



The Path to Magick

by The Modern Witch



CHAPTER 1

Mystery Magick

Our fascination with how we got here, our own history and our relationship with nature, heaven and our spiritual destiny are life enhancing subjects.

Since the beginning of time, immemorial humans have been captivated by the questions of **why we are here** and **where we have come from**. It is an intrinsic part of human nature to seek answers. Think of all the great mysteries of the world like: Stonehenge, The Pyramids, King Arthur.

Witches have been here on earth since the dawn of human kind and in truth, the story started at the beginning of the Universe – which was 13.7 billion years ago. Imagine a time before civilisation, when **witchcraft combined celestial and earth energies to create magick**. As above so below.



CHAPTER 2

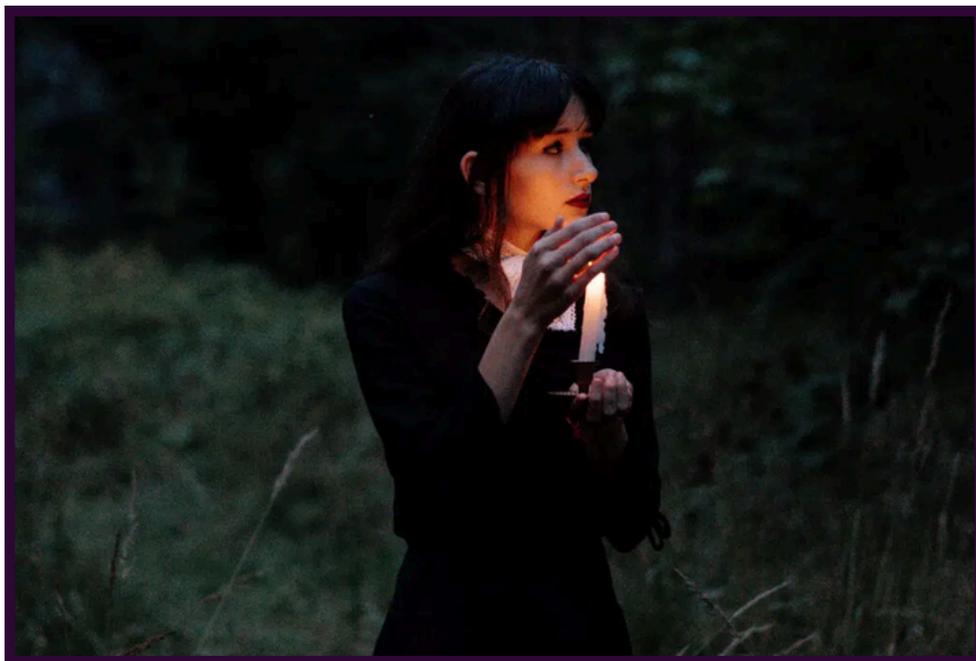
What Is Wicca?

When I was young I always felt more **connected to Spirit**. I was very drawn to the traditions of Halloween and basically anything to do with spells and magic. I started reading my first book on witchcraft at the age of 15. Slowly, I moved over to Paganism and left Catholicism behind.

The energy around me felt good. I felt protected and it's still there now. Spirit, all things witchy, the natural world, the moon, stars, sun and planets. God is not separate – everything is connected to nature, the energy just flows.

There are many types of Wicca, with the most common being **Gardnerian and Alexandrian**. My roots are Gardnerian.

Wicca modernised Witchcraft which was created by Gerald Gardner. When witchcraft was made legal, Gardner modernised and ritualised it. The difference between Wicca and Witchcraft is that you are born a witch and you can learn Wicca. You can be both. You can choose to do your own magick. **Always go with what feels right for you.**



Wicca Gods and Goddesses

Goddesses represent the moon and the gods represent the Sun. They are brother and sister (Moon and Sun) and their Mother is Gaia, the earth.

Goddess Hecate, Queen of the Witches.

Hecate is a **Greek Goddess** in ancient history. She is one of the most well known Goddesses in witchcraft.

Hecate is known as the Queen of Witches and the **keeper of the crossroads**. She is often depicted with a key or twin flames and her dogs. Hecate is the Goddess of the night, witchcraft, spells and the moon.

She was the only child of Titanes Perses and Asteria where she received her power over the sea, earth and sky. She is also known as the **triple Goddess** as she governs the waxing, full and waning moon.



Hecate was usually depicted in Greek vase painting as a woman holding twin torches. Sometimes she was dressed in a knee-length maiden's skirt and hunting boots, much like Artemis. In statuary, Hecate was often depicted in triple form as a goddess of crossroads. Her name means "worker from afar" from the Greek word hekatos. The masculine form of the name, Hekatos, was a common epithet of the god Apollon.



Goddess Diana, the Full Moon Goddess & Aradia, the Goddess of Nature.

Diana is an Italian Goddess. She governs the countryside, hunting and the moon. She is a huntress, and her parents are Jupiter and Latona. She is revered in modern neopagan religions including Stregheria and Wicca.

