

Response from Anaar

[Anaar](#) is a Feri priestess, artist, Grandmaster, and owner of [The White Wand](#) and [Tombo Studio](#).

After many years of training in the Anderson's home I had to come to terms with feeling like something of a foreigner within the Feri community. Many unfortunate things have happened lately, which brings to my mind the great divide within Feri. Things have come to a head and now I feel I must speak my mind. I believe the split to have occurred a number of years ago. There are many significant and key practices that differ largely from the practice I learned in their home.

The most significant, and which I believe caused the initial and unacknowledged split, is the initiatory rite in which certain secret names are passed. These names are passed in the initiation along with the current that is called Feri. Unfortunately at some point down line from the Andersons, there came to be additions- and changes- to this core of names and therefore the core of Feri.

While many might feel that these additional names only add to the richness of Feri, and I do not necessarily disagree, it cannot be argued that once an addition is made to the lore, a change is also made to the current. These names carry their own power, one that was never acknowledged among the Anderkin as part of the initiatory names. I believe that it was this factor alone that created a number of huge differences within the current.

So it should not be surprising that after a number of initiatory generations, differences would become so profound that it becomes necessary to assert those differences even to the degree of calling for a split. In my mind, controversies of mystery tradition v public Feri, pay for play, while important and need to be addressed, do not address the core division.

For these reasons, I do believe the split is permanent. But what exactly is this split? Is this a new line, an offshoot or is it the beginning of a new tradition? I have been told that this is not a new tradition, but I am not currently inclined to agree. But I am not rash and I do realize that this question requires an enormous

amount of study and discussion. I think it important to state that while I do believe a split has occurred and am studying the ramifications, I am not currently willing to say, "These witches are Feri, and these witches are not Feri."

While this split is heart rending, I also feel it to be very liberating. As I've said, I have often felt like a foreigner among the Feri and this detachment has only grown more profound through the years. But now that a split has occurred, I feel as if I can now speak to what I have learned without the worry that it will cause in fighting among us. I would really like to congratulate those who brought the split to mind. I feel they had the courage to state the obvious, the courage and heart I did not possess.