

Interview With the Wizard – Ambika Devi



Today, Grey Matters is excited to bring you the third of a series of interviews with our fantastic faculty. It is our hope that this glimpse into the minds and lives of some of the Grey School of Wizardry's teachers will be of interest to our apprentices and friends of the GSW.

Today, we bring you the wonderful Professor Ambika Devi, Dean of Psychic Arts, known throughout the GSW for her compassion, energy, and insight. You can find her homepage at www.AmbikasWisdom.com

Dean Ambika is a woman of many talents: author, astrologer, cartomancer, yogi, artist, musician, and more. She has multiple degrees and years of experience in teaching and mentoring. The Grey School of Wizardry is grateful to have her unique energy and we could not think of a better choice to lead our Psychic Arts Department. Please keep reading below the break for the interview itself.

First of all, how long have you been practicing magick and how did you get started?

I was given my first deck of tarot cards at age seven and only looked at the book that came with them once. I became interested in earth-wise traditions and spiritualities, yoga and meditation that same year and knew this was to be my destiny in this lifetime.

What part of the world do you live in? Does that location affect your magick?

I live in Florida right now. I have lived in the desert of Arizona, the rolling hills of Pennsylvania and also in the Virgin Islands. Location does not affect my accuracy or abilities. I could sit down in on a busy sidewalk and meditate just as easily as the top of a mountain.

When you are not occupying your time with the work of the Grey School, what do you do? Do you have a day job? Any hobbies you are passionate about?

I am an award-winning author of two books and have a passion for writing. On the weekends I work giving readings at a local metaphysical shop. During the week I write, teach local students and give readings and advice on an internet site.

I work for myself! I always have been a teacher and am retired from teaching Holistic Health at the college level after 21 years.

I love to draw and make jewellery out of crystals.

Who do you share your life with? Do you have a partner, children, or close family?

I moved to Florida to help my mother who is now 95. It is an honor to give her the best life possible in these golden years. I treat my students and clients like family. For the last ten years, I have been living alone.

Now, let's talk about the Grey School of Wizardry and you.

There are many different kinds of magick that can be categorized in different ways. The Grey School of Wizardry breaks the field down into 16 Departments. Which of them is most important to you? Which of them forms the major parts of your magickal life?

Psychic arts and Metaphysics are my passions. Right now I am teaching in seven different departments. I could easily handle more of what we have to offer as over the years I have taught many subjects.

The most important aspect of wizardry that I hold sacred: is wizardry itself. I am a perpetual student and am always learning. Currently, I am taking a class with a famous teacher known for training business students at colleges including Cambridge and Harvard. His outside the box techniques inspire great personal growth and he is teaching me to dig into my own beliefs and models in order to bend reality.

I feel it is important for me to continually stretch and challenge myself.

When did you first become associated with the Grey School? What led you to the GSW and why did you get involved?

In the summer of 2016, I was rebranding my website and promotional package. I had a strong vision to change my title to, "Expert Astrologer and Tarot Wizard." I had never used the title wizard before. In November of that year, I had a conversation with a colleague who suggested I start a school of wizardry.

I have no interest in the administrative goings-on of an institution, having been a professor most of my adult life.

That evening I searched the web for the words "school of wizardry" and the Grey School showed up. I looked at the site for several days as I tuned into the idea in dreams and visions. After three days I decided to write a letter of inquiry. I was instantly sent an application and offered a position almost immediately.

What is/are your role/roles within the Grey School?

At first, I thought I would just be writing curriculum and helping upgrade courses on Astrology. I was soon given a class to teach, then a few more. In the summer of 2017, I was made the Dean of Psychic Arts. This relates to the PhD research I have been conducting for the last five years on the topic of meditation.

As an instructor, what kinds of difficulties do you find your students face and why do you think that is so?

I am not a person that looks at life through the lens of difficulty but rather opportunity. I see my role as loving guide and motivator to stretch beyond mind-traps and inspire my students to reach beyond what they imagine is possible.

I find that many people do not understand meditation and confuse it with creative visualization and hypnosis. These are valuable tools and there is a distinct difference between them and the true deep-trance-state of meditation.

I am a bit of a perfectionist when it comes to communicating the specifics of eastern philosophy. I have a Master's degree in Yoga. The true path of Yoga is meditation. Much of what we see in the world that is branded yoga is a modern exercise program utilizing the name.

The true magick in the study is in the language of Samskrutham—which is Sanskrit spoken in its native tongue. This is a potent language that possesses vibrations. Pronunciation and enunciation are integral in unlocking the magick of this language.

Do you have any exciting plans for upcoming classes or other events at the Grey School?

I have been upgrading information in my department and am writing two more classes to complete the fourth and fifth levels of meditation courses. It is important to me to give my students hands-on exercises and tasks for self-study, self-enrichment and self-realization. In knowing self, we are able to be valuable guides for humanity. This to me truly is being a wizard.

What would you say has been the best part of being a part of the Grey School?

I love watching people grow and being a part of the process. We have amazingly bright students and brilliant professors. It is inspiring to be a part of this.

Do you have a favorite class you have taken or taught here at the Grey School?

I am eclectic and I love being able to teach in so many departments. Meditation classes and Astrology are indeed passions.

Now, let's talk a little bit about your path and journey in magick and wizardry.

Could you please share with us what for you has been the most rewarding aspect of this journey?

Each time I complete curriculum for classes I feel very happy when a student goes through the course and gets more out of it than I imagine!

What would you say was the most challenging aspect of this path and how did you conquer that challenge?

For the years prior to my joining, I had been on my own writing for periodicals and my own books. Getting back into the groove of meetings and schedules took a little getting used to. I had never taught in an online platform so figuring out all of the behind the scenes tasks presented a steep learning curve for me. Now that I look back, I am grateful for my diligence and patience as I got this under my belt.

For those who are seeking magical abilities, what advice would you offer?

Experiment and always remain open. You may think you know what you want to study or what department you want to be in but, as time goes on you are likely going to be quite surprised to find how the colors of magick all are a part of the same rainbow.

For those who are starting out, what encouragement would you give?

Be patient. Push beyond what you think you are capable of. If an essay asks for only 100 words, why not really express yourself and write many pages. This is how one creates their own compendium or grimoire. Write as if this is what you are creating. This education is your passion and is for you! It is going to make you a better person and steward of this earth.