

WICCA STARTER KIT

WITCHCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS

# WITCHCRAFT



2 BOOKS IN 1  
WITCHCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS AND WICCA STARTER KIT  
BECOME A MODERN WITCH USING  
MOON SPELLS, TAROTS, HERBAL CANDLE  
AND CRYSTAL MAGICK. FIND YOUR OWN  
PATH LIVING A MAGICAL LIFE

JOY CUNNINGHAM

# Witchcraft

*2 books in 1*

-Witchcraft for Beginners and Wicca Starter Kit- Become a modern witch using moon spells, tarots, herbal, candle and crystal magick, find your own path living a magical life

Joy Cunningham

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# **WITCHCRAFT FOR BEGINNERS**

*A basic guide for modern witches to find their own path and start practicing to learn spells and magic rituals using esoteric and occult elements like herbs and crystals*

*Joy Cunningham*

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## Introduction to Witchcraft

When most people hear the word witchcraft, many associations and culturally relevant images are summoned; black cats, broom sticks, pointy hats, *Harry Potter*, *The Wizard of Oz*, just to name a few. Witchcraft as a practice is often thought to be connected to cult activity, ones that focus on blood-sacrifices, strange séances to conjure demons, and the ability to control people and objects by simply harnessing the powers of your mind. Witchcraft is commonly linked to the supernatural, and thus more often than not considered to fall under the category of ‘fantasy’ as a practice. Witchcraft is the stuff of Halloween decorations and pranks, silly childhood imaginings and something only the weird neighbor down the street believes in, right?

If you’ve made it this far in the guide, you must not believe everything listed above is an entirely accurate representation of something more and more people are taking seriously in their lives. The art of practicing witchcraft is no longer a notion of the old-world, where women were burned alive for possibly identifying as one for placing curses on the townspeople. Although this is an important part of the history of witchcraft, it is not linked directly to the actual tangible practice of the art. Moreover, it is art, just as the practice of mindfulness and meditation are considered art forms that take time and dedication to put into practice and be understood. For whatever reason that is your own, you have arrived here to seek some form of self-understanding, and for that bravery, you are saluted.

Witchcraft as a whole is difficult to define and categorize. There are many areas all over the world with people who participate in it, who call themselves witches, those who do not call themselves witches, and those who self-



identify as being a part of the religion of Wicca. The terminology might initially seem confusing, but it is your responsibility as an individual to choose how you are going to self-identify along with journey of enlightenment. It is also the responsibility of other individuals of whom you might meet along the way to decide what category they choose to fall under. It is always up to the individual and the individual alone to decide upon the wordings they relay to others when it comes to their particular brand of witchcraft.

In a general sense, witchcraft is defined as behaviors that fall under the categorization of casting spells that either have a positive or negative effect on the individual focused on. This guide though is going to focus on the abilities that fall under the category of what it means to practice modern witchcraft, all in which (pun intended) are actions that positively affect others or the individual practicing the spells. This modern form of witchcraft is called Wicca, founded by English born Gerald Gardner in 1954. Gardner is responsible for the kind of witchcraft that will be spoken about in this book, which is also defined as a contemporary Pagan religious movement. Modern Paganism is sometimes referred to as Neopaganism, because it longs to separate itself from the original form of Paganism that had negative associations with animal sacrifices and cult-like behaviors. Paganism though, as general definition, is an umbrella term for religious or non-religious beliefs in multiple Gods or deities.

However, we will dive further into the history of witchcraft in the next chapter. Let's try to focus on exploring why seeking out a book such as this might be just what you've been looking for.

So why do people want to become a witch, or practice witchcraft? Try to keep an open while developing your interest in witchcraft, and to reject your



former pop culture related assumptions about it. Try to begin thinking of it in the way that some people need to pray in the morning or night, some people go for walks with their dog, some people do yoga, some people meditate. Practicing witchcraft is the same as any of the above listed activities. It is an act that promotes self-awareness, healing, and all around well-being of the individual the ritual or spell is focusing on. Perhaps you have come across witchcraft because someone in your life already practices it; maybe you know a fair amount about it, or maybe you know very little. At this point, it is absolutely fine to admit the stereotypes that are conjured in your mind, but if you truly want to dedicate yourself to this practice, you must work on letting them go.

This book will do its best to guide you in the direction that most suits your personality, needs, values, and desires in your life. All are relevant on the path of becoming a witch, following Wicca, or learning witchcraft. Try to think of it as a journey to self-discovery than anything with a negative or malevolent related connection. The difference between the kind of practices that seek to summon 'evil' spirits, or simply wish to do harm upon others will also be defined and separated from the definition of the practices of the modern witch.

There will be a section that discusses objects and items that would help your witchcraft experience feel more smooth and enhanced. Some of the objects are necessary, while the rest will act as voluntary, should you desire to continue down this path of self-discovery and want to deepen your connection to yourself and the energy around you. Do not feel pressured to spend lots of money; practicing witchcraft is not meant to drain your wallet. However, please be aware of some websites and retail stores that long to trick you and advertise some of these items as necessary. They want to take

advantage of your new found drive toward self-learning, so don't be fooled or discouraged.

A person who practices witchcraft could be anyone, and don't have to fit the appearance of the long-skirted, bead-wearing stranger who dances around a fire in their backyard. As you come to learn, there is some truth to these stereotypes, but they do not completely summarize what it means to be a modern witch in North American society. If you really want it, a witch can look just like you.

## **Chapter 1: A Brief History of Witchcraft**

The word witchcraft has a variety of associations, as previously stated. This is due to multi-faceted historical inferences that fall under various religions, and are heavily dependent upon period in which it was applied as well as the area of the world. This chapter is going to attempt to summarize the history of the word, and the practices associated with it in all areas of the world, and eventually connected it to the kind of witchcraft that this book will outline for you to begin your journey. Culturally and societally, we will be focusing on the Practice of those who identify as a Wiccan, but it doesn't mean you will have to if you want to practice the spells.

Traditionally, witchcraft was once associated with anything that reflects the concept of evil. Devils, demons, and abilities summoned in order to because harm to the innocent is what most people associated the term with. It is still associated in a negatively valences manner in cultures in Africa and traditional Native American communities. Historically the pervasive battle between good and evil included the practice of witchcraft for selfish gains since the condemnation of it in the Old Testament Laws. Christian beliefs about the actions being associated with devil worship and satanic sacrifice still exists today, and this is due to a long history of Christian persecution of people they supposed as witches in the Western world.

Christian influence on the view of witchcraft was born in Europe around the year 500 and thrived onward until 1750, slowly making its way over into North America and creating the famous Salem Witch trials. A pattern you are going to see emerging through the telling of the history of witchcraft, especially the accusation of it, is that it was mainly women who were

persecuted. The Western association with witchcraft began in the 14th and 15th century, where accusations were beginning to increase due to constant unrest within the countries. Individuals who expressed a pagan belief, which is a word that Christians used to describe people who did not identify with Christian ideologies or other of the world's most followed religions, and of whom worshipped multiple Gods or deities. A belief in multiple Gods is called polytheism, and it is the chief principle of a person who identifies as Pagan. The accusations of witchcraft and trials of apparent witches reached its peak in Europe in Germany from 1561 to 1670. The concept of witchcraft being linked to the devil and evil practices existed before Christianity came around, but was more amplified once Christianity took a hold on the Western world.

One of the most famous outburst of witch related societal phobias is the Salem Witch Trials in Colonial Massachusetts from 1692 to 1693. Although the prosecution of supposed witches was dimming down in Europe, certain areas of the United States had caught on later to such concepts of the devil and demonic possessions of mainly women. Before the outbreak of various accusations in Massachusetts, an Irish woman named Ann Glover was tried and executed for being responsible for casting a spell on the Goodwin family children. She worked for the Goodwin family as a housekeeper, and was accused of bewitching the children due to apparent ill, 'strange behavior.' A doctor could not find the cause of their issues, and then diagnosed them as being under the influence of witchcraft. She was tried and executed that year. Three years later, two young girls begin acting similarly as the Goodwin family and are also formally diagnosed by their doctor as being inflicted by witchcraft. The rush of accusations, informal trials, arrests and accusations all resolve around the notion of what was then categorized as 'strange' behavior

by women. Some sporadic witch-hunts that occurred in both Europe and the United States were fuelled by the popularity of Christianity and the constant association between the devil and malevolent influences.

Despite the negative history of witch-hunts and trials in late Europe and the United States, there still existed a reference to 'good' witches during these periods. Witch doctors, sorcerers, were often connected with healers and those who use the earth as medicinal method of recovery and understanding. These kinds of witches are sometimes referred to as 'white witches', especially by those who practice Wicca and follow its values and belief system.

Wicca though, or Gardnerianism witchcraft, is not meant to be confused with traditional witchcraft. Traditional witchcraft is still practiced today, but rejects the notion posed by the creators of Wicca, and thus practice 'older' methods of witchcraft. It is a broad term that describes various forms of contemporary witchcraft and contemporary pagan beliefs. Some examples of what could fall under the category of traditional witchcraft is Satanism and Luciferianism. Satanism is not what most people think it is; the evil, devil-worship of a malicious figure who practice sacrificial rituals. Those who practice Satanism see Satan as liberating figure, and in a much more positive light as a symbol for individualism, free will, and enlightenment. Luciferianism is on the other hand a system of beliefs in Lucifer as one of the many morning stars referenced in the bible. Lucifer is seen here as a symbolic figure, a fallen angel, and does not revere the devil or the concept of Satan. Satanism was once connected with witches and accusations, but modern Satanism simply uses the image of Satan as a rebellious figure. Neither of these forms of belief systems or religious affiliations are connected to the

contemporary white witch practice that is described in this book. So don't worry, you won't be performing any satanic rituals.

Wicca, also referred to as Pagan witchcraft, is a contemporary Pagan new religious movement that began to pick up speed in the Western world between 1921 and 1950 in England. Gerald Gardner is known as the Father of Wicca, and was inspired by the writings of Margret Murray, who wrote several scholarly articles on the concept of rejecting the old-concepts of witchcraft that led to the persecution of many women and men during the Witch Hunts across Europe. Gardner was an anthropologist with a familiarity with paganism and occultism (the belief in the use or summoning of magic), and was initiated into what is called a Witches Coven ( a group of 3-13 witches) in New Forest, Hampshire in the late 1930s. He founded the Bracket Wood Coven with his wife in the 1940s, and continued encouraging Wicca as practiced religion that separated itself from old associations with satanic worship and rituals.

Wicca as a religious practice eventually moved over from Europe to the United States during the 1960s era of counterculture. It developed, and thus branched off into several other sub-versions as its popularity as an eccentric following reached out to those interested in the New Age movement. According to a survey conducted in 2008, more than 342,000 Americans self-identify as being Wiccan. Wicca is a religion that seems to appeal mainly to those of British, North American, Australian, congenital European and South African descent. The practice of those who follow the Wiccan tradition will be what is most referenced to in this beginners guide.

It is important to note that there are occurrences around the world in different

countries that still accuse, persecute, and execute individuals for being witches. These countries beliefs and practices are dependent upon the societal projection of what it means to practice witchcraft as well as how the culture has grown over time to reference it. This is not meant as a way to categorize the Wicca or western belief of witchcraft to be that of correct, and other countries to be incorrect, but is posed to be assessed within the context of particular culture. For example, there are three sections of classifications of those who use magic in Southern Africa. A “tagati” is incorrectly translated often into the English word ‘witch,’ and is defined as a person who acts in secret to harm others. A ‘sangoma’ is a person who is like a fortune teller, identifier of illness, and a person of whom can find who is guilty of a particular crime. Lastly, the ‘inyanga’ is often translated into ‘witch doctor,’ but perpetuates the concept of a person who practices magic that does harm to others. This person in the classical definition must heal and provide people magical objects that help them in their daily routine.

There are many areas in the world that do continue to use violence against people, mainly women, in the name of witch accusation. Again, this is best to be explored with an unbiased mind that takes into account the historical and cultural context of the area where the witch-hunt is taking place.

Due to the Western world’s observation of the witch-hunt and various trials usually prosecuting women, the practice of witchcraft and the dedication to Wicca as a modern religion has many links to feminism. Women, in both the Western world and through the eyes of other cultures all over the world, have historically been associated with overt sexuality, and thus the desire to oppress that sexuality. Witches, and other female associated supernatural and mythological figures, have been said to use their sexuality to cast spells and



lure others into their evil-doing ways. Contemporary witchcraft could be seen as a direct rebellion against those stereotypes and accusations, giving women a platform to feel empowered. Depictions of strong female characters in stories that include witches like *Harry Potter* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* reclaim and reject the old concept that women are inherently evil and closely connected to the devil.

Therefore, if you are a woman, you may be seeking an outlet in which you can exert control and develop a deeper understanding of your life. If you do not identify as a woman, than that is okay too. Practicing witchcraft is meant for anyone who is looking for a path of self-discovery.

As previously mentioned, there are various offshoots of Wicca and Wiccan-like practices that you can easily look up for yourself should you be struggling with how you want to identify yourself. However, for now, try to focus on reading through this guide and learning about the spells, ideals, values, and practices that most appeal to you as person. You don't need to dedicate yourself to a religion at this point.

Now, you have read over the brief telling of what it means to be practicing witchcraft. Old, inaccurate notions that continue to thrive in ill-informed circles may have made you believe that you are going to be sacrifices a goat if you want to get an A on your next exam. However, none of that is going to be asked of you. In fact, none of the spells or charms described in this book are going to harm anyone, whether it be a human, an animal, or yourself. This is a general summary of Wicca and Wiccan practices that have nothing to do with bringing about something negative into another person's world. So if you are looking for a book that will make your ex's car engine not start, to

encourage your mother or father-in-law to forget the cake in the oven, this may not be the book for you. Hexes and curses may exist in other categories of Wicca, but this book is going to focus on the positive harnessing of energy into good outcomes that benefit you and others most important to you in your life. As you will learn in the next chapter, this kind of witch and witchcraft is referred to as practices of the 'white' witch.

## Chapter 2: Being a Wiccan and Being a Witch

This chapter is meant to help to further help you identify which category you are going to fall into should you start practicing witchcraft on a consistent basis. The term witchcraft and Wicca are often used interchangeably, as well as the term of a witch. It can get confusing, so this section is meant to make it a little easier to understand the different labels and terminologies, so you can further develop your own sense of what it means to practice witchcraft.

First, as previously stated witchcraft refers to the worldview and practices associated with rituals that are believed [\[1\]](#)“to harness and focus cosmic psychic energies to bring about some desired change”. These actions and practices are also known as magic. Modern witchcraft as it is known today is apparently the largest subset of Neo-paganism, which translates literally to a new-paganism. Within those who practice witchcraft, the largest section of approximately 600,000 people in the United States identify as a Wiccan. This means that they follow Wicca as a religion. Wicca was recognized as officially being a religion in the United States in 1985, and since has branched off into several other subsets of it, such as Alexandrian Wicca, Algard Wicca, Georgian Wicca, Druidic Wicca, Seax-Wica, Dianic Wicca, and Eclectic Wicca.

The original Wicca, also called Gardnerian Wicca named after the creator, was described in the previous chapter. Although its practice contains rituals and spells that resemble witchcraft, historians have noted that it has very little similarity to that of traditional witchcraft, especially due to the focus on

doing no harm; “An’ it harm none, do what ye will”, said by the Wiccan priestess Doreen Valiente in the early 1960s.

The differences between the smaller subsections of Wicca are often small. Alexandrian Wicca was founded by Alex Sanders in 1960, and is often confused with the traditional Gardnerian Wicca. Their differences lie within the names of their tools use, deity and elemental games differing, as well as small changes within the rules of what is needed to practice certain rituals.

Algard Wicca is a fusion of both Alexandrian and Gardnerian Wicca, founded in 1972.

Dianic Wicca differs greatly from the original, older traditions in which Wicca grew out of. This section of Wicca did not extend out of Britain, the way the ones previously mentioned did. Dianic Wicca is a strictly feminist tradition, growing out of the United States that focuses solely on the importance of the Goddess rather than constantly pushing the notion of gender polarity of the original Gardnerian tradition. (Traditional Wicca celebrates the union of a male God and a female Goddess.) This form of Wicca focuses on the plight faced by woman, and applies a very female-centered focused approach to all issues as they arise.

Druidic Wicca believes that all nature is God-like and that everything in nature is connected. Little is known about the rituals and magic applied, as Druids have historically been known to maintain their history through oral communication sole. They have more of a metaphysical element within their traditions and beliefs than the original Gardnerian Wicca does.

Solitary Wicca is the kind of Wicca that most people practice in the modern

world, when they are first introduced and drawn into the religion. Clearly, due to the title, this form of Wicca is practiced alone, without the use of a coven; which is a group of witches of whom practice spells and rituals together and meet during certain times of the year that are most important in the Wiccan Calendar. This is more than likely where you are going to begin your journey, should you choose to identify with the core beliefs of what it means to be Wiccan (which will be listed later).

Eclectic Wicca is the practice of one's own Wiccan traditions, or the blending of other traditions into one's own practice. This form of Wicca doesn't strictly follow one set of rules in accordance to practice.

Now that you have learned about the different kinds of Wiccan traditions, it is time to talk about the concept of witchcraft and how it is linked, or not linked to being a Wiccan. As this book strives to focus on the spells and magic (spelled with a 'k' in the Wiccan religion), the concept of being a Wiccan is going to sit separate from these actions independently. Witchcraft is precisely that; the actions that attempt to have influence over energy and outcomes in our daily lives with specific tools. However, as previously stated, it is highly dependent upon who you ask as to whether or not they categorize their practices and beliefs under the umbrella catchall term of witchcraft. Some people who practice magic, belong to covens, or participate in rituals do not call what they are doing witchcraft, as they do not enjoy the negative association with the word 'witch' and its historical connotations. That goes the same for those who do not want to call themselves a witch; the term may be too embedded within pop culture references for a person to feel like they can claim it.

Then there are others who use the term witch as a method of re-claiming a

title that one had such a negative association ; they take pride in their title as witches because they are living as modern example as to why the previous beliefs and assumptions about witches were incorrect.

Therefore, in simplicity, you do not have to be Wiccan to practice witchcraft, nor do you have to practice witchcraft to be Wiccan. Many people who do not practice witchcraft do not call themselves witches for this reason, but still commit themselves to the core beliefs that Wicca promotes. There are many forms of witchcraft that have existed, and still do exist, outside the realm of Wicca and its other subsections. In fact, there are so many other versions of Wicca, non-Wicca witchcraft, and forms of Paganism that make the forging of one's own spiritual path so intriguing, simply because it does not rely on a rigid list of rules that one must abide by.

## **Chapter 3: How to Begin Learning Witchcraft**

Now that you have learned a little bit about the history of witchcraft and Wicca, it is time to learn about some steps that you could take if you are serious about becoming a witch or mastering the art of witchcraft. As previously stated, if you are uncomfortable with this terminology, feel free to insert your own words through the suggested practices. In addition, the label of witch is a gender-neutral term, and applies to anyone and everyone who chooses to follow this spiritual path.

Because this book is focusing on witchcraft that is encouraged in Wicca, we are going to go over some of the core beliefs of those who identify as Wiccan. If you want to go in the direction of becoming a witch, or simply want to learn more about what being Wiccan is all about, continue to read on. This chapter should help you further understand what it means to practice witchcraft in a positive energy-harnessing manner.

### **The Core Wiccan Beliefs**

Unlike other popular religions, Wicca does not rely on a single formative text that lays out exactly how a Wiccan should think or behave. The following is a list of the most similar elements of each extension of Wicca, which seem to shape the religion in a consistent fashion.

#### *The Goddess and The God*

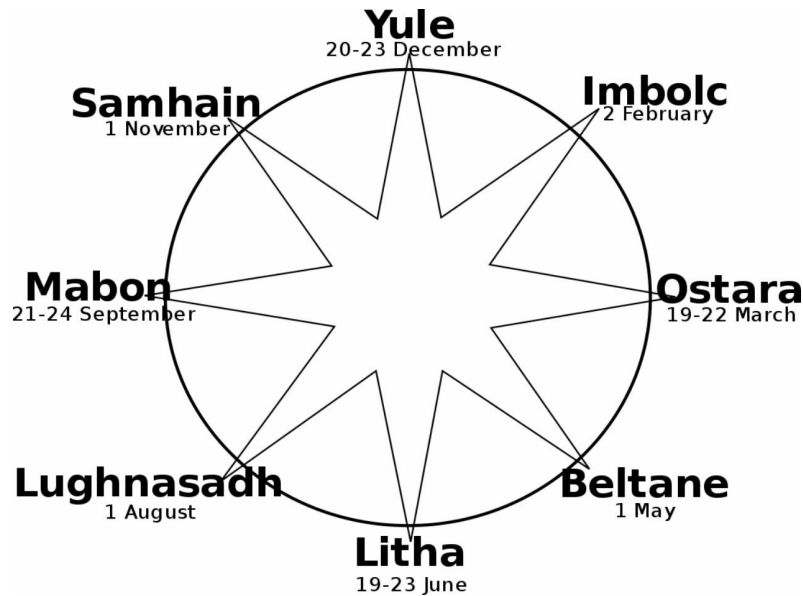
As previously stated, traditional Wiccan's tend to believe in a gender polarity



of a God and a Goddess. It is believed that they act as a duo of life forces that are responsible for all of creation. They are also responsible for the cycles of life and death on the planet earth. They are honored at every Wiccan ritual on the altar that all Wiccans have or create on their own. The God and the Goddess are each responsible for governing a certain area of the earth, but it is believed that it is their union that is most crucial for balance and harmony here.

The Goddess, as a female figure, is associated with the earth and the moon. Because of her ruling of the moon, she is responsible for the night, the ocean tides, the human psyche, and the reproductive cycles of women. Specific sub-forms of Wiccan tradition see the Goddess as a triple Goddess, who is defined simultaneously as the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone. She is aligned with the phases of the Moon's cycle. As the Earth portion, she represents the grounded physical energy that allows life thrive. She is associated with domesticated animals and field crops. She is both the mother and partner of the masculine counterpart, the God.

The God is associated with the Sun, as well as many horned creatures. The sun's light is necessary for the growth of all life on earth. The horned animals represent the supposed masculine notion of hunting required for survival. Some Wiccan traditions divide the male God as the Oak King and the Holly King. The Oak King reigns over the light of spring and summer, whereas the Holly King reigns over the darkness of autumn and winter.



Depending upon which Wiccan tradition that is being followed, these two harmoniously God could be represented as multiple deities, as opposed to simply two. Many Wiccans are polytheistic in their practice, meaning, they embrace the concept of many deities as well as the God and Goddess, all at the time same time.

### *The Wheel of The Year*

There are eight major holidays of the Wiccan Wheel of the year where Wiccans honor their Goddess and God, and/or their other supporting deities. These holidays within the Wiccan tradition are called Sabbaths.

The mythology behind the wheel of the year is one that echoes many of the notions of other earth-centered religions and spiritualities. It revolves around the cyclic relationship between the God of Sun and the Goddess of Earth. The God dies each autumn and is reborn each spring, constantly accepting the annual flow of life and death as an essential part of creation. Because of this worldview, death is not looked as a negative theme; it is seen as a necessary

part of living.

This endless cycle is one of balance between male and female energies. Each Sabbath represents a certain stage of the cycle. Depending upon the Earth's position in relation to the sun, the Sabbaths will include the Solstices (Yule and Litha), the Equinoxes (Ostara and Mabon) and the four cross quarter-days, (Imbolic, Beltane, Lammastide, and Samhain) that fall between these solar points.

### *Co-Creators of Nature*

Many Wiccan traditions believe in the power of the classical elements, along with the honoring of the God and Goddess. These elements are Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, plus the fifth element, Spirit. These elements are forces of the infinite life cycle that both creates and destroys. They are often evoked, thanked, or sought after during Wiccan rituals as they are seen as the foundation of what makes this life flow harmoniously.

### *Magic and Ethics*

This is probably the part where you start thinking about Harry Potter, or the Wicked Witch of the West. To Wiccans, magic is something that needs to be believed in; it is a set of techniques that works with the natural law of the universe. It is very important to Wiccans to only ever apply magic in the context of positive benefit, and that no harm is done to anything or anyone on

earth. A phrase coined by one of the first priestesses of Wicca emphasizes this; "harm none" will be one of the first statements consistently emphasized through some of your first practices of magic. This is commonly referred to as the 'only rule' in Wicca.

A related concept within the realm of Wiccan magic is called the Threefold Law. This is also known as "the rule of three. It believes that every magical act that is sent out into the universe, whether positive or negative, will returned to the individual three times. This is very similar to the notion of karma, and may be used to ward of a person of whom wishes to send out magic into the universe that is intended to cause harm to others.

### *Covens*

A coven refers to a group and gathering of witches. In Wicca, as well as other forms of neopagan witchcraft, a coven is a lot like a congregation in Christianity. It is a group of believers who gather for rituals, ceremonies of worship, and to celebrate the Sabbath (previously mentioned Wiccan holidays that all together create the Wheel of the Year). Originally, it was promoted that the number 13 was an ideal amount of witches that should belong to a single coven, according to Margaret Murray. However, Wiccans that are more contemporary believe that at least three is sufficient to form their own coven. When a coven grows too large, it may split into what is called a 'hive'. A High Priestess and High Priest generally lead covens, though either one or the other leads some.

Due to the increasing popularity of the internet in the 1980s and 1990s, the existence of online covens has thrived. Usually these memberships are large,

and are generally split up faster than covens that are created in the real world.

When you first start out practicing witchcraft, try not to worry too much about looking for a coven to belong to. Should you greatly identify with some of the Wiccan traditions, and are seeking more guidance; you can reach out whether it be online or through people of whom you know practice Wicca.

### *More About Sabbaths*

As previously mentioned, Sabbaths as holidays that are important to those who identify themselves as a Wiccan. The details of what actually occur during one of these celebrations varies widely, as all extensions of Wicca tend to. However, it is generally safe to assume that there will be a ritual that focuses on some element of the God and Goddesses relationship, along with the time of year that is being focused on. As an example, autumn Sabbaths will relate to harvesting, while spring and Summer Sabbaths will revolve around fertility and abundance.

Then, there is generally some kind of feat involved within a particular coven, or individually. Some covens or individuals will hold their celebration and rituals in public so others can learn, will others prefer to keep it private.

