



A Brief History of Kamala

An article by Kamala

Dana Merrill Gass was born on October 20, 1963, in Denver, Colorado region. Influenced by the beauty of nature all around her and the wisdom of southwestern tribes, she began to be interested in a wide variety of spiritualities and alternative healing. At age 13, she was trained in Transcendental Meditation and hatha yoga. She attended Harvard University and graduated in 1985 Cum Laude with a degree in East Asian Studies.

Dana began to experiment with aromatherapy and herbalism during her senior year at Harvard. She acquired the nickname Kamala from a friend. After graduation, she taught English at the Tang Shan Institute of Technology in China and then traveled in India and Thailand, where she furthered her knowledge of medicinal plants and their uses. While in India, the nickname stuck, and Dana began Kamala Perfumes when she returned to the states.



Business began at local arts and crafts fairs and expanded to include renaissance fairs. In 1992, she trained at a Marcel Lavabre intensive and opened her first retail store in Champaign, Illinois. Her continued learning and experience allowed her to develop her own technique of aromatherapy massage. She brought this knowledge with her to Evanston, IL in 1997 and opened her largest retail store yet.

Now with almost 23 years of experience and a profound knowledge of essential oils and herbs, Kamala is a sought-after speaker. She has given presentations to the

University of Illinois faculty, Unilever (maker of mass-produced hygiene products), and countless metaphysical shops and pagan groups.



Kamala lives in Colorado Springs, CO with her Maine Coon cat, Draco. Her hobbies include Middle Eastern dancing and drumming, studying Hindu, Jewish, and Native American spirituality, collecting the artwork of Edward Gorey, and, of course, experimenting with oils and herbs.