Her daughter is Aradia who came to the earth to teach witchcraft. The American author Leland wrote the Aradia Gospel of the witches which made her well known.

Diana descended to earth disguised as a mortal where her passion and knowledge for witchcraft made her so powerful.

She also became the Queen of the witches. She delegated the task of teaching witchcraft to her daughter Aradia and instructed her to teach men and women.



Aradia is the Goddess of nature, crowned with the crescent moon of her mother. She is young, wise and beautiful. Her consorts are Herne, Cernunnos and Pan.



Herne the Hunter

One of the most well known Gods in Witchcraft and Wicca.

Herne has his origins in folklore. Herne was a huntsman employed by King Richard II. Legend has it that he was fatally wounded while saving King Richard from a charging stag. He was miraculously cured by a magician who tied antlers of the dead stag to Herne's head.

As a reward the magician requested Herne's power and his hunting skills. Herne could not live without his favourite past time and it is said he hung himself from an Oak tree. It has also been said the Herne rides every night in Windsor forest.

The energy of Herne is protection and power.



Cernunnos the Celtic Horned God.

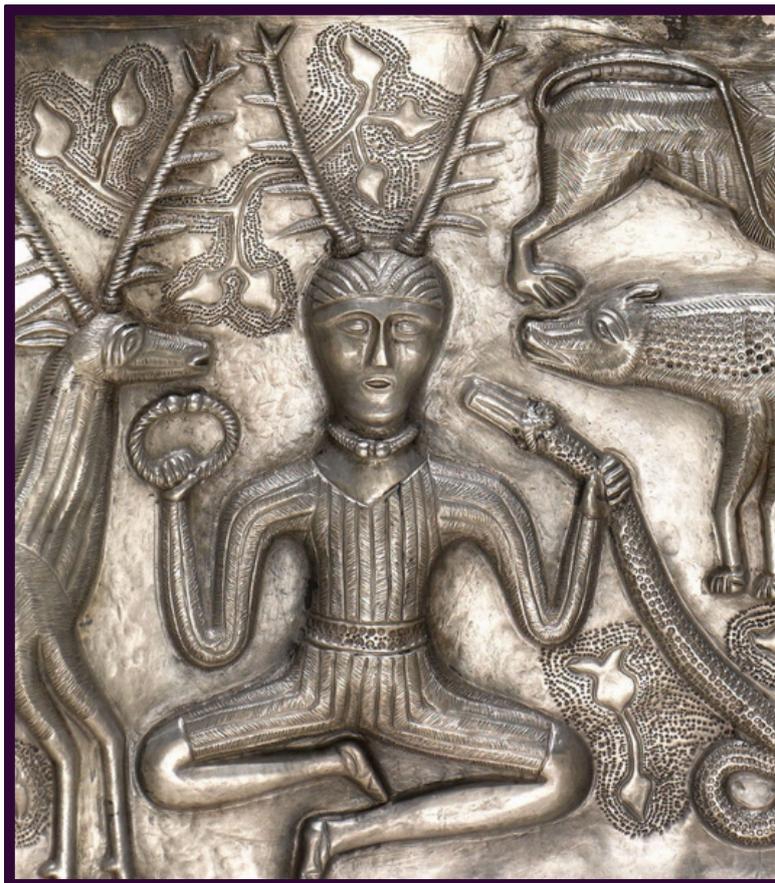
Cernunnos is connected to male animals, especially the stag in rut, associating him with long wild hair and a beard.

He has amazing antlers and he is the protector of the forest.

He is also an aspect of the Green man and God of lust and fertility. He has enormous horns which are often misinterpreted by fundamentalist as a symbol of Satan.

Today he is revered by Wiccans as an aspect of the God.

His energy is of masculinity, power and fertility.



CHAPTER 3

The Moon Phases

The Moon is represented as the feminine aspect and the sun as the masculine aspect. Witches follow the moon and we live our lives in accordance with the moon phases. The moon holds amazing, wondrous and wonderful power which is feminine. She controls water, the tides, the sap in the trees and the behaviour of humans. As we are made up of over 80% water and therefore the moons phases effects our mood.

In this chapter we will look at:

- How to Chart a Moon Phase.
- What to do and what not to do on each Moon Phase.
- Moon Phases for Love, Money and Business.
- Moon Phase Associations.



The Waxing Moon

The waxing moon is a good time to get motivated, commit to what you are building, and put your intentions into action.

A waxing moon is any phase of the moon during the lunar cycle between the new moon and the full moon.

A moon that is waxing is one that is becoming larger each night.

The lunar cycle is a period of about 29 days as the moon's shape seems to change from our vantage point on Earth.



