

Atheopagan Web Weaving 2023



Online Conference

June 3 – 4, 2023

Presented by the Atheopagan
Society

ATHEOPAGAN WEB WEAVING 2023

Online Conference

June 3 – 4, 2023



Presented by the Atheopagan Society

[Learn more at our website.](#)

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Online Conference

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DEDICATION

*This conference is dedicated to all those who have found
a home in Atheopaganism, and to those who have yet to find
their people. May you discover them soon!*

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SPONSORS



A woman with blonde hair and glasses is shown on the left. The background is dark purple with a gold mandala. The word "Goddess" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, "Jillian Aurora" is written in a gold, cursive font. To the right, the text "RECOVER FROM THE EFFECTS OF RELIGIOUS TRAUMA, PATRIARCHAL INDOCTRINATION, AND CODEPENDENCY" is written in gold. Below this, "GODDESS LLC OFFERS:" is written in gold, followed by a list of services: "COURSES", "WORKSHOPS", "RETREATS", "INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS", and "FREE SUPPORT GROUP". At the bottom, "JILLIANAURORA.COM" is written in gold.

Goddess
Jillian Aurora
SELF WORTH CONSULTANT
&
RELATIONSHIP STRATEGIST

RECOVER FROM THE
EFFECTS OF RELIGIOUS
TRAUMA, PATRIARCHAL
INDOCTRINATION, AND
CODEPENDENCY

GODDESS LLC OFFERS:

- COURSES
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A logo on the left features a tree with the words "WELLNESS" and "WITH JER" around it. The name "JEREMY SCHUMACHER" is written in large, bold, orange and green letters. Below it, "MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, MA, LMFT" is written in smaller, grey letters. A box contains the text "COUPLES COUNSELING - RELIGIOUS TRAUMA - SPORTS PERFORMANCE". At the bottom, contact information is listed: "wellnesswithjer.com", "wellnesswithjer@gmail.com", "@wellnesswithjer", and "414-751-8098". On the right, a collage of photos shows a tree in various settings.

WELLNESS
WITH JER

JEREMY SCHUMACHER
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST, MA, LMFT
COUPLES COUNSELING - RELIGIOUS TRAUMA - SPORTS PERFORMANCE

wellnesswithjer.com | wellnesswithjer@gmail.com | @wellnesswithjer | 414-751-8098

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OVERVIEW

The 2023 Atheopagan Web Weaving Online Conference is a weekend Zoom gathering for Atheopagans, offering socializing, workshops, presentations, entertainment, and community-building opportunities.

- **DATES:** Saturday, June 3 – Sunday, June 4, 2023
- **REGISTRATION:** You can register here at SignUpGenius.com:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caeaf28abfbc16-atheopagan#/>
- **ADMISSION:** You may donate \$0 - \$50 depending on your means (\$20 per person recommended). You may also donate more than the recommended price to help support those who cannot pay.

Funds will go toward presenter compensation and the Atheopagan Society as we build out future programs and resources for the community.

- **GENERAL COMMUNITY CONDUCT STANDARDS FOR THE ATHEOPAGAN COMMUNITY**
Before you attend the conference, [please review our standards of conduct](#).
- **QUESTIONS:** Send us your queries at atheopagan@comcast.net

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SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

(All times Pacific Daylight Time)

10:00 a.m. – Welcome, opening ritual (arrival, invoke qualities, etc.), and announcements
10:15 a.m. Review [Atheopagan Ritual Primer](#) for an overview of our style of ritual structure. We'll explain how to take part in the various workshops and answer any questions participants may have.

10:15 a.m. – Icebreakers and introductions in breakout rooms
11:00 a.m. Feel free to reach out to us in advance if you have any favorite icebreakers.

