

THE MAGIC OF THE GREEN

By Diana SkyEyes

Today I am working in the Harbin Garden and feeling very grateful.

*Deeply grateful for this land under my feet,
the sound of the creeks near by, the songs of various birds...*

It is morning, and the beautiful flowers and herbs call to me from all corners of the land. I fill my nose and lungs with it, allow this greening power to penetrate me like a silken thread weaving and turning. The ecstatic pungency of Clary Sage, the snap of tingly Mints, the tang of Lemon Balm. My heart swells to know these plants as my friends, and allies. I am grateful, for I have studied these friends like any good relationship, and embarked on a passion that feeds my deepest yearnings. Now everywhere I look I see my green allies...growing on roadsides, carpeted across the creek beds, and I know myself never alone. Perhaps this is one of Nature's deepest gifts...the exclamation of our inter-connection.

Throughout time, animals and humans have relied on the Power of the Green for their nourishment and their medicine. Plants have acted as the alchemists of life-force, breaking it down into usable forms for other life to assimilate. Therefore our earliest worship and rituals evolved around Nature, and our inter-dependence with Her. She was loved as a mother, and plants became another tool for Her speaking to us.

The Green world whispered the medicinal aspects of plants to some people in dreams, while others were able to communicate with plants on conscious energetic levels, divining their uses and powers. Much was learned through trial and error. Later known as the medicine women/men, or shamans of their clan, they became the reservoirs for the oral healing traditions. Walking through field or forest, these early healers would collect and process the green friends with rituals and prayers. This reverence, in turn, would imbue the plant medicine with the potency of the loving heart. The alchemists' elixir...the human spirit and green matter transformed. How holy and beautiful this experience can be. It is for this reason, and this legacy, that I connect so powerfully with being an herbal medicine maker today. As I mix my own "simplers" medicines, I feel the Grandmothers move through my heart and my fingers. I revel in drawing down this power and giving it movement in the present moment.

In my own life, I see a Green thread of protection that was woven around me. There have always been "favorite spots" in Nature that I would retreat to for comfort. Yet it was an eight-year health crisis with endometriosis that led me to the conscious healing power of plants. Having been in a lot of physical pain through most of my twenties, and three major surgeries later, I found my body was depleted and out of balance. Although surgery had corrected some of my physical problems, conventional therapies could not ease my discomfort in my own skin; much less help me understand the physical changes. I had to grasp for help within my intuition.



I started by meditating in my families garden and working with plants as my daily job...creating new gardens I would later use for making medicine. I experimented with growing my plants using alternative methods, and gardening within medicine wheels. Through co-creation with the Green allies, in a space of reverence, I slowly began to feel health return to me. The end results of gardening in this way served on all levels of my being. The tinctures and oils I made from this process became potent and magical to me.

When my health became stronger, I began an herbal apprenticeship in Mendocino, California. As I refined my craft of wise-women medicine making, new doorways opened to herbal alternatives for myself and my family. The endless variety of ways plants can be used in healing continues to inspire me today. My healing journey progressed, and I created a product which I now sell through my business, (Mantis Herbs) called “Yoni Butter™.” It is an herbal-rich butter for feminine lubrication, created while dealing with my personal health issues . I soon found there were other women ,and their partners, who benefited from using Yoni Butter™ as well. Word of mouth created a demand, and Yoni Butter ™ is now sold through my website and the Harbin Market.

Today, I embrace herbalism as a part of my spiritual path. By example, Nature demonstrates the wisdom of understanding our lives in terms of cycles and seasons. How to freely embrace the letting go, being a leaf that simply falls from the tree...and trusting the seed that grows in darkness. When I truly need answers, the Earth provides the tools and teachers appropriate to the question. My life has evolved through the Magic of the Green , and it is a passion I love to share.

If we stop to listen, we may notice the whispers of knowledge from the Green world; it remains to us a continuous dialogue . Take a look sometime at what is volunteering in your yard or garden. Better yet, sit with the plants awhile. I often find there is a message there, ripe for discovery.

-Diana SkyEyes 8/15/05

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