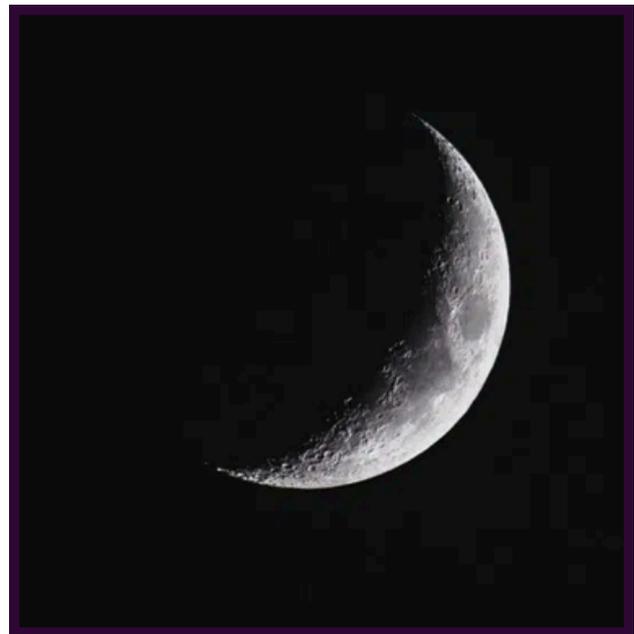
The New Moon

This is a great time for: growth and starting new projects.

New moon is for new beginnings.

A time for setting intentions, starting new projects. Also a great time to move house, find a new job or sew seeds in the vegetable garden.

New moons represent new growth.



First Quarter Moon

This is 7 – 10 days after the new moon.

This is a good time to start taking action toward your new project or plan.

This is a good time for the process of building things up, pushing things forward to manifestation.

Time to buck up your ideas. Create a ritual to bring on success



Rises at noon and sets at midnight. Sunset is the prime time for waxing moon magick.

A good time for courage, elemental magick, luck, motivation. A good time to use your instinct and intuition.

Gibbous Moon

This moon signals redirection, adjustment, and flexibility. Your plans are being challenged, and your patience is being tested.

This is a time to catch up with loose ends, changes, relax and plan on full moon workings. The working hours are between 10pm and 11pm.

10.5 days to 14 days after the new moon.

A good time for working on patience. Visualise small and large things coming towards you.



Full Moon

This moon is a time for letting go.

The Full moon is for spells for artistic endeavours, beauty, health and fitness, change and decisions, children, competition, dreams, families, health and healing, knowledge, legal undertakings, love and romance, money, motivation, protection and self improvement.

Also meditation for prophecy and power dream work. A time for balance in life or a situation, for prophecy and protection
Call on Goddess to bestow her gifts.



Isis, Ashira, Seline, or a sister of the Wyrrd are the relevant goddess. Give thanks for what you have received. A good time to study legends, for reading and for studying. For creativity and for power. For divorce, job finding and healing. Rises at sunset sets at dawn Midnight is a good working time.

Fourteen to seventeen and a half days after the new moon.



Disseminating Moon

This moon is a time to gain clarity before moving on.

The Disseminating phase is Receptive and Demonstrative. It is about communication, sharing resources and being open to transformation.

This is a time for doing banishing work such as:

- Bad habits, illness and negativity. A time to re-examine or take things apart, fix things. Work with Bast, Kore, Ceres, Demeter or Earth mothers.
- Moon rises mid-evening and sets mid-morning as its midpoint.
- 3.5 days to 7 days after full moon.
- Addictions, decisions, divorce emotions, stress, protection.
- Meditate to remove outmoded thoughts, cleaning.
- Visualisation on short and long term goals, abundance and joy.



Last Quarter, Waning Moon

This moon is a time of transition, completion and about moving on and letting go.

The waning moon is most beneficial for matters at a stage of consolidation, conservation and completion. It hampers growth and helps to remove anything not desirable. Plan or replant plants which have fruits under the ground.

A stressful and unsettled period. Your ambitions are being stirred up and there is a desire to do something very important and show everyone your soul.

However, the best way forward is to think thoroughly before doing anything and to direct your energy towards jobs planned earlier rather than ideas which have just sprung into your head now. This is a crescent shaped moon facing eastwards towards the rising sun. It is a time to release negativity, banishing support, healing especially cancers and tumours.

Mid morning to noon is the time for working. It occurs 7-10 days after the full moon. A good time to work on addictions, divorce, bad personal affairs, removing bad habit. Also a good time for visualisation on short and long term goals. Re-affirm the positives.



Dark Moon

This moon is a time to absorb and integrate everything that happened in the previous moon cycle, not a time for rushing.

Meditate on reaching within to pull out unwanted thoughts and desires, examine them and dismiss them.

Visualise positive workings. Cursing, chaos magic, which is not to be practiced. Kali, the Morrigan, Callech, Lilith, Hecate. Move within, understand angers and passions, steering the to work in a positive way.

Dealing with attackers. Mid afternoon. Around 10am is the strongest pull
10.5 – 14 days after the full moon.

Divorce, enemies, justice, decisions, quarrels, removal, separation, stalkers and theft.



Lunar Eclipse

This is a time for serious reflection, forgiveness as well as moving on.

Work on your long term plans and goals.

Perfect union of the moon and the sun.



Void of Course Moon

This is not a time for doing magic or making decisions.

Any Magickal workings undertaken during this time will not work.

