

This year was... unexpected to say the least. From my journey through priestess training to our elected president, to the two different fractures in my right foot that I've been nursing since Yule. Universe, you win this one- bring on 2018.

The most unique experience, however, would have to be coming out of 2017 as a Priestess. Trust me, it's still taking time for even me to wrap my mind around.

Priest·ess

/'prēstis/

(noun: priestess; plural noun: priestesses a female priest of a non-Christian religion.)

I suppose I can begin with the honest truth- **it really took some arm twisting to convince me to become a part of the priestess training program.** I felt totally content being a solitary practitioner and occasionally joining in for sabbat meet-ups at my local [Goddess studio](#). Because let's be serious, I love me some seasonal crafts. I never viewed myself as a leader or guide, I wasn't remotely in touch with my femininity but I was intrigued...

Priestess training would be a full year! 13 classes and 8 sabbat attendances, one in which we were required to plan and host. There would be homework and personal projects to complete, art assignments, and papers to write.

I wasn't sure where the priestess path would lead me, needless to say, I wrestled with some negative talk...

Will I have to public speak?

How will I be able to absorb all the information?

Should I be connecting with a particular deity?

I'm a terrible student.

Where am I going to get \$1,000?

Can I commit the time to monthly classes and sabbats?

How do I tell my partner?

How will I explain this to other people?

Why would someone like me want to be a priestess?

However, the universe was directing me with a pointed force, somehow I was convinced this was a journey I needed to take.

Great! So you want to be a priestess



How are you going to come up with \$990?

This training came with A TON of printed material and some amazing books for an entire year so I understood the cost... but where in Hermes name was I going to come up with that money?

Method 1:

As mentioned in my [Iceland Adventure](#) blog, I use a phone app called [DIGIT](#) that lets you set saving goals and despoits small increments of money daily/ weekly towards that goal. Using this app allowed me to set it and forget it. Little by little my savings grew.

Method 2:

At the time I was an avid Twitch creative streamer (twitch.tv is a live video streaming network that lets you can interact with your viewers while playing video games, creating, cooking etc.) This platform allows you to create "donation goals", specifying to viewers what their money will be used for if they decide to support your channel. There were a few very generous viewers that helped me out who I could never thank enough. One person in particular by the name of DragonsMiracle ~ *Hvala my friend.*

Method 3:

I scrimped... a lot but I also discovered that **I really wanted this**, I sucked up my pride and asked for help. *Thank you to Jeff for your donation, you've changed my life.*

In the end, I was able to pull the cash together a bit at a time, along with the help of the program's instructor, Amalya I found myself sitting in **1st Veil Priestess Training orientation**. Before classes began, Amalya asked if anyone would be willing to chronicle our classes and year's journey together. Of course, I volunteered and was joined by another amazing priestess. Together we documented notes and a bit about each class to share with the group or as a final project if we chose to do so.

The Classes

1. Orientation- Sacred Temples and Sites from Around the world
2. Wheel of the Year
3. Legacies of the Priestesses
4. The Elements and Directions
5. Ritual & Sacred Space
6. Divination and Oracle Wisdom
7. Sacred Sexuality
8. Blood Mysteries and The Moon
9. Loss of the Goddess
10. Wounds to Wisdom
11. Frame Drum & New Priestess Archetypes
12. Magic and Manifestation
13. Year Project Presentations
14. Initiation
15. Ordination

Each class created by Amalya was so different and special- we were honored to have with us brilliant guest instructors such as **Karen Tate, Max Dashu, Soulmyst Stormrider, Judith Laxer, Linda Savage, Simone Butler, Miranda Rondeau and Anyaa McAndrew.**

As with everything, our classes had their own ebb and flow, some days were light-hearted and full of giggles others were heavy and overflowing with emotional journeys and healing. We each had our own reasons for being there but during these emotional times, I think each priestess knew she wasn't alone, **we were there for each other- supporting, honoring and connecting through each women's personal journey.**

Realizations

1. I was ignited by the discovery of new knowledge.

With each class, we were introduced to different periods of history most aren't exposed to in school. It may not be a well-known fact but **I LOVE HISTORY!** Each new subject was like the strand in a web, connecting and leading me to two more strands and two more and on and on. The more we were shown the more furiously I wanted to consume what I could on the subject. With each step, I was lead deeper into the rabbit hole- to another strand, another layer of life and our past I couldn't wait to discover. Just look at this timeline!! [More Goddess Timelines](#)