Some witches will leave offerings in accordance to the time of year. Some examples of themes, celebrations, and offerings are listed below:

### YULE/WINTER SOLTICE

December 20-23

Themes: Rebirth, quiet introspection, setting intentions, celebrating light.

In most traditions, this is the Sabbath that begins the Wiccan year. This is generally a fire festival, celebrating the return of the light. The name “Yule” comes from the pre-Christian festivals of Germanic tribes, believed to have been handed down from the ancient Norse.

### IMBOLC

February 2nd

Themes: Hope, renewal, fertility, purification, return of the light.

This Sabbath celebrates the coming end of winter and the beginning of the growing cycle. This is the time for Wiccans to give thanks for the growing daylight. They express thanks for the Goddess, who is recovering giving birth to the God at Yule. This is often a chosen time for initiation into covens, or for one to engage in a self-dedication ritual. As this is a time of cleansing and change, some witches will leave their ritual tools out in direct sunlight to renew them for the upcoming year.

### OSTARA/SPRING EQUINX

March 19-23

Themes: Balance, renewal, action, beginnings, new possibilities.

This Sabbath is the second of the three spring festivals that is on the Wheel of the Year. It is mainly centered around balanced between extreme that is found in the seasons. Mythologically spring is the indication that the God is moving toward maturity. The Goddess is also coming into full power in her position as a Maiden. Fresh flowers and small potted plants are often used in ritual celebrations or as decorations for alters and sacred circles (to be discussed in the next chapter).

## BELTANE

April 30 or May 1

Themes: Passion, sensuality, sexuality, beauty, romance, fertility, abundance. This is the transition point from spring to summer. This is an intense time of lust as the earth is becoming more and more fertile. Trees are blossoming, young animals are growing up. Love and commitment are strong themes during the Sabbath, so many Wiccan weddings (known as Handfastings) have been known to occur on these dates.

## LITHA/SUMMER SOLSTICE

June 20-22

Themes: Growth, masculine energy, love, magic.

This is the longest day and shortest night of the year, and marks the most powerful day in which the sun will express its energy. Wiccans give thanks for the sun's warmth, as they are aware that it will slowly set earlier and earlier each night toward Yule. This is the time of year when most Wiccans gather herbs for magic, as most plants are fully-grown and we are able to benefit more from their maturity. This is said to be a good time for magic related to masculine energies, as it relates most to the male God.

## LAMMAS/LUGHNASADH

August 1 or 2

Themes: First fruits, harvest, gratitude, benevolent sacrifice, utilizing skills and talent.

This is one of the most important dates of the Wiccan year. It marks the beginning of the harvest season, even though it can still be very warm in some areas. Autumn is just around the corner, so harvesting must be prepared



for. Bread-making is a common way to celebrate the holiday, as it symbolizes bringing forth the finality of a planted seed.

### MABON/AUTUMN EQUINOX

September 21-24

Themes: Harvest, gratitude, balance, preparation, welcoming the dark.

This is the second of three harvest festivals. This is when the acceptance of summer coming to an end has officially set in. The God is beginning to leave, and head toward his symbolic death at the next Sabbath. The theme of balance is constant here, as it reminds us that no season will last forever, and either light or dark will exist permanently.

### SAMHAIN

October 31 or November 1

Themes: Death, rebirth, introspection, mischief, divination.

This is the final harvest festival of the year within the Wheel of the Year. This marks the end of the growing season, and that winter is going to begin. The role of death is formally recognized during this Sabbath. The God goes into the shadows and symbolically dies back into the earth. Some Wiccans consider this to be the most important day on the Wheel of The Year, because it a time when the wall between the spirit world and this one is at its thinnest. It is believed that it is easier to contact loved ones who have passed during this time. There is an obvious connection to Halloween and the witch due to the dates falling upon the same day most of the time.

*Wiccan Esbats: The Full Moon*

Esbats are celebrations that focus primarily on the Goddess, whose one of many representations is the full moon. This occurs once every four weeks. Some consider these events the “second wheel of the year”. They act as counterparts to the Sabbaths, which focus on the seasons, and the life and death cycle of the God and his representation, the sun.

The celebrations vary from tradition, coven and individual, just like the celebrations of the Sabbaths. The Goddess though, is always at the center of these celebrations. Ritual magic is often a part of Esbat on-goings. Some Wiccans may work full-moon spells for personal goals, or goals of the group, or for healing of the environment around them. Full moon magic works best for bringing positive change to loving relationships, physical well-being and prosperity.

### *BLUE MOONS*

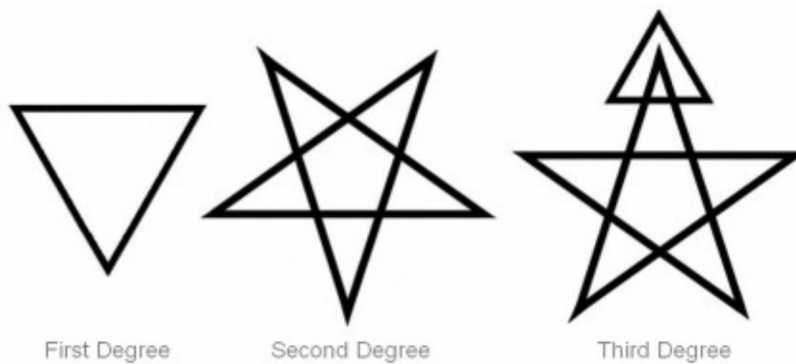
One every two and a half-years, two full moons will occur within the same calendar month, with the second being called the Blue Moon. This moon is supposed to possess rare energy, and is more powerful than the usual full moon. Wiccans may hold specifically timed Blue Moon rituals on these dates.

### *NEW MOONS*

Some covens or individuals will choose to meet at the New Moon and opposed to the Full Moon, because it is considered the beginning of the lunar cycle, and the best time to honor the Goddess.

## Initiation and the Three Degrees of Wicca

Due to the increased modernization of Wicca, as well as the popularity of solitary and eclectic Wiccan traditions, the need and desire for initiations have greatly wavered. Nowadays, you do not have to go through certain steps in order to ‘officially’ become a witch. But for the sake of information, and should you ever feel so inclined, this section of the book will describe what is involved in an initiation, as well as the three degrees of being a Wiccan in some Wiccan traditions.



### *Initiation*

Initiation is not a form of legitimizing your practice of witchcraft. It is only recognized as valid within your particular Wicca tradition, and is not meant to help you gain more power or prestige. What initiation represents is a certain level of understanding.

Every tradition will require something different for an initiation. Some want assignments, such as journal writing, or achievements that are tangible. However, most simply require a certain level of mystical connection,

understanding of self, and desire to further self beyond those of physical benefits.

*First Degree:* Most traditions of the Wicca insists on at least a year and a day of study before initiating into the degree. This is sometimes referred to as 'twice-born'. The Mystery of Birth is what is taught, and varies on theme. Some will be brought blindfolded and bound (a symbolic umbilical cord), usually naked, taken to the threshold of a circle and determine if you will enter upon your own free will. The umbilical cord is cut and returned to you, symbolizing you being reborn into the life of a Witch. Most initiators are looking for a person who understands what they are getting into, and who is going to take this way of life seriously.

*Second Degree:* It has been taught that you should have sufficient understand of your chosen craft in order to teach it to others. The Mystery of the intuition is Death; the death of the Ego. This stage various the most between Wiccan traditions; it always involves some form of symbolic death, and rebirth. When a person knows how to teach others about their tradition, and are not seeking power, then the person is more than ready to pass through the second degree.

*Third Degree:* A witch who has reached this point should people to create their own tradition, and to intellectually discuss elements of Wicca with other witches. Most witches at this stage are leading their own coven. The Mystery is Love and Sex, and how the union of two creates something much more harmonious. Some witches have described reaching this stage as achieving a Master Degree.

Because there is nothing official about Wicca, please be reassured that you

are not required to go through any of these stages should you want to practice witchcraft or become a witch. Depending upon the tradition you choose to follow, or how seriously you want to dedicate your life to the practice, there will be little to no requirements, should you want to identify with the witch word.

### *Self-Dedication*

For those who fall under the category of a solitary Wiccan, the path to initiation is not as clear-cut. It may resemble similar elements to that of the Three Degrees, but solitary witches are able to conduct this initiation anyway they like, and is thus, unique to the individual.

This will happen all on your own terms. It is a commitment you are making yourself in rituals that reflect your inner self, and to the deities you incorporate into your practice. It is simply a commitment that takes place between you, and whatever divinity you choose to identify with.

It is still recommended that you study a year and a day before you embark on this self-dedication ceremony. If you feel you are ready to take the steps toward this, there are many structural approaches you can research online to take reference from. “Wicca: Finding Your Path” by Lisa Chamberlain is a good book to read to help you decide if self-dedication or committing yourself to a coven fits into your personality. Scott Cunningham’s “Wicca: A Guide for the Solitary Practitioner” provides lots of information that can help you create a ritual for self-dedication.

So to summarize. The first steps in becoming a witch is what is explained in

this chapter: read, read, and read. Learn, learn, and learn. This book focuses on one kind of Wicca mainly, so feel free to research other forms that may more suit your fancy. Always stay true to yourself and do not feel the pressure to follow one strand of Wicca over another. Wicca is all about the individual and what they feel most comfortable practicing and believing. Learning is an important prequel to learning how to practice witchcraft, as you must begin reflecting as to why you were drawn toward this practice in the first place, and deciding which form of it you desire practicing the most.

The following chapters are going to practice on the actions and rituals involved in practicing the Wiccan form of witchcraft. If you are still feeling unsure about you are wanting from witchcraft, or are having trouble truly grasping the concept, go back to the beginning of this book. On the other hand, even better, consult the internet, other witches, friends and family. Find people who will not be judgmental. This is after all, your life, your path, and your choices. You are setting out onto a path that is going to change your life for the better, that will have more of an impact on your self-esteem and self-worth than just waving a wand in the air to get that dress you really wanted. Prepare yourself to be fully engaged, connected, and possibly challenged to becoming the most compassionate, giving, and worldly version of yourself.

## **Chapter 4: Wiccan Magic And Rituals**

You have finally arrived! You are now ready to try harnessing energy in the world and influence them in your favor. This is the point where it is going to be re-iterated to you: this book focuses on the skills and practices of those who fall under the category of being a white witch, meaning, they follow the sole Wicca rule that all witches must keep in mind when using magic: Harm None.

The concept of ‘harming none’ doesn’t mean directly negatively influencing the life of another person. It also includes manipulative tactics that are committed without another person’s permission. So please keep in mind that it is not our job to decide what is best for another person, nor is it up to us to decide what we want another person to do, or feel.

This chapter will summarize some of the main practices of rituals and magic of a Wiccan, and eventually, give you some simple spells that you can practice, once you have gathered the necessary tools to do so.

### **Wiccan Rituals**

Solo rituals, as well as group and rituals committed by covens are of equal importance to the Wiccan. Some rituals may be simple, while others, more elaborate. There are few basic elements that are similar within each ritual of a Wiccan, despite the endless variations that can be created or imagined. The following is a brief summary of what takes place within a Wiccan ritual, and you can reference back to once items and necessary tools need to conduct a

ritual are described later on in the chapter.

1. Purification: This needs to occur on both those participating and the place in which the ritual is taking place. This can happen as a bath, smudging (involves the burning of sacred herbs such as lavender, sage, or rosemary).
2. Setting up the Altar: Some Wiccans are able to keep a permanent altar in their home, whereas others are not. It is decorated in accordance with the time of year and occasion, such as an Esbat or Sabbath. Wiccan tools will be laid out according to the particular line of tradition that the person is following.
3. Casting of the Circle: This act creates a boundary between the sacred space and the ordinary world. This altar is usually at the center of the circle, with lots of room to work freely within it. Be sure to not to step outside the energetic boundary. A long cord, stones, herbs, candles, or sea salt can mark it.
4. Invocations Begin: The order can vary here, but usually the God and Goddess are invited to join in, along with the four Elements of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. In other traditions, the fifth Element, Spirit, is also evoked. Other traditions call this step Calling The Quarters, and the four directions of North, East, South and West are called upon instead of the four Elements, or in conjunction with.
5. Intent is Stated: The intent of the ritual could be to celebrate a Sabbath or an Esbat, or to ask the God and Goddess to help or heal someone or offer other kinds of assistance. Some Wiccans do include magical spells in this ritual, but most usually try to focus on the God and Goddess during them.
6. The Main Body of the Ritual: This is where a lot is going to vary. The main point of the ritual could be the reciting of ancient myths or poems, chanting, singing, or reflecting upon the blessings of the season. Some



people use this moment as a space to intend positive benefit for another person, or for humanity as a whole.

7. Cakes and Ales: This is an important part of many Wiccan traditions, but not all. Food and drink is offered symbolically to share with the God and Goddess. This typically happens at the end of the previous step, though some chose to begin with it.
8. Ending the Ritual: This is when the God and Goddess are thanked, along with the evoked Elements, and the circle is closed.

This is a basic summary of how Wiccan rituals are performed, but again, depending upon the tradition you are following, or the coven you are a part of, it is going to vary. Even if you are doing these alone, do not worry about doing it incorrectly, as long as you are focused and have the most positive of intentions.

### *What You Are Going to Need*

This section will focus on the objects that you are going to need if you want to begin performing Wiccan rituals. Feel free to start slow, and not to fall into the trap of spending too much money on items that are not dependent on cost. This is all about a spiritual practice, and the God and Goddess do not care how much your altar costs. Depending upon what tradition you are following, or what coven you may belong to, there are certain tools that will be most necessary to your ritualistic practice. Focus first on the few that are most necessary, and search for them in New Age shops. If you are so inclined, try wandering out into nature and see if you can create some of your own tools. Tools are meant to summon energy from the Earth and Elements, so what would be a better way to begin your connection with Wicca than to forge it from nature?

The Wiccan Alter: Depending upon the amount of space you possess, the availability of bare surfaces, the permanency of your alter may vary. Feel free to use a desk or table for your rituals instead of going out and getting a full alter, should you still be unsure as to how dedicated to witchcraft you are going to be. The only requirement for an altar is to have a flat surface. Square-shaped, round-shaped, it doesn't matter; use what is available to you. In an ideal situation, the altar should be made of natural materials, like wood, stone or metal. Wood is the most traditional material used for Wiccan alters. Try to work as far away from any synthetically created material as you can, as the closer to nature you get, the more power that will be encouraged through the ritual. Some witches even use the elements of nature as their alter, such as a rock or a tree stump.

Once you have figured out what your alter is, you can decorate it with fabric or colorful scarves. Many Wiccans like to decorate their alter in accordance with the intention of the ritual, or the time of year in which it is being conducted. You can scatter flower petals in preparation for spring, or play leaves upon it if autumn is in full bloom. Some of your favorite crystals and stones can be placed on the altar too, but be sure to leave room for your tools.

The placement of the tools will vary. One type of layout divides the altar in half and puts all tools associated with the Goddess on one side, while the other is devoted to God and his Element. Some tools are placed around the Goddess and God at the center of altar, arranged around them according to the Elements and the four directions. Tools associated with Earth will face North, while those associated with Fire will face South. Eclectics will work intuitively, so this may be the direction you want to follow at first. These are

patterns that the individual or coven identifies with personally. Some have highly elaborate patterns and setups, while others keep it simple.

Be sure to focus on what you have and not to feel like you are doing anything wrong. This is about your connection to the God and Goddess, not how many candles or herbs you can fit onto a table.

**Athame:** This is a Wiccan double-edge ritual knife and is used for directing energy, and symbolically cutting unwanted energies. It also drains symbols in the air, the sacred circle before the ritual, and closes it at the end of ritual. It doesn't need to be very sharp, and is considered a masculine object, representing the male God. It is generally associated with fire and air, depending on the Wiccan tradition. The connection to Air comes from the association with intellect, where the domain of Air resides, and because the Athame directs energy through its movements in the Air. Those who connect it to fire claim that because knives are forged in ire, that this is the element they mostly reside with. If you are beginning and are not following a particular tradition, go with the association that seems to make most sense to you.

The Athame is not intended to literally cut anything, but some exceptions are made in certain traditions. Some use them to harvest herbs in spells, and some shape a new wand with it. Some kitchen witches, another extension of Wicca, use the Athame to cut magical foods for preparation.

The process of choosing your Athame should be fun. If you're on your own, take a few moments to consider each knife, and see how you feel holding it intuitively. If you belong to a coven, it will be easier to follow their

requirements.

**The Bell:** You can also find this easily in a variety of Wiccan and New Age shops. Some are immensely decorated, and then some are very simple looking. You should be more considered with the sound of the bell than its appearance. This means that it would be more ideal to shop in person for this one, so you can test out the sound before you make a purchase. Once you hold the bell, pay attention to the physical sensations in your body as you do. Ring it lightly and observe how your energy changes. Use this information to help you as you decide how you will use it in rituals and magic.

**The Boline:** Some practices of Wicca will not use their Athame for actually chopping and cutting up of herbs for spells. This knife, is more practical, and more so meant for actual cutting. They too are in New Age shops, or any store that sells kitchen supplies. Some people also just use knives they already own. If you thoroughly clean your knife, it shouldn't matter what you had previously used it for. Just make sure that you no longer use it for anything else besides rituals and magic. You should store it with your other magical tools, along with a sheath to wrap it around for safety purposes. Taking these precautions and storing them in a common area will maintain your magical energy and association with the items.

**The Broom (besom):** The broom has been a pagan custom around the world for centuries. It is unclear how it became associated with witches flying on brooms, but the idea dates back to the middle ages. It is not a core ritual tool in Wicca, but many people use it to purify the ritual space before creating the sacred circle. The bristles generally don't even touch the floor; it is more of a symbolic cleaning of the area. Because they are purifying, they fall under the category of the element of water, and is associated with the Goddess. It is

commonly used to close the circle at the end of a ritual, and is highly effective to be rid of residual energies once a ritual has ended. Many witches leave it outside their home to guard against negative energy.

When purchasing your besom, it is best to focus on the material that it is made of. Traditions woods are best, or you could even create your own from wood you find on a trip through the woods. Try not to use or buy one that is made of plastic and it is not meant to be used for regular household cleaning. This would contaminate the sacred energy that you are using the broom for.

Cauldron: This is another iconic symbol of witchcraft that many people outside of the Wiccan traditions will recognize. In Wiccan traditions, it is a symbol of the creative forces of transformation. The round shape receive properties and make it sacred to the Goddess. It is also associated with fire, due to the heat that comes from it. It is not crucial to Wiccan tradition, but is very good for fire spells or to be used as a place to allow candles to burn out safely. You can also use it as a replacement for the chalice (described later), or to act as a holder for incense or burned charcoal.

These tools are probably some of the harder ones to find. They are sold in some magical shops, and are a bit more on the costly side. They can be anywhere from a couple of inches to a few feet across in diameter. It depends upon the space that you have carved out for it, whether it be outside or inside. If you are looking to use your cauldron on your altar, it would be best to go with a smaller sized one. If you are unable to afford one, a good metal bowl can stand in, should it be able to take a lot of heat.

Chalice: This is also referred to as a Goblet in some traditions. It represents the Goddess and the element of water, as well as fertility. It may hold water,

wine or ale, depending upon the ritual you are partaking in. It can also sit empty during some rituals and become 'filled' symbolically. It is silver, in general, and can be found at shops that specialize in Wicca and other NeoPagan tradition. If you are using a metal cup, try to pay attention to when you are drinking wine or ale, as it may corrode and become a part of your drink.

The chalice is not necessary in Wiccan traditions, though it is something nice to have. It can be powerful to use one that has been in your family for a long, if you are not using a metal one, something wood or ceramic, but not plastic, as it is not a material of the earth. As usual, use this chalice solely for magical and ritual purposes.

Incense: This tool dates back to many religions, and is associated commonly with the spiritual world. It represents the element of air, as well as fire in some traditions. It is a core component of Wiccan ritual, and is often used along with Wiccan magic.

The most traditional way to use incense in ritual is to put a blend of dried herbs in a censer. They can be set to the side on the Wiccan alter. Some Wiccans use their cauldron as their censer, or hang it from chains, the way it is used in the catholic religion. Many people use incense sticks or cones, as gathering your own herbs and charcoal and a heatproof dish requires a lot of work. When you first start, this would be a simpler approach. Incense is also used as an offering, and can be placed in a permanent shrine to the God or Goddesses. For magic, most herbs, spices, barks and roots will possess their own qualities.

Looking into getting your own incense can be a great way to start your Wiccan practice. There are so many different scents available, and eventually, you could even learn to mix your own to create your own scent! There are options that take into consideration allergies, asthma, and other health issues. It is generally agreed upon that a fragrance will only enhance your experience at the Wiccan alter.

**Pentacle:** This is technically a disk-shaped object, pendant like, with some kind of symbol inscribed on it. Most often in Wicca, pentacles have a pentagram inscribed on them, which is the upright five-pointed star, with a circle around it. It is an ancient symbol, found all over the world, in both Western and Eastern cultures. It is an Earth related symbol that is associated with abundance. Although, each point of it is meant to represent all five of the elements, the fifth being the spirit, the upward point.

The pentagram is meant to have deep-seated magical powers, and is usually inscribed on objects that are placed on the altar such as the Athame or the cover of a Book of Shadows (to be discussed later on). Sometime the shape is drawn in the air during rituals, with a wand or an athame. It is considered a sign of protection against negative energies.

As an object on its own, the pentacle is often used to charge ingredients that will be used for spells. Many Wiccans wear a small pentacle on a chain around their neck during a ritual, or most of the time.

This is probably one of the easiest objects to attain in your witch toolkit. It would be rare for any New Age or Wiccan related shop to not have a variety of pentacles to choose from. Choose the one that most appeals to you.

Moreover, as always, you can find a flat object where you can trace on your own pentacle. Put your own positive energy into the creation process.

**Wand:** The wand is the most iconic image associated with witches. It has been used in pop cultures, movies, books, and is found throughout history, dating back to ancient Egypt. The wand is used to direct energy, in a much gentler manner than the athame. It can evoke the God or Goddesses, and is usually associated with the element either Air or Fire. If you are a solitary Wiccan, as you begin this practice, go with what feels best to you.

The wand is traditionally made of wood, as it is one with the earth. However, you can find wands again, in any New Age or Wiccan directed shop. The appearance is only relevant to how you feel, and how much money you are willing to spend. You can easily make your own wand through looking in wooded areas. Use your boline or another knife to create your knife, one that is fallen from a tree as opposed to wood that is still a part of a living one. Be sure to thank the tree for sharing its energy with you, and bring along g herbs, milk or honey as a gift.

Most people believe that handmade wands are more powerful than store bought, but it is always up to you.

### *Book of shadows*

The Book of Shadows is individual to each person who practices Wicca. It is the most private tool that Wiccans apply to their craft. Here, they usually keep their ritual protocols, prayers, poems, spells, and anything that may keep them inspired within their Wiccan life.



If you are in a coven, it is easier to use your Book of Shadows as a handbook to practice resells and rituals with your fellow Wiccans. For someone like you who is just beginning, it is a good place to learn about yourself, and what works best during rituals and application of magic. It is somewhat like a journal, but is spiritually focused. You can also include the names of herbs, crystals, and associated colors for your particular tradition should it be difficult to initially follow.

The Book of Shadows is a modern form of a grimoire, which was a term used in the 19th century to describe texts that summarize occult themes such as magic, rituals, and associated philosophies. Gerald Gardner created the name for his original coven. The information in this first Book of Shadows was initially kept secret, but eventually, passed down to other Wiccans who learned from other covens and witches about what they could take and learn from one another.

For your own Book of Shadows, try to look at it as an incredibly useful handbook that can change over time. You can keep your most important information within it, like your favorite spells and rituals. This will save you time and energy when you're trying to look for a particular spell in another book. So once you begin, the appearance, contents, and order of the Book of Shadows is up to you. Some find journals that are literal, and keep them to themselves, while some Wiccans use electronic Book of Shadows, or even publish it online. Some Wiccans suggest writing down the incantation on a separate piece of paper, or the process of the ritual, before you commit to the Book of Shadows, so it only contains the essentials. However, no matter how you choose to look at your Book of Shadows, or create yours, it is undeniably

yours, so it really doesn't matter.

### *Clear and Charging Your Ritual Tools*

Now that you have learned all about the tools that will be needed to participate in a ritual, it is a good idea to learn how to change them and clear them as well. Energy is really what magic is all about. The energy of the God or Goddess, the energy of the Universe, of your person, and of the intention you are setting your working magic to. Therefore, it is very important to consider the energy that is coming from your tools, because you are using them in your practices. The energy of these tools play a significant factor in the success of your magic and rituals. Therefore, it is very important that you clear new ritual tools and spell ingredients, to get rid of unwanted residual energy. You can then charge them with positive energy before putting them into practice.

Energy comes from all of the interactions that the item may have had. Who makes it, who used it, who sells it, and the processes involved in all of those behaviors all contribute to the energy that is encapsulated within your ritual tools. You can easily learn to clear it out, as energy coming from objects from another person is normal. However, if you want your object to possess only your positive, untainted energy, then you must clear it. You can do this by using sea salt when it comes to crystals and candles. You can simply bury them beneath the salt and leave them for an evening or day. You can then get rid of the salt. You can also use sunlight as a natural cleanser. Lay out your tools in direct light for at least one hour. Moonlight works the same way, and works better for any items that may be harmed by the sun. This is true for many crystals, as direct sunlight could harm them.

Using herbs to sprinkle over your objects works too. Using a bell or some chimes over delicate items can help clear them as well.

Now you must charge them with your energy, and set your intention of use. Depending on the object, you may want to set the intentions differently. For example, a crystal or a stone may be charged with a happy energy, should you want to hold in your hand for a quick sensation. Sunlight and moonlight can also be used as both cleaning and charging elements. If you are charging for a specific goal, be sure to focus that intention into the item when you lay it out under the sun or moon. You can also place your items onto a pentacle slab that was also previously charged with a certain intention in mind.

It is mostly the intention that is important in this process. Try to visualize the outcome you are seeking while you are charging these items. Holding the object or resting it on a surface with these in mind are good ways to transfer your power over to it. Some people find speaking words really reigns in their focus. An example of a phrase one might use, could say: "I charge this crystal through the Universal Power to bring relaxation into my life. So let it be."