However, on the other side, if something risky or difficult is going on where others could cause a problem or interrupt you, this is a good time because those who might create a problem for you can do nothing against you.



CHAPTER 4

Spell Casting

Magick happens when you step into who you truly are and embrace that which fulfills your soul. Dacha Avelin.

Creating an altar. Start by creating a basic Altar to do your magick.

To create a basic altar you can use:

- A window sill
- A fire place
- A mantelpiece
- A table

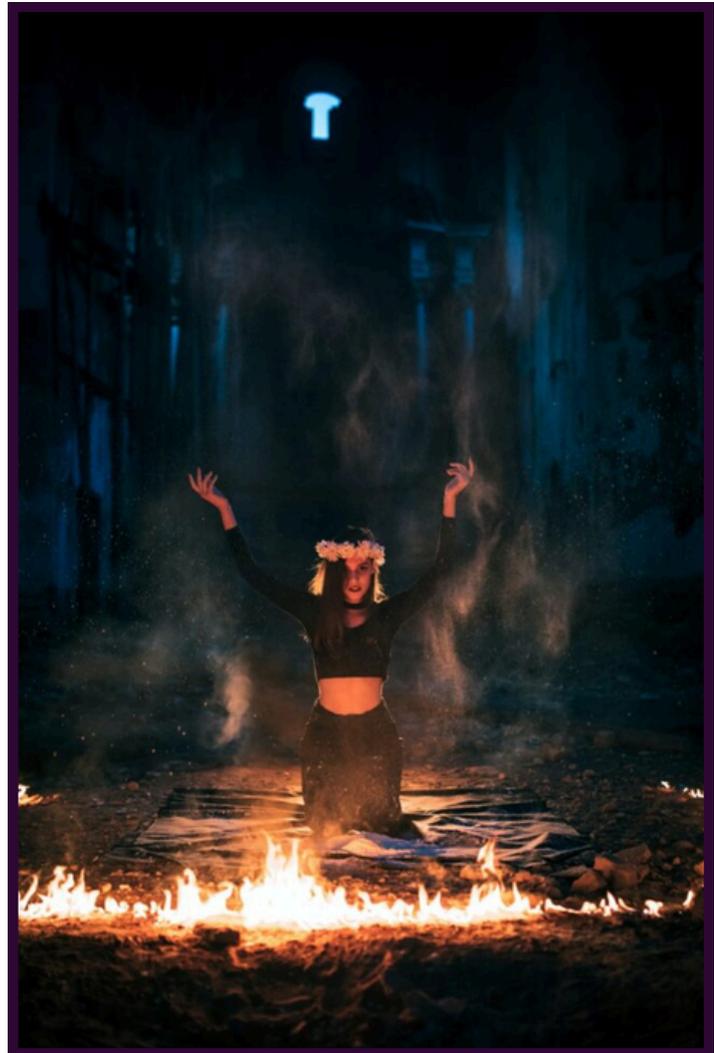


What To Put On Your Altar

Your Altar can be as elaborate or simple as you decide. You can add candles, oils, incense, crystals, representations of the Goddess and the God, a pentacle and other objects. The Altar is made personal to you or for a specific spell/purpose/season or ritual.

For a Spring Altar you might want to add primroses, images of Persephone, eggs, yellow fabric, other spring coloured objects.

For an Altar dedicated to attracting love you might want to add; red roses, rose quartz crystals, rose essential oil burner or incense, images of hearts, objects arranged in twos.



Here are some ideas of things to put on your altar:

- Candles.
- Symbols/Chalice.
- Crystals.
- A coloured cloth.
- Flowers/Leaves/Herbs.
- Money.



Witchy Tips and Spells I Created

Before casting your spell make sure you will not be interrupted. Turn your phone off...

Light scented candles, dim the lights...

Create an area/altar that's suitable for your spell casting. A table or a window sill are perfect. Spells can also be cast outside.

Cleanse the area with a natural cleaning aid, I recommend squeezing some fresh lemon/lime mixed with water. A cleaner with no toxins works well too.

Have all your ingredients ready, preparation is paramount in casting spells. Sometimes taking a day off work for your spell casting is essential to give you time to prepare. Make it a special day...

Before casting your spell take a ritual shower or ritual bath to cleanse your energy. Natural products are good for example Faith in Natures Rose body wash would be ideal.



1. LOVE SPELL (Candle Magic)

To be performed on a Friday (Venus's night) in a waxing moon phase.

Ingredients:

- Red candle and holder
- Lighter
- Rose petals or roses (red)
- Rose quartz crystals

Witches often work naked (skyclad) when working indoors to connect directly with nature, this is a personal choice or you could wear a special dress or cloak.

Concentrate on why you are casting your spell. light your candle, focus on the flame and hold your rose petals or roses. Feel the energy of love flowing through you then repeat.

Repeat 3 times becoming more passionate each time:

Lady Venus shinning bright

Bring my love for my delight

Fill my heart with love

With your power from above

Let it be

Allow the candle to burn right down, bury any part remaining with the rose petals and rose quartz crystal maybe under a rose bush or in a plant pot and thank the universe.



