

# The Queerness of Magic, The Magic of Queerness

By Lee Harrington and Tai Fenix Kulystin

Many pagan and magic-based paths are not LGBTQ+ focused, and yet magic in and of itself has a queer nature. In this class we will discuss queer deities throughout history, as well as the ancestors that can be drawn upon outside of bloodlines, while acknowledging the power of ourselves being outside of, between, or embracing multiple layers of orientation, identity, and experience. We will explore queering and queered magics, from turning rituals that already exist into ones that center queer experience to creating or embracing rituals and paths specifically for those of us who walk these paths. This class is open to anyone drawn to learn more about these topics, share their own personal experiences, be around peers, or be an ally through looking at the expansive nature of magic beyond boundaries.

Backgrounds and Discussion guidelines: Invitational environment, Deep listening, Safer space

Definitions: Queer, Wyrd, UPG/VPG/Learned from Tradition

Working Within Traditions

- Colonization and Appropriation: Inspiration v. Cultural trauma/oppression; Self-vigilance
- Inclusiveness (or lack thereof) in different traditions
- “Trans” worldwide “genders” that overlap with orientation or magical roles
- Two-spirit, Muxe, Māhū, Ergi, Bayot, Metis, and more
- Celebration v. tolerance; Being ready to enforce tolerance

Magical History:

- Worldwide – historical precedence for queerness and transness as spiritual roles as well as being included in communities
- Queer History
- Queer Ancestors – Trancestors; Honoring our ancestors; Ancestors of blood, ancestors of love (we are the dreams of those who came before); “I let the fear run through me like a river.” (Jack “Dragon” O’Rion Barker, 1985)
- Oppression: Outside sources v. In-group v. Internal (afraid to bring up/fear to name unmet needs)

Queer deities and spirits in history – how do we define queer deities

- Agdistis (Greek) – intersex
- Antinous (Roman/Egyptian) – young beloved of Emperor Hadrian lifted to godhood
- Aphrodite Urania (Greek) – Bearded Aphrodite (to seduce Hermes), bore Hermaphroditus
- Athena (Greek) – “male and female, dragon of many shapes,” shapechanger
- Babylon (post-modern/Christian/Western) – gender & sexual transgression
- Baphomet – (French?/Goetia) breasts and phallus, wings, goat-footed, goat-horned
- Coyote (North America) – trickster, shapeshifter
- Dionysus (Greek) – post-Agdistis *galla* “the womanly one”
- Gallae of Cybele (Greek) – trans feminine priestesses of Cybele
- The Kurgarra and Galatur (Sumerian) – access to underworld due to transgender nature
- Lilith (Hebraic/Babylonian) – shapechanger, succubus/incubus, “hairy”
- Obatala (Yoruban) – *Orisha*, sacred father-mother
- Oshun (Yoruban) – *Orisha*, hyperfeminine and androgynous
- Shiva (Hindu) – form of Ardhanarisvara, sacred androgyny, Shiva/Shakti

Modern queer deities:

- Panpsyche – “All-Soul,” trans woman, eagle, Air, sister to Panhyle
- Panhyle – “All-Body,” trans man, bull, Earth, brother to Panpsyche
- Paneros – “All-Love,” metagendered (non-gendered), snake, Water, child of Panpsyche and Panhyle (e/em//eir/emself)
- Pancrates (*Paneirene/Panaetheia/Pankalos-All-Peace/All-Truth/All-Beauty*) – “All-Power,” pangendered (androgynous), lion, Fire, child of previous three (sie/hir)

Liminality – between spaces (MIX)

- Outside of spaces (NEITHER)
- All spaces (AND) v. the notion of OR
- Liminality v. Resonance
- Queerness or perceived queer behavior as “in community” vs. “outside community”/taboo

Queering Ritual Structure and Spellwork

- Taking basic concepts of magic and how do we queer it
- Utilize what is here to create something new or different
- Hacking/changing traditions
- Improvisation v. structure
- How does ritual queer us?
- Wisdom of the body; the knowing of being present
- What is sacred, what is profane?