Consecrating is combined with charging for certain ritual tools, usually the wand or the athame. This involves evoking the God and Goddess and/or the Elements as a way of bringing a connection to the ritual objects with the divine. This is sometimes done in a more elaborate way than the simple charging mentioned above. Some Wiccans consecrate these items on a pentacle, or draw a pentacle with a wand or athame over the object in the center of the altar. Feel free to try a few different methods, and see what feels best for you.

If you feel that all this charging is a real hassle, try doing a spell without charging them first, and then do it after you charge them. You will see that these notions are energy are very important, and very real.

## **Wiccan Magic**

We have finally come to the part that you have probably been most looking forward to! Partaking in Wiccan magic. If you haven't already realized, this is not going to be like Harry Potter, where magic ejects itself from a wand. It is all about energy, and intention. The concept of magic has existed all throughout history, and still exists within different definitions in various cultures currently. For the Wiccan, the traditions are usually rooted in old folk practice and healers of ancient Europe. Wiccan magic is never a static art, though there have been some spells, of course, that have been passed down over time and through families.

The way you use your magic, and the objects that you apply within it, depend on what you feel most comfortable with. There are many kinds of Wiccan magic, such as ones that apply it tangibly and ones that use ritual dance. This section is going to explore the various options that are open to you in your beginning journey of witchcraft. Read through this section a few times, and practice some spells that you find most interesting. Record your favorites and ones that you repeat over time in your Book of Shadows.

At the end of this chapter, there will be a couple of practice spells that are good for beginners. So get excited about magic!

## *Candle Magic*

Candle magic is one of the oldest forms of magic in history. Fire has always been sacred to pagan ancestors, who respected its many associations with deities. Religions all over the world have used candles as a source of power, encouragement, and hope, and continue to do so today. It is one of the best methods of magical application to be used for a beginner in witchcraft, because no one can really deny the attraction to watching fire dance upon a tiny surface. It is thus easier to begin thinking about the spiritual world because you have probably already lit candles at some point in your life.

These spells are some of the most straightforward, which also makes it good for beginners. It can greatly help you learn how to focus your energy and intention. Magic has been seen as the sending out of a thought or intuition into a spiritual plane, so it can be manifested into a physical one. You can look at the fire as a way of sending the message outward, flying up not the universe. This metaphor is helpful for beginners who aren't sure about what it may take to begin spell work.

The actual item of the candle and the act of lighting it encompass all of the divine Elements that Wiccans focus on. The base of the candle and the wick are the Earth, the wax evolves from a solid to a liquid then to a gas, and thus represents Water, and Air is the form of oxygen. The flame of course is the Fire element. The element of Spirit is added in once you charge the candle with your intention.

Certain colors have always been associated with certain outcomes and intentions within the Wiccan religion. Red, for example, is love and passion,

reflecting the hue of blood and the human heart. Green is associated with abundance due to its shade reflecting the growth and evolving of the earth as it changes throughout the seasons. It depends of course what your intention is, in order to decide which candles you will use for your spell. The following is a brief overview of the candle colors and the generally associated themes:

<b>Color</b>	<b>Associated Qualities</b>	<b>What it is Used in Magic For (generally)</b>
<b>RED</b>	Intense feelings, strength, courage, passion.	Physical energy, willpower, health, love.
<b>ORANGE</b>	Stimulation, energy, attraction.	Adapting, power, encouragement.
<b>YELLOW</b>	Intelligence/intellect, imagination, knowledge.	Confidence, studying, focus, communication.
<b>GREEN</b>	Growth, wealth, balance, new beginnings.	Health, luck, employment, prosperity.
<b>BLUE</b>	Peace, truth, protection, patience.	Harmony, psychic ability, healing.
<b>VIOLET</b>	Devotion, peace, idealism.	Balancing emotions, divination, nurturing.
<b>WHITE</b>	Innocence, purity, peace.	Clarity, spiritual growth, understanding.
<b>BLACK</b>	Stability, protection,	Releasing negative

	force.	energies, enlightenment.
<b>SILVER</b>	Psychic ability, intelligence, memory, wisdom.	Mediation, warding off negativity.
<b>GOLD</b>	Strength, self-understanding, intuition.	Health, ambition, finances, positivity.
<b>BROWN</b>	Grounding, strength, endurance, solidarity.	Concentration, home, balance.
<b>GREY</b>	Stability, contemplation.	Difficult decisions, getting rid of negative influences, compromising.
<b>INDIGO</b>	Emotions, expressiveness.	Meditation, spiritual healing. clarity.
<b>PINK</b>	Friendship, companionship, healing.	Partnerships, romance, spiritual awakening.

At the end of the day, you may have a different association with certain colors than what is listed on this chart. That is entirely fine, and feel free to follow your own intuition when applying your spell work.

If you feel so inclined, you can add herbs, oils, and sigils into your spell work with candles. You can magically charge oil and anoint the candle with it, roll the anointed candle with herbs that align with your intention, or inscribe the body of the candle with a magical symbol the goes with what you are seeking

through your spell work.

Many Wiccans and practitioners of witchcraft like to watch the flame move and sway, for signs as to whether or not the spell like be successful. In some traditions, a high flame that is strong indicates that the spell will work quickly, where the opposite indicates that it is not. A black or thick smoke may mean that there is opposition at work, or you could subconsciously be influencing the lack of success of the spell. Some Wiccans who are more visually inclined will look at the shape of the wax once the candle has burned all the way down and interpret the shape. This is a new concept for you, so you may want to apply this a bit after you have been practicing shell work for a good amount of time.

Always remember to be safe when you using candles, especially if you are anointing them with oils. If the spell needs you to leave the candle to burn out on its own,

### *Crystal Magic*

Not everything you will find in a New Age or Wiccan shop is technically a crystal, though they will be called that, and you are still able to use them in the same ways real crystals are used as magic. The proper more technical word would be mineral, so we will use this terminology interchangeably. All minerals have a different composition, which aligns with its energy signature, which also aligns with the intention of certain spell work.

The most commonly renounced crystal is the clear quartz, which is what true crystal balls are made of. Other popular ones rose quartz, amethyst, lapis



lazuli, jade and bloodstone. Healers as well as witches consider crystals or minerals to be alive with a certain energy. Some crystals, such as quartz and tourmaline, express some of their power through the piezoelectric effect; when squeezing or lightly tapping these stones with a hammer, they give off an electric charge. Some express psychoelectricity, which is an electric charge stimulated by a temperature change.

This consideration brings about an easier way, like the explanation of the candle, to link the concept of harnessing energy with the application of magic for the beginner. All matter of the earth emits a certain energy, and crystals will also do so. Thought and intention are also energy; we can combine them with the power of the crystal and send them out into the universe.

Crystals and stones are commonly used to mark the sacred circle before a ritual starts. They can also honor deities, as well as the God and Goddess. They are decorated onto wands and pentacles, as well as magical jewelry. They are used in healing, manifestation of wealth and love, divination and many other conceptions of magic within the Wiccan religion. They are powerful add-ons to spells, whether they are the main focus or are present to enhance the intention of the spell. Certain crystals, like the amethyst or quartz, are used to boost this power. Or, you can simply charge your favorite crystal with the intention that you are putting forth into your spell. You can also utilize the concept of color more naturally with the use of crystals, because their shade was created naturally within the earth. You can associate them with similar themes that were listed above for the candles.

If you want to work with stones within your spell work, you can once again easily find them in any New Age shop. It has been said that stones choose

people, rather than people choosing the stones. Trust that instinct that pulls you toward a certain crystal or stone, without questioning what intention is usually behind it or necessarily why you like it. If the feeling is positive, then do your best to just go with it. As is the advice for the majority of the items associated with Wiccan witchcraft.

Here are some of the more popular stones/crystals, along with their associated magical property:

**Amethyst:** This crystal is violet, and is known for sharpening mental focus and intuitions

**Bloodstone:** Is usually green with flecks of red and gold, and promotes physical healing, and abundance.

**Carnelian:** A red and orange crystal, that wards off negative energies and brings about confidence and courage.

**Citrine:** Is yellow, and helps with self-confidence, and following your dreams.

**Hematite:** Is silver, or grey, or a shiny black. It can strengthen willpower and confidence, and help you with problem solving.

**Jade:** Green with flecks of red or gold. It encourages emotional balance, harmony, wisdom, and a protection from negativity.

**Jet:** This is a straight black crystal that supports the changes of new

beginnings.

**Lapis Lazuli:** This is a dark blue, or blue. It can help with altered consciousness and meditation.

**Malachite:** Green with dark bands of green and black. It can support spiritual growth and emotional confidence. This is also helpful in supporting you through big life changes.

**Moonstone:** Is generally white or pale blue. It supports intuition and wisdom, and creativity.

**Quartz Crystal:** Is white or clear. It promotes healing, and spiritual development.

**Rose Quartz:** This is a nice light pink. It promotes emotional healing, love, and friendship.

**Tiger's Eye:** Can be brown, tan and gold with bands of black: this encourages protection and energy.

### *Oil Magic*

Since the dawn of religion, essential oils have been associated with the enhancement of the experience of a particular tradition. They have been used during rituals, healing, and instilled within charms. Due to the development of technology and its further advancement, many new plants began to have oils distilled from out of them. Many people today have an interest in aromatherapy and its aid in mental health and relaxation. Because of this

interest, there exists an abundance in choices for witches and those who practice witchcraft to apply within their spell work or rituals.

Oil is an extra add-on for these rituals and spell work. Most witches will use the oil son their other tools, like crystals, as well as the ritual tools previously mentioned. As also previously mentioned they enhance the intention of candle magic as well as incense.

There are two reasons why essential oils are a powerful enhancement to use in your spell work. They come from the earth, first of all, which is also a powerful element to derive from within the Wiccan tradition. They are derived from plants, and plants possess their own energy that is then transformed into oil, and thus projected into the ritual objects and particular intention applied. Synthetic scents and oils are sometimes used, but it would be best to stick with anything natural when it comes to witchcraft. Secondly, scent is a very powerful sense. Everyone has particular fragrances that they associate positively with. The simple smell of something like we positively associate with can put us into a better mood. This can help you when setting your intention in your spell work, especially if you are having a difficult time doing so. This is why incense is very important in a ritual; it can instantly take us into a frame of mind that will increase the likelihood of success of your spell and intention.

Due to the priceless of some oils, try to pick a few that you like that you can use to make your own blends with. There are many pre-made blends, but the experience of making your own will help you get close to the magical energies that thrive within the oils. Make sure you do some research before you buy any, due to the popularity of essential oils and the quality of them

sometimes not up to par. Begin with the oils that you are naturally drawn to, or, as always, send out an intention for the right oil to come into your life.

Here is what you need if you want to start making your own blends:

—Your favorite essential oils to blend.

—Carrier oil that will help your essentials blend harmoniously. Some of these could be safflower, grape seed, jojoba, or apricot kernel. You can use two tablespoons per batch of self blended oils.

—A clean jar for mixing.

—A small funnel for moving blends.

—Small bottles with lids to store your blends.

—Small glass droppers for when you anoint your ritual items/altar.

Feel free to experiment, and not feel too down if the scent you created wasn't what you hoped for. Practice makes perfect, so try to enjoy the process!

### *Herbal Magic*

Herbs are probably the oldest magical tools that exist. Herbs have always been known for their healing properties within medicine, and are used today in teas and cooking flavouring. They are used for similar reasons within the world of witchcraft; for the sake of positive intentions and particular ideas we are sending out into the universe.

Herbs symbolically represent the four classical Wiccan Elements; they come

from the soil of the Earth as a plant, they are influenced by the Fire of the sun, Air is the wind that promotes growth, and Water is required in order to maintain that growth. There is no better image within the Wiccan tradition that represent the truth power of the natural world and how we can harness its energy to improve our lives.

Plants are sacred to the Wiccan tradition, and have believed along with many scientific studies that there is a certain kind of consciousness thriving within them. They communicate through a system of fungi and roots. They are able to exchange information with one another, and share nutrients, along with notifying other plants when there are predators around their the emission of certain chemicals. Through the use of the herbs that are connected inherently to the earth, we too are harnessing that energy that leaks through their consciousness.

If you want to directly interact with this powerful energy from the earth, you can harvest your own garden with certain plants that yield the intentions you desire. If not, you can easily find the herbs you desire in your local grocery store. Focus on a few that you enjoy, and become squinted with them before you expand your knowledge. The world of herbs in witchcraft is expansive, so it may be best not to overwhelm yourself so fast.

For the sake of rituals and spell work, many Wiccans will use an herb for incense, or rub it onto a particular tool. Here is a list for some of the more popular and powerful herbs that you use to decide which ones you would like to begin with:

**Basil:** Loving vibrations, wards off negativity, fosters protection.

Bay Leaf: Purification, healing, strength, money and success.

Chamomile: Brings love, healing, and relieves stress.

Cinnamon: Love, prosperity, luck, success.

Dandelion: Divination, interaction with the spiritual world.

Elecampane: Protection, luck, dispels negativity.

Hibiscus: Divination, dreams, love and lust.

Lavender: Love, peace, sleep, happiness, healing, money, passion, mediation.

Mugwort: Psychic powers, lust and fertility (please do not use if you are pregnant).

Nutmeg: Money, good luck, protection.

Rosemary: Love and lust, health.

Sage: Wisdom, dispels negative energy.

Star Anise: Luck, spiritual connection, psychic energy.

Thyme: Attracts loyalty, affection.

Valerian: Dispels negative energy, purifies sacred space.

Yarrow: Healing, divination, love, courage and confidence.

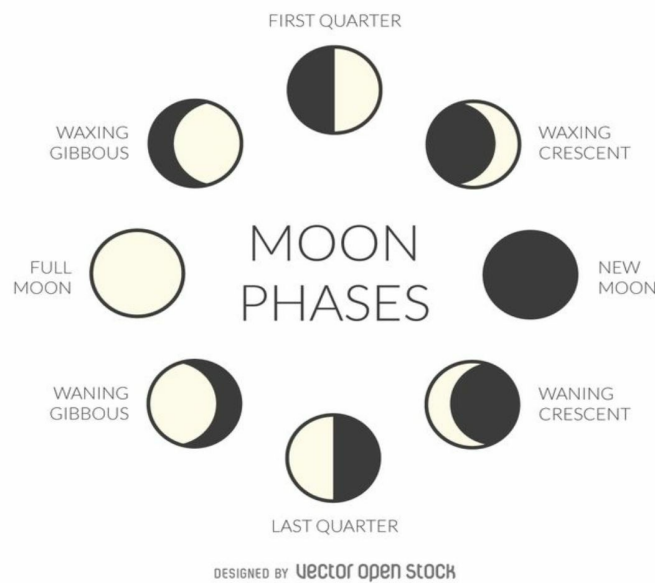
Be sure to do more research about your herbs should you be unsure. Also, if you have pets, take note of what scents may be strong for them to be around, as well as your own allergies and allergies of those around you.

### *Moon Magic*

You may have noticed that Wiccans have a strong attraction to the moon, and what it symbolizes to them. It has played a role in myths and contributed to rituals and practices amongst many religions and cultures all over the world. There is a certain natural magic about the moon and the image of it, which is also why it is used in many songs and lyric poetry. Wiccans meet on certain

days previously described, to celebrate the fullness of the moon.

Wiccans consider the moon energy to be that of female, the energy of the Goddess. Some people feel an attraction to it, and it may be for this reason. The moon is considered receptive and magnetic, as is the power of our own intuition. Our conscious connection to the moon opens up a way for us to manifest the intention and change in our lives. Depending upon what stage of the moon's cycle it is at, a certain energy of an intention can be harnessed more effectively compared to a time when it is not aligned with the moon's cycle. If you want something specific in your life, or are setting out a certain intention, perhaps you can try to pay attention to what stage of the moon cycle your intention aligns with.



Try to think of it initially like this; as the moon grows, we will work magic for an increase in our lives, and as it wanes, we use it for when we want to decrease something in our lives. The point between these two times is the full moon. Here, we will celebrate what we have manifested within the first



half of the cycle, whereas we clean up and release what is no longer required through the second half of the moon cycle. The new moon is where we set those first intentions, and then the cycle continues on from there, carrying over to the next intention, and the next, through the different cycles of the moon. So essentially, each full cycle is one intention being manifested, celebrated, and then released.

Here are some suggestions for how to time the use of certain spell work with the cycle of the moon:

**New Moon:** This is the time where you dream of what you want to create in your life. Usually magic that aims to begin new adventures or projects occurs during this time. But anything that may involve increasing or attracting is good for this time period.

**Waxing Moon:** This phase is defined by action that will help you achieve your goals. Through our actions, we are projecting our intentions out into the universe. Magic work in this time may be focus on gaining or strengthening relationships or improving ones physical health.

**Full Moon:** This is where the most power can be utilized in magical work. Many witches will save their spell work for the full moon. Any intention or purpose for rituals or magic are good to be applied during this time.

**Waning Moon:** This is a time of release; where we let go of the energy we used for our intention and return to internal reflection. Letting go of negative experiences and energies is best done during the phase of the waning moon. Spell work related to overcoming obstacles, conflicts and getting over illness

will work well during this phase.

**Dark Moon:** This is the time just before the new moon phase. Some witches will refrain from doing magic during this time, while others use it for closure. This is a good time to bring yourself closure on issues that may show up often in your life, such as betrayal and abandonment . These energies can affect the efficiency of your positive intentions and the commitment to it during the phase of the full moon.

Most people who are not into astronomy or astrology may not know when the phases of the moon are. There are many apps you can download on your phone that track this, as well as websites that can steer you in the right direction. Start off by simply looking for it on your way to work, or coming back. Try to make it a daily habit to look up in the sky, and simply notice that it is there.

### *Guide to Wiccan Tarot Card Reading*

The concept of tarot card reading probably isn't new to you. The practice has been used in television and movies to indicate the work of a supposed psychic. But most people who are not aware of its meanings, won't actually understand the point of the cards. That is entirely okay. Please be sure to note too that tarot card reading and use is not essential to the Wiccan religion, but a mere add-on, should it be of interest to you.

The Tarot is a useful tool for divination, which is a practice that seeks knowledge of the future. But they can also be used for allowing us to reflect on certain situations in our lives, from different perspectives. The art of

reading cards can help you, or others, learn how to reflect more thoroughly about your life.

The Tarot has evolved over centuries, the first resemblance of cards similar to those seen today having existed in early 1400s Italy. They became associated with the occult some hundred years later in France, and then in the 19th and 20th century Britain. More specifically, it is the members of an organization that greatly influenced the various traditions of modern occultism, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. Arthur Edward Waite within this group, who was a poet, and Pamela Colman Smith that came to create the most modern and recognized version of the Tarot in the 20th century.

The standard deck of cards that you can buy today contain a total of 78 cards, divided into the Major and Minor Arcana. Each section has a purpose in reflecting truths and reveals inner knowledge. The interaction of the Major and Minor cards can show a complicated picture of many unseen forces in any given situation. The Major Arcana is at the heart of the Tarot; these are often referred to as the 'trump cards'. They are the most powerful in the deck. They are associated with major issues in life, where each card depicts a character or archetype, representing a stage on our spiritual journey with that particular issue. Be sure to pay attention to these cards, as they hold a deep meaningful lesson.

The Minor cards make up most of the deck, with fifty-six in total. They are divided into four different suits of fourteen cards each: Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. Each suit is entered around a realm of experience: ideas, action, feelings, or manifestation. They represent more mundane

elements of everyday living.

Depending upon what kind of cards you buy, there may be some that link the Tarot to the concept of astrology and numerology. A card can be linked with a certain sign of the Zodiac, numerology will apply the magical association of numbers. A classically Wiccan deck will use the above listed imagery because it corresponds with the core Elements of Wicca.

If you want to start off with reading Tarot, it may be useful to find someone who can do it for you. It can take years of practice to master this as an art, because there are so many different reading styles, as well as possible interpretations. But as it is always said within witchcraft; practice makes perfect, and there is nothing set in stone about what style is 'proper'. (There will be a section on how you can learn to read your own tarot cards later.)

## **Magic and the Law of Attraction**

The Law of Attraction is a phenomenon that has captured the minds and hearts through books and films about the idea of drawing in what you desire most in your life within the past few years. The concept of it though, is not new. Many philosophical, spiritual and occult thinkers have been discussing the idea for centuries. It is entirely inherent to the application of spell work.

The Law of Attraction claims that the universe responds to your thoughts and emotions in a way that is equal to them, bringing about circumstances that

align with the most dominant energy, which is determined by what you believe is possible. The most common example is believing that you will only continue to have a bad day, and then you do. If you believe you will have a good day, you will attract positive experiences. This is hard for many people to believe because there is an instant feeling of guilt; it is their thoughts and beliefs fault for what has happened to them in their lives. Of course, this is simplifying the concept, and is not true.

There are many ways that you can begin to utilize the various skills associated with attracting positive experiences into your life. You can do this through appreciation, affirmation, and visualization. All three of these are used in Wicca. Appreciation is gratitude, which makes you focus on what is going well for you, rather than what is going wrong. This puts you in a place to attract more things to be thankful for. Affirmation is when you repeat positive statements, out loud or to yourself in your mind, projecting a reality you want to manifest. If you would like more money, you would make a statement that describes you already having everything you need. You are pretending that you have already manifested your goals, until they actually become a reality. Visualization is a mental picture of what we desire. You can spend time thinking of a dream job, a lover, or a house you want to buy. The goal is to create a vivid image, as well as an associated feeling, that will help you turn your thoughts into tangible outcomes in your life.

Most spell work works in all three of these notions. Visualizing the outcome of a spell, appreciating the outcome, and applying affirmations to help yourself bring your intention into words and onto the physical plane. Magic is the use of focused attention to bring about a desired effect, and one can say something similar about the Law of Attraction. The concept of magic for the

practiced witch is much more complex, but grasping the notion of the Law of Attraction may be a good place to start, and a useful way of thinking when applying new spell work.

## **Spells for Beginners**

This section will give you a couple of selections of spells that you can apply as a beginner.

### *ROSES'S "RING OF CORAL" LOVE SPELL*

With this spell, you can wish for anything love-related, and then release it into the universe.

You will need:

- 1 gold candle.
- 1 red candle.
- A few pieces of coral.
- 4 small pink candles.

1. Setup the gold candle in the middle of your altar.
2. Lay the pieces of coral around the gold candle.
3. Setup the smaller candles in a circle, placed around the coral pieces.

4. Close your eyes after sitting down, and visualize the love you want. Think about what they look like, what your interactions will be like.
5. What you depart from your visualization, light the gold candle.
6. Light all the small pink candles.
7. Let them all burn for 5 minutes while you clear your mind.
8. Snuff out the candle.

### *ROSE'S MAGIC TREASURE SHIP SPELL*

This spell can be utilized when you are in need of a financial boost.

You will need:

—1 model ship.

—Gold colored coins, glass gems, sparkling beads, crystals.

—Small table.

—Table cloth.

1. Put a table near the entrance to your house and put the blue (preferred color) on the table.
2. Place the ship on the table so it is facing your house.
3. Put all the items you want to use that you gathered (items that are related to your witchcraft craft) into the ship.
4. Burn a few candles and money related incenses each money as you visualize prosperity coming into your life.
5. Add 3 of Wands Tarot to the back of the ship, symbolizing good fortune.
6. Add at least one coin daily to bring about the fortune.

## [\[2\]](#) *THE MONEY FLOW CANDLE SPELL*

This spell is fairly simple, and only really requires a candle, and some essential oil.

- 1 gold or green candle.
- Candle holder that is heat proof.
- Pin or crystal tip.
- 1-2 drops patchouli essential oil
- Pinch dried basil.

1. With the crystal or pin, inscribe a pentacle in the center of the candle.
2. Anoint the candle with the oil.
3. Roll the candle in the dried basil, so it sticks to the candle.
4. Place the candle in its holder, with the symbol facing you.
5. Ground and center yourself; try to feel excited about the concept of receiving money unexpectedly.
6. Visualize yourself with shining coins, streaming down all over you.
7. When you feel focused on the image, say something like this out loud:  
“With this fire I summon Nature’s forces, money now flows to me from hidden sources.”
8. Light the candle, and as the wick catches fire, say “So let it be.”
9. Leave the candle in a safe place to burn all the way down.

## [\[3\]](#) *HERBAL MAGIC SPELL: OPENING UP TO LOVE*

If you have been seeking a partner, this spell will help you get rid of the energy that may be blocking your from receiving one. This spell will help you create a charmed herbal sachet.

You will need:



- 6 whole cloves.
- 1 teaspoon of dried mugwort.
- 1 teaspoon of lemon balm.
- 1 teaspoon of St. John's wort.
- 1/4 cup of chamomile flowers.
- 1 tablespoon of rose petals.
- A small bowl.
- 1 pink candle.

1. Gather your ingredients and place them on your altar.
2. Light the candle, taking a few deep breathes to center yourself.
3. Place the mugwort, lemon balm, St. Johns worth and chamomile in the bowl, and mix kindly with your fingertips.
4. Pour the mixture into the sachet.
5. Sprinkle into the sachet the cloves, rose petals, then close the sachet.
6. While holding the sachet, close your eyes and imagine your heart opening up, springing white light from it.
7. After you've held the vision for a while, recite the following three times, or something similar: "As below, so above, I release all unseen blocks to love, as above, so below, my healed heart allows love to flow."
8. Allow the candle to burn on its own in a safe place.
9. Keep the charm near you as much as you can, even near your bed at night.
10. When you feel it has served its purpose, you can bury it or sprinkle the herbs into the earth.

## Blending Magical Oils

The following recipes can be used for anointing many of your ritual tools and items you use for your spell work. Each one is meant for you to mix it with 1 ounce of carrier oils. The amounts are suggestions, and as you practice more, you will figure out the amount that you feel is best suited for you.

### Purification Oil

- 5 drops of juniper.
- 3 drops of cedar wood.
- 1 drop of lavender.

### Consecration Oil

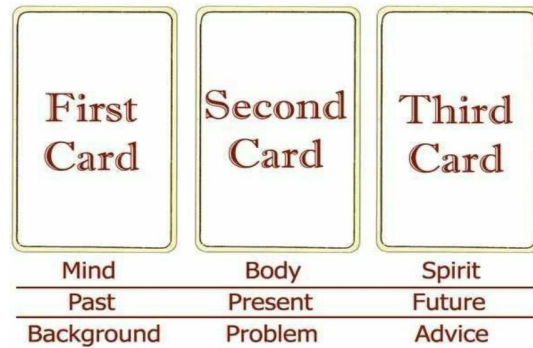
- 5 drops of frankincense.
- 5 drops myrrh.
- 2 drops cinnamon.

