



# The Wisdom of the Wicked Witch

## Part Two: Baba Yaga, Her Wonderful Sisters & the Seven Disciplines of Medicine Woman

Cinderella is forced to rise before daybreak, carry water, light fires, cook and wash for her cruel (step)mother and (step)sisters. Snow White hides from her murderous (step)mother, finds shelter with dwarves and keep house for them in exchange for her safety. Vassilissa serves Baba Yaga according to the strictest instructions – if she fails, she will be devoured.

Shocking tales! So why will we work with them? Looking closely at the trials and tribulations imposed on heroines by wicked and evil women of folktales reveals:

- “malevolent” female characters hold the power of death and life, dark and light, evil and good.
- the truth about ‘nasty (step)sisters’ is something vital that we often overlook.
- we will explore the Seven Disciplines of the Medicine Woman [Paula Gunn-Allen] and the role they play in our ‘becoming human.’

In folktales nothing is as it seems:

- Trials and hardship become wisdom;
- Retarding hindrances become capabilities and strength;
- Adversaries are helpers in disguise;
- Beset heroines become wise women, healers and leaders.

What else will you gain?

- The ability to put this all together and tell a better story
- A honing of storytelling skills overall and confidence as a story-teller
- Insight and power to re-evaluate your personal experiences and better integrate them into your life – your story.

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