WORKSHOP SLOT 1

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<u>Sarcastic Tarot:</u> Using divination tools for creative, collaborative storytelling	<u>The Way of the Atheopagan Cleric</u>	<u>Stardust Communion:</u> Connecting with our stellar roots through science, observation, and ritual
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12:00 p.m. – Lunch break and keynote address
12:30 p.m. Writer, poet, and podcaster **Jarod K. Anderson (A.K.A. [The Cryptonaturalist](#))** will be our keynote speaker for the event! We will have a poetry reading and Q&A session. Learn more about his poetry and other work on his [website](#).

12:30 p.m. – Recess
12:45 p.m. Breakout rooms are open for socializing.

WORKSHOP SLOT 2

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<u>Reclaiming the Sacred:</u> How to heal after leaving abusive religion	<u>Imaginal Practice:</u> Exploring your inner wisdom as a source of creativity	<u>Wastewater Treatment:</u> A journey into the magical world of microbes
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1:45 p.m. – Break
2:00 p.m. *Breakout rooms are open for socializing.*

2:00 p.m. – Community Bardic Circle
3:00 p.m. *Open mic — sign up in advance.*

3:00 p.m. – Break
3:15 p.m. *Breakout rooms are open for socializing.*

3:15 p.m. – Community Recognitions
4:30 p.m. *Birthdays, rites of passage, transitions, achievements, and in memoriam. Email us in advance at atheopagan@comcast.net if you have something special in mind that you'd like to recognize.*

4:30 p.m. – Dance and Cocktail Party
6:30 p.m. *Breakout rooms are open until 6:30 p.m. One room streams dance music for people to enjoy.*

6:30 p.m. – Special Edition Adult Salon: Burlesque Workshop (18+ Only)
8:00 p.m. *Join us for a special body movement workshop and performance by Mae the Force and her troupe of burlesque practitioners. Venmo tips welcome, and Mae the Force bewitch you! All genders / all bodies welcome and encouraged to enjoy the movement portion.*

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SUNDAY, JUNE 4

(All times Pacific Daylight Time)

9:30 a.m. – European Atheopagan Meet and Greet
11:00 a.m. *Luisa Gibson will be leading this event. It's a chance for people in Europe to chat, get to know each other, and start organizing locally.*

11:00 a.m. – Welcome back
11:15 p.m. *Plus, announcements.*

WORKSHOP SLOT 3

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<u>Ancient Goddess Statues as Ritual Tools</u>	<u>LGBTQ+ Allyship in Atheopaganism: Building a community of belonging</u>	<u>Kid's Circle: Workshop for children</u>
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12:15 p.m. – Full Moon Communal Meal
1:30 p.m. *Ritual meal acknowledgment and open mic Bardic Circle.*

WORKSHOP SLOT 4

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<u>Cathedral of the Mind: Building an Atheopagan Library</u>	To Be Announced	<u>Labyrinths as Ritual Tools: How to build mazes and experience transformation</u>
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2:30 p.m. – Break
2:45 p.m. *Breakout rooms are open for socializing.*

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WORKSHOP SLOT 5

2:45 p.m. –
3:45 p.m.

**Community Ritual and
Cultural Appropriation:**

Examining the Tucson All
Souls' Day Celebration

Focus Fixer Upper:

Bringing life to your focus, altar,
or shrine

**Self-Love, Self-
Compassion:**

Cultivating loving-kindness
through research and ritual

3:45 p.m. –
4:15 p.m.

Closing Ritual

Gratitude, benediction, and farewell.

4:15 p.m. –
5:15 p.m.

Final socializing sessions in breakout rooms

END OF DAY TWO

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WORKSHOP DETAILS

Self-Love, Self-Compassion: Cultivating loving-kindness through research and ritual.

Presented by Diacorda Amosapa (She/Her)

The most important relationship in our lives is our relationship with ourselves. This interactive workshop will address cultivating loving-kindness toward ourselves with our thoughts, emotions, and bodies. It will draw upon insights from clinical psychology, research psychology, neurology, and other relevant empirical research. Suggestions for ritual practice, with consideration of optional components such as altar/focus tablecloths colors, apparel (garments and accessories), ritual tools, body positions and gestures, and songs and chants will also be presented. Time will be allotted for Q&A and general sharing of responses to the workshop material.