2. Prosperity Jar Spell

To be performed on a Thursday (Jupiters night) governs prosperity and business.

Ingredients:

- Green candle and holder
- Lighter
- Basil
- Bay leaf
- Cinnamon
- Peppermint oil
- Citrine crystal
- Green pen and paper

Put half a teaspoon of the herbs into a jar, followed by the crystal and a drop of peppermint oil then write the following...

*By Earth, Air, Fire and Water
And the energy of the moon
Money will be mine soon
Without harm to none
This work is done
Let it be*



Fold the paper 3 times towards you then put it in your jar.

Close the jar and pour a little of the candle wax onto the lid sealing it.

Keep the jar in a room you frequent.

Thank the universe for helping you.

Bury any remaining ingredients in your garden or in a plant pot with a citrine crystal, thanking the universe.



3. Anti Anxiety Spell Bag

A circle creates a **protective and energised space** for magic, separating the mundane world from the spiritual and magical realm. It helps you focus your intent and ensures a **sacred boundary** for your spellwork.

Ingredients for the Spell Bag:

- Purple candle: Represents peace and spiritual calm.
- Purple bag: A vessel to hold your spell.
- Chamomile: Symbolises relaxation and peace.
- Lemon balm: Enhances calm and clarity.
- Amethyst crystals (x2): Known for soothing properties and spiritual protection.
- Snuffler: For extinguishing candles safely without dispersing spell energy.



Preparing The Circle

- **Choose your space.** Select a quiet, undisturbed area for your ritual. Indoors or outdoors, the space should feel sacred to you.
- **Cleanse the area.** Outdoors: Clear branches and debris. Indoors: Use a natural cleaner or lavender water, placing a few drops in each corner and around the circle's perimeter.
- **Prepare your altar** and face it North. Include representations of the Goddess (silver candle) and God (yellow candle).
- **Add candles for the elements:**

Earth: Green or brown.

Air: White.

Fire: Red.

Water: Blue.

White candles can substitute any colour.

Place your ingredients and tools (candles, herbs, crystals, etc.) within the circle for easy access.



Casting The Circle

Mark the Boundary

Walk clockwise around the space, lighting the candles and creating a salt trail to define the circle.

Call the Quarters

As you face each cardinal direction, point your finger or wand to the floor and invite the elemental guardians:

North (Earth):

Guardians of the North

I bid you hail and welcome

East (Air):

Guardians of the East

I bid you hail and welcome

South (Fire):

Guardians of the South, element of fire

I bid you hail and welcome

West (Water):

Guardians of the West, element of water

I bid you hail and welcome



Cast the Circle

Face North, point your wand or finger above your head, and move clockwise, visualising a sphere forming around you. Start above your head, move down to the right, circle to the ground, then back up to the left, finishing overhead.

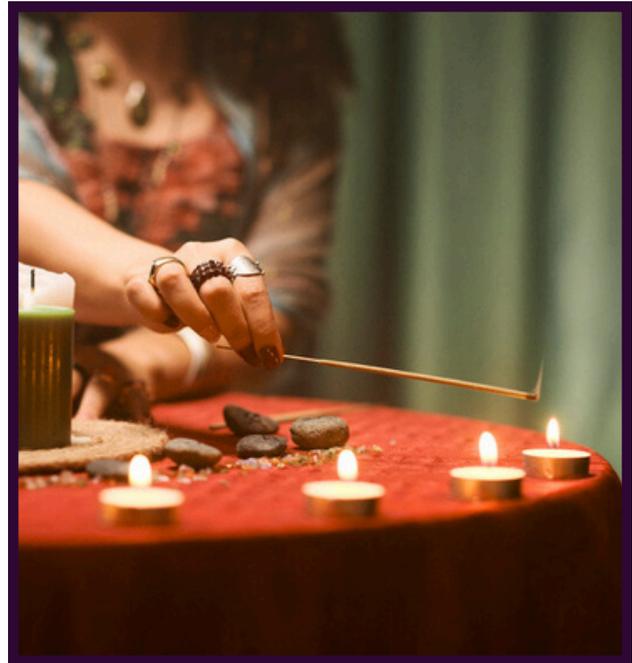
State your intention:

I ask to banish my anxiety



Performing The Spell

1. Light the purple candle to set the mood.
2. Place a pinch of chamomile and lemon balm into the purple bag.
3. Add the two amethyst crystals.
4. Hold the bag and speak your spell from the heart:
*Lord and Lady of the night sky
 Be gone anxiety and pain
 Allow only happiness and joy to remain
 Let it be*



5. Repeat the spell three times, each time visualising yourself calm and relaxed.
6. Seal the spell by tying the bag and keeping it close. Sleep with it near your bed or hold it during moments of anxiety.

Closing The Circle

Face each direction and say:

North: *Guardians of the North, I thank you and bid you farewell.*

East: *Guardians of the East, I thank you and bid you farewell.*

South: *Guardians of the South, I thank you and bid you farewell.*

West: *Guardians of the West, I thank you and bid you farewell.*

Walk counterclockwise, pointing your wand or finger to the ground, and visualise the circle's energy returning to the earth.