### Money-Drawing Oil

- 4 drops patchouli.
- 3 drops of bergamot.
- 2 drops cypress.
- 1 drop of lavender.

### *How To Read Your Own Tarot Cards*

## Three Card Spread



If you have purchased a deck of Tarot cards, you may be itching to read them for yourself. Here is a simple guide to help you do it the first time, and to help you along the way as you figure out different methods of interpretation.

1. **Create the Space:** Find a space that feels most comfortable for you to conduct the reading. Maybe light a candle, gather your favorite crystals, or burn some incense for the reading. Take a few breaths to help you focus on what you are able to do. Open your mind to possibly finding something new within the cards. Create a spiritual space by setting an intention for the reading.
2. **Get to the Heart of the Question:** Whatever the intention of the reading may be, try to find a clear mind and ask yourself: “What is it that I need to know right now?” The question you ask is not going to be a yes or no questioning. You are not asking the cards to make a decision for you, or for them decide your future as a permanent concept. Ask something that you can interpret from the cards. Once you have found the question, write it down.
3. **Choose Your Layout:** There are many different layouts that you can choose from, but some of the more simpler ones are 3-Card Tarot Spread, examples in relation to your question that you will find on this website: <https://www.biddytarot.com/easy-three-card-tarot-spreads/>. You can eventually create your own spread, but for now, focus on that one that

most aligns with the question you have in mind. This basically means that you lay out three cards, from 1 to 3, numbering from left to right. If you are doing a reading for love and relationships, number 1 would reflect you, the second the other person, the third the relationship. Some other examples are past/present/future, option A/option B/option C, and situation/Action/Outcome.

4. **Shuffle and Lay Out the Cards:** Pick up the cards and start shuffling them. You can shuffle them between two hands, cut the deck in half, or apply a casino style that opens them and fans them out. The messy pile shuffle will spread them out, and then make you gather them all back together. Choose the method that feels best to you. Then when you feel ready, lay out the cards for your reading, face-up, left to right.
5. **Read the Cards, Tell the Story:** Go through each card from left to right, and interpret what it means to you. Look at the card, and pay attention to the energy of it, and anything that strikes you intuitively. Look at picture, and think about what it means to you. You can look up the original meaning of the card if you need extra support. Once you have thoroughly thought about this, you can consult the book that came with the back of cards. Look at all three as a whole, and try to connect them as a story.
6. **Answer Your Question:** Go back to your original question and answer it, based on the story that the cards have revealed to you.
7. **Reflect:** Write down the complete reading in your Book of Shadows along with the original question that you asked, the interpretation of the cards and your answer. Try to come back to what you wrote a few weeks later, so your intuition can be validated. This will also help you practice reading Tarot for others, as well as yourself in the future.

Therefore, that concludes our chapter on the application of Wiccan rituals and magic. Try to go through this section thoroughly, writing down what strikes

you and what you would like to practice most in your Book of Shadows. Start with one aspect, perhaps a certain spell, and go from there. You don't need all of the items listed in order to be a witch, so start small, and see where it all takes you.

## **Chapter 5: Psychic Abilities, Divination, and Predicting the Future**

This chapter is going to focus on extra skills involved within the practice of witchcraft inside the Wiccan religion. Again, they are not necessary when trying to become a witch, but may interest you enough to want to pursue them.

The concept of a witch or even Wicca connotes images often, of psychics that set up tents at carnivals and want to read your future. Although no one is here to debate whether or not any of those are legitimate, set yourself straight in acknowledging that Wiccans are not a part of that misinterpretation. What Wiccans and witches are, are people that are greatly in tuned with their intuition, and they follow that. Learning to sharpen these abilities is not about waking up and suddenly being able to read minds; it is about applying various practices that will enhance an ability all human beings were born with. We all have feelings about things that we cannot explain; we call those hunches, or gut feelings. Wiccans believe that every person is born with some level of psychic ability, and it has be either encouraged or discouraged throughout their lifetime, due to culture or particular upbringing.

The term ESP tries to cover every aspect of psychic abilities, such as clairvoyance, clairaudience, psychometry, telepathy, dowsing, precognition, scrying, and mediumship. These are not skills that you can easily tap into. Depending upon your upbringing, certain skills be better than others are. It is going to take time to summon them to the surface when they have been

pushed down for so long.

Your first step is for you to accept that you are capable of these things. You can start by reminding yourself everyday with a statement such as: “I am open and ready to receive information.” Begin researching, whether it be in other books or on the internet. You also need to know, that like most skills, you are not going to be good at every psychic skill. Try to figure out your strengths, and what you feel you may have an affinity for. Most people are generally only extrasensory in one or two ways, so accept this and move forward, investigating your particular psychic skills.

### **Learning to Trust Your Intuition**

It is recommended by most Wiccans that you try to tune yourself to your abilities by paying attention to your senses, rather than blocking them out. This will bring you further into the moment.

If you are a person who does not trust your intuition, and are confusing your emotions with that sensation, here are a few ways that you can clear out your mind and learn to trust yourself when making decisions, or interpreting events in your life:

1. Start by making a simple decision, such as, should I walk or take the bus to work today?
2. One answer will come into your mind. Make note of it. Don't look for logical reasons as to why, just write it down.
3. Breathe in and out, deeply and quietly. That answer that rose in your mind is your intuition. Trust that thought without scanning your brain for

reasons why or why not.

4. Now make that decision, and go with it. The outcomes aren't always the best, but that doesn't mean that your intuition was wrong. We cannot know what didn't happen because of the choices we made.

Another exercise can help you further visualize what it means to follow your intuition. This exercise involves the visualization of a traffic light.

1. Clear your mind and make sometime for yourself where there won't be any interruptions. Sit comfortable, breathing deeply.
2. When you feel ready, write down some questions you feel you need answer to in your life. In this situation, the answers will be yes, no, or maybe.
3. Now breathe deeply, and close your eyes. Imagine a traffic light, with a red light, a yellow light, and a green light. The green light will represent "yes," the red light "no," and the yellow light is "maybe".
4. Begin by asking yourself questions you already know the answer to, to help yourself gage the visualization. Ask yourself if you are sitting (if you are sitting), if it is the year that you recited, if you have a pet bird, etc. Watch the corresponding colors light up in your mind.
5. Now, ask yourself the questions that you wrote down. Try not to think too much, just ask.
6. Whatever color appears in your mind, that is the answer. That is your intuition speaking directly to you.

### *Listen to Your Body*

Your body can give you signals about decisions you've made, because it is



connected directly to your intuition. If you are feeling anxious, it could be your intuition trying to warn you. If you are unsure about a decision too, you can also consult the traffic light method.

Try to pay attention to your body, and stay in tuned with how it is feeling. Try perhaps not to interpret too much at first, but rather, just be aware of it and how it is feeling.

### *Dreams*

Dreams are a very useful way of paying attention to your intuition. This is because when you dream, your subconscious mind is running things, rather than your conscious mind, which is constantly cluttered with other issues you have to deal with. Your mind wants to help you solve problems; it wants to help you figure out your future, so try to allow it. Dreams are generally not very straightforward, so it may be hard to interpret them. There are many websites that can help you do just that. On the other hand, you can begin by simply keeping a dream journal. This can help you pick up possible patterns of imagery and occurrences.

### *Too Much Analyzing*

The analytical mind is the enemy of intuition. The Western World thrives upon notions of logic. If you are person who needs to analyze every thought and action, then learning to trust your intuition is going to be difficult. If your gut is telling you not to date someone, although you consciously feel they are very attractive or not your parents will like them, try to trust that feeling and

not go into thinking about why you are having that feeling. An intuition is trying to steer you down a path that it already knows exists, and is not making up new directions for you to follow. Start with simple decisions, like going with the gut meal you wanted at a restaurant, where to go for your birthday celebration, what coffee to order at cafe, what pants to wear to work, etc.

## **Psychometry**

This is a form of ESP that some Wiccans use, and is one that many people find interesting. This is the ability to hold an object and get a sense of the individual. It is definitely possible that you have, in some fashion and degree, felt this before. If you have worn something that belonged to your mother or perhaps something from your grandparent who has passed, there is certain energy being passed down through it. If a person passed in the clothing, or is the person who previously owned it, there is a deep sense of peace and serenity.

You can also get feelings about first impressions of people if you touch them, or if you touch an object that belongs to them. Here is an exercise to help you practice this skill:

1. Practice with someone who you know and trust. Ask them not to tell you how their day has been going. Pick up their hand and close your eyes, focusing on their energy.
2. Let your senses really guide you. Observe what your body is feeling, whether it be warmth, cold, ache, peace, etc.
3. Interpret these feelings. The feelings are not always a direct line to what is

going on with them, for example, they may be feeling a sense of discomfort, which could be an abundant amount of things.

This skill can help you during personal interactions. Really all you need is the ability to shake the hand of the person you just met, such as neighbor, a date, a new friend, your partners, parents, etc.

### **Brain Telegrams and Telepathic Messages**

Now, it is understood that a joke was made at the beginning of this chapter to remark upon how absurd the concept of mind-reading is. To clarify, the simplified notion expressed in TV, film, and books is what is being referred to. This section will focus on the harnessing of your intuition to help you interpret what people are thinking, rather than diving directing into their brains and reading what is there like a book of poems.

Everyone has had moments where they say the same thing that their friend is going to say, or they mentally predict what is going to come out of their mouth before it does. This is what people mean when they refer to people being on that same ‘wavelength’; it is easier with those who love and care about because we know them. It is hard to send a telepathic message to someone we don’t know well, or to see what is going on inside their skulls if our interactions are not always the best. For now, try practicing this exercise to help you become more intend with the brain waves of others:

1. Try to relax. Regular mediation and visualization are key practices that will help you hone in on your telepathic skillset. Your brain needs to be open to the possibilities surrounding you; if they are closed, you will not

be able to send or receive messages to other people around you. Before you begin this exercise, give yourself and your friend time to relax for about 10 to 15 minutes.

2. Choose which person will be the sender, and which will be the receiver. For this example, you are going to be the sender.
3. When you are both ready, try to visualize something in your mind. Start with something, like a teapot. Think of the smells, the color, the texture, the act of pouring it out. It is easier to start sending images rather than thoughts, because images are easier to pick up. Over time though, you will learn how to also pick up these more complex thoughts.
4. Try picturing a tube running between your brain and your friend's brain. Now send your image down the tube for them to receive. Maintain though, the image in your mind as you allow them to receive it.

Perfecting this of course is going to take practice. Start with different images and send them to different friends in your life. You and your friend may be similar in mind, but this is a part of your brain that hasn't been consciously exercised for a long time. Be patient, and eventually, you will be able to transmit thoughts over to people to help you benefit your own life! For example, if you really need that raise, try to transmit the thought of "You are going to realize what a great worker I am and give me a raise!" Do not deter from positive thoughts though; negative transmissions or ones that are not genuine can open you up to more energy that is negative.

### **Exercising your Psychic Energy**

Learning to trust your intuition is an important first step in the process of honing your psychic abilities. Doing this allows you to simply trust yourself

and your thoughts, without over analyzing and constantly doubting as to whether or not you made the right decision. Trust yourself and the universe—what is meant to be, will come.

This section is going to explore more exercise that will help you become more in tuned with the right side of your brain; the side that is innately more creative, and spiritual. You probably have heard of the two practices here, as they have become popularized by the movement of Mindfulness within the Western World. Meditation, and visualization, are spectacular tools that will literally help you open your mind, in both a calming and observational manner, and a method that stimulates your imagination.

### *Meditation*

Meditation is a fairly simple concept, although many people find its point confusing. The art of sitting, and just being, has been practiced for centuries for the people of Buddhist and Hindu culture. Its benefits on mental health are astounding, and thus, made its way over into the Western World rapidly. It isn't a practice that is only for monks; anyone can utilize it and feel its daily benefits.

The following exercise is a simple form of mediation, and requires very little from you beyond your time:

1. Find a quiet place in your home where you know you won't be disturbed for 15-20 minutes.
2. You can choose to sit on a chair, with your feet flat on the floor, in the classic lotus position, folding your legs over one another. Some people

also choose to lie down, on the floor or on their bed. Just make sure that you are not overly tired; you are not meant to fall asleep right now!

3. Once you are comfortable, begin breathing deeply, focusing on the fall and rise of your stomach.
4. Choose something to focus on for the duration of the meditation, whether it be soothing music you put on, the beat of your breathing, the ticking of a clock, etc.
5. When thoughts come up, which they inevitably will, don't be hard on yourself. Simply acknowledge that the thoughts are there, and then turn your attention back to whatever you choose to focus on for this meditation.

And that is really all there is to meditation. Some people think that they cannot meditate because their minds are too busy. They start out the practice, and then scold themselves for not being able to completely 'quiet' their mind. Meditation is an art form that takes years of practice, and the entire point of it is not to judge yourself for 'doing it wrong'. There is no way that meditating can be done wrong. There is not a certain formula, or set of actions that guarantee an empty mind. Meditation is meant to bring attention to the thoughts about the past and future that you are having, and how often they overflow your mind, taking you out of the moment. It brings attention to the moment, and asks you to gaze at it, as you gaze at a sunset or painting, without judgment or criticism. Judgment or criticism is of course going to happen, because this is what most people are used to. Meditation offers another perspective on life, and will greatly help you in tapping into your psychic abilities. So carving out about 15 minutes a day should help you head into the right direction.

## *Visualization*

Visualization is the direct opposite of meditation. In therapeutic terms, visualization is used to help people with severe anxiety and panic think of a location or environment that helps them calm down. In the terms of exercising your mind for the sake of psychic skills, it means applying your imagination still, but in a particular situation that relates to your life. This will help you explore further possibilities in your life outside what may have been closing you in as being more 'realistic' and 'practical'. Once you are able to do this for yourself, the concept of predicting the future and what occurs in it won't seem so out of reach.

1. Just like meditation, try to find a quiet, comfortable place to sit or lie down.
2. Before choosing to visualize, come to situation with a particular problem in your life, a desire, a goal, etc. Choose one,
3. Since you have chosen one, go through it, and tell yourself a story about it. You are not meant to solve the problem here, should that be what you have chosen. However, you are meant to see all of the possibilities in any given situation.
4. Do this for about 15 minutes. This is your world, your story; there exist no limits.

That is all there is to it. Like meditation, if you take the time to do this every now and then, your brain is going to be strong, and able to accept the energies of the future that are going to come to you.

## *Scrying*

Every psychic will have their strengths and weaknesses; some are very good at seeing and interpreting images through a reflective or mutable surface of some kind. If the image of an old witch reading your future in a crystal ball is conjured, then you are headed in the right direction.

A witch or Wiccan who identifies as a scryer is a person who is more visually inclined with their future predictions. They will sometimes have crystal balls, or use mirrors, a bowl of water, or even see visions in smoke and fire. These images may seem hokey, or immensely stereotyped, and you would be right in assuming so. Scrying is not something that witches wake up one day and are capable of. As everything described in this section, it is a skill that is practiced and hone, with some witches being better at it than others are.

If you don't think you'd be very good at scrying, try to think about this. A study was done in Germany a few years ago that used sensory deprivation to see how the participants would react. They were deprived of sound and light for a certain amount of time. The participants were then asked to report what, if anything, they saw after the deprivation. Many reported images that eventually turned out to be visions of occurrences to come.

The theory then is that when the sense are deprived or limited, it becomes easier for images and vision to enter your right brain. If you want to try this out, try something similar to the meditation exercise, by finding a quiet comfortable spot, blocking out sound and light. Find a blank wall to stare at. You don't have to stare at it too hard; you can even allow your eyes to blur.



Your eyes will eventually darken, getting tired of staring. This is the moment to observe yourself and what you see, in your mind's eye.

If you feel so inclined, you can choose to purchase a crystal ball in a New Age shop. Try to do this as opposed to buying online, because you can't feel the weight or texture of the ball if you order it off the internet. Like many witch related items, it is believed that the ball will choose you, as opposed to you choosing the ball. Go with what feels right. Once you have your ball, spend time with it in the privacy of your home. Sit and meditate with it when you first bring it home. Bring yourself into a semi-dreamlike state, and then open your eyes, looking into the ball. Have them unfocused, just like the way you had them when practicing the previously described exercise. Try not to worry about what you see, or what you don't see too much. This is just the beginning!

Some crystal ball enthusiasts believe that it is best to only read your ball when it is a full moon. However, there are also many people who apply it anytime they like. Like all practices of Wicca, it will depend on you and how you are feeling, and what best suits you.

There are many other methods that you apply scrying to, should you not want to spend the money on a crystal ball. You can use anything, from your television screen, to your laptop screen, to the blank screen on your iPhone. The entire point of scrying is learning to interpret images, the way you see images of shapes in clouds.

Here is a way to practice by using the blank screen of your TV:

1. For this practice, do not shut off the lights in the room. You are going to

need them in order to see the reflection in the screen.

2. All you need in addition to your TV, is a small white candle.
3. Start by reciting this line in front of your TV: “To the technology born, I give it light, to show me the way, my own inner light. So mote it be.” You can write this down in your Book of Shadows for later reference.
4. Light the white candle and place it in front of your TV. Be sure that the candle casts a light on the screen.
5. Stare at the blank television and allow yourself to daydream.
6. In your mind, ask the TV questions about anything that may be important to you; whether it relates to your love life, career, family, etc. Within about ten minutes, the answer should be revealed to you.

As to how to interpret your visions, the answer is simple; it all depends on you. There is no definitive answer for what a certain image might mean, as different images conjure different emotions and associations between different people. An image of a guitar might make one person happy, where it may have negatively associated memories for another person. Think about what the image makes you feel, and the associations that come up when you do this. Write them down in your Book of Shadows, and see how the visions change over time.

You can refer should your visions be dominated by certain shade to, some color references. These colors may indicate what is to come:

White: Protection, positive energy.

Red: Danger.

Orange: Anger

Yellow: Troubled, obstacles ahead

Blue: Success

Green: Happiness, health

Black/Grey: Negative energy

If an image is difficult to see, then it may refer to something in the past or something in the distant future. If the image is very clear, it may mean that there is something going to happen sooner rather than later.

### *Receiving Remote Messages: Clairvoyants and Other Skills*

The certain psychic skills that fall under this category have to do with the ability to receive messages from others, whether it by choice and honing in on it, or without the individual's permission. Read through the definitions, and think about what you feel you may relate to most as a development witch or Wiccan:

Clairvoyants: They receive visions, either while meditating, sleeping, or going about their day.

Clairaudients: These individuals hear things that are not audible to others. These may be voices of spirit guides or messages from other spirits who have passed.

Clairalients: Are people who can smell the spirit world. If your grandparents smoked tobacco, this person could get a whiff of smoke if the spirit is nearby.

Clairambients: Are people who can taste what a particular spirit enjoyed during their lifetime.

Clairsentients: Are able to assess and feel the energy fields around people and other peoples, including animals and plants, and are able to shift these energies if they need to.

Claircognizants: These people do not see or hear things from the spirit world, but are somehow able to get information they would not have known otherwise.

There are ways that you can hone in on this practice, but most people are usually born with this ability from an early age. However, if you feel you can relate to any of the above methods of receiving information, reading on about how you can develop your Third Eye.

### *The Third Eye*

There do exist seminars that can help you sharpen your skills. However, if you are still unsure about what abilities seem most like you, then it could be a good idea to begin practicing in your own home.

A person who has a well-developed Third Eye is a person who has practiced and cultivated the skills of clairvoyance. The Third Eye is a part of the body's Chakra system, which is a system of areas on the human body that produce a certain kind of energy. The location of the Third Eye is the sixth chakra, in the middle of the forehead, and is related to having a high intuition and understanding of the world.

The first thing you can do to improve your skill of clairvoyance is to make sure your third-eye Chakra is clear. This can be done through meditation, while using a blue crystal or gemstone such as kyanite, azurite, or lapis lazuli.

1. Begin by dimming the lights, light some candles, put on some music. Anything that will make you feel comfortable.
2. Lie down and place the blue crystal or stone on your head.
3. Breathe deeply, through your nose and blow out through the mouth. Try to breathe as deeply as you can. Do this for thirty to sixty-seconds.
4. Start to focus on the area where the crystal is. Image it opening up the space on your forehead. You may feel a warming or tingling sensation.
5. When you feel like the space is wide open, make sure you are still breathing deeply.
6. Un-focus your mind, and see what comes to you. Stay with that vision, without worrying about what it means or why it is coming to you.
7. If you feel so inclined, try to focus on your ears, and see if you can hear anything coming to you from the other side.

It will take time for you to learn how to summon the visions that you are looking for, or to see them when others ask you for them. All you can do once your chakra is clear, is to meditate, and try to focus on receiving messages, and not judging them.

*Dreaming and Future Predicting*

Everyone dreams, whether they remember it or not. They are wonderful ways to uncover problems that you may be suppressing, or to use your imagination to open up new possibilities. It is also possible, yes, to use your dreams as tools to see into the future. Dreaming is a place where the subconscious runs wild, as opposed to the conscious mind, where everything is orderly and put in its own place. Many Wiccans believe that dreams are where you can move through different dimensions, called time warping. When applying this, you can go into the past, present and future. This all begins with the concept of learning to control your dream.

Dreams are either extremely surreal, or intensely real. If you dream about cheating on your lover, there is probably something behind it. You may have never had the desire in waking life to do this, but there may be something in your relationship that has gone unspoken, causing you to dream up something that you may be afraid of occurring. Perhaps you are losing interest in your partner, or you feel less attracted to them. There is a possibility that this vision could be of the future, so it is best to accept this, and take the necessary steps to explore how you are feeling, whether or not it be with your partner.

The observe are sometimes called precognitions; the dreams we have that may be indicating to us what is to come. Lucid dreaming is the ability to control your dreams, and maybe thus, organize your future by creating positive visions of it.

Lucid dreams will generally start like any dream; it is only when you are already dreaming that you can begin take control of it. Here are some general steps that you can take if you want to start trying to lucid dream:

1. Start by saying certain statements a few days before you attempt lucid dreaming so you can practice becoming aware of yourself. Try stopping and saying to yourself, every now and then “This is what is happening. I am awake.”
2. Before going to bed, practice a comforting nighttime routine. Take a hot shower, wear comfortable pajamas, wash your sheets so they are fluffy and warm, etc. , anything that is going to make it easier for you drift off to sleep.
3. As you lie down, focus on being supported by the bed. Try to relax every single part of your body. Breathe slowly, and deeply.
4. Repeat this statement to yourself as you fall asleep: “I can control my dreams. I can control my dreams.” If you want to dream about something specific, say to yourself “I am going to dream about \_\_\_\_\_.”

Once you are within your dream, try to say to yourself, that you are there, and that you are now the one who is going to be in control.

Some people use their dreams to improve their self-esteem, self-confidence, or encourages successful outcomes in their lives. Dreamlike states like visualization can help with this too, as it helps you accept something as reality, and act like it is a reality, which will help you more likely bring this reality about. For example, if you want to be promoted, then you can visualize being promoted, and then you will thus behave that way.

Dream journals were suggested to you in an earlier chapter. They are great ways to enhance positive feelings from lucid dreaming and visualizations that you can carry forward into waking life. They are useful for keep track of your dreams, reoccurring images and symbols, so everything is laid out in front of

you. You may have a few moments of understanding when you are going through your journal, picking up similar occurrences and visions. Try keeping a notebook with a pen or pencil right next to your bed, so you can scribble it down as soon as you wake up. It will be easier to do this in the moment, because you are more than likely not going to remember the details when you wake up later in the morning (should your dreams occur in the middle of the night).

Try to write down the details of the night before you had the dream, the feeling of the dream, the various themes and occurrences. When you wake up, try to stay still, lying there for a few moments before you sit up to write down the details. Try to recall everything about your dream. Stick with a certain piece of information in your unfocused state, so you can recall every little detail. When you can no longer go any deeper, open your eyes and write in your journal. It doesn't have to be coherent at this point, and try not to worry about spelling or grammar.

Here are some dream interpretations of some of the most commonly dreamed dreams:

**FLYING:** Is a reflection of your capabilities, and may suggest a sense of freedom.

**FALLING:** Falling with fear means you're feeling out of control or insecure. Falling happily means you can take on new challenges.

**TEST-TAKING:** This may mean you are struggling with learning something or feel insecure about your knowledge.



**NAKEDNESS:** Being naked in public in your dream means you're feeling vulnerable.

**TEETH:** Many people have dreamt about their teeth falling out in their dreams. You may be feeling insecure romantically, worried about your health issues, or it can be an omen of death or illness of someone you know.

**STORMY WEATHER:** Feeling overwhelmed or angry.

**CEMETERIES:** Dreaming of walking through a cemetery means that you are sad, or fearful. You can also be on the verge of rebirth.

The next are less common dreams:

**RESTROOMS:** Dreaming of going to the bathroom means that you feel you need more privacy in your daytime life, or that you actually have to go to the bathroom and your mind is telling you to wake up.

**GARDENS:** A garden of flowers means love and happiness, while a garden of weeds may mean that you need to clear your head of something spiritual aching.

**PARTIES:** This may mean that you are achieving your goals.

**ABANDONMENT:** Dreams of being left behind generally mean you need to let go of old beliefs and habits.

**KIDNAPPING:** Someone in your waking life is trying to control you, and you don't like it.

**ACCIDENT:** Dreaming about an accident means you are in a worried state of mind. There is probably something in your life that has been plaguing you with anxiety.

**ADULTERY:** If you dream you are cheating on your partner, you may be mixed up in something unpleasant in your life, and this doesn't mean its an affair.

**DEATH:** If you dream of your own death, it means you are going through a life transition.

**RUNNING:** If you are fleeing from someone in your dream, you're trying to avoid something in your life that you are afraid to face. If you are running towards something, then you are trying to chase a certain goal.

**RINGS:** A ring in a dream means loyalty and wholeness. A broken ring means that someone may be questioning your dedication to them.