Presenter Bio

Dia Amosapa has been an online English Tutor, Editor, and Communications Consultant for over ten years. Drawing upon her experience working in commercial, government, non-profit, and legal workplace settings, she brings a real-world practical perspective to her language education services. Dia's services include helping ESL learners expand their vocabulary, editing resumes and academic manuscripts, preparing clients for job interviews and professional presentations, crafting communications for challenging personal and professional situations, and much more. For additional information, visit englishtutordia.com.

Imaginal Practice: Exploring your inner wisdom as a source of creativity and doorway to our human interconnection with nature.

Presented by Dris Bobilin (She/Her)

Our overculture does not value the world that resides inside us. Our emotions and feelings are disregarded, and our imaginal inner world is key to fully functioning as a human being. Exploring our inner wisdom can also be a source of creative abundance thru which we can bring forth writings, music, painting, etc. Join Dris as she explores the imaginal world within the parameters of Atheopaganism — including debunking and wonders of our mind and creativity. There will be a short presentation, and activity followed by a discussion.

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Presenter Bio

Dris Bobilin grew up and lives in Hawaii. She has worked as an entertainment production artist for more than 40 years. This includes theatre, film, television, and corporate events in areas of scenery, props, costume, make-up, sound, lighting, and lately florals. She only recently discovered that she is autistic as well as dyslexic, and other neurodivergences. She's been married for 40 years in august and homeschooled her two kids who are now grown and married. She has been a naturalistic pagan since an early age and felt at home when she found Atheopaganism a few years ago.

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Cathedral of the Mind: Building an Atheopagan library.

Presented by Robin Clancy (They/She)

In this swap-and-share roundtable, we'll take a deep dive into the books, podcasts, videos, and websites that have guided us on our Atheopagan journeys. Robin will lead with some of her favorite resources and discuss the projects she has worked on to make this content more accessible to all. Participants will have a chance to share their favorite resources and how they have helped them on their individual paths. If you plan on contributing, please keep your slot to 3 items or fewer so we can give as many people as possible a chance to participate. All resources mentioned in the workshop will be compiled and shared out afterward, so you don't have to worry about taking notes. Email

Presenter Bio

Robin is an educator, librarian, and nature nerd. Her spiritual practice involves hiking, gardening, cooking, making art, and looking things up.

Ancient Goddess Statues as Ritual Tools.

Presented by Jon Cleland Host (He/Him)

Ancient Goddess statues were a widespread practice of our Ancestors, and many date to 25,000 years ago or more. While many of us are familiar with the Venus of Willendorf, there are many others, and these can form a significant part of one's spiritual practice in many ways. Replicas can be obtained or made by oneself. This workshop will start with some basic information and then continue with hands-on work, including the possible molding of a modern version for your own use.

Stardust Communion: Connecting with our stellar roots through science, observation, and ritual.

Presented by Jon Cleland Host (He/Him)

It's incredible to realize that we are walking, thinking, loving stardust – the universe able to learn about itself! Step into who you are, and shine. What is and is not stardust in our world? How do stars even work? Why are the smallest stars the ones that live the longest? And, especially, how can we each feel that undeniably real connection to the stars together? After we delve into the mysteries of stars and revel in the reality of stellar alchemy, we'll enter a guided meditation to feel this magic more fully and then conclude with a ritual to celebrate our celestial nature.

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Presenter Bio

Dr. Jon Cleland Host is a Naturalistic Pagan, scientist, and father. Jon has been building a reality-based spirituality for over 30 years and launched the Naturalistic Paganism website in 2004. He has written in *Godless Paganism*, *A Pagan Community Statement on the Environment*, and many UU publications, and is the current managing editor at *Naturalistic Paganism*. His scientific work supports the growth of electric vehicles, and he has over a dozen patents and ~twenty peer-reviewed papers for scientific journals, including the journal, *Nature*. He has also taught classes on biology, math, chemistry, physics, and general science at the university level and has a YouTube Channel. All of this is to lovingly help build a better world for future generations in gratitude for the existence his Ancestors have given him.