Snuff out the candles one by one, giving thanks for their guidance and energy.

Bury any unused ingredients with gratitude in a natural place away from your home.



Candle Magick

“Magick is just science that we don’t understand yet.”

-Arthur C Clarke

Candle magic is one of the most popular forms of spell casting used by witches.

There are many different techniques to use. The one I’m about to show you is my particular favourite.

Before creating magick and spell casting it’s really important to have a Ritual Bath or Ritual Shower to cleanse your energy. Try to use natural products and organic if possible. I suggest lavender, sea salt or adding some fresh herbs but the preference is yours...

Make sure that the phone is switched off as you don’t want any interruptions. Before you start, it’s important to raise your energy.



Raising Your Energy

- There are several ways to do this.
- Meditation is good or raising energy through dance is effective.
- When you feel energised and you have your magical tools ready, start by casting your circle in the east pointing your wand or athame towards the floor moving in a clockwise (deosil) direction until you have reached east again.
- Point your wand above you towards the sky and in clockwise motion cast and finish casting your circle. Then call the spirits above and below followed by the Goddess and the God.



Candle Spells



Mix your ingredients with a little olive oil and anoint your candle from the top to the middle, turning clockwise while visualising your desired outcome. Repeat by turning the candle upside down.

Light the candle, focus on the flame, and visualise your desire manifesting.

Thank the quarters, spirits, and the Goddess & God, then take down your circle. Start at the east and move anti-clockwise, thanking each quarter. Finish by pointing your wand upwards and moving it anti-clockwise.

When the candle burns out, bury any remnants with herbs and crystals as an offering to the universe. Never leave a candle unattended.



Candle magic is one of the **fastest forms of magic.**

Here are some candle magick spells you can do for Love, Protection and Prosperity:

Love

Rose quartz, rose oil, ylang oil, jasmine, rose petals, red candle.

Protection

Black tourmaline, black candle, sandalwood, black pepper, rose thorns.

Prosperity

Green candle, mint and cedar, basil, citrine crystal



Spell Casting



A spell is the coming together of universal energy and mind power including the sub-conscious.

Witches have altars and they can be as elaborate or as simple as we choose.

Altars can be made up of representations of the goddess and the god, candles, oils and incense, crystals and a pentacle.

The Wiccan Rede – harm none do what though wilt.



CHAPTER 6

Cleansing, Consecration & Altars

First **decide on the space for the altar** and then **decide on the purpose**. You may have a permanent altar that you refresh with the moon phases or seasons or one that you change regularly.

You could have an altar for:

- Magickal rituals
- Meditation
- A seasonal altar
- Altar for a particular god or goddess.

Ideas of things to put on your altar:

- Candles
- Symbols
- Chalice
- Crystals
- A coloured cloth
- Flowers/Leaves/Herbs
- Money



What To Put On Your Altar

Your Altar can be as elaborate or simple as you decide. You can add candles, oils, incense, crystals, representations of the Goddess and the God, a pentacle and other objects. The Altar is made personal to you or for a specific spell/purpose/season or ritual.

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Cleansing Your Tools

Cleansing an item is the same as cleaning it on a spiritual level. This clears any past vibrations or energy. This is essential before working with your tools (i.e crystals, wand or candles etc). Burn sage, and passing the tool through its smoke is popular with many witches or you can bury the tool in the earth or run spring water over them.

Consecrating an object is to make it sacred by an act of blessing. There are a number of ways to consecrate an item.

My Consecration Method

Say a blessing over your tool and dedicate its use to your Goddess. I tend to keep this simple but it's effective. Remember that once you have consecrated an object to treat it as a sacred and special tool of the craft.

Charging Your Tools

Charging something is to give it positive energy. The method you choose depends entirely on your preference. For example, if you wanted to charge a candle, hold it and raise your energy to align with the purpose of your spell. If you were casting a love spell hold the candle and immerse yourself in the energy of love.

Witches often meditate, dance or chant to raise their vibrational energy, then they would take hold of one of their tools of the craft which needed charging and allow the high vibration to flow into your magick tool. Finally you could also place an object under bright moonlight of the Full Moon to charge your magick tools as this is also a simple but effective way to charge them. But more importantly, always choose what feels right for you.



Casting A Sacred Circle

Casting a circle is just a part of performing a large spell or beginning a ritual.

There are multiple ways to cast a circle. This is the way most do it, including myself. First, are the tools.

Creating an altar. Start by creating a basic Altar to do your magick.

To create a basic altar you can use:

- A window sill
- A fire place
- A mantelpiece
- A table

You will need:

- Candles.
- Incense, and any sort of protective/banishing herb.
- Rosemary
- Salt (optional).
- Athame, besom, wand (optional).
- Chalice or some spring water-filled cup.

Before beginning the circle, cleanse your space. This could be using incense or sage or palo santo (I suggest not using certain types of sage because it is an endangered plant).