Queer Magical orders, groups, and mysteries:

- Radical Faeries, Unnamed Path, Feri Tradition, Cauldron Farm/Dark Moon Rising, Fellowship of the Phoenix, Black Leather Wings, Living Love Revolution Aphrodite Temples, Naos Antinoou; Thelema/OTO

## Queer Magic Reading Resources

\* *Queer Magic: Power Beyond Boundaries*

edited by Lee Harrington and Tai Phoenix Kulystin

\* *All Acts of Love and Pleasure*

Yvonne Aburrow

\* *All-Soul, All-Body, All-Love, All-Power: A TransMythology*

by P. Sufenas Virius Lupus

*Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words/Gay Worlds*

by Judy Grahn

\* *Arcane Perfection: An Anthology by Queer, Trans and Intersex Witches*

by Dylan Ce and Pat Mosley

\* *Becoming Dangerous: Witchy Femmes, Queer Conjurers, and Magical Rebels on Summoning the Power to Resist*

Ed. Katie West and Jasmine Elliott

*Black Bull, Ancestors and Me: My Life as a Lesbian Sangoma*

by Nkunzi Zandile Nkabinde

*Blessed Bi Spirit: Bisexual People of Faith*

edited by Debra Kolodny

*Blossom and Bone: Reclaiming the Connection Between Homoeroticism and the Sacred*

by Randy P. Conner

*The Body is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self-Love*

by Sonya Renee Taylor

*Cassell's Encyclopedia of Queer Myth, Symbol and Spirit: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Lore*

by Randy P. Conner, David Sparks, Mariya Sparks

\* *Casting a Queer Circle: Non-binary Witchcraft*

by Thista Minai

*Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America*

by Will Roscoe

*Coming Out Spirituality: The Next Step*

Christian de la Huerta

*The Double Goddess: Women Sharing Power*

Vicki Noble

*The Fire in Moonlight: Stories from the Radical Faeries 1971 - 2010*

by Mark Thompson

*Coming Out Spiritually: The Next Step*  
by Christian de la Huerta

*Gay Soul: Finding the Heart of Gay Spirit and Nature*  
interviews and photographs by Mark Thompson

*Gay Spirit: Myth and Meaning*  
by Mark Thompson

*Gay Witchcraft: Empowering the Tribe*  
by Christopher Penczak

\* *Gender and Transgender in Modern Paganism*  
edited by Calyx Omphalos, Jacobo Polanshek, Gina Pond, Philip Tanner, and Sarah Thompson

\* *Hermaphroditities: The Transgender Spirituality Workbook*  
by Raven Kaldera

\* *In Spirited: Affirming the Soul and Black Gay/Lesbian Identity*  
edited by G. Winston James and Lisa C. Moore

*The Man Who Was a Woman and Other Queer Tales from Hindu Lore*  
by John Dececco

*The Missing Myth: A New Vision of Same-Sex Love*  
by Giles Herrada

*The Path Of The Green Man: Gay Men, Wicca and Living a Magical Life*  
by Michael Thomas Ford

*Polysexual Perspectives*  
edited by Loraine Hutchins and H. Sharif Williams

\* *Power & Magic: The Queer Witch Comics Anthology*  
edited by Joamette Gil

*Queer Magic: LGBTQ+ Spirituality and Culture from Around the World*  
by Tomás Prower

*Queer Paganism: A spirituality that embraces all identities*  
by J J Green

*Queer Shamans: Auto-archeology and Neo-Shamanism*  
by Robert Wallis

*Queer Spirits: A Gay Men's Myth Book*  
by Will Roscoe

*Queering Creole Spiritual Traditions: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Participation in African-Inspired Traditions in the Americas*  
by Randy P Lundschienn Conner, David Sparks

*Radical Love: Introduction to Queer Theology*  
by Patrick S. Cheng

*Sexuality, Religion and the Sacred: Bisexual, Pansexual and Polysexual Perspectives*  
edited by Loraine Hutchins and H. Sharif Williams

*A Serpent Path Primer*  
by P. Sufenas Virius Lupus

*Trans/Formations*  
edited by Marcella Althaus-Reid and Lisa Isherwood

*Transgender Spirituality: Man into Goddess*  
by Sakhi Bhava

*Two-Spirit People: Native American Gender Identity, Sexuality, and Spirituality*  
by Sue-Ellen Jacobs, Wesley Thomas, Sabine Lang

*Visionary love: A spirit book of gay mythology and trans-mutational faerie*  
by Mitch Walker

\* *Witchcraft and Gay Counterculture*  
by Arthur Evans

*Yoga, Bhoga and Ardhanariswara: Individuality, Wellbeing and Gender in Tantra*  
by Prem Saran