### *Always Taking Precaution When Delivering News*

Through your various abilities to see into the future and/or interpret images of potential events, you possess the serious responsibility as to whether or not you should relay them to others. This of course is considered most when potential harm may come to another. The indication that this might happen

isn't going to be as bright as day-you may have a vision of a friend having to get certain medications, or having bad backache. Everything is open to interpretation, and the more you practice, the more you are going to be able to interpret these events.

However, you must be careful when relaying news to other people. For example, you may have a vision of a car accident. You then relay to your friend not to drive their car anywhere that day, they do anyway, and nothing happens. You may have reading your vision wrong, and that is entirely okay. It happens. However, when or how you decide to tell others about visions, especially when it relates to harm being done them, must be done in a sensitive and precautionary manner. If you are unsure as to whether or not to tell a friend about something that you feel may harm them, try to consult another witch, or someone else you are close to.

## **Chapter 6: The Do's and Don't of Witchcraft**

This section is going to summarize what you have learned through this entire book. If some of the points were not made clear in a certain section, try to take the time to read through them in this one. While there are no rules to witchcraft and Wicca, there are some general guidelines that you can follow that will make your practice flow more smoothly. Remember, practicing witchcraft is all about freedom, and doing what is best for you.

**DON'T** think that you have to be a witch to practice witchcraft. As was reiterated several times throughout this book, learning witchcraft does not mean you have to identify as a witch, or belong to the Wiccan religion. Practicing witchcraft means just that; you are a person who practices witchcraft. If you enjoy the name, feel free to use it. You don't have to belong to a coven in order to call yourself a witch, nor do you have to belong to one in order to be a part of the Wiccan religion.

**DO** research, research, research before you decide to start practicing witchcraft. There is no point in buying a wand, crystal ball, altar, various incense if you do not quite understand what it is you are going to be doing. There is a vast array of information on the internet and in New Age book stores that are going to help you learn about Wicca, witches, and other occult and Pagan practices. When the feeling is right, perhaps, then you can begin creating your ritual space and gathering tools.

**DON'T** spend too much money on your ritual tools at first. You are just starting off practicing something that may be a brief hobby, or something that

briefly sparks your interest. Although this is not our hope, buying a lot of items you're not entirely sure you are going to connect with will waste your time, along with the time you spent looking for these items.

DO choose your ritual items carefully. Once you have decided what you want to actually purchase, or what you want to forge from the earth, take your time finding and purchasing them. Make sure you are holding them, sensing its energy, and sensing your own energy. Try to follow your intuition and choose what feels most right.

DON'T set out to cast hexes on others. Hexes, or curses, do exist within the magical world, but it is highly recommended that you not follow that path, due to the negative influence the energy will have on your life. Negatively cast spells fall under the category of black magic; this is not what Wicca, or the original concept of being a witch is truly existing for.

DO commit to doing no harm to others. There will always be times when we wish the harm of those who hurt us, but allow those to pass through you, rather than to use them as negative energy to put into another hex. Remember the first core belief of Wicca; do no harm.

DON'T let other people bring you down during the beginner phase of your witch-hood. It is personal to you, and important, so anyone who truly cares for you will not make fun of the way that you are trying to live. This is going to be an all around positive experience for you, so try not to let another person's negative opinion influence the important path you are choosing to walk on.

DO make an effort to locate or purchase a Book of Shadows. This is one of the most important tools in your ritual toolkit, and can be used for many reasons, including writing down spells, ingredients, and recalling your dreams.

DON'T wish for too much money. Casting a spell where you get more money for no particular reason sounds very tempting for most witches. It will be easy to start giving yourself money for the sake of it and for you to become greedy. Only ask for money in the more of spells when you truly need it, and keep the universe energies balanced by also donating some of your cash.

DO stay positive about your spell casting. Its going to take more than one try to get things right, or for the spell to render successful. There are many portions of the spell that could have made it go slightly wrong, like setting your intention, or not being able to focus enough on the task at hand. Whatever it may be, don't beat yourself up about it. Its called a practice for a reason! Trust yourself, you are going to get there.

DON'T everything to turn out well instantly. As previously mentioned, this is a practice, not a sport or learning to play an instrument. There is not a single right way to do spellwork, or to practice a ritual. There is no mathematical equation out there that will make a love spell work just as you planned it out. This is why your Book of Shadows will come in handy; you can write out the spells that worked for you, as well as the ones that did not. Use it as a reference to go back and check what may have went wrong, so you can change it up for the next time.

DO try to educate others on what witchcraft actually is. A lot of people will hear about the concept of being a witch, or perhaps that you are practicing to become one. They are quick to reject the notion of a modern witch, and instead would rather go with the image of a Halloween-like, cackling old woman on a broomstick. If the person is open-minded enough, you can inform them what actually witchcraft really is; the harnessing energy from the spiritual universe into the physical universe. Even if this sounds too New Age for them, you can tell that it's very similar to positive thinking notions in psychology; the more likely you are to believe you can do something, the more likely you actually will.

DON'T reject the importance of meditation while trying to do witchcraft. There are very few people out there who are able to participate in witchcraft without meditating on a consistent basis. These people are naturally more in tune with themselves and the world around them already. But if you are not, it would be smart to blend in a few bouts of meditation into your week. It doesn't need to be very long, merely 15 minutes at the end or the beginning of your day. Start off three times a week, and watch how it affects the success of your spellwork.

DO what feels best for you. Even though what it says in this book about certain spells, set ups of altars, there is literally nothing set in stone when it comes to practicing witchcraft. Doing what works for you will actually make your spellwork and rituals work better for you, because you are following what energy that is driving you forward.

DON'T worry about making mistakes. This is life, and through every art and practice, you are going to make mistakes. This can happen within your spellwork, or through the application of psychic abilities. You can only learn

by making these mistakes, so embrace them!

DO trust yourself while walking along with path. You have decided to participate in something that exists solely to create joy, peace, comfort, and happiness in your life and in the life of others. There are so many other ways that you could be spending your time, ways that could only hurt you in the end. Learning witchcraft is like consciously deciding that you want to better your life, and by learning spellwork, rituals, enhancing your psychic abilities, you are doing just that.



## **Wicca Starter Kit**

*A Step by Step Guide for the Solitary  
Practitioner to Learn the Use of  
Fundamental Elements of Wiccan Rituals  
Such as Candles, Herbs, Tarot, Crystals  
and Spells*

By: Joy Cunningham

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## Introduction

Wicca Starter Kit is your ultimate guide to casting spells and performing rituals with all of the tools you will need to bring the power of nature and the divine into your life. When you are a solitary practitioner, you are in charge of the rituals, the tools that you will use and the types of spells that you want to create to perform your magical rites. Finding all of the right tools can be a challenge and having a great resource guide to help you get started can make all the difference.

Whether or not you are new to Wicca, or have been practicing for a short while, this book will give you an overview and introduction to the history of Wicca, the concepts behind its philosophies and some of the reasons for celebration of this beautiful magic. It is important to have the background to understand the tools and reasons for your practice.

The most important part of Wicca Starter Kit is your guide to the tools you

will need to perform your rituals and spells. In chapter 2, you will find a concise list of magical implements to help you explore your Wicca practice and will give you an understanding of what they are used for, how to use them, when to use them, and where you can find them for your altar and practice.

Wicca Starter Kit will also provide you with several chapters of step-by-step instructions for building and honoring your altar space, casting a magic circle, performing rituals and writing and casting spells. You will also find a chapter dedicated to the use of crystal magic as well as one devoted to candle magic.

Overall, Wicca Starter Kit is a great guide to help you in your journey with rituals and spells through the use of some of the most common tools of the trade. Whatever you find here in these pages, it is sure to expand your knowledge of your craft and help you get further on your path of practicing Wiccan magic.

So mote it be!

## **Chapter 1: Introduction to Wicca**

### **Wicca: A Brief History**

Welcome to a brief history of Wicca! As you become acquainted with the mysteries and magic of this beautiful craft, it will be important for you to have an idea of where it has derived from. Many of the traditions of Wicca come from more ancient Pagan belief systems and practices, however the advent of Wicca and its founding philosophies originated in England and was introduced in the mid 1950's by a British civil servant by the name of Gerald Gardner.

A basic idea of Wicca is that it is considered what some might term Neo-Paganism, however there are distinct qualities and characteristics that set it apart from the traditional denominations of the paganism practiced in more ancient cultures.

Prior to Gardner's introduction of Wicca to the public in 1954, the concepts of Wicca could be traced back to a woman named Margaret Murray who was a renowned folklorist, anthropologist and Egyptologist, who studied the traditions and cultures of a wide range of religious practices, combining a field study of these sects and describing in her own words the concept of witchcraft.

Murray wrote a large set of books about medieval religious practices, specifically those centered on witch-cults in Europe. Her works actually inspired readers to rekindle the pagan arts by creating their own covens, structuring their worship around the descriptions from Murray's books. All of this was going on in the early 1920's in Great Britain and Europe and likely led to Gerald Gardner's more structured philosophy called Wicca.

Gardener's book entitled *Witchcraft Today* demonstrated the origin of the word Wicca and what it means to the craft. In his book, it is actually spelled with only one 'c', as in "wica", and it wasn't until the 1960's that the second 'c' was added. Gardner mentions that the word 'wica' is a Gaelic, or Scots-English word meaning "wise people". He had always had an interest in the occult and eventually became initiated into a coven of his own in the late 1930's.

Eventually, he formed his own coven in the late 40's, buying land and establishing it as a center for the study of folklore. It became his occult headquarters and where he would bring to light the Wiccan way through his writing and practice.

A great connection existed between Gardner and the famed occultist Aleister Crowley. The two men met in the late 1940's and had much to discuss about their personal beliefs and magic. Gardner's work and writing out of his own rituals of Wicca for publication were strongly influenced by Crowley's own work, which had dated all the way back to the earlier part of the century.

Gardner published his works, one of them being a novel entitled, *High Magic's Aid*, which actually became one of his first standard tomes to describe the practice of Wicca. It was his *Book of Shadows*, however, that became the most highly regarded and sought after. Gardner's *Book of Shadows* was his personal collection of spells, rituals and other information about the craft. To this day, it is one of the most central books for the practice of Wicca, or at least for learning from the original Wiccan, Gardner himself. Fortunately, Wicca was then, and remains to be, an ever-evolving practice and does not adhere to a strict set of rules. It happens to be a very flexible religion and offers that people follow a simple set of ideas and concepts and that there is freedom within those ideas to explore and form a deeper understanding.

Initiates of Gardner's coven were given the Book of Shadows to copy out and use and that was one of the ways they belonged to the coven, sharing the same spells and rituals to carry forward and practice.

Gardner met Doreen Valiente in the early 1950's, before Wicca had its coming out. She personally contacted him after seeing an article in a magazine about covens, witches, their practices, and what that reality was like. Under Gardner's guidance, she was able to revise *The Book of Shadows* for Gardner to offer it as a popular book for others outside of the coven and also prominent Wiccan circles, similar to how Crowley had marketed his beliefs and findings. Valiente became a Wiccan leader of her own coven and was a prominent figure and scholar in the world of steadily growing Wiccans.

The story of Wicca, when you look at it like that, seems like no more than a trifle in the annals of history, but when you look a little deeper, it had a profound impact on the world of magic. Leading up to Gardner's exposure of his new religion, there were several ways that people were still looking to practice the ancient Pagan arts. Witchcraft was an incredibly taboo practice and it was highly frowned upon for centuries after the witch trials.

The study of the past by Margaret Murray helped people to find a new appreciation and understanding for the beauty of this magic and if it wasn't for her work, and that of other occult philosophers, Wicca might not have been born.

To be honest, it has always existed in some form or fashion and it has carried many other names. The big umbrella term for it would be Pagan, and that word houses a whole cornucopia of possible sects and denominations, practices and rituals.

So then, it begs the question: what makes Wicca different?

Based in nature worship of the pagan religions, modern-day Wicca



approaches connection to the divine through rituals and practices, festivals of the solstices, observances of deities, specifically a male and female god form, herbalism, a code of ethics and a belief in reincarnation and an afterlife.

Some say that it is a modern-day interpretation of those pagan religions and traditions, which existed before Christianity. It has its origins in Europe, but in today's world will also incorporate concepts from other religious practices like Shamanism and pre-Christian Egyptian religion. It has been noted that there are strong similarities to Druidism, as well, despite there being a lack of evidence about how the Druids truly worshipped.

A majority of Wiccans are duotheistic, meaning they worship a male god and a female goddess, or the Horned God and Mother Goddess, or Mother Earth. It is not always the case and even the early forms of Wicca, back in Gardner's day, were not strict. Most of the time, it was determined on a coven by coven basis, what deities would be worshiped by the group and how to perform certain rituals.

Some other forms of Wiccan practice involve, and are not limited to, atheism, pantheism, and polytheism. This opens the playing field to anyone wishing to establish a Wiccan practice, involving all of the other ethics and rituals into their work, while getting the chance to determine how they want to worship. The basics remain the same, but the deities or what gets worshipped changes.

Apart from these components outlined in the earliest forms of Wicca, there is a devout appreciation for the Earth and all of her inhabitants which is why Wicca tends to be called a nature-based religion. The use of herbs and plants in spell work and rituals is celebrated regularly, and also includes a devotion to the seasons of the Earth cycles and Moon cycles, bringing focus to all living rhythms.

The history of Wicca may feel recent; however, it comes from a long and

green history of pagans, druids, witches, warlocks and all of the individuals and covens along the way who had a sincere devotion to the presence of Earth magic and all of its gifts. Giving attention to the origins of Wicca is an important beginning to your study and as you embrace the methods of how Wicca can be practiced, like those before you, you can build upon it to make it work for you the way that feels best. There are only guidelines and no strict rules. Wicca is meant to evolve with the individual, and whether you are practicing alone or in a group, the Wicca of the past will always be a part of the Wicca of the present. Your Wicca.

The next chapter will go deeper into some of the core beliefs and philosophies of all branches of Wicca to help you determine your own safe practice.

## **Wicca Core Beliefs and Philosophies**

Wicca can be described as a broad religion as it has the happiness of including a lot of different perspectives, realities and beliefs. There are, however, several major core beliefs that are practiced by a majority of Wiccans as a way to establish a grounding basis for understanding the magic you are working with when you are practicing.

These concepts are taken into account, no matter what coven you are in, or what deity you are worshipping. The concepts outlined in this chapter are main platform, or foundation, of what Wicca is and how it explains itself to anyone wishing to follow this path.

### **Nature is Divine**

A majority of Wiccans will tell you that nature is divine. It is like a backbone to the entire practice and there are so many ways that this core belief manifests itself in these rituals. We are all members of this Earth: every rock, tree, leaf, plant, animal, bird, insect, and person, not to mention hundreds of

thousands of other species and landscapes.

The Earth is our sacred home and we are a sacred part of it. It is where all life energy is stored and recreated and we are a part of those cycles and systems. To worship nature is to worship the very essence of all things. And you will find that all Wiccan holidays and festivals that are celebrated are derived from a worship of nature. Each festival is marked by a solstice or equinox. All esbats are marked by the cycle of the moon. And just about every ingredient in the rituals and spells of these festivities comes from nature somehow.

There is also a celebration in nature of the unity of opposing forces. There is always a balance of the light and the dark and nature-worship provides the opportunity to look at life from that place of balance and serenity. It is the presence of the male and female in all things; the yin and the yang. That is nature.

The practice of devoting space and love to nature is a part of the Wiccan creed and even though it is not a demand that you follow that practice, it comes naturally when you consider all of the other core beliefs.

Many of the tools that you will use for your rituals and spells are derived from nature. You will find yourself gathering herbs or pieces of wood for making a wand. You may be harvesting certain plants to hang around your house for a certain holiday, or dressing your altar in the perfumes and trinkets of the forest floor. All of nature comes into Wicca and it is a powerful process to fully connect with the divine in nature.

### **Karma, The Afterlife and Reincarnation**

Karma is an echo of what you may find in the Threefold Law (see below) which basically states that what you do in this life carries over into your next one. To make such a suggestion, one must believe in the concept of

reincarnation, which creates an open doorway for your spiritual being and essence to return to another life, after your last one, to continue to learn lessons and acquire knowledge for the evolution of all things.

According to Wicca, this is what will always be and has always been, and so in order to adopt the principles of Wicca, you must look into the reality of who you were before, and who you are going to be next. It might be that you are already familiar with some of your past life experiences and you already know what lessons you are trying to learn from those lives. In other cases, for some, you gain new knowledge as you go and are not always privy to what you are supposed to be learning. The concept of Karma asks that you remind yourself what you need to heal from your former lives so that you can ascend further into your true power and magic. And while you are at it, in this life you are living now, be sure that what you do is something you want to take with you into the next life. This also pertains to the Wiccan Rede 'harm none' (see below).

Although there is the concept of reincarnation, there is also the concept of the afterlife, sometimes referred to as Summerland, and it is here that you rest between lives to prepare for the next one, to gather your strength and reflect on the journey before to create the best journey forward.

All of these concepts help the Wiccan to bridge the gap between Earth and Spirit and that the balance of the divine is always present, no matter what life you are living, or what stage of travel you are in between worlds.

### **Ancestors**

It is not uncommon to call upon the ancestors in the practice of Wiccan rituals and casting. Many Wiccans believe that our ancestors are always with us, guiding us and showing us the way and should be honored for their own commitment to forging ahead and living life.

Wiccans celebrate deities of various kinds and it is normal to include your ancestors in your practice just as frequently, as they are a part of the cycle of the self and have many lessons to teach as you grow and honor your own path. The concept of honoring the ancestors is not specific to Wicca and is a cross-cultural truth, present in most religious practices.

A great deal of worship for the ancestors comes from a need to embrace the past as well as what your ancestors continue to do for you in the future.

### **Wheel of the Year**

All of the cycles of the year are celebrated in Wicca. Every solstice has a celebration, or Sabbat, and every equinox, too. The rituals and spells that accompany these times are a sacred honoring and celebration committed to the end of something to hail the beginning of something new. In the calendar of the year, there are endless deaths and rebirths that can occur and as a Wiccan, you will find harmony and abundance with every passing season because of that very truth: life begets death which begets more life.

In all of the seasons there are also moon cycles that are celebrated throughout the ritual of Esbats. The cycles of the moon organize the seasons and every waning moon leads to an ending, into a darkening, while every waxing moon leads to a powerful fullness that has its own magic and ritual associated with it.

All of the rhythms and cycles are a part of Wiccan work and it will be a part of this world forever. The concept of worshiping the divine in nature goes closely with the wheel of the year and should be counted as a major component of Wiccan worship.

### **Personal Responsibility and Responsibility**

This concept agrees with the Wiccan Rede and the Threefold Law. You are responsible for every action you take. Wicca asks that you are wise to your

power because it might be more than you realize, especially when you are working with the sacred divine energies of all things and all life.

When you are practicing Wicca, you are becoming responsible for more than just yourself; you are using the energy of all life to celebrate and support the life you lead and everything you choose can have an impact on another. It is a wonderful way for you to be honest with the truth of karma as well, because whatever you are responsible for in this life, goes with you forward into the next.

You are incredibly powerful, and Wicca helps you to embrace your internal power and life force energy; it also asks you to be responsible with your power and to harm none and do right by your actions and rituals.

### **The Wiccan Rede: Harm None**

The Wiccan Rede simply states that you should do nothing in your practice that could cause harm to another individual. The basic concept of the golden rule of thumb, that you would do unto others, but it is also asking you to be very cautious in your practice and to consider how you are wording your spells and rituals.

The practice of Wicca is meant to be of benefit to the greater good of all life and so a lot of it has to do with intentions. When you are practicing you might find that you need to state that you are wanting to harm none and that you will uphold the good of all living things on Earth, so it be in your power.

You will find this credo in all of the Wiccan books you find and it has held steady and true for some time. It holds you to your personal responsibility and power and that you have to be the one to make the right choice when using the gift of magic.

### **Equality**

Coercion is not an element of the Wiccan faith. Proselytizing is frowned upon and an aura of acceptance for all backgrounds and spiritual purposes is embraced. Wiccans generally believe that there needs to be an equality in all matters and that all people have a right to walk their own spiritual path; the one that is right for them.

The concept of equality should go without saying in all religions, but unfortunately this is often not the case. This is one way that Wicca is so unique; it offers a way to receive wisdom and abundance through worship of the divine without suggesting that it can only be done a certain way.

Wicca equals equality and the practicing of this artful religion requires an open heart and an open mind to anyone who is in need of a spiritual community and path.

### **Rule of Three**

The Threefold Law, aka Rule of Three, is used in many Wiccan traditions. Not everyone supports this law, however it comes up often and should be noted, or practiced if it suits you. This concept states that whatever spell or magical act is being performed, the resulting energy created from that act will go into the Universe, and come back to the practitioner three times.

You may or may not be familiar with this concept, and it has origins in other cultural practices, especially those of Eastern religions that believe in the law of karma. Wicca is what gives it the concept of three times, the number bearing importance to the reality of the power you are wielding.

It might not happen in the way that you think, for example if you wish harm on someone else, you may have three separate instances of bad fortune as a result, or it could feel like the impact of the return is 3 times greater than it normally would be, like expecting to get paid \$100 and getting paid \$300.

The Threefold Law is just another way to help you keep a balance with your

practice and ensure that you harm none, and that includes harming yourself with the energy of three coming back to you.

### **Elements in All Things**

In Wiccan belief, there are five elements: earth, air, fire, water, ether, or spirit. During rituals and ceremonies and especially in the casting or consecrating of a circle, the five elements are called into balance the energies of the ritual or spell. Not all Wiccans practice with five elements and just use the 4 main ones, conserving spirit as represented by the deity that they worship.

These elements are the fundamental building blocks of all things on Earth and in the Universe. They are responsible for the great eternal cycle of life through creation and destruction, the birth-death-rebirth cycle. These forces of nature that are sacred to Wiccans are always a part of practice because they are the literal life force that binds all matter and all spirit.

These elements have been studied throughout time and were part of philosophies dating back to the early Greeks, who were also worshippers of deities and religions of nature. These concepts are found across continents throughout many religions and beliefs including in Egypt and Babylonia, Hinduism and Buddhism, and many more.

The elements are definitely a tool that must be used in your Wiccan practice and as you get further along in your understanding of your spell work and rituals, you will find how important and powerful they can truly be.

### **Starting with the Core Beliefs and Philosophies**

This book is a Starter Kit to help you get ready for how to practice the art of Wicca. It is a creative reality that requires understanding of all these basic, core elements and understandings. Before you get started with your spells and craft, you need to have a knowledge of the best way to practice and the



ideas and concepts that sets Wicca apart from other Pagan religions and practices.

The core beliefs and philosophies in this chapter are just a simple guide to get you started and you can find even more about these concepts in your searching and education of this craft. Consider this information a tool in your tool box; it is the foundation of the house you are going to build with your starter kit so that you are ready and prepared for the work ahead.

Great things are around the corner for you when you honor the choice to practice this wonderful energetic truth. It has power beyond measure and it exists in all things and the creative tools that you use to get more connected to the work of Wicca is what will help you design the practice that is right for you on your journey.

The building blocks of your Starter Kit are only the beginning to a full expression of true Wiccan ritual and practice. In the next chapter, you will learn about the presence and celebrations of the Sabbats and Esbats and the rhythm and cycles they afford to the energy of your ongoing Wiccan rewards.

## **Sabbats / Sun Cycles**

Sabbats are the holidays, sometimes referred to as the “solar holidays”, or time of the Sun, and are marked by the changing seasons through the Solstices and Equinoxes. There are 8 total holidays that are traditionally celebrated and they are the 4 solstices and equinoxes, as well as, another 4 holidays spread out through the year between these other major passages. The additional 4 tend to fall halfway between an equinox and a solstice.

You might find in your practices that some Wiccans refer to these times as the Greater and Lesser Sabbats, since the solstices and equinoxes tend to be considered as times of much more intense energy, and therefore greater in celebration and importance.

In your practice, it only really matters that you offer some reflection and time to appreciating these moments in the ever-changing cycles of the Earth. You will find that there are a variety of ways to celebrate and you may find yourself coming up with your own unique spells and rituals with your Starter Kit to practice these festivities.

### **Samhain (Lesser)**

This holiday is what witch's note as the New Year. It is All Hallows Eve, or Halloween and it is the time of year when the veil is thin between the Earth and the spirit planes. This time marks the end of the Summer and the opening of the cold, Winter ahead, when the Sun is not as bright and the days are not as long. It is the cycle of the dying Sun and the welcoming of the darkness.

Many Wiccans also see this time as a moment of personal death and rebirth, when you go within and reflect upon what is coming in the next cycle. It is when the harvests of hard personal work and labor can be stored and you are reminded of where you just were and where you need to prepare to go before your great rebirth in the Spring months.

Many people celebrate this time by dressing as ghosts or spirits to honor the dead. It is often a time that honors passed love ones and the rituals involved at this time can be a gateway to communication with the world of the spirits.

### **Yule (Greater)**

Yule is also known as the Winter Solstice and has its pre-Christian name and celebrations from Pagan worship of divine in nature. This day marks the shift in the Sun's appearance in the sky. It is the longest night of the year before the days begin to get longer again and bring the hope of more light as the Spring approaches.

It is a significant time for bringing light into the home by candle light and many will decorate their homes with the boughs and branches of pine and

evergreen trees, as well as holly and mistletoe.

The Yule log is a great tradition for this day and is a symbol of light to be burned all night long, that recounts the energy of that life force in nature, and welcomes it back into the shifting seasons. This is also a good time for celebrating the Goddesses as this is their time of year, while the Sun's light is waned and the dark nights are long.

This is a great reflection time and it opens the pathway to getting ready for lighter days ahead

### **Imbolc (Lesser)**

A time of renewal, purity, fertility and growth, this sacred holiday is in the power of the Goddess Brigid, a maiden form of the Triple Goddess.

Occurring in the very beginning of February, it is a subtle opening to spring and the awakening of the maiden. The last frosts are occurring and the white of snow and ice begins to melt.

It is a time of release, to let go of the old and prepare for the new to come around the corner. A time of renewal approaches.

### **Ostara (Greater)**

This is the Spring Equinox and is the perfect balance of light and dark. It is considered the marriage, or union, between the god and the goddess, or the sun and the moon, to bring light back into the world and herald new growth.

Ostara is the goddess who represents this time of year. Her name comes from the word Oestre which is Greek for egg, like a new egg of spring, ready to hatch and bring forth new life.