After the space is cleansed, place the tools for your spell/ritual where you want the circle to be.



Casting a circle is essentially creating a ring of protection around yourself. In order to do this, most call upon the elements/ directions.



Start by marking your circle with your wand or athame by pointing towards the ground and moving clockwise (deosil).

Then do the same with salt water, by sprinkling it and moving clockwise around the circle, this brings forward protection. You then move again around your circle with incense, this energises your circle.

Then call the quarters.

For example, you might say something along the lines of:

I call upon the watchtowers of the East, I bid you hale and welcome.

Then you would place something that represents air, this could be a incense or a feather for example, inside where the circle will be. Point your wand or athame to the East direction, then you move slowly to the South.

Then you call upon the South, (which represents fire):

I call upon the watchtowers of the South, I bid you hale and welcome.



This is when you might light a candle inside where the circle will be. Point your wand or athame to the South direction, then you move slowly to the west.



Next, you call upon the West, (which represents water):

I call upon the watchtowers of the West, I bid you hale and welcome.

This is when a chalice filled with water is placed inside where the circle will be. Point your wand or athame to the West direction, then you move slowly to the North.

Then when facing North, (which represents earth) you call upon the North:

I call upon the watchtowers of the North, I bid you hale and welcome.

This is when a chalice filled with water is placed inside where the circle will be. Point your wand or athame to the North direction.

When all of the elements are called upon, you then **invoke the Goddess and the God**. You might want to work with specific Goddess and Gods for example if you are casting a love spell you could work with Venus, do what feels right for you.

When the circle has been cast, sit inside of it and say the following:

To the powers above, may no negative energy enter this circle.

Then, visualise the outcome of your spell as if it has already begun. This is where you are focusing your magickal energy to “manifest” your spell.



Once the spell has been cast (completed), you then have to **close your circle down**.

In order to close your circle in the correct manner you have to move in an **anti-clockwise motion** (widdershins), thanking all the watchtowers you have just called upon.

Stand in the East and say:

Watchtowers of the East element of air, thank you for the energy in this circle I bid you hale and farewell.

Then move to the North (of your circle).

Stand in the North and say:

Watchtowers of the North element of earth, thank you for the energy in this circle I bid you hale and farewell.

Then move to the West (of your circle).

Stand in the West and say:

Watchtowers of the West element of water, thank you for the energy in this circle I bid you hale and farewell.

Then move to the South (of your circle).

Stand in the South and say:

Watchtowers of the South element of fire, thank you for the energy in this circle I bid you hale and farewell.



You have now thanked all the watchtowers. You then have to **thank the Goddess and God in the circle.**

Then snuffle out your candles (Never blow out your candles as this will blow away the energy and magick of the spell you have just cast), put out your incense, sweep the salt or energy away.

At the end say:
So mote it be.

Then walk out of the circle.

Then bury anything else thats left as well as leaving a crystal as a gift in exchange for your spell as a gift to the Goddess.



*For Health and Safety – NEVER LEAVE A LIT CANDLE UNATTENDED.



CHAPTER 8

Scrying & Divination

Scrying is a magickal art and practice makes perfect. The practice of scrying is a tool to see the future.

There are different types of scrying. For example, a crystal ball can be used to see the future, a black obsidian mirror, a bowl of water with black ink or the witch of old would sit by a pond on a Full Moon and see what images the moon Goddess revealed to her.



Divination is a popular way to gather information on people or events, past, present or future. Witches are renowned for having tarot cards as her best friend but pendulums are also very popular with witches.

A three card tarot reading is useful to see past present and future. A pendulum can be used for yes or no answers. Also ask your pendulum each time you work with it if you are female and see which way it swings then ask if you are male and again see which way it swings, thus you have yes or no answers.

Before working with the arts it's important to relax and get in the mood, cleanse your cards by passing them over a flame or incense and cleanse your pendulum with the full moon energy or spring water.



CHAPTER 9

Wheel Of The Year

The Wheel of the Year is an ancient magickal calendar based on the transition of the sun through the four seasons:

Spring. Summer. Autumn. Winter.

There are eight main sabbats that make up the Wheel:

Samhain. Yule. Imbolc. Ostara. Beltane. Litha. Lammas. Mabon.



Samhain

This marks the beginning and the end of the witch's year. This is the last of the three harvest festivals and represents the full turn of the wheel of the year.

At this Sabbat the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest. It is a time for remembrance when we look back over the past year and say goodbye while wishing each other good luck for the coming year.

The god descends to the underworld and the goddess becomes crone. The dead and ancestors are remembered and honoured.

It is a time for divination and prophecy, a time to gaze into the cauldron of wisdom. It is a festival where we honour the dead.

We enter darkness and say goodbye to the Mother Goddess and thank her for the bounties of the harvest. We welcome the crone aspect of the goddess who will guide us through the dark half of the year and give us a new start to look forward to.

Enjoy the dark days of rest and look forward to the changes that are to come.

Decorate your altar with black and orange candles, carved pumpkins and flowers.



