

Baba Yaga



“The honesty the spiritual quest requires of us is addressed in the Russian initiation tales about Baba Yaga. Baba Yaga is an old woman with a wild, hag-like visage **who stirs her pot and knows all things**. She lives deep in the forest. When we seek her out, we are frightened, for **she requires us to go into the dark**, to ask dangerous questions, to step outside the world of logic and comfort.

When the first young seeker comes quaking up to the door of her hut, Baba Yaga demands, ‘Are you on your own errand or are you sent by another? The young man,



encouraged in his quest by his family, answers, 'I am sent by my father.' Baba Yaga promptly throws him into the pot and cooks him.

The next to attempt this quest, a young woman, sees the smoldering fire and hears the cackle of Baba Yaga. Baba Yaga again demands, 'Are you on your own errand or are you sent by another?' 'I am on my own errand,' she replies. Baba Yaga throws her in the pot and cooks her too.

Later a third visitor, again a young woman, deeply confused by the world, comes to Baba Yaga's house far into the forest. She sees the smoke and knows it is dangerous. Baba Yaga confronts her, 'Are you on our own errand, or are you sent by another?'

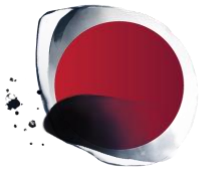
This young woman answers truthfully. 'In large part I'm on my own errand, but in large part I also come because of others. And in large part I have come because you are here, and because of the forest, and something I have forgotten, and in large part I know not why I come.' Baba Yaga regards her for a moment and says, 'You'll do,' and shows her into the hut." (Kornfield, 2001, p. 4)

Reference

- Kornfield, J. (2000). *After the ecstasy, the laundry: How the heart grows wise on the spiritual path*. New York: Bantam.

Image Courtesy of: [Rosie Sun @rosiesun](#)

The Tim Dukes Method provides an opportunity for self-reflective individuals to cultivate the capacity to receive into consciousness hidden aspects of the self, claiming your unique gifts – ensuring that today's brilliance successfully transitions into tomorrow's wisdom. The Tim Dukes Method is designed and implemented by Dr. Timothy Dukes for determined



DR. TIMOTHY DUKES

DrTimothyDukes.com | Sanctuary | Reflect | Baba Yaga | 20230924

creatives to ensure long-term viability — as a continuing investment in the well-being of yourself, family, organizations, culture, society, and the Earth itself.