2. I'm an "overachiever".

This word was thrown around a bit throughout the year and I'm still unsure how I feel towards it. It was given as a compliment but its use in general society leaves a sour taste, doesn't it? I took this course very seriously, which meant showing up to as many classes and sabbats as possible, completing the work before the due date, utilizing my skills for projects, and offering my services to the best of my ability. I don't see anything special about that. It's not overachieving... it's just achieving. **THIS COURSE WAS EXCITING! I WANTED to do the work, I WANTED to be there whenever I could- we were told at the beginning of the year, "the more you put into it [class], the more you'll get out of it,"** and boy was it the truth.

3. My patience needed some exercise.

With all these new discoveries I felt like I was chomping at the bit- I wanted to dive into that paper, fly through the notes and get them to the other priestesses ASAP, I wanted to have my sabbat [Litha] planned out and ready to go. I was so INSPIRED! However, this Gemini is so used to getting things done on her own that it became a very educational experience sharing the responsibility with others.

Example A: Chronicling the notes.

In the beginning, I was so eager to get the notes to the layout I'd get frustrated if/when changes were made. HOWEVER, if I just took the time, in the beginning, to openly collaborate with my partner before designing *anything* I wouldn't have found myself in that place. My notes partner was unbelievable, she was so detailed and quick, I and the rest of the priestesses were crazy lucky to have her. She and I found a great rhythm and system to our process, each able to stretch our strengths and put together a beautiful chronicle *{if I do say so myself}*.

Example B: Planning a day-long celebration for Summer Solstice.

There is something deep inside me that HAS TO BE PREPARED. I'm not sure what happened in the past that makes me feel like everything has to be planned ...like... yesterday. In all honesty, I wasn't excited about hosting a sabbat "meetup", I was literally having stress dreams about it for months- four dreams to be exact. I just hate speaking in front of groups. I was hoping to have everything set by Beltane so I wouldn't be slammed with any surprises. My Litha partner is such a beautiful spirit WITH HER OWN LIFE, she had her own responsibilities and personal path she was navigating. We didn't know a lot about each other when we began but ended up connecting through something very personal that reminded me surprises are part of the journey. **Some of life's surprises blindside you like a smack to the mouth but others are organic and magical and only happen when you sit back a little and let go.** Needless to say, our Litha meet-up was wonderful- some of the day's events weren't coordinated until *the day* of and they made our honoring that much more special.

4. My Voice Matters

My biggest hurdle *still* is owning my voice and speaking it out to the masses. At the beginning of our training, any point at which I needed to stand and present projects or papers my heart would pound, and there I was, on the border of passing out. This is not an exaggeration- I knew I wasn't a strong public speaker but this was just embarrassing. It's sad to know so many other women struggle with this as a result of upbringing and society's "seen and not heard" mentality. However, the women there only want to see me succeed, they want me to feel safe and uplifted, supported, and heard. I wasn't going to flunk out of anything, I had no reason to be ashamed of my work, I have something to share, something for others to learn! Over time I learned to cultivate that courage one breath at a time and continuously try to make sure that same voice is carried with me outside of the classroom.

5. It's not that serious

Yes, choosing to become a priestess is a serious choice but the way I view myself shouldn't be. The people I've always admired are the "eccentrics", the charismatics story spinners, the colorful fairies, the rebels - these people have tapped into their truths and walk it with fervor. The same goes for the teachers and guides I've had over the years, both religious and non. I feel we connect with leaders who show their vulnerable side and still find a way to hold space for others. Someone with faults who shares what they learn from them, someone who howls, dances, and sings through their lessons, or someone who supports the power of side-splitting laughter.

My takeaway...

STAY WEIRD.

All the women I've met on my journey, regardless if they were an instructor, trainee, special guest, helping hand, they were all striving to learn, encourage and promote love. Love for our earth, for each other, and most importantly for ourselves. Spread the message that **we are magic and we are in this together**- so let's build each other up.

"Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, latch on the affirmative and don't mess with Mr. In-between."

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