It is a time to celebrate renewal and welcome the balance of the male and female energies of Earth and spirit, as well as your own internal balances.

### **Beltane (Lesser)**

Many people refer to this holiday as May Day as it usually falls on the first day of May and marks the midway point between the equinox of Spring and the solstice of Summer. It is a calling to the power of the gods of fertility and abundance as people celebrate the consummation of the marriage of the god and goddess to plant new life in the soils of the Earth womb.

The maypole is a symbol of this time and is danced around to mark the occasion and bonfires are a prominent part of the festivities, calling attention to the growing power of the masculine energy of the sun as it grows in strength and length of time in the sky.

It is a time of bounty, abundance and fertility with the waxing sunlight and the great goddess of fertility, ready to give birth to the growing seed within her womb.

### **Litha (Greater)**

Litha is another name for Summer Solstice, which falls in the month of June. It marks the moment in the cycle of Earth when the sun is at its greatest strength, before he begins to turn toward his time of waning in preparation for Autumn. This holiday is also occasionally referred to as Mid-Summer Night's Eve and is the time when the fairies come out and join in the fun and celebration. It has been seen as a good time for divination because of the magic of fairies being close by.

Another time to celebrate the energy of the Sun and the fiery passion that lives in the hotter brighter months of the year. This is a time to gather energy and prepare for the impending harvest that will carry you into Autumn.

### **Lughnasadh (Lesser)**

Sometimes also referred to as Lammas, Lughnasadh is the beginning of the harvest and mark then ending of the Sun's greatest time. The goddess of fertility is giving birth to everything that grew in the soil of her womb over

the light months. It is the beginning of the time when you must set aside and store the bounty of this great birthing to prepare for the colder months ahead. It is the preparing time for when the Earth becomes cold and rests and the underworld opens.

This is a time of thankfulness and gratitude, appreciating the bounty of Mother Earth and reflecting upon the offering of the Sun's energy and light in all of the plants and foods that are harvested.

### **Mabon (Greater)**

Mabon heralds the time of the Autumnal Equinox and is the second harvest, the final being Samhain. This is the time of transition into the final moments of fertility and abundance, when the leaves begin to shift in color and welcome a new kind of late to the day.

It is a time of storage, preparation, protection, security and groundedness and wakes up the new hours of dawn and night before the witch's new year to begin the cycle all over again.

This is a powerful time to give thanks to the ageing god and goddess of the spirit world as they move into their crone years and the Great Mother rests from her time of giving her offspring to the cycles and celebrations of all life. We welcome the age of night and the time of the cold season to let the mother crone rest and rejuvenate before she brings life back into the world again in the Spring.

### **Esbats / Moon Cycles**

Every four weeks, the moon is pregnant with the light of the Goddess, to light up the night sky. These monthly moon cycles work in tandem with the Sabbats, marking the Sun's journey, and the goddess moon is the counterpart of the Sun's light to bring watery balance to that heat.

During the esbats, the focus is on the moon and on the energy of the triple goddess (Maiden-Mother-Crone), celebrating her divine light. Some people work in groups or covens, like with the celebrations and festivities around the time of the Sabbats, but any solitary practitioner can celebrate either Sabbat or Esbat on their own, and join in the knowing and knowledge that many Wiccans across the globe are gazing at the same orb of light as you are. It is a powerful magic to perform all at once and why it is so important to make space for this time.

### **The Triple Goddess and Esbats**

Like with a Sabbat celebration, ritual, or spell, the type of practice varies from person to person, or coven to coven. One thing that always remains true is the celebration of the triple goddess in conjunction with the moon ceremonies.

The Triple Goddess is the very one who comes throughout the year. In Spring, she is Maiden, joining in union with the God of the Sun before she becomes Mother in the Summer months, growing and gestating the rich fruits of Earth. Finally, she becomes Crone in the Autumn/ Winter months, when her energies are now that of a wise old woman who prepares for her rebirth into maidenhood once again.

It may be that during the Sabbat cycles, you prefer to honor a specific form of the Triple Goddess. For example, in Spring ritual esbats, you may find ways to celebrate the Maiden goddesses under the full moon light, like Brigid or Ostara, or the crone goddesses, such as Hecate, under the moons of Autumn and Winter.

### **Full Moon Rituals**

It is common practice to hold a ceremony, ritual or cast a spell with the magic and power of the full moon shining down upon you. Wiccans who work in

covens will have their own, specific work to do and if you are a solitary practitioner you will work with your own energies to determine the needs of the moon you are working with. You may be casting magic for personal reasons, or you may be using the power of the moon to bring peace and prosperity to all people. However, you choose to work with the full moon, a ritual or incantation is a common practice during an esbat.

That said, some esbats may only be a practice of gratitude and thanks; a moment of reverence for the great divine. It really only matters based on what kind of practice you have. It is also not a requirement that you name a specific deity or goddess. Many Wiccans will simply impart the name of the Triple Goddess and use her whole energy as a symbol of all power and energy of the moon and the cycles of life.

### **New Moon Rituals**

Let's not forget about the New Moon. Wiccans don't always worship the full moon and it is a practice to choose an alternative cycle, in this case, the new moon. Some see it as the perfect beginning, or opening, to honor the goddess and you may find that there are a lot of covens or solitary practitioners who prefer to work with the energy of the dark moon, bringing attention to a ritual or spell, and letting it grow with the waxing moon.

It really depends on what kind of a witch you are or want to be and so you have the power of choice when it comes to esbat practices and rituals.

Another common practice is to have esbats for 4 moons a month, honoring not just the full and new moons, but also the first and last quarter moons.

Asking for all wisdom from the moon's waxing and waning is a powerful way to continuously honor the goddess and the cycles of the year. When in conjunction with the sabbats, or sun cycles, the esbats are a powerful source of connection to the divine rhythms of life in your Wicca work.

## **Wicca 101**

This brief introduction to Wicca is just a starting point, an egg of Spring, to get you started with your practice. It is an important part of any magical starter kit to have the knowledge of what you are getting ready to align with and it is important that you grasp the traditions, philosophies and beliefs, before you get started with your practice.

You may find a great deal more information out there in the world, and you certainly should keep looking and asking questions. The world of Wicca is vast and broad, and speaks to a variety of different methods, deities, rituals and spells.

You will want to know more and more as you go and this Starter Kit is a great way to get you all pumped up with magical life force so that you can start practicing today. When you are ready to practice, you can use my other book, *Wicca for Beginners: A Basic Guide for the Modern Age to Learn About the Mysteries of Wiccan Beliefs and History, and How to Use Candles, Crystals, Herbs, Magik Rituals and Spells*, to help guide you through even more details of Wiccan worship, spells and rituals, to keep you on the right track with your study of this magical craft.



## **Chapter 2: What Do You Need? Basic Tools for Wicca**

Wicca is a creative practice and there aren't any doctrines on how to practice it; there are guidelines, beliefs and philosophies asking you to perform magic in responsible ways. The tools that you choose to use are entirely up to you and you may take great pleasure in designing some of your own. It is an exciting journey to create your magic with your own, homemade tools, and once you are feeling more confident in your knowledge and practice, you will honor that side of your magic skills.

In the meantime, to get you started, this chapter demonstrates a list of some of the more commonly used tools to practice rituals and spells. You may not need, or want, all of these items to start, but it is a good foundation for understanding some of what you might be working with on your journey.

### **Acquiring Tools for the Starter Kit**

There are many ways to build your tool box and you don't have to go out and spend a bunch of money to get what you need. There are always alternatives to the more expensive items you may find in a New-Age shop or online, but if you have a curiosity to find your items in this way, by all means. There is something good about holding something in your hand before buying it, and although online shopping is a convenience, it might not always be the best choice when acquiring your sacred tools, unless it is from a trusted source.

The fun of Wicca is how creative it is and that you can have a good time looking for objects from what you already own and may have, that will give you exactly what you need. It may be that you have some old kitchen items that could seem entirely non-magical, but once you give them a blessing and consecrate them to perform magic, they will look altogether different to you and will make excellent altar tools moving forward.

You can also make a lot of your own tools, if you're crafty and want to get really creative, or you can slowly collect things from local shops and also from nature. The most magical way to gain access to the tools you really want is to deliver your intention to the universe and ask for the right ones to come to you. Keep your eyes peeled as they will slowly begin to show up and maybe when you least expect it to happen. Sometimes, they might be a gift, and other times, you could trip over it in a parking lot outside the grocery store. You never know with magic, so keep an eye out for any tools you are attempting to draw to yourself.

### **Cleansing Your Tools**

Before you use any tool that you acquire, it is important that you cleanse and consecrate your tools to rid them of any former energy and make them your own for magical purposes. Everything is energy and everything carries energy, and so even if you are ordering something from online that says it has already been cleansed or consecrated, cleanse it anyway.

Your magical tools need to carry a pure essence of you and your practice and a simple cleansing ritual is easy enough to perform with your number one tool, the elements and the casting of a circle. It's all about intentions and so you can use incense to smudge the energy while you incant some words about your purposes with the tools, offering that any former ownership and reality be released. It doesn't need to be complicated, just intentional.

### **Use Your Intuition to Gather Your Tools**

It always depends on the ritual and what you are wanting to accomplish, but a general rule of thumb is that you have a tool to represent each element in your circle, i.e., earth, air, fire, water. You will see in further sections what represents which, but for now, you can get an idea that your ritual tools are here to help advise the energy of the spell work you are doing.

The most important thing is that you feel drawn to whatever tool you are using, and that you have an energetic connection to it. Depending on the ritual you are doing, if a certain tool doesn't feel quite right, don't use it. It may not be the right energy for your spell and that's okay. The practice of Wicca involves the practice of intuition and how to honor what *feels* right for each new experience of magic.

Tools are not a strict component of Wicca magic, and you may have senses at times not to use any tools and that all you need is yourself and nature and that is perfectly acceptable. You can use your own personal power and energy to draw upon the divine life forces, but this can take some time and practice, and so while getting started, having your altar of tools is a good way to honor and direct the energies you need to hold and work with.

Let's take a look at the tools you may want to bring into your practice and how they can influence your spells and rituals.

## **The Elements**

Why the elements are considered a tool in Wicca? The 4 main elements, together with the fifth of spirit, are one of the tools you will use most often in your practice. Almost every time you are performing a ritual, you will honor and call the elements into your circle. If anything, the elements are the number one tool in your tool kit and should be considered as such.

Consider them a tool of connection to the divine and your magic for setting intentions of protection and manifestation. These elements are always present in any magic you work and are there to broaden your degrees of magical force by how you incorporate them into your spells.

The elements are usually invoked at the start of a ritual, each element being associated with a cardinal direction- North, East, South, West, or Earth, Air, Fire, Water. Typically, when using these tools, you will honor them by facing

each direction that they represent. You may find it handy to have a compass with you, if you are uncertain of which direction is where. This act is sometimes referred to as “calling the quarters”, which is just the act of calling the elements and the directions. Usually, the same action is performed at the closing of the ritual or circle in the same way that it was opened.

Furthermore, every element can be represented by several of the tools you will learn about in this chapter. An example of this might be that the pentacle symbol is a representation of the Earth element and the North and can be included in your rituals from earthly grounding and bringing focus to earth energies. Another example would be candle flame representing the element of fire and so on.

The same is true of every crystal and herb that you use in your practice. They all have individual qualities and properties to be studied and will always have a link to one of the elements, and sometimes more than one, depending on your own personal intuition about what you are working with. Objects carry the same impact. River stones represent water, but could also be considered earth, depending on your practice. Feathers can represent air, and so on.

The Elements are your number one tool so get comfortable and familiar with them and what they might represent in your tool box.

## **The Cauldron**

This tool has been associated with witchcraft throughout history and popular culture. It is an icon of magic and has been shown as a major tool in the work of the witch. It is the cooking pot of magic and is associated with both fire and water. The cauldron holds the water, potion or brew, and yet it cannot boil and manifest without the heat and flame of the fire burning under its belly.

In the traditions of Wicca, it represents the creative force of transformation as

represented by the Goddess. The Goddess exists in all her forms through the seasons of the year, just as the cauldron ignites the same transformation in anything it carries inside of it.

In modern times, the cauldron is not crucial to your practice, but it is a great tool for magical work, especially with fire or a place for safely burning candles and other magical elements, like herbs and incense. You may even want to use it to brew a potion, however you will need to have the ability to light a pretty roaring fire underneath it, which isn't really easy or ideal for indoor magical work.

Another effect of the cauldron is its use for scrying and divination. A bit of sacred water in the cauldron to gaze upon will open some pathways into the secrets of the divine. On the altar, it can be your pot for incense and the burning of magical herbs.

You can purchase cauldrons in shops and at an online magic store as well. They are not as easy to find as say, candles or incense, but they are a great addition to your starter kit. They come in a variety of sizes that you can choose from based on your needs. A smaller sized cauldron is best for a solitary practitioner, or any kind of indoor altar or work space. They come in a variety of metals, though cast-iron is the typical form and they rest on three legs with a handle for carrying it safely. If you cannot find a cauldron, that's ok! You can use another kind of heat-safe bowl that will be just as magical until you find the cauldron you have called upon to find you.

## **The Athame**

Considered the element of fire (or air, depending on what Wiccan magic you are practicing) the athame is a blade or a sword that is used for direct and cutting energy, embodying transformation. It has a strong, masculine energy and would therefore be associated with god energy, rather than goddess.

Swords are forged in fire and the metal of the blade, once melted and liquid, is channeled into becoming a sturdy blade of intention and purpose.

It looks like a dagger and traditionally has a black handle, or hilt and is typically no longer than your hand's length. They can be found in shops, or received as gifts, and are a lot harder to make on your own, compared to some of the other tools. You can sometimes even find athames in online or local shops whose blades are made of crystal or stone. If you cannot afford a fancy athame, you can actually just consecrate and small kitchen knife and adopt it into your magical tool box, giving it the authority and power of your Wiccan practice.

In general, the cutting of anything with an athame is purely symbolic in the ritual sense, however, in today's practices, modern Wiccans will use their athame to cut herbs in the wild, carve their wands and cut the branch or twig from the tree, and carve pentacles and other magical symbols into various spells and ritual materials.

Wicca will always want a fire element and a dagger, or athame, is a perfect blend of the fiery and masculine energy of the sun, along with its direct force to cut through energy and bring about a powerful fullness to your rituals. Keep an athame as a tool and be sure to cleanse it often with your other magical tools.

## **The Chalice**

Chalice is a fancy word for cup, or goblet. It is connected to the element of water and the spirit of the Goddess. It symbolizes abundance and fertility, taking on many roles in the rituals and spells you choose to perform. It is often seen as an offering, or a way to give gifts, or libations to the deities called into your ceremony. Depending on your ritual, it can hold whatever liquid seems fitting: water, wine, ale, tea, kombucha, essences, potions.

Conversely, an empty chalice can be symbolic in particular rituals, denoting an openness to receive abundance to be poured into the cup from the spiritual plane.

In most traditional Wiccan practice, the chalice is a silver color and made of metal as a representation of the Goddess and the moon. You might not want to drink from a silver plated or pewter cup, however, so even if you find one like this at a Magic Shoppe, you are likely not going to be able to regularly drink out of it because of toxic chemicals and elements. Certain beverages can actually corrode these metals and not be safe for ingestion.

It isn't a must have when you are building your tool kit and you can bless and consecrate any cup that you find that feels like the right choice for your altar and your particular choice of honoring the great divine. You may already have one that you know of that will be perfect for your uses and all you need to do is set magical intentions around it.

A wine glass can be just as effective as a goblet you buy at a neo-pagan shop. There could also be a cup that has been in your family for a long time that would be an excellent choice, honoring your ancestors with your magic chalice. You can also keep on the lookout for something to jump out at you when your shopping around town. It is always best to avoid plastic and synthetic materials in any of the tools you are acquiring for your magical purposes.

Whatever cup you choose, treat it differently than your other cups. It doesn't belong in the dishwasher and should be hand washed as it is used for magical purposes and should be considered sacred to you and your practice.

## **The Incense and Smoke**

Incense has been a part of many religious cultures since the times of antiquity. It has always wafted through the halls and realms of focused

intentional practices of connection to spirit and continues to be a large part of various cultural rituals today. It is an aromatic tool that brings together the earthly elements of herbs, spices, tree barks, oils and resins, to them manifest a smoke of cleansing purity, creating sacred space and air in the atmosphere. It is associated with the element of Air (and sometimes fire) and is a regularly utilized component of Wiccan ritual and spell.

Traditional methods for burning incense include the use of loose herbs in some kind of censer. A censer is a hanging container that can be swung from a rope, a chain or a handle. You will often see Catholic priests using a censer in their rituals. You can also use your small cauldron to work as a censer and waft the smoke around like that, allowing it to continue to burn in your cauldron while you perform your rituals.

Loose incense can be tricky to work with. You need more than just the herbs and will usually need some charcoal bricks or disks, sold alongside incense in many shops. These days, a more popular form of incense is sticks or cones, which can be easier and sometimes safer to burn, depending on your set up and your chosen tools and methods. Either method you choose will work wonderfully.

You can also find what are known as smudge sticks which are typically just a bundle of wrapped, dried herbs that you can light and then let smoke.

Smudging is another popular form of working with air energy to consecrate your sacred space. Palo Santo is a sacred, harvested wood, that can be lit and burned for the same purposes and comes in small sticks.

Burning incense is often considered an offering to whatever deities you are connecting with and you can burn incense to an image of them on your altar, or set the intention that you are focused on that particular god or goddess as it burns. Using incense during your rituals and spells is very powerful and you



may alter which scent you are using based on your spell. The earthly materials used to make incense, such as herbs and spices, all carry specific energies, so you will want to make sure you are working with the right aromatic energy for your spell work.

Smoke is purifying and cleansing and great for removing unwanted energies. It has an ability to prepare for Wiccan work and also to cast a circle. It is a powerful tool that should be used frequently in all of your magical endeavors.

## **The Candle**

The candle is a symbol of all of the elements. The wick is the Earth and must be present to ground the candle and keep it alight and burning. The wax is water in that it melts and turns to a liquid state and also evaporates, demonstrating the transformative qualities of water. Air is required to keep the candle flame burning, as without oxygen, there could be no fire. The flame is obvious: fire. When you charge the candle with intentions of bringing spirit into the elements of the candle, you are adding the fifth element. All five elements together in one candle equals a powerful tool of magic, uniting all of the forces of the universe together in one little tool.

Candles allow us to bring the magical power of color into our spell work and craft. Certain colors are associated with certain qualities and characteristics of life and can be useful representation in magical practice. Corresponding colors to corresponding spells, make for an even more powerful intention and manifestation.

You can create even more abundant power in your candle tool by anointing it with sacred or magical oils and scents to carry your message even farther. Working with certain herbs and consecrated oils will always give the energy of your candle magic more power and so with the combination of all of the elements, the possibilities of color magic and the enhancement of power

through oils and herbs, the candle is a very powerful little tool that should be incorporated in to almost every ritual.

## **The Crystal and the Stone**

Crystal can be a broad term to describe a number of solid objects used in the practice of Wicca. Crystals are simply put, minerals. Minerals are considered inorganic substances that form naturally and grown naturally underground in the Earth. Why they would be called “inorganic” by science is beyond the heart and mind of a Wiccan, who embraces minerals and crystals as living things. Each unique crystal, stone and mineral has its own unique energy and chemical composition and therefore each represents very different energies and qualities.

The molecular structure of most minerals is what causes their unique shapes and patterns, and creates some flat surfaces and interesting geometric structures. Common crystals that are used frequently in magical practices are quartz crystal, rose quartz, amethyst and more. These are crystalline unlike some of the other items known as gems stones that are equally valuable in the use of magic. Some examples of these stones are jade, kyanite, lapis lazuli, tiger’s eye and so forth. These stones are combinations of several minerals, unlike their crystalline friends, and so are not what we call ‘true crystals’, but they still have very potent energy and power.

Crystals and stones, no matter how you call them, are gifts from the Earth and contain powerful magic. They are regularly used tools in magic circles and Wiccan practices. They can be used for healing the energy of the self, as well as plants and animals. You can even plant crystals in your garden for a healing power in your soil and to help your seeds and plant growth flourish. Crystals and stones have an electric charge and are sensitive to the elements. They are conduits of energy and can help bring in and send out energy

through your ritual practices. Keeping a family of crystals and stones to use in your Wicca practice is a simple way to bring more manifestation and power to your everyday rituals and spells.

They can be used to mark your sacred circle when you are casting your opening rituals. They can be used to honor specific deities that are related to specific stones. They can alter and shift your energy from a low to a high vibration when used in personal energy clearing. They can be worn as jewelry for protection. They can be used in charms, amulets and sachets. You can use them for scrying and divination, or simply to add more focus to your ritual.

Consider also the use of color magic with crystals and stones. They come in a wide range of magical colors and so depending on your work, the added advantage of specific stones and the colors that they bring can further enhance your methods of manifestation.

## **The Herbs**

Herbs are most definitely tools when it comes to Wicca. The lore and history behind herbal magic is incredibly extensive, and is one of the main components of any kind of healing herbal remedy or magic spell used in various forms of Paganism.

Herbs have a special past with the witches of old and have been around longer than any other drug or remedy, and will continue to out live and outlast the drugstore medications that are so common today.

Aside from their healing benefits, which should definitely be explored by any solitary Wiccan, they all have very powerful magical properties. You will find that an assortment of herbs grown in your backyard garden will always come in handy for your rituals and craft work.

People will use herbs to decorate their altars for Sabbats and Esbats and will

also carry them around on their person for protection or other magical means. The use of herbs as a tool in Wicca is something to get used to and acquainted with. They are versatile and will serve a variety of purposes with all of the spells you work.

Keeping a cupboard of dried herbs is a beneficial thing to do, if you are regularly practicing Wicca and you will need to consider them just as important as any other tool on the list. You may use them to burn as incense, to make a charm or sachet, or even for a spell that is meant as a healing remedy ritual, taking your herbs in the form of a tea, tincture or broth.

All of your herbs can be charged and consecrated before use, just like any of your other tools. As you practice more of your Wicca rituals and spells, you will find more and more creative uses for the wide variety of herbs available and what all of their magical purposes are.

## **The Pentacle**

Not every pentacle is a five-pointed star, however that is the most commonly inscribed symbol that is often termed as the pentacle. A pentacle is simply a disk-like slab that can have one or multiple magical symbols inscribed on it. In Wicca, the most common is the five-pointed star, and so for the purposes of this book, you can assume that when I refer to a pentacle, that is the shape I am referring to. The five-pointed star is also called a pentagram, which makes it an easy word to associate with a common pentacle. Pentagram to pentacle.

The pentagram is an ancient sign and symbol that has been found all over the world in various cultures to represent a variety of aspects of the human mind, body and spirit. It is an Earth symbol and when you look at the sacred Tarot deck, the earthly symbols on the cards are represented by the pentacle pentagram. The points of the star represent the elements, the point at the top

being spirit. The rounded shape and earth quality associate it strongly with the Goddess.

Wiccans will inscribe a pentacle on many of their magical tools, like in the hilt of their athame, or on the cover of their Book of Shadows. It can also be used as a symbol drawn in the air and with a wand or blade, and even with a smoking incense or smudge stick, to consecrate the area or the ritual. It is a helpful symbol of protection from harmful or possibly negative energies, as well as a powerful tool of manifestation.

If you have a large pentacle, you may even like to use it as a consecration tool by setting your other magical tools or elements, like candles or crystals, on top of the pentacle to imbue it with that sacred, symbolic energy. You can even carve a pentacle into the wax of a candle for ritual and spell work purposes, or simply draw it on objects with marker or ink.

You can find pentacles at a majority of magical shops and online retailers. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes and also materials. Many wiccans will wear a pentacle as a talisman or amulet of protection and as a symbol of their craft.

You may be a creative person and will want to make your own pentacle from your own materials at home. There really isn't a right or a wrong way to do it, as long as you are using your manifestation of magic to create it for your ritual purposes. Use paper and pen if you have nothing else, but you can sculpt it out of clay, carve it into wood, paint it on a canvas; the possibilities are endless.

The pentacle is a magical tool for your starter kit that brings a powerful elemental symbol of protection and manifestation. Use it wisely and freely.

## **The Wand**

The wand is a popular symbol of witchcraft and dates back to the ancestors of

Egypt as well as that of the ancient Pagan cultures. Wands are symbols and tools of manifestation and direction and connect with the element of Air. In the Tarot, the air element is also represented by the suit of wands and deals with the power of thought and intentions.

Despite the popularity of certain magical witches and wizards in film and television in today's entertainment world, it is not the wand itself that contains the power; it is the witch who imbues the wand with their personal power and life force energy to transform and manifest through ritual intention. It is used to help direct energy in a subtle and gentle way (unlike the athame which is a bit more intense in its direction).

A wand is regularly used in rituals for invocations of the deities you are calling into your magic circle and can also be used for the drawing of magical symbols in the air, such as the pentagram, or pentacle symbols. This tool is more representative of the gods rather than goddesses, obvious in its phallic shape (also like the athame) but also because of how it directs energy with a more masculine force. Depending what kind of Wicca you practice, the wand, generally associated with air, can also be associated with fire because of its transformative abilities and magical properties. For the solitary Wiccan, you can choose whatever feels right for you, and in some covens, there may be a more deliberate or specific choice, based on that group.

Finding the right wand for you is an exciting journey and you can acquire them in a variety of ways. Many Wiccans will find their wands from the local magic shop and they have a wide range of styles, including some that are fashioned from crystals and gem stones, which harbor a lot of powerful energy.

Other wands can be made by your own hand, and for a creative witch, this is the best bet. Whatever wand you make with your own energy and power is

going to create and even deeper magic for you. You can acquire the tools for your handmade wand from nature and will need to use your intuition to guide you to the right materials. You may find the perfect tree branch to turn into a wand, but you will always need to ask for permission from the tree first. Wait for the response and tell it what your intentions are with it. It may be excited to become your wand!

There are plenty of other natural gifts from the land that can be included in your wand-making endeavors: twigs, moss, feathers, leaves, anything that feels right for you. Whether you make a wand or you buy one it is a very helpful tool to give you more directness in your spells and rituals and helps you to bring more masculine energy and air element into your work.