Sarcastic Tarot: Using divination tools for creative, collaborative storytelling.

Presented by Hanna Coy (She/Her)

We will explore the use of divination tools (primarily tarot) as a way to create stories together. The richness in imagery and ambiguity in these tools (i.e., tarot cards) allow for many interpretations. We will take a tongue-in-cheek approach to this and create silly, sarcastic, and improbable futures for one another! Consider it an opportunity to work on the person-to-person and improv skills that are a part of entertainment divination without worrying about traditional or 'proper' meanings of cards and symbols.

I will begin with a short intro on what cold reading is, and how it is used in the context of fortune-telling. I'll talk about my view of how divination can be beneficial, not to know the actual future, but to evaluate possibilities and gain insight from interpretation. From there, we'll go into a story or two, intended to humorously point out how powerful the social aspects of divination can be, and how it can open up creativity within us. Then we'll break into groups and get a chance to try out some "Sarcastic Tarot" — in which we tell each other the most outrageous fortunes we can justify, using the symbolism (both traditional, if known, and made up based on improvisational interpretations) of the cards and their layout.

Also, maybe at the next online conference, whoever made/received the most accurate prediction gets a funny prize?

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Community Ritual and Cultural Appropriation: Examining the Tucson All Souls' Day Celebration.

Presented by Hanna Coy (She/Her)

I will talk about the beauty and complexity of large community rituals, using the All Souls Procession as an example (see here: <https://allsoulsprocession.org/about/>). I have been participating in this event (in different ways — watching, marching, doing body art/costumes, volunteering at artmaking workshops, doing satellite rituals) since 2001, and have seen it grow and change while still keeping its core over the years. I'll talk about the elements that make this a special event and the different ways people participate — body art, costumes, altars, art projects, and more, with examples. I'll describe its origins, how it is connected to (but not the same as) traditional Día de los Muertos processions, and how it is currently perceived.

One important part of this will be to illustrate how critical community-wide conversations about cultural appropriation are, and how complicated it can be. I'll talk about some of the different viewpoints I've heard regarding All Souls, and how my thinking on this has evolved over time. To make a long story short: the answer to the question "Is this cultural appropriation?" is tricky in a community context, and being able to answer is less important than being willing to ask.

Presenter Bio

Hanna Coy is a visual artist and hydrologist based in Tucson, Arizona. She makes drawings, paintings, cartoons, and 2-D mixed media works with a particular interest in ecology, water, and how people inhabit landscapes. Hanna has been drawn to exploration her entire life. She enjoys traveling on foot, by bike, or floating down a river current. Moving in this way — slowly and with physical effort — through a place, she is able to viscerally experience landscape as a dynamic set of processes and relationships. Hanna has provided cover art for small-press poetry books, and has been published in literary journals and compilations such as the UA Geography Department's 'you are here'. She has exhibited work in galleries, coffee shops, restaurants, festivals, and sacred spaces throughout Arizona.

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Wastewater Treatment: A journey into the magical world of microbes.

Join our presenter for an in-depth walkthrough of modern wastewater treatment and resource recovery, highlighting the truly amazing world of chemistry, physics, and especially microbiology that allows us to convert human and industrial waste into clean river water, fertilizer for crops, and renewable energy. Most people don't really think about what happens after they flush, nor recognize the incredible natural processes that humanity has harnessed and ingeniously manipulated to treat the waste of huge metropolitan areas. This presentation will go through a brief history of sanitation, a "digital tour" of a modern wastewater treatment facility, tips for residents on protecting their own community's treatment plant and watershed, and a personal perspective on wastewater treatment from an Atheopagan view. There will be a particular emphasis on the microbiological processes of wastewater treatment, as the bulk of all treatment happens through "bug farming" — creating the right habitats for the right microorganisms to do precisely what we need them to do. It's a fascinating process, and one that happens entirely naturally out in the environment — we just do it at a massive scale and at a much faster rate. As Atheopagans, we would all benefit from being more aware of "how the sausage is made" in our everyday modern lives, and learning how to protect our treatment plants and waterways is more critical than ever as we face climate change and dwindling resources.

