

The Art of Herbwifery

To be an herbwife is to be in union with the plant spirit medicines, in true devotion, fidelity of spirit...in love with the land, daily nature immersion and contact with the plants from city to countryside...tending to the human tribal circle all the while tending to pachamama...

-tijhe fireweed

The plants are primary teachers...bend and bow low to the ground with the herbs, in furrows, fields and forests. Listen intently to their subtle green whispers. Hear the healing secrets of the ancient ones. In herbwifery you will instinctively know how to be silent and understand what the green sentient ones are asking of humanity, not simply what can be taken from them. Ears to the ground, be open to all energy meridians of the earth, you will understand speaking in archaic tongue, a language older than human words.

What the plants ask of you as an herbwife is to be a translator. To walk the *Medicine Path* with fearlessness, a strong heart and immense courage. For you may be labeled a *hag, greenwitch, quack or freak*. Someone who lingers on the fringes. Face this as a green-spirited warrior. Be true to yourself and the plants. Have compassion for those who hold fear in their hearts, but do not breathe it into you. Maintain a stance of truth, integrity and true power. Keep your sense of humor and humility, herbwife.

You know who you are in this world as a herbwife. It is likely that you realized from a young age, that working with the plants was your true calling. At some point you may have shunned it, turned away, having been told it was a waste of an education or a ridiculous, non-credible career. With true herbwifery, you will have come back home to the sacred plant spirits. Herbwifery is a most noble vocation and healing art. Perhaps an elder, teacher, plantswoman or medicine man nudged, encouraged or apprenticed you. Maybe you've been on a solo *re-collection* path of the traditional plant wisdom. Certainly, the plants have been your teachers for your entire life. All these diverse paths convene to oneness: *the intuitive green art of herbwifery*.

By this decade, you are coming together in unison with others in green

circles practicing the art of herbwifery to help heal the human tribal circle and restore a deeper connection with Gaia, since there is such great urgency to do so. Now more than ever, the art of herbwifery is imperative, as it is one of the best means of understanding the complex planetary web of relationships between humans and plants.

The art of herbwifery requires finely tuned senses, opening of new archaic intuitive channels that you previously may not have been aware of. Plant spirit medicines will appear voluntarily: in your dreams and visions, in cultivated gardens where you didn't seed or plant them. They are often rambling restless ones that magically appear in human-altered spaces. They are wild. Herbwives feel much the same way.

We are wilders.

Making green medicines brings great joy to you; creating your own unique apothecary like no other. This is not a competition, these are simply your own pure personal medicines. You will know to carry your healer's tools with you at all times. You will have an open heart, head and hands. Herbalists know the plants of their ecosystem intimately, as these are primary foods and medicines of the people. What you need is right before you.

Herbwifery is your calling. Being *on-call* in a contemporary world will mean attending to both physical and spiritual emergencies. Just as a midwife attends to precious human births, you will assist as an herbwife attending to many births, lives and deaths alongside people and plants knowing when it is time for spiritual emergence.

You will engage in healing both young and old. Teaching children outside in nature, playing with plants, also using herbs and flower essences with the elderly as they transition through the life-death-rebirth cycle.

In herbwifery ways, you will be called always to be earth guardians, knowing that if the Great Mother is injured or degraded, then energy shifts and all humans will feel sudden imbalances within their own bodies and communities. Disconnection and fragmentation will occur, physical, social and cultural ills appear. So, defend nature wholeheartedly. Know there is no hierarchy. We are all parts of the whole ecosystem, this precious cosmos. States of denial and disconnection can no longer be, for they are signs of spiritual sickness. Thus, you will also need to be a teacher of emotional and spiritual awareness.

As you age, you will feel your herbwifery skills sharpen, not diminish. Your plant wisdom will be invaluable when the human tribal is struggling, trying to survive in crazy civilized ways that people previously constructed. You will be required to walk in both worlds simultaneously. Do so with grace and power. Enjoy this journey with the *Plant Spirit Medicines*. Know that you are supported on this Green Medicine Path herbwives by many...

~*tijhe fireweed*

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