

Interview with Trish Telesco:

1. If I am not mistaken this was your first trip to Arkansas. What'd ya think? :-) What was your impression of the pagans that you met at WytcheHaven Weekend #2?

It was like coming home to family - everyone was warm, helpful, welcoming and encouraging. The most fun was sitting under the rather cleverly designed sprinkler system set up by a merchant ... lots of good laughter had by all.

1a. Would you be interested in coming back?

In a heart beat

1b. How would you compare the WytcheHaven Weekends to some of the other festivals you have attended?

More intimate, which is nice. I like a personal touch. As this event grows, I hope you can keep that feeling going.

2. In one of your workshops you addressed Pagan Community, would you kindly reiterate some of your thoughts:

2a. Why is it so important?

Quite simply we NEED each other. We need to pull together as a cooperative force for change in our world.

2b. Why is it so difficult to achieve, peacefully?

We're a bit too independent for our own good. Organize is not a four letter word, nor does it mean the loss of individuality -- it simply means we have a way in which to come together on the same page, with the same goals and get something done.

3. Would you also explain and expound on Pagan Ethics and the importance of the principles of "Honor, Respect and Gratitude"?

These three ideas create a strong foundation on which to build any spiritual Path (and I thank Don Waterhawk mightily for drumming those words into my soul). When we honor something, we take care of it -- treasure it. Respect keeps us from becoming sloppy and neglectful (or worse, apathetic). Gratitude creates a heart always ready to give and receive.

4. "Personal Responsibility" is a key part of being pagan. Take that a step further - What is the responsibility of those perceived to be leaders in the community to their community?

I think it depends in which role that leader has found himself or herself -- I am responsible to my readers and to those whose lives touch mine as I travel. I am responsible for my words and actions and how they affect the lives around me daily. In truth we all are. The only difference is the spotlight that shines and shows off when we really screw up or really do well (LOL). Leading takes time, energy, diligence and dedication -- and a truly honest heart. We must know ourselves in all our faults before setting ourselves up as ANY type of example.

5. One of our issues in Arkansas is the respect for the rights of others to express their religious beliefs as they see fit. How do we respond to those who do not agree with that belief and indeed go out of their way to interfere with the freedom of others to express their religious freedom?

--- keep it simple. If it's legal, and that legality can be proven, then those who disagree may speak with their feet and their wallets. However, they do not have the right to lie about the realities of the situation -- that's actually against the law itself (liable or slander). I feel it's important that we remember we live in a REAL world and we have to work within the constructs we have (or change them).

6. Do you have any literary projects in the works?

One, but things are slower right now. I'm trying to move into the woman's market more, and write bigger, more intensive books that will allow me to work closer to full time hours outside the house and still serve the community.

6a. What is it and when may we expect to see it in the bookstores?

Right now be watching for "Sexy Sorceress" -- that's the one that will be out in early 06.