Presenter Bio

Our presenter is the Operations and Maintenance Director for a wastewater-treatment plant in the Rocky Mountain West. She is passionate about her role as an environmental steward and protector of public health and has spent 15 years in the wastewater treatment industry, starting as a Lab Analyst and working her way up to plant Director. She holds a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership, and various industry-related certifications, her favorite being Wastewater Microbiology — as the "critters" of treatment are her favorite part of the process. She has been a nontheistic Pagan since her teenage years, and upon learning about Atheopaganism, immediately signed up to be a Cleric and adopted the identifier of Atheopagan. She is also a visual artist, creating sculptures, paintings, and digital art (such as Tarot and Oracle decks).

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LGBTQ+ Allyship in Atheopaganism: Building a community of belonging.

Presented by Luisa Gibson (They/She)

The Atheopagan community may be diverse, but with global politics becoming ever increasingly polarized, it's more important than ever to know how to be an effective ally to marginalized communities. This workshop focuses on allyship of the LGBTQ+ community and will cover:

- What is allyship, and why it's important?
- Who makes up the LGBTQ+ community, and what issues are they facing globally?
- The differences between gender identity, gender expression, romantic and sexual attraction, and how they interlink.
- What privilege is, how it works, and how it can be used to benefit marginalized groups.
- The difference between speaking up and speaking over marginalized groups.

Presenter Bio

Luisa is a diversity, equality, and inclusion worker and access auditor based in the UK. They specialize in working with grassroots organizations to help them develop their services to become more accessible to multi-marginalized groups. Luisa was raised Pagan, but during their teens decided to try out a range of religions before feeling that an earth-based but science-aware path was what they needed, before finally coming upon Atheopaganism two years ago.

The Way of the Atheopagan Cleric

Presented by Mark Green (He/Him)

What is a cleric? Why might you want to become one? What does a cleric do in the world, and what are some examples of how they can serve? This presentation includes plenty of time for questions and discussion, and closes with an ordination ritual for both established clerics and those who choose to become clerics on the day of the conference.

Presenter Bio

A poet, musician, environmental activist, and nonprofit professional, Mark is the author of *Atheopaganism: An Earth-Honoring Path Rooted in Science* and the editor/publisher of the Atheopaganism blog. He was named the Sonoma County Environmentalist of the Year in 1997. He lives in Northern California with his partner in crime, Nemea, and Kiki, the Circus Cat. He is also a co-host of the podcast [THE WONDER: Science-Based Paganism](#).

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Labyrinths as Ritual Tools: How to build mazes and experience transformation.

Presented by Jennifer Gude (She/Her)

Labyrinths are an excellent tool to have in your ritual toolbox to help you move from ordinary to non-ordinary (ritual) reality and while they can look complex and intimidating, they can be made very easily.

In this workshop we will discuss ways to use a labyrinth to help facilitate that shift in consciousness and how to make a simple labyrinth. We're also going to look at what makes a labyrinth a labyrinth, different types, and why you might choose one versus another for your particular ritual.

Presenter Bio

Jennifer Gude is 37 years old and resides near Athens, GA with her husband, son, and cat. Her path to Atheopaganism has been circuitous; she was raised casually Protestant/Pentecostal. She then converted to Catholicism, which is her husband's faith. After a severe bout of postpartum, she ended up in therapy and group therapy where she was introduced to the idea of using tarot and oracle cards for self-reflection and dove deep into a more spiritual, less religious worldview. Since then, she's struggled with finding and defining what she believes and what path she can comfortably follow. She's tried a few and currently trying out Atheopaganism to see how it fits.

Focus Fixer Upper: Bringing life to your focus, altar, or shrine.

