



Aradia or The Gospel of the Witches

Charles Godfrey Leland

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If Gerald Brosseau Gardner is the father of the religion that calls itself Wicca, then Charles Godfrey Leland is the grandfather of Witchcraft as a religion in the English-speaking world, and his small book, *Aradia*, is that religion's birth-announcement.

It is the first work in English in which Witchcraft is portrayed as an underground old religion, surviving in secret from ancient Pagan times.

Until now *Aradia* has been a work more often cited than read. Its first edition (1899) garnered only one review, and sank from sight like a stone cast into murky waters; it sold poorly and is now a rare book. By chance a copy fell into the hands of Theda Kenyon, who devoted a few pages to it in her sensational *Witches Still Live* (1929), thereby calling it to the attention of many readers. By the 1950s Doreen Valiente had read *Aradia*, and she incorporated some of its most beautiful passages into the Wiccan rituals that she wrote. In the '60s and '70s it was reprinted four times, but always from a defective copy of the first edition that had lost its last page. Only in the '90s did another reprint finally restore the missing page.

Aradia has always been a controversial work, among Witches and scholars alike. Scholars have questioned whether it may be a fiction or a forgery by Leland or by his principal informant, Maddalena (Margherita Taludi). Witches have objected to it on theological and ethical grounds, since some of the myths that it tells are about Lucifer and Cain as well as Diana and Aradia, some of its spells work by threatening or coercing the Deities and spirits, and in its revolutionary fervor it does not shrink even from teaching that the poor and downtrodden should use poisons to destroy their feudal overlords. Despite all that, it remains a beautiful and compelling work.

This edition has brought the format and typography up to date, while keeping the text unchanged. A modern reader will undoubtedly find this new edition of *Aradia* much easier to read than the original or any of its facsimile reprints.

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Daryl Church:

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Betty Brown:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book is usually option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the book untitled Aradia or The Gospel of the Witches can be great book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Robert Denney:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the free time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read is definitely Aradia or The Gospel of the Witches.

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