Yule

Yule or Winter Solstice is celebrated between the 20 -23 depending on the actual time of the solstice.

The shortest day and longest night. It is celebrated by fires and a traditional Yule log. A time to bring greenery into the home for abundance for the coming year. A time to decorate a tree with lights to brighten the dark nights.

The colours of the season are red and green. Holly is gathered as part of our tradition and it's a special time of celebration where we give presents.



Imbolc

Imbolc marks the end of darkness and the awakening of the land, symbolising growth and the return of Spring. The goddess is a virgin, discovering her potential as mother and crone, while the young god grows in strength. They recognise each other as companions destined for love and unity.

Known as the fire festival, Imbolc celebrates purification and preparation for new beginnings. It's a time to let go of the past, embrace laughter, and reconnect with your inner child. Decorate your altar with white candles and flowers, sow seeds, and welcome inspiration for the light half of the year.



Ostara

Ostara is a celebration of new life on earth. You can feel the “sap” rising and all around feel fertility in the air. The young god is armed with the knowledge of his creative power. He is initiated into the mysteries of his sexuality and his ability to become father and a wise old man. The god and the goddess look at each other with longing and dance together in the spring air.

Spring has arrived. Life is waking up everywhere, plants and animals are being born. Light and dark stand equal, a time to celebrate the balance of time and harmony. Seek out the Ostara hare who will bring not only eggs but freedom and courage.

Traditionally the time to buy a new besom or make a new staff.

Decorate your altars with spring flowers and burn light green candles.



Beltane

Beltane is the time when the friendship of the maiden and the young god becomes courtship and they join together in the Great Rite. Feel the thrill of the chase, the excitement of falling in love and their first sexual experience as they come together for the first time on this night. Their coming together ensures fertility to the earth and the goddess becomes pregnant with the god, who she will give birth to in the depths of winter.

It is a time of great festivity and celebration of life with outdoor feasting and bonfires to light the proceedings.

It is the time of the maypole dance, the symbolic dance of the sexual fire, the maypole winding its way in a spiral like the spirals of DNA.

Whilst we celebrate the union of the God and Goddess, as they make life, we look at our own creativity, and assess whether there are any changes or improvements we could make to our lives.

The Beltane fire is burned and jumped to ensure fertility through the year. It is said to be lucky to blacken your face with the ashes of the fire. The morning dew is said to keep you young and beautiful so collect it and wash your face in it!

Decorate your altar with red and white flowers and tie ribbons in your favourite trees.



Litha

Litha is the longest day of the year, when the creative powers of the goddess and god are at their peak. This is the time for the Midsummer celebration, the sun king in all his glory. The longest day and the shortest night.

The goddess is now mother and ripe as the baby conceived on Beltane grows within her.

The god is strong and virile and at the height of his power, but from this day on the sun god will wane as the days grow shorter and the waning year commences. We spend time recognising that with achievement comes change. We accept that with the constant turning of the wheel of the year nothing stays the same. We journey on growing and changing as we go.

Spend time outside in the sun absorbing its life giving powers to store for the waning half of the year. Forget past cares and settle old differences. Take stock of the year so far and discard tasks that you have yet to complete and that now seem to have no meaning for you.

It is also a time for reflection and sadness as the light will begin to decline and the days start to shorten, we are moving towards winter.

The summer solstice begins with the Oak King in power but he gives way to the Holly King at the close of the festival.



Lammas

Lammas is the time when the first harvest of grain begins and is turned into life, sustaining bread and brew. It is the first of the three Harvest celebrations. The bounty of life is celebrated and the Celtic corn god, Lugh, was sacrificed, He dies so that we may live and eat. The goddess sees with sadness that the strength of the sun god is fading, but lives on inside her as her child, in cutting the corn the seed is gathered, ensuring new life.

We count our blessings and give thanks for the plentiful harvest. We acknowledge the gods sacrifice by promising to make a sacrifice for others in need of assistance. Think again on your projects and how they are progressing.

This is the traditional time for Hand-Fasting (pagan weddings). Make bread and jam and cut your herbs in preparation to dry. Decorate your altar with green and yellow candles.

Lammas marks the last day of summer and the return of autumn.



Mabon

Mabon is the second harvest celebration as the rest of the grain is stored for winter. Day and night are equal and the god prepares to leave his physical body ready for his spirit descent into the underworld.

Here we have the balance of day and night, light and dark. Time to enjoy the fruits of our labour. We look forward to the darkening days of autumn and assess what we have learned and achieved so far. It is a time for finishing things off and preparing for the winter months.

It is a time to reflect on the balance within our lives.

The goddess prepares to say farewell to the god as she herself becomes crone and grows older and wise to offer us wisdom, healing and rest in the winter months. Dark is on the ascendant, and the second harvest is stored away for winter.

The God having laid down his life for the harvest is about to cross over in to the Shadow lands. Soon he will rest in the arms of the Goddess waiting to be re-born.

A time to reflect on what it is to be a witch: a time of renewal or vows and initiations.

Decorate your altar with pinecones, acorns and autumn leaves.