## **The Book of Shadows**

This is often one of the most treasured tools in a witch's arsenal of magic. Your Book of Shadows is your private and personal spell book that guides you in everything that you do. It is where all of your spells, rituals, symbols, prayers, poems, recipes and sacred information is kept. It is a great place for you to keep a record of your journey through Wicca as well, and it will change and evolve with your practice, like a powerful living energy.

In a coven it is their handbook that they adhere to as a group, and much of the information is passed down, like family traditions and stories. For a solitary practitioner, it is the best way for you to grow your practice and spells, one page at a time throughout the years. The history behind the Book of Shadows is long and it was Gerald Gardner who first coined the term for the wiccan practice. A Book of Shadows shared by others is often added to generationally and some Wiccans have even published their own version of the Book to help Wiccans setting off on their journey who need a good place to start.

You can build your own Book by utilizing the spells and rituals of those who came before you and add to it as you grow and evolve with your craft, manipulating and changing various spells to better suit your needs. It is a good way for you to organize the best and most useful spells that you find on your path. You may have a variety of books about the craft, but you only use an assortment of the various practices from your library of witchcraft. A Book of shadows is a nice way for you to collect the right information for your solitary practice and build your own spells out of it.

It is basically your Physician's Desk Reference for magic, and the more you add to it and use it, the better you will become at empowering your magical practice. You can decorate it however you like and find a particular notebook that resonates strongly with you and your energy. In these modern times, you can also keep your book of shadows in digital form, on your home computer, or even online on a website, to show others who are interested in your personal work. This can be good, however the use of physical formats, like ink and paper, has a more visceral impact in the work of spells and magic. You may want to consider transcribing your Book of Shadows digitally for safe keeping, but have an original copy that is a physical book.

This tool will be with you the whole way. It is your guide book and travel map through your rituals, spells and incantations and it will always be a grounding and supportive energy in your tool box.

## **The Tarot**

The Tarot is a deck of 78 cards that each represent important archetypes and symbols. The origins of the Tarot are separate from Wiccan and other Pagan practices and have been around as early as the 1400's. People who are not at all interested in Wicca or magic find themselves drawn to this humble deck of cards. They are a way to answer questions through imagery and symbols



and have been used in various forms of divination, prediction and manifestation.

The messages of the cards and the spread that they are in allow us to ask for a direct consultation with the divine life forces to gain knowledge and understanding of what is happening in our lives. It is a reflection of life, or a cosmic mirror, that allows the questioner to get a deeper truth to their queries. You can see beyond what you would normally choose to see and there are new angles to consider and support your path ahead.

The art of reading the Tarot cards is a whole other kind of magic that takes time and practice and when you bond with the cards, they bond with you, too. Many witches are very careful about how they come by their decks, or “choose” them. Some say they should only be given as a gift, and others note that it is best to be guided to the right deck to support your own power and magical purposes and intentions.

The standard deck is 78 cards, divided into a Major and Minor Arcana. Each section, and each card within that section, reflect inner truths and deeper, hidden knowledge. The whole deck is a long story of a traveler going through a journey and that journey is depicted in various images that support the natural powers of the Earth, including all five elements, as well as sun and moon energy, masculine and feminine polarities, and astrology.

The major Arcana are the most powerful cards in the deck and are indications that you will be experiencing powerful shifts and upheavals, whether good or bad, in your life. The characters on the cards, or archetypes, represent an important stage in the questioner’s journey ranging from the pure innocence of the Fool, to the hard-earned wisdom of the World. There are deep and meaningful lessons shown in the Major Arcana and it is a good choice to pay attention when these cards show up as an influence.

The rest of the deck is the Minor Arcana and is very similar to a deck of regular playing cards. Each number, from Ace to 10, has each element associated with it on a different card. There are 4 aces in the deck, one for Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Therefore, it is for the Two, the three and so on. They are depicted on the cards, instead of as the elements, as the Pentacles, Wands, Swords, and Cups. Look familiar? All of the suits are represented by the tools you are learning about to represent your magical work with your practice.

These cards are thought to be more in relationship to the every day actions we take in life, rather than the profound spiritual journey of the Major Arcana. They cover the elements of the experience, not the experience itself. Those elements fall into the categories of manifestation and groundedness (pentacles), ideas and thoughts (wands), action and direction (swords), and feelings and emotions (cups).

As you can see, there is overlap and connection between the Tarot and Wicca, as well as other forms of witchcraft. The cards are even linked to other occult philosophies including numerology and astrology. Each card can be linked to a celestial body or zodiac sign, as well as a number, based on the card's suit and where it falls in the order for the deck.

Tarot can be incorporated as symbolic representations of certain elements or factors in your spell work and rituals. You can use each card for specific reasons, like a Full Moon ritual incorporating The Moon card on your altar or in your spells, or the use of the Sun card in a prosperity or abundance spell. You can even use the deck as a consult to help you design your spells and rituals.

Tarot cards are universally used for a variety of reasons and have very close ties to the practice of Wicca. They are an incredible tool to help with

divination and consulting the divine to help you manifest the right part of your journey through your rituals and spells.

### **Your Tool Box and Starter Kit**

Each of the tools listed in this chapter are a great starting point for any Wiccan. Each one may come to you as a separate influence at different times, as you build upon your tool box, or you may find them all at once and can begin right away with cleansing and consecrating them for your magical purposes.

Be clear with what you want your tools to be. Build your altar and your tool kit with your own creative abundance and energy. If you are interested in being in a coven, you may be guided by your group to acquire specific tools. For the solitary practitioner, you can govern your own choices a little more freely and take your time in finding what tools feel right for you.

Use your intuition and ask for what you want. Let the tools find you and be ready for them when they do. In the next step, you will learn about what it takes to create an altar using all of your magical tools to get you started.

## **Chapter 3: Step by Step Guide to Altars**

What is an altar? Altars have existed throughout cultures, religions and across time, and to this day continue to represent a physical embodiment of our worship for the divine. It is the place where we honor our gods, goddesses, ancestors and spirits and is the great focus point of any ritual, celebration, spell, meditation and prayer. The altar of your making is the centerpiece of your wiccan practice and it continuously holds space for all of the elements of the divine that you bring into your life.

Wiccan altars can be built inside or out, or both. Since you aren't performing rituals all day long, they are often located in places where they can be off to the side, but seen regularly, or pulled out to be presented in the center of the room for spell work and rituals. Typically, all of the tools that you use for your craftwork and spells remain on the altar at all times and can usually be seen as part of the altar. If you have an outdoor altar, you may use a completely different set of tools than you would for your indoor altar.

As you read in the last chapter, the tools that you use are symbols for the divine aspects of nature that Wicca recognizes and asserts as part of the magic of connection with the rhythms and cycles of all life. This includes the tool of the five elements and the gods and goddesses that are chosen for worship. Some altars reflect the appreciation of these deities through the display of images or figurines to honor that specific deity, as well as the elements represented by candles, chalice, athame, wand, and other tools.

Many altars strive to incorporate the elements by adding a dish of water as well as a bowl of salt (salt can be replaced with soil or sand to represent earth energy). The candle is the fire and an altar incense holder or burner is usually present to represent air. Another tool that was not listed in the last chapter,

but has been often used in ritual practice and to decorate an altar is a bell.

A bell is a great way to call attention to your altar and let that sound wave energy ring out that you are honoring the altar of magic. Bell tones are also very opening and help you focus your energy and the energy all around into devotion. An altar bell is a great source of calling power to what the altar represents to you.

## **How to Build an Altar: Step by Step Instructions**

Here is where to begin when building your altar. Take it one step at a time and remember that your altar will evolve with your practice and so it doesn't need to be perfect from the beginning. Work with what you've got and go from there.

### **Step 1: Pick the Best Spot**

Your altar could take any number of forms and be housed in a variety of locations. You might have a built-in shelf or cabinet in your home that is the perfect size and location, or you may need to use a piece of furniture that will act as a flat surface where you can set your altar up.

You may not be able to afford to run out and buy a new piece of furniture to act as your altar and so a temporary solution, like a desk or a coffee table, will work just as well. You can place it somewhere where it won't be in the way and pull it out as needed for your rituals and spell work.

Many people will use a square or rectangular surface, but many Wiccans enjoy a round table top as it is easiest to maneuver around and has a close connection to the moon, the sun and the goddess as well as other symbols in the craft.

Typically, altars are made of natural materials and it is best to try and choose furniture or places to put your altar that are made of wood, or occasionally

metal. A glass surface is also common. Generally, it is common to use a cloth or a tapestry of some kind to cover the surface of the table it is on. This cloth can be magically charged through a ritual.

Wherever you choose to set up your altar it needs to have the following elements:

- Accessible
- Made of natural elements (if possible)
- Movable (if possible or desired)
- Visible to you at all times (if preferred- you may also choose to keep it hidden in a cupboard or covered with a cloth to prevent visitors from tampering with it)

Once you have the space and the surface that you want your altar to be in, you can begin to set it up and prepare it for ritual magic and spell work.

### **Step 2: Setting up your Altar**

1. Cover the surface with your preferred cloth. It can have been charged with protective energy, or you may have a meaningful garment, like a scarf, from a passed relative or ancestor. Whatever your cloth is, it is meant to set the tone for your altar space and it may get dirty with candle wax, ashes, or other herbs, incense and magical tools, so make sure it is a cloth you don't mind getting smudge with magical use.
2. Determine a center piece for your altar and display it. The central focus of it could be a particular image of a god or goddess, a pentacle, a candle, a large geode, crystal or stone. It is up to you to decide how you

want to create focus for your altar and bring your attention to the center of your magical practice. Starting with the center focus point is good, because you can build around it with your other tools.

3. Incorporate your tools, whatever they may be. You may want to determine at this point what direction your altar is facing. This could also play a part in where you choose to place your altar. You may prefer that it faces a certain direction and so you will need to accommodate that first, before setting up the rest of it. When you are laying out your sacred tools, you may want to arrange them in their corresponding cardinal directions. For example:

- Place the athame (fire) to the south position
- Place the chalice (water) in the west position
- Place the incense (air) in the east position
- Place the pentacle (earth) in the north position

Placing your tools in the directions they represent will help you keep a focus on the elements and their performance in your rituals. You can also fill the chalice with water, add a bowl of soil or salt, instead of using a pentacle, feather for the eastern air and your candles in the place of the south. It is up to you what items you decide to place, but they should all be a regular part of your magical rituals.

4. Another placement option is to put your Goddess tools on the left

(Earth and Water) and the tools representative of the God on the right (Fire and Air). It truly depends on what kind of Wicca you want to celebrate on your altar.

5. Eclectic practitioners (usually solitary) will build and construct their altar based on personal ideas and choices and so it can follow any natural pattern and layout based on your own 'eclectic' practice.
6. Consecrate your altar by lighting your candle and incense and calling upon the elements to bless your space. You can cast a circle, or perform a ritual (see Chapters 4 and 5) at this point, or you can keep it simple and just bring focus and intention to celebrating the creation of your altar with a few simple tools and words. Let your candle burn until it goes out and keep some incense lit, just to bring the altar to life.
7. Keep your altar clean, organized, and respected. You may need to do regular cleansing and purifying of your ritual tools as you use your altar more and more. Keep the altar fresh and fluid so that your magic doesn't become stagnate.
8. Decorate your altar according to whatever holiday you are celebrating. Your entire home may become like an altar at Yule time or Samhain, but your physical altar needs some extra special ingredients to help you honor the Wheel of the Year and to stay tidy throughout all the seasons.

### **Step 3: Clearing and Charging Your Altar and Tools**

Your tools and your altar can collect unwanted or negative energy over time. Even brand-new tools that you get from the internet can contain unwanted energy that needs clearing, coming from the manufacturing, packaging and



shipping processes. During spells and rituals, or even having a lot of guests in your home around your altar, your space and the tools that you use can acquire and absorb energy that needs clearing.

It is a good regular practice to get into and is quite easy to do. Depending on what object you are working to clear, you may need a different purifying agent. Let's take a look at what some of them are:

### 1. Salt

Salt is a very powerful cleansing agent for denser energies and it may be used on your crystals and stones and even some candles and other tools. You may want to make sure that the salt won't damage the item you are trying to cleanse through a chemical reaction. Research may be necessary.

- Bury your stones and crystals in a dish or bowl of sea salt over night
- Bathe your tools in warm salt water (precautions may be necessary- salt reactions can damage metals)
- Sprinkle salt on your altar

### 2. Sunshine/ Moonshine

The power of light can create a good deal of cleansing energy. The Sun light is strong and intense and the warmth and heat of the sun is good for any tool. You can simply set your tools in a safe place out doors throughout the day in order to burn out any unwanted, or collected energies.

The same can be done with Moonlight and it just depends on what you are going for. A full moon is the best time for cleansing your tools, so you may need to time your purification according to an Esbat. You could also use the

full sun of the day and carry your cleansing through the night of the full moon, bringing your tools back into your altar at dawn, giving them both the Sun and the Moon's energy of purification (both masculine and feminine/ god and goddess energy)

### 3. *Soil*

Soil is incredibly grounding and can transmute any energy it touches. It is the very Earth that pulls all of our energy and so you can use it to clear and ground yourself, so why not your tools.

To use soil as a clearing and purifying agent, you can simply bury your tools underground overnight. If are worried about your tools getting dirty, wrap them in cloth first, and then lay them in the soil, covering them all the way with the dirt. Dig them out in the morning and return them to your altar with a blessing.

### 4. *Incense/ Smudging*

Incense, or smudge sticks are a perfect way to cleanse your tools when the above three options aren't advisable, or convenient. Smoke clears away a lot of energy, especially when you are using herbs specifically for cleansing. White Sage is a popular choice and there are other herbs you can use as well, such as rosemary and lavender.

All you have to do is let the smoke cover your tools. You can waft the smudge stick or incense over it, or you can wave your tool through the smoke. It is also a great way to cleanse and refresh the energy of the whole entire altar, which isn't really easy to bury in salt or soil, or carry outside into the sun and moonlight.

#### **Step 4: Charging Your Altar Tools and Implements**

Once you have cleansed the energy of the altar and your tools, you can now charge them with the energy you need to, such as whatever your intention for a spell might be. You might also simply want to charge the energy of the altar and the tools to help them rest well between rituals and spell work, after they have been cleansed and before returning them to their places on the altar.

You can charge just about any tool with your intentions. Intention is the key and the key to setting an intention within your tools is focus. Here are some guidelines to charging your instruments after you have purified them:

##### **Step 1: Simply Hold it In Your Hand and Send the Energy of Intention In**

This may not sound very magical, but oh, how it is! We are pure energy and part of Wicca is understanding that concept. When you hold something in your hand, let's say it is a quartz crystal, and you are wanting to charge it with the energy of clarity and focused divination, you are telling the energy of that crystal in your hand, with your own energy, what you want it to carry. That stone will then be available to you with that energy anytime you call upon it.

You can do the same thing with a candle that you are going to use in a spell, charging it in your hand with your powerful intentions by asking it to receive the energy of what you are trying to manifest. When you light the candle, you are lighting the energy of your intentions.

##### **Step 2: Sunlight and Moonlight, Again**

You have already seen that both sunlight and moonlight can cleanse and purify your tools. Well, they can also charge them with their powerful energy. You can kill two birds with one stone, as the saying goes, by using the energy of the sun/ moon to both cleanse and charge whatever tools you are working with.

The important factor is that you set very clear intentions with how you want your tools to be charged. Writing your intention down on paper and then laying the tools on top of that paper in the sun/moon light, is one powerful option. You can also talk it out aloud as you are laying the tools out, suggesting that as the energy clears from the tools, that they be filled with [insert intention or magical purpose here].

You get the drift. The sun and the moon work both ways, as long as you are clear about your intentions for manifestation.

### *Step 3: Using Other Tools to Charge Your Tools*

Depending on what your ritual or spell is, you may end up using a variety of tools from your altar to charge the energy of another. You may not need all of them charged in the same way and so you can use any number of your available tools to increase strength and focus on your intention setting and charging ritual.

One example might be using a pentacle slab out in the sunshine and placing whatever tool you want to charge on top of the pentacle. Set your intention and let the pentacle's already existing power imbue your tools with more energy. Another example might be pointing your wand or athame at the tool to be charged while you intone or incant some words of power into it.

This can be a very direct and focused way to help you charge your tools. The use of other tools will always bring more energy and power to something, as long as the intention you are desiring is behind it.

### *Step 4: Visualization is Key*

Use your third eye to set intentions and charge your tools and your altar. Wicca celebrates your connection to your own psychic sense and your ability to connect to your higher knowing and higher sight. When you are working with your tools and altar, you can use creative visualization in the mind's eye

to help charge your tools.

Picture what you want your tools to have within them energetically. See an image in your head of what that might look like. For example, say you are trying to charge a stone or crystal with healing energy. Close your eyes and see a color for healing, whatever that color is for you (gold, green, and turquoise are common). See a bright light in that color radiating out of the stone, as you speak words to charge that energy, or simply by holding it in your hand while you picture colorful light radiating out of it.

Visualization, coupled with some other charging steps can make a huge difference in the energy you put into your magical objects.

#### Step 5: Use Your Words

Words are important and the words that you use are a major part of your entire practice and how you manifest magic. When you are charging your tools, it doesn't have to be fancy. It can be as simple as this:

*I charge this [name the tool or object]  
through the power of the divine  
to bring [name the magical intention]  
into my life.  
Therefore, it is!*

If you want to get a little fancier, by all means. The more specific you are, the better, and so much of the spell casting and ritual words that are used in Wicca are like little poems and songs. Don't be afraid to rhyme and have fun:

*By the light of this moon, on this third day of June,*

*I open this object to light.*

*I say a big prayer, to offer through air,*

*The message of clearing my sight.*

*Let this crystal appear, whenever I am near,*

*And show me more of my dreams.*

*A diviner's stone, I let it be shone,*

*By the moon, So mote it be!*

### *Step 6: Consecrating Your Tools for Your Altar*

Consecration of your tools usually goes hand in hand with your charging of them, but you don't have to do this, if you are not ready to invoke deities or external energies from outside of yourself. Typically, consecration is a bit more elaborate and may involve more, or all of your tools. You will want to invoke your deity of choice for this and will also likely want to cast a circle for the experience.

It may seem like a lot of effort, but when you experience the energy that results from this powerful cleansing, charging and consecration, you will understand right away. Try doing a spell without cleansing, charging and/or consecrating your tools and then try it again after you do. Notice the difference, and you will notice just how powerful these energies truly are.

In the next chapter, you will get more acquainted with your Wicca Starter Kit's guide to casting a circle. Now that you have your tools and your altar all set up, the next big step is casting the energy circle and calling in the elements and the deities. It is the basics of spell casting and ritual in Wicca.

## **Chapter 4: Step by Step Guide to Casting A Circle**

Casting a circle in Wicca is the butter you put on your bread. It is the opening moment to connect you to your ritual, spell, or prayer, and creates a focused intention of protection while you work with the divine energies. You can create your own version of circle casting based on what you read here, but as a Starter Kit Guide, this chapter will show you the step-by-step path to opening a simple circle for quick and easy endeavors, and a more elaborate, ritual circle that will draw on my power and take a little more time and effort.

The basic circle, or the ritual circle both share the same components. The most important aspect is the honoring and calling in of the four directions. As you have read throughout this book, the Elements are a tool for magic and each one of them corresponds to a cardinal direction. When you call upon the directions, you are also calling upon the Elements and can begin a more focused magical practice with these energies open to you.

Another key factor to remember is that your circle is meant to be a shield of protection from unwanted energies. When you open yourself to the divine, you can open yourself to a variety of other energies, and so your circle of magic is your protective shield to keep you safe during your rituals.

While you work with magic, you may choose to do more elaborate circle casting in the beginning and then use more simple forms of it later as you become more confident in your powers.

Take a look at these simple, step-by step guidelines to casting circles. Bring in your desired tools and your altar for added power.

### **Basic Circle Casting**

### Step 1: Where Will It Be?

Choosing where you are going to cast your circle depends on what your purposes are. You may be doing some kitchen magic with your cooking and your circle would only need to be the area where you are preparing your magical food.

You may also only need the space in front of your altar in order to say a blessing or a prayer, and that's it. For a simple and basic casting, all you have to decide is where you are going to be performing your craft and how much space you might need. If you are standing in one place the whole time, you won't need a very big circle.

Consider where you are going to cast it, before you cast.

### Step 2: What Do I Need?

For a simple circle, you really only need yourself to cast. It can be as simple as pointing your finger towards the floor and finding north, going around in a clockwise direction and speaking to each direction.

You don't have to have all of your tools and candles and incense. You can just set the intentions with the power of your own energy and just use your hands, fingers, and eyes to point out the directions.

You may need a compass in general to help you point yourself in the right direction as you move around the circle.

### Step 3: How to Open

When you cast your circle, use your creative visualization skills to actually picture a protective shield around you. It can look like a glass orb, or just a blanket of white light; whatever feels best for you.

1. Starting at the north position, point your finger, either on the floor, or directly in front of you as say, "I call upon the powers of the North and



the element of Earth to guard and protect me as I open to the divine powers of all that be.”

2. Move in a clockwise direction and find the East saying the following words: “I call upon the powers of the East and the element of Air to guard and protect me as I open to the divine powers of all that be.”
3. Move in a clockwise direction and find the South saying the following words: “I call upon the powers of the South and the element of Fire to guard and protect me as I open to the divine powers of all that be.”
4. Move in a clockwise direction and find the West saying the following words: “I call upon the powers of the West and the element of Water to guard and protect me as I open to the divine powers of all that be.”
5. Coming back to your starting point, you can put your palms together in a prayer pose, or hold your palms out to receive energy from the divine while you call upon the fifth element, Spirit, with the following words: “I call upon the energy of the Great Mother and the Universe to aid me in my magic. And so it is.”
6. You can change the words in any way you prefer, or simply sense and think the idea of these words. You don’t have to say them out loud in order to cast. It’s all about intention.
7. Practice your intended magic!

#### Step 4: How to Close

1. Starting at the West position, where you ended the opening of your circle, point your finger, either on the floor, or directly in front of you as say, "I thank the powers of the West and the element of Water for your guardianship and protection. And so it is."
2. Move in a counterclockwise direction and find the South saying the following words: "I thank the powers of the South and the element of Fire for your guardianship and protection. And so it is."
3. Move in a counter clockwise direction and find the East saying the following words: "I thank the powers of the East and the element of Air for your guardianship and protection. And so it is."
4. Move in a counter clockwise direction and find the North saying the following words: "I thank the powers of the North and the element of Earth for your guardianship and protection. And so it is."
5. Coming back to your starting point, you can put your palms together in a prayer pose, or hold your palms out to receive energy form the divine while you call upon the fifth element, Spirit, with the following words: "I give thanks to the divine for aiding me in my magical purpose. And so it is!"

Closing your circle is like opening it, except you start with the West and move counterclockwise back to the North, finalizing it with gratitude for whatever deities of spiritual life force you call upon to help you in your magical needs.

## **Ritual Circle Casting**

For a more elaborate experience involving rituals, casting large spells, or celebrating Sabbats and Esbats, a ritual circle is a more detailed approach and considered more opening of powerful energy as well as more tools and set up.

It is a lot of fun to make a greater occasion out of the magic you are wanting to perform and so having access to all of your tools and making a bigger casting experience will help you connect more deeply to your divine power and the powers of spirit.

You won't need much in the way of decorations or elaborate planning. You will only need your altar and your tools that you have set up. There are several ways to go about this process and, like with any other kind of Wiccan magic, your creativity is always permitted and honored, so have fun modifying and inventing your own practices for casting.

### *Step 1: Where Will It Be?*

As with your Basic Circle Casting, choosing the space appropriate to your needs is the first step. For a more elaborate circle, you may need to perform a lot more movement and preparation within your circle, so it may need to be big enough for you to dance around, or move to quite a few places.

If you are outdoors, you will need to determine the perimeter of where you need to cast. For an outdoor celebration, like a Sabbat or an Esbat, these types of circles may need more tools and preparations.

For ritual work, you will often want your altar to be a part of your circle and so finding a way to cast with your altar in the center or at a point of importance in your circle can be ideal, depending on what magical purposes you have.

## Step 2: What Do I Need?

For a ritual circle casting you will want to incorporate more of your tools, including, but not limited

to the following:

- Earth element, like a bowl of salt, or soil; pentacle
- Air element, like incense and feathers, or any other object that might represent Air
- Fire element, like candles and athame
- Water element, like a chalice or bowl filled with water
- Wand
- Crystals and stones for your circle (optional)
- Matches/ lighter
- Compass (optional)
- Salt (optional)
- Chair, or pillow to sit on (optional)

All of these tools can be replaced with anything that feels meaningful to you and right for your ritual purposes. In general, for a casting a more elaborate circle, you will want to place an object, or multiple objects in the spaces of the 4 cardinal directions. As you call each direction into your circle you can place the items in their designated point of the circle, opening yourself and your magic to an even greater power.

An example would be laying your athame at the South point of your circle and lighting a candle or two, before stepping to the West with your chalice and/or dish of water.

You may choose to use a compass initially, but as you get better at practicing in your own space, you will always know where North is.

Some witches will lay stones and crystals around the circle, between each

cardinal direction, to make an even more powerful energetic force field. You can also use salt, as long as you are okay with sweeping it up after you close your circle. Pouring salt in the round is a fine way to offer protection to your energy and build upon your circle. You can even use this tool in your Basic Circle Casting Ritual and just cast your circle using salt only, speaking the names of the directions and asking for protection.

If you need a chair or a pillow to sit on for your spell work and rituals, you will want to make sure they are inside of your circle before you cast.

Additionally, make sure all of the tools you need are inside the circle before you cast. You don't want to have to break the circle in order to run to your kitchen and grab some herbs. Be prepared and set it up accordingly with all of the ingredients and tools you will need to practice your magic.

### Step 3: How to Open

1. Stand in the center of where your circle is going to be and inhale deeply and exhale fully, three times. This is a grounding act to get you focused and open to the energy of intentions for casting. It is essentially a meditation to prepare you for magic.
2. *You can use a wand, or your pointer finger instead, to point at the place on the floor where you know the North to be and at the size you need your circle to be (ex: if you are making a bigger circle, you will need to point farther away from yourself to that point of the North).*

*\*\*NOTE: Some Wiccans start with the East and make the North position their last to call into the circle. It is really up to you whether you start with North or end with it, depending on your personal practices.*

As you point to the North, imagine a figure of protection. It can be a deity, or even just a hooded warrior, or cloaked figure, who will bring light energy and protection. See them as your guardian of the North. Bow your head to them and acknowledge their arrival. Use a few words to ask for their protection, like: *“I call upon the Guardian and Protector of the North and the element of Earth to watch over this circle of magic.”*

You may also choose to set your Northern objects and tools in this placement now, or you can set them up ahead of time, if you already want the cardinal directions of your circle to be ready before you stand in the center and take your three deep breaths from Step 1.

