



Aradia: Gospel of the Witches (Annotated)

Charles Godfrey Leland

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PREFACE

If the reader has ever met with the works of the learned folk-lorist G. Pitré, or the articles contributed by "Lady Vere De Vere" to the Italian Rivista, or that of J. H. Andrews to Folk-Lore, 1 he will be aware that there are in Italy great numbers of strega, fortune-tellers or witches, who divine by cards, perform strange ceremonies in which spirits are supposed to be invoked, make and sell amulets, and, in fact, comport themselves generally as their reputed kind are wont to do, be they Black Voodoos in America or sorceresses anywhere.

But the Italian strega or sorceress is in certain respects a different character from these. In most cases she comes of a family in which her calling or art has been practised for many generations. I have no doubt that there are in stances in which the ancestry remounts to mediæval, Roman, or it may be Etruscan times. The result has naturally been the accumulation in such families of much tradition. But in Northern Italy, as its literature indicates, though there has been some slight gathering of fairy tales and popular superstitions by scholars, there has never existed the least interest as regarded the strange lore of the witches, nor any suspicion that it embraced an incredible quantity of old Roman minor myths and legends, such as Ovid has recorded, but of which much escaped him and all other Latin writers.

This ignorance was greatly aided by the wizards themselves, in making a profound secret of all their traditions, urged thereto by fear of the priests. In fact, the latter all unconsciously actually contributed immensely to the preservation of such lore, since the charm of the forbidden is very great, and witchcraft, like the truffle, grows best and has its raciest flavour when most deeply hidden. However this may be, both priest and wizard are vanishing now with incredible rapidity--it has even struck a French writer that a Franciscan in a railway carriage is a strange anomaly--and a few more years of newspapers and bicycles (Heaven knows what it will be when flying-machines appear!) will probably cause an evanishment of all.

However, they die slowly, and even yet there are old people in the Romagna of the North who know the Etruscan names of the Twelve Gods, and invocations to Bacchus, Jupiter, and Venus, Mercury, and the Lares or ancestral spirits, and in the cities are women who prepare strange amulets, over which they mutter spells, all known in the old Roman time, and who can astonish even the learned by their legends of Latin gods, mingled with lore which may be found in Cato or Theocritus. With one of these I became intimately acquainted in 1886, and have ever since employed her specially to collect among her sisters of the hidden spell in many places all the traditions of the olden time known to them. It is true that I have drawn from other sources, but this woman by long practice has perfectly learned what few understand, or just what I want, and how to extract it from those of her kind.

Among other strange relics, she succeeded, after many years, in obtaining the following "Gospel," which I have in her handwriting. A full account of its nature with many details will be found in an Appendix. I do not know definitely whether my informant derived a part of these traditions from written sources or oral narration, but believe it was chiefly the latter. However, there are a few wizards who copy or preserve documents relative to their art. I have not seen my collector since the "Gospel" was sent to me. I hope at some future time to be better informed.

For brief explanation I may say that witch craft is known to its votaries as la vecchia religione, or the old religion, of which Diana is the Goddess, her daughter Aradia (or Herodias) the female Messiah, and that this little work sets forth how the latter was born, came down to earth, established witches and witchcraft, and then returned to heaven...

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As people who live in the modest era should be revise about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which one you should start with. This Aradia: Gospel of the Witches (Annotated) is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Louis Jackson:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a book. The book Aradia: Gospel of the Witches (Annotated) it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

Jodie Long:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled Aradia: Gospel of the Witches (Annotated) your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get ahead of. The Aradia: Gospel of the Witches (Annotated) giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Martha McKee:

This Aradia: Gospel of the Witches (Annotated) is great reserve for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it data accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Aradia: Gospel of the Witches (Annotated) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no reserve that offer you world within ten or fifteen small right but this

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