself.
You are human.





This Issues Cover



This is Ayesha Khan's fourth cover for PAS. Ayesha lives in Pakistan and has been submitting since issue 11.





Dreamweaver

Pagan Fun Time



$$\sqrt{\text{Red Leaf}} \times \text{Green Leaf} = ?$$

$$\text{Orange Leaf} \times 3 = \text{Green Leaf}$$

$$\text{Green Leaf} - \text{Orange Leaf} = 16 = \text{Red Leaf}^2$$

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