

“A religion, old or new, that stressed the magnificence of the Universe as revealed by contemporary science might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by the conventional faiths. Sooner or later such a religion will emerge.”

Carl Sagan

*Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human
Future in Space*



Humanistic Pagans seek to integrate ritual and meditative practices with a mythic worldview based on the most current and compelling scientific evidence.



For more information
email:

humanisticpaganism@gmail.com

or visit:

humanisticpaganism.com

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HUMANISTIC PAGANISM



Paganism firmly rooted
in the empirical world





Religious Humanism

Religious Humanism adopts a human-centered ethical perspective, as contrasted with a deity-centered one. A humanistic ethic is one that begins with human beings and defines what is good in terms of human experience, not the will of any God or gods. Religious Humanists tend to be atheistic or non-theistic, but humanism adds to atheism a positive ethical component. Not only do we not look to God or gods to solve our problems, but we must also recognize our *human* responsibility to solve those problems. For Religious Humanists, human experience and reason provide a more than sufficient basis for ethical action without supernatural revelation. A humanistic perspective does not exclude concern for the more-than-human natural world.



Humanistic Paganism

Humanism, Naturalism, and Paganism have a shared history, spanning centuries. Contemporary Humanistic Paganism is inspired by the religions of ancient pagans, but blended with modern humanistic values and knowledge acquired from naturalistic science. Rather than trying to reconstruct the ways of ancient pagans, Humanistic Pagans draw inspiration from ancient pagan myths and rituals to create a religion that can be both intellectually compelling and emotionally satisfying to modern people. In Humanistic Paganism, scientific naturalism and Paganism come together and complement each other. Naturalism keeps Paganism true to the empirical world, while Paganism enriches naturalism with symbolism and myth.



Religious Naturalism

A "naturalistic" religion is one which seeks to explain the universe without resort to supernatural causes. For most Humanistic Pagans, "naturalistic" is more or less synonymous with "scientific." In general, Humanistic Pagans adopt the most current scientific explanations of natural phenomena and are skeptical of any claims that are not supported by mainstream science. Religious Naturalism posits that the scientific understanding of the material universe is a more than sufficient basis to sustain the awe and reverence which motivate religious worship. Some Naturalistic Pagans understand "magic" as a kind of psychological technique and "gods" as metaphors for natural phenomena or psychological archetypes.