Presented by Mícheál Ó hAllmhúráin (He/Him)

A focus is a physical space in your home that is the center of your ritual practice. But some people don't know how to set up a focus to their satisfaction. And some people feel silly starting out and need a little help. This workshop will give you ideas for how to set up a focus and go through some potential items you may like to add to it. Your focus could be seasonal, or it could be for a specific purpose—it's up to you. People are also invited to submit their existing focuses beforehand for creative critique from participants during the workshop (Email atheopagan@comcast.net). Bring specific questions, and we'll help your spruce up your focus, so it looks incredible and personalized to your needs.

Presenter Bio

Mícheál is a writer and teacher interested in Epicureanism, Secular Buddhism, and Gaelic culture — that is, the languages, folk practices, and mythology of Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. He is particularly attracted to helping others bring more ritual activities into their daily life, especially food-related acts.

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Reclaiming the Sacred: How to heal after leaving abusive religion.

Presented by Jeremy Schumacher (He/Him)

While interest in pagan spaces has increased over the past few years, the entrenched, “mainstream” religions have seen a huge number of people deconvert. The Atheopagan principles lay out a fascinating roadmap for those leaving toxic, high-control religious traditions as a way to heal, create new meaning, and cultivate connection. In this workshop, we will discuss the common symptoms of religious trauma, understand how adverse religious experiences affect our brains even after deconverting, and use the Atheopagan principles as guideposts to explore what healing can look like, along with creating new, healthy rituals that allow for meaningful connection.

Presenter Bio

Jeremy is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with over a decade of experience in the mental health field. He has worked in private practice, higher education, and athletics. His specialties include couples counseling and religious trauma. Jeremy currently practices in Milwaukee, WI.

Kid's Circle

Presented by Yucca (She/Her)

In this fun and highly interactive workshop, children will meet other youngsters, practice breathing techniques, design and do a short ritual, and share art time together.

We will explore what ritual is and why one might want to do one. Participants will brainstorm what ritual would be useful to them and collaboratively create it together. The ritual may include dancing, singing, animal sounds, and anything else you can imagine! After the ritual, we will discuss and express our experiences through art. Everyone who would like to share will have an opportunity to do so.

Please bring paper, coloring utensils, and costume/dress-up materials (optional).

Outline:

- Welcome, Introductions, and Show and Tell
- Animal Breaths
- Discussion on Ritual
- Ritual Time
- Debrief
- Art time!

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Presenter Bio

Yucca is an ecologist, science communicator, and parent. She co-hosts [THE WONDER: Science-Based Paganism](#) podcast and creates videos for the Atheopagan Society YouTube channel. She lives in the desert southwest on an off-grid homestead, where she teaches astronomy and planetary science online to all ages. Yucca has over a decade and a half of experience working with children.

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WHAT IS ATHEOPAGANISM?

Atheopaganism is a naturalistic Pagan religious path. Founded in 2009 with the publication of an essay by Mark Green, it has grown to have thousands of practitioners who embrace its [Four Sacred Pillars](#) and [13 Principles](#), and its science-consistent understanding of the psychological and social value of rituals, holiday observances, and rites of passage.

Atheopaganism is a non-hierarchical religious path: we have no Pope, no guru, no layers of leadership with ascending status and power. Each practitioner tailors their practice to meet what works best for them. Even our clergy, the Atheopagan clerics, are self-selected and adopt this role in service to their communities, not as a status enhancement. Anyone can be a cleric: you can ordain yourself for free at the website of the nonprofit [Atheopagan Society](#), where you will find much more information about the path, resources in support of it, and opportunities to connect in community.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Atheopagan Society	https://theapsocietyorg.wordpress.com
The Atheopagan Blog	https://atheopaganism.org
Atheopaganism Facebook Group	https://www.facebook.com/groups/atheopaganism
Atheopagan Society YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/@TheAtheopaganismChannel
Atheopaganism Instagram Page	https://www.instagram.com/atheopaganism
The Wonder Podcast	https://thewonderpodcast.podbean.com

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