3. Keep your wand/ pointer finger outstretched and move to the next cardinal direction, moving counterclockwise, in this case it would be the East, if you are beginning with the North as your initial position. Repeat the steps from Step 2, to call upon a Guardian for the East. Picture their strength and what they represent, or see your god/goddess of choice for this direction.
4. Repeat this step for the South and the West, each time picturing your Guardian being and bowing your head in recognition after you speak words of invitation.
5. As you move fully through the circle and return to face the North, see in your mind the circle drawn on the floor, as well as the four guardians as towers of protection.
6. Point your wand (you can also clasp your hands together and point both

of your index fingers into the air, calling upon the great spirit, god/goddess, deity, or Earth Mother to join you and protect you from above and around in your circle.

*\*\*NOTE: Before you begin, you can also set up a circle of salt on the floor to make it clear where your circle is going to lie as well as to add a greater level of protection. In addition to, or instead of salt, you can lay out your tools or elemental objects at each cardinal point, and add some stones and crystals all around the edges of the circle to outline the physical space you are wanting to work inside of. Doing this step before you stand in the center and begin your incantations to call the directions can be a much more organized way to establish your circle.*

*You will find what way works best for you and improve upon it as you go, and with each time you perform a sacred ritual.*

#### Step 4: How to Close

Like with a Basic Circle Casting, it is important to thank and release the energies that you have called upon for protection at the end of your ritual. This can mean just doing a reverse circle, exactly as it was performed in the opening, only working backward in a counterclockwise direction.

You can begin where you ended in the opening, and if you are using deities, or images of guardians to protect your circle, then be sure to thank each one at each point of direction as you move backward through your circle.

As a final offering, you can connect to the fifth element of spirit and declare your thanks for their presence in your rituals.

You can get as creative as you like with all of your incantations and words of closure. If you have a candle lit for your southern position, this would be a good time to snuff it out.

Whatever tools you used to connect to the cardinal directions can be collected and replaced on your altar. Depending on what kind of rituals you are doing, you may want to cleanse your tools with incense or smudging at the end of the ritual. Pick up any crystals and stones and return them to their homes, and sweep up any herbs or salt.

Leave your altar clean and tidy until your next circle casting. So mote it be!

This step-by-step guide to casting a circle is a huge part of your essential Wicca Starter Kit. As you have read, this type of magic will repeat itself over and over again and so it is important that you get comfortable with casting your circle of protection, as basic or as intricate as it may be.

In the next chapter, you will receive some simple step-by-step guidelines to help you get a grasp on the tools and energies required for a basic ritual.



## **Chapter 5: Step by Step Guide to Rituals**

Rituals take many forms and represent so many different things to a Wiccan, or any person devoting themselves to this kind of magic. Rituals have existed for as long as human beings have, even in their most Neolithic forms. The ritual is a cause to express intentions and devotions through the world of energy, elements and spiritual connection and as you will notice in your research, every culture throughout history incorporates some kind of ritual practice into their lives.

In Wicca, rituals are about connection to the divine, spells, crafting and honoring the deities and rhythms of life. They are specific to each practitioner or coven, and can be delivered in a wide range of experiences and formats.

In your Wicca Starter Kit, you will have the step-by step guide to performing a ritual. Keep in mind that each ritual must be altered and enhanced according to whatever magical purpose you are working with. There may be a lot of ingredients for you to choose from and work with and there could be a lot of steps and degrees, or levels, of practice that you have to go through. It really depends on your spell, and whatever steps you are creating through your Book of Shadows and your solitary practice.

If you are in a coven, or choosing to become a part of one, many of the rituals performed are already outlined. This book focuses more on the ritual practices involved for a solitary Wiccan.

Let's get started with these basic and simple guidelines to help you picture the process of your ritual work.

### **Step 1: Preparations**

Before any ritual begins, you need to make the proper preparations for it.

Preparations can include all, or some of the following:

- Scheduling the ritual (Esbats and Sabbats have specific dates. Other rituals may need to fall on a certain date because of numerology, moon and sun cycles, birthdays, etc.)
- Organizing the steps (You will need to decide what order you need to carry out certain components of your ritual based on your own knowledge of a spell you are working, or referral to your Book of Shadows. Having the information handy and in your cast circle is an important part of preparing)
- Collecting your ingredients (You will need a variety of items, not including your altar or regular tools, that need to be used for your ritual. This can include specific herbs, crystals, candles and their colors, types of incense, etc.)
- Bringing all of your tools and ingredients into the space (You will need to have all of your collected tools, objects, ingredients spell book, or ritual instructions, and anything else you might need, in the space and ready to work on the chosen day and time)
- Setting boundaries with other life matters (You will need to turn off your cell phone and other distractions and create a time and a space with your family and loved ones to give you undisturbed time to practice your ritual)

You may find other preparations outside of what is on this list and that is all dependent upon the specific ritual or spell you are trying to cast.

### Step 2: Casting Your Circle

For every ritual that you perform, for the sacred quality and nature of this experience, you will need to cast a Ritual Circle to support the energies you are trying to engage with and focus on.

Follow the steps for Ritual Circle Casting in Chapter 4 to prepare your circle of protection. Make sure that all of your tools, ingredients and objects needed for your ritual are already inside of the area you will be working in after your circle is cast.

### Step 3: Honoring the Gods/Goddesses

Part of the reason people perform a ritual is to honor a sacred deity to their practice. Many Wiccans perform rituals for a specific God or Goddess and honor them regularly through a ritual to help them enforce their energies to work on other magical purposes.

The honoring of a deity or spiritual presence through a ritual is a sacred way to incorporate that presence into your everyday Wicca practice and will help bond you more deeply to the kind of magic you are choosing to practice.

Rituals open your space and your energy to receiving more of the gifts of that divine presence and so after you connect to casting your circle of protection, you begin your words of blessing and prayer to the god or goddess you are calling into your ritual, either to honor them directly as the purpose for the ritual, or to include them in whatever other ritual you are working to perform.

### Step 4: Tools and Ingredients

At this point in your ritual, you will likely need any tools and ingredients

required to perform your ritual. You may have already used some of your tools during the casting of your circle and you will want to be sure to keep the tools you need to use in your ritual instead of using them for placement of the circle. For example, rather than place your Chalice of water in the west, place a bowl of water there and keep your chalice in the center with you, or on the altar so that you can use it for your ritual.

Whatever herbs and ingredients you need to use can be prepared in whatever fashion they need to be. There are going to be specific instructions according to each ritual or spell and so you will need to have those instructions in the circle with you, to prepare your herbs and essences accordingly.

You will most likely be using your tools and ingredients together to compliment each other's energy. This preparation stage can be on your altar or on a table or on the floor where you are sitting.

### *Step 5: Connecting Your Intentions and Invoking Your Purpose*

With your tools and ingredients ready to perform magic, you can begin the part of the ritual in which you will charge your tools and ingredients with the intentions and purposes of the ritual you are performing. You have read in Chapter 3 about how to charge and consecrate your tools.

Depending on your spell work and your intentions, you will imbue your ingredients, objects and tools with that sacred purpose at this stage to prepare for the rest of the ritual. Putting that magical intention into your objects and tools first, will only empower your ritual more fully and is an important step in the process.

Be specific and clear and let your intentions and magical purposes invoke the appropriate energy for your ritual.

### Step 6: Practicing Magic

With your tools, implements and ingredients charged and consecrated, you can now begin to practice your ritual magic. This stage will include a wide variety of steps and is entirely dependent on what your Book of shadows says to do, or whatever your spell work instructions might ask of you. Some of these steps can include:

- Lighting the candles specific to your spell (they will already be charged, consecrated and anointed if you followed the last step)
- Burning of certain herbs
- Using your tools in a specific way to invoke and honor specific energies and/or deities.
- Dancing
- Chanting
- Speaking Spell words
- Pouring specific beverages into the chalice to drink and honor a deity or holiday celebration
- Appointing certain elements to aid and guide you through the use of your wand or athame.
- Burning ingredients in your cauldron

There are plenty of other possibilities that will arise with certain rituals and spells. Some, none, or all of these things can occur on your ritual and it will be up to your Book of Shadows and your intuition to build the ritual and the steps involved.

### Step 7: The Power of Words

This step will really overlap inside of Step 6, as the words that you use for practicing magic will have a powerful impact on your ritual. You may say words during your ritual crafting and spells, but you may also have words to say after to really empower and solidify your intentions and purposes.

Your words are specific to what you are celebrating and can be as simple or as elaborate as you choose. A sample of some words for a basic spell honoring the Triple Goddess on a Full moon ritual might be as follows:

*Triple Goddess of the Moon, I honor thee with the power of three.* [light three candles, one for each aspect of the Goddess, as you speak the following lines]

*Maiden sweet of springtime moon, I light this candle to honor you.* [light the maiden candle]

*Mother full of summer moon, I light this candle to honor you.* [light the mother candle]

*Crone in depth of darker moon, I light this candle to honor you.* [light the crone candle]

*Sacred Goddess throughout the year, on this full moon, I honor you here.*  
[light your Triple Goddess herbs with fire to burn in your cauldron]

*Bring to me your power of life, birth-death-rebirth, on full moon's light.*  
[pour wine, water, or another beverage into your chalice]

*I drink to thee, by power of three, to honor your sacred wisdom.* [take three sips from the chalice, one for each aspect of the Goddess, with the next three

lines]

*To the maiden [sip]*

*To the mother [sip]*

*To the crone [sip]*

*By this full moon, I honor your vision.*

*So mote it be!*

Wicca is a creative practice and a poetry of magical intention. Your words can be designed by your own power and so anything you choose will specifically empower your spells and rituals to help you access deeper wisdom and sacred connection to the great divine.

Plan out what words you will say prior to your ritual and have them available to read if you do not know them by heart.

### *Step 8: Closing Your Circle*

Once you have performed all of the steps included in your ritual, you begin to close the circle. Use the same steps you learned in Chapter 4 about how to close your circle and let your intentions carry forward into your life after your closing practice.

You may choose to decorate your altar with any of your ritual ingredients and you will want to organize your tools back on your altar so they can be ready for the next ritual you are planning.

### *After the Ritual*

After your ritual, having returned your tools and ingredients and closed your circle, you can now work with the energies you have called upon to help you on your path of magic. Your altar serves as a reminder to you what rituals you have performed and why, keeping your intentions alive and your focus pure.

The energy of your ritual will only last for so long, and so you will need to decide when to move forward, clearing your altar of any remaining components of your last ritual practice. You want to keep your energy flowing, as is with all natural rhythms in life.

Use your intuition to know when the powerful energy of your ritual has waned and when it is time to send that ritual forward into the next plane of spirit. You will know the more you practice and tap into your own inner guidance as you perform more magic throughout your practice.



## **Chapter 6: Step by Step Guide to Spell Craft and Basic Spells**

There is an endless collection of spells to be found online, in books, and through your friendships and relationships with other witches. There is an entire industry of spell books available and people are working to expose more and more options for crafting spells to make it all more accessible to the practicing witch or Wiccan.

There really isn't any reason not use someone else's spells, however this book allows for a more creative approach and honors the gift of crafting your own spells for your own specific purposes. Spells evolve and change, just like you do and it is okay to play around and get creative.

There are a few simple guidelines and step-by-step instructions to help you write and organize your own spells. This chapter will give you the outline you need to get started in creating your own Book of Shadows by practicing your own creative magic and spell writing work.

### **Step-by-Step Guide to Writing Your Own Spells**

#### ***Step 1: Determine Your Goal, Intention, or Magical Purpose***

Quite possibly the most important step in designing your spell, the goal or purpose is what will help you structure everything about your spell. What are you wanting to accomplish? Are you looking for love? Are you trying to draw more financial abundance or prosperity into your life? Are you wanting to honor a specific deity?

There are a lot of possibilities and they all require a specific intention. Be clear. Be direct. Keep it simple. Know what it is you are trying to magically manifest in a very honest and direct format so you can build and create your spell around that goal.

### Step 2: Determine What You Will Need to Achieve Your Intention

Spells need tools and ingredients, although some might need only a candle or a crystal. Whatever you are going to need, you will need to decide your list of ingredients for your recipe. Some of the ingredients will come from the following list and all of them should be goal-specific according to your intention for the spell:

- Colorful candles
- Incense
- Herbs
- Objects from Nature
- Crystals and/or stones
- Altar Tools
- Bowls, containers, mixing spoons (all consecrated for rituals)
- Special garments
- Indoor or Outdoor set up/ altar (spell specific)

You may find even more items that you will need than what is listed here and you can always add things to every spell that you create based on what kind of Wicca you are practicing and what kind of spell you are casting.

### Step 3: Determine the Timing

Every spell has a different energy that needs to guide it. Your spell may need to fall on a specific date, or even at a specific time of day. You may need the full sun, shining down on your spell, or you may need the darkness and energy of a New Moon.

Every spell has a time to make it work, and that time could also be anytime. Some spells will be open to work whenever you are needing them to be performed and the results may be different for you, depending on your

approach.

Many Wiccans will cast their spells in accordance with what moon, or seasonal cycle they are in, in order to help the power of the spell feel enhanced or to generate a greater manifestation possibility.

Whatever time you decide to work your spell is important to the nature of your original goal. Choose the timing based on your intentions. If you are trying to grow your money and security, you may want to cast your spell on a New Moon and watch your money grow as the Full Moon grows, too. You may need the energy of the dawn hours to bring a powerful focused day and work experience into fruition, as a fresh start from the morning sunlight.

All of your spells can be written in the Book of Shadows you are building and it is helpful to give yourself feedback on the most powerful times to perform each spell. You may need to play around with the timing for each spell, if you are repeating them, so that you can hone in on the timing that manifests the greatest return for you.

#### *Step 4: Decide on Your Words and Incantations*

As you learned from the Step-by-Step Guide for Rituals in the last chapter, your words are important. They carry the meaning of your goal in to the energy of the Universe to help make it manifest, so you want to make sure that you are clear in your wording and meaning.

Writing your spell is a big part of the process and should always be done beforehand and not after you have cast your circle. If you want your spell to work, you need to find the right words for your goal.

The world of magic isn't sinister, but it can have a sense of humor as to how you receive your rewards and gifts from your spell work. 'Be careful what

you wish for' is a popular saying, and in spell casting, that couldn't be truer. Make sure you know what you are asking for before you set your intentions. It will likely come back to you.

### *Step 5: Organize the Spell into a Workable Format*

Once you have determined all of the elements from Steps 1-4, you are now ready to construct the spell. They are the puzzle pieces and now you have to put the puzzle together. This part can be the most fun as it is the design phase of your spell.

Here is where you get to be the architect and determine what happens first, next and last. You will decide when to light the ritual candles you have chosen, and what words you will say alongside the sacred act of lighting them. You will decide exactly what method you will take to incorporate your herbs (burning, drinking as tea, displaying at the altar, wrapping for drying purposes, etc.). You will decide when to speak the words of manifestation in conjunction with each sacred and magical act.

Building the spell is part of the work you will incorporate into your Book of Shadows. It acts as a journal of your writing spells and your progress with them, so don't be afraid if you have to scribble things out and change some elements and factors. It is an ever-evolving work of art, just like every spell you create and every piece of magic you perform.

### *Step 6: Use Your Spells*

After you have created your spell, the best part is using it. You will want to make time and space and collect all of your ingredients to have fun with your work of magic art. Using your spells is the pay off and the reward and your

goals and intentions are set into motion every time you use them.

The next section will offer some basic spells to give you a place to start and familiarize yourself with some basic spell examples.

Don't hesitate to borrow these spells and change them to your liking.

## **Basic Spells to Help You Practice**

### **Spell of Abundance**

You will need:

- Copper bowl (if you can't find one, you can supplement the solid copper for another metal, like a silver goblet or chalice)
- Three gold coins
- Fresh spring water (you can also collect water from nature- a river or a waterfall, or a natural spring if you know of one in your area)

Instructions:

1. Plan to use the power of the Full Moon for this spell; schedule accordingly.
2. Create sacred space at your altar, using only candle light at night to perform your spell. If possible, perform close to a window so that you can receive the full moon light coming in the window. You can also perform this ritual outside to get closer to the Full Moon energy.
3. Make sure your space is calm and that you are alone and undisturbed.
4. Fill the copper bowl half way with the spring water.

5. Cast a Circle
6. Toss the gold coins in, one at a time.
7. Find the reflection of the moon in the water inside of the bowl.
8. Focus on the reflection and state the following words:

“I ask that abundance flow into my life.  
I awaken my riches by Full Moon’s light.  
My intention is prosperity  
And my gratitude will last from here to eternity.”

9. Close your circle.
10. Leave the bowl overnight. You can leave it under the Full Moon if you desire, or keep it on your altar.
11. In the morning, take the coins and put them in your purse or wallet, careful not to spend them.

*\*\*NOTE: You can add some herbs and other tools, like anointed candles that represent money and abundance to keep safely lit overnight with your bowl of coins.*

### **Law of Attraction Spell**

What do you need to attract the most of in your life? Love? Happiness? Wealth? Promotion at work? Psychic vision? Use this spell as a multi-purpose attraction for whatever your specific intention is. It is a spell to help

you empower your energy to open to what you are truly wanting.

You will need:

- Two candles (color specific to intention)
- Paper and pen (you can use colored pens to enhance your intention)
- Cauldron
- Matches/ lighter

1. You can use your altar space, or another area where you can focus and be undisturbed.
2. Make sure you are in the right mind space to work this spell. Any negative or doubtful feelings that you may have will have a negative impact on the energy of your spell.
3. Cast a Basic Circle
4. Write your intentions on the paper. Be specific and clear.
5. Light your candles.
6. Read your intentions out loud if you like.
7. Catch the paper on fire with the flame of both candles.
8. Place the paper in your cauldron to safely burn.
9. While it burns, repeat the following words as many times as you can before the paper burns completely:

“Let me be seen, heard and blessed on this day, harming no one on my way.”

10. Close your circle before the next step.
11. Take your cauldron outside and feed the ashes to the wind if there is any to blow the ashes, or let them fall from the cauldron and waft into the air.
12. Instead of blowing out your candles, leave them burning or snuff them out.
13. Repeat this spell up to nine consecutive nights to help enhance the power.
14. If you aren't seeing any results, clear your energy and intentions and try again after about a month.

### **Herbal Love Charm Spell**

This spell is a charm to help you release your blocks to love so you can attract it into your life better. A combination of herbs made into a sachet as a charm is a perfect way to enhance your openness to love. If you can't get all of the herbs on the list, that's okay! Just work with what you are able to find.

You will need:

- 5-8 whole cloves



- 1 tsp mugwort (dried)
- 1 tsp lemon balm (dried or fresh)
- 1 tsp St. John's wort (dried)
- 1/3 cup chamomile flowers (dried)
- 3 tbsps rose petals (dried or fresh)
- bowl
- 1 pink candle
- Square piece of cloth and string to tie into a sachet (like a potpourri bag)

Instructions:

1. Cast a Circle (basic or ritual)
2. Have your ingredients ready to work with on your altar.
3. Light your candle as you take deep breaths and consider your intentions.
4. Mix the chamomile, mugwort, lemon balm and St. John's wort with your fingers in the bowl.
5. Pour onto the cloth.
6. Sprinkle in the rose petals and cloves.
7. Close the sachet with the string
8. Hold the love charm in your hands in front of the candle and see your

whole body covered inside and out with white light. Imagine it pouring out of your heart and filling your whole being. It can even fill the whole circle you have cast.

9. Now let sweet, pink light come from your heart and pour into the white light, as you hold your charm.

10. Say the following phrase, or whatever feels right to you, three times:

“With this charm of loving herbs,  
My blocks to love I will disturb,  
To remove them from my life,  
Waking love and bringing light.”

Play around with the words to find the right meaning for yourself. The spell is about releasing unwanted block to let love flow through you freely and accept it openly.

11. Let the candle burn out of its own accord (make sure it is in a safe space to burn at length).

12. Close your circle.

13. Wear your charm and keep it near you as often as you can. Sleep with it under your pillow even.

14. When the charm has fulfilled its magic purpose, you can bury it in the Earth, and/or, sprinkle the herbs somewhere, like in a flowing river to let your love continue to flow or grow.

## Chapter 7: Step by Step guide to Crystal Magic

Crystals are one of the most popular tools for exchanging and enhancing energy. They are very useful to carry around on your person, hold in your hand, or wear as jewelry. For most Wiccans, the use of crystals and stones is a regular practice because of how strong their energy naturally is and how easy it is for them to absorb the kind of energy you want to carry with you after you charge and consecrate them.

There are a significant number of crystals and stones that can be acquired for use in your rituals and when you are making use of these tools, they will follow the same basic principles as with your other tools:

- They need to be cleansed regularly.
- They can be charged and consecrated as often as you need.
- They will hold unwanted energy after a time, so develop a relationship and intuition with these tools.
- Keep them in sacred spaces and respect their energy and magic.

If you already have some of your own stones, you may be familiar with how they each have a unique personality and quality. There are a variety of stones that are specifically for protection and others that are for attracting abundance and prosperity. You will find some that are for grounding and others that are best for opening clear channels of communication with your life or with the divine.

Here are just a few of some of the crystals and stones you may be working with to help you with your solitary practice:

**Amethyst:** purple crystal- self-discipline, pride, sobriety, inner strength, calms fears or anxieties, opens dreams and psychic visions, clear channel for communication with spirit, helps break habits and addictions.

**Black Tourmaline:** cleanses auras, breaks obsessions, heals anxiety, repels negativity, prevents psychic attack on the spiritual plane. Protective, grounding shielding.

**Black Onyx:** hard, black stone- banishing and releasing. Wards of negativity and conflict. Protection stone. Boosts confidence and strength.

**Blue Kyanite:** crystalline-blue stone- balancing, promotes clear personal truth, new chapters, clears auras and chakras. Doesn't need to be cleansed or purified, like other stones.

**Carnelian:** bright orange stone-, passion, determination, courage, motivation and individuality, success, inner fire, goal-manifestation, productivity, directness, joy, warmth, illumination.

**Citrine:** sunny yellow crystal- sun energy, joy warmth, friendship, communication, dream manifestation, individuality.

**Hematite:** strongly magnetic- all kinds of attraction magic, protection, stability, grounding, clear understanding and perspective.

**Lapis Lazuli:** deep blue with flecks of shining pyrite- openness, insight, truth, inner power, spiritual universal truth, interpretation of intuitive thought, psychic ability, soul guide magic.

**Moonstone:** milky white/grey- moon magic, intuition, life cycles, empathy and clairvoyance, emotional love, connections of the heart, empathy and kindness.

**Quartz Crystal:** clear and glassy- all-purpose energy stone, personal power and energy, clearing, balance, healing, spiritual growth and enlightenment, amplifies intentions.

**Rose Quartz:** soft pale pink stone- compassion, tolerance, love, peace, reveals inner beauty, self-confidence booster, relationships, self-love.

**Tiger's Eye:** warm golden brown-courage, willpower, loyalty, truth, luck, protection, truth-seeking, perception, cuts through illusions, brings to light manipulative or dishonest intentions.

**Turquoise:** bright blue with dark veining- master healer stone, inner beauty, joy, relaxation, healing, contentment, positive vibrations, prosperity, joy, friendship, protection, neutralize negativity, empath stone.

### **Step-by-Step Instructions for Crystal Magic**

As with all of the information you have learned in this Wicca Starter Kit, your intentions and your energy are what cast magic. With all of the tools that you have found in your tool kit, you are now able to charge and consecrate them, as well as use them for specific spells and rituals.

Crystals have so many uses and you will discover more and more of what they can do and how they can improve and enhance your magic spells.

These basic step-by-step instructions are a guide to show you how to care for and use your crystals and stones. They will work for you if you take good care of their energy.

#### **Step 1: Clear and Charge**

The first step with all crystals is to make sure they are cleared first. They are very absorbent and can hold onto a lot of energy, more than might be obvious when you are holding it in your hands.

In Chapter 3: Step 3, you can find the step by step instructions for clearing your crystals and stones. The same rules apply to all of your tools and your crystals are no exception.

Whether you are using salt, soil, sunlight, moonlight, or smoke. Regular clearing of your stones is very important to the magic you work with.

Charging your stones is the next best thing you can do. These steps are also listed in Chapter 3: Step 3, and you can use any means you think appropriate for charging. The key to a simple charging of the stones and crystals is to use your energy to imbue them with your powerful essence and magic. Set the intentions of wanting your stones to be clear, full of loving light, and charged by the power of whatever source you are inclined to choose: sun, moon, fire, smoke, etc.

### *Step 2: Cast the Magic*

With your new knowledge of rituals and spell casting from chapters 5 and 6, you have all of the steps you need to cast the right kind of magic with your stones. Once your stones are charged, you can cast a spell with them and keep them energetically present within the work of the spell.

You may leave them on the altar or may carry them with you on your person. The casting of the magic is the moment in which you clarify your intentions and magical purpose into the stone. The crystals absorb the magical intention and are then full of your purpose and needs.

Consider this worthy of casting a basic or ritual circle and creating a spell specific to using your crystals so that you can really put the power and force of your spell work into these strong conduits of energy and spirit.

### *Step 3: Access Energy of the Crystals*

Once your spell is complete, you can make use of the energy captured in the crystal and carry it with you. Depending on your needs and uses, you may be using your stone to protect your car and will leave it on the dashboard; you may be encouraging your garden to grow healthy and full and so you will be planting several of them in your garden bed; you may need it under your pillow to induce lucid dreams.

Whatever the spell is calling for you will need to now access the power of the

magic encapsulated in your crystal and call upon it regularly in order to manifest your magic work.

#### *Step 4: Clear and Charge*

At some point, your spell will lose power and force, as will the energy in the stone. Once you have reaped the benefits of your crystal spell, you will then resort back to the first step by clearing and charging your crystal again, for its next magical use.

If you are working with crystal magic, these steps are a must to make sure that you benefit the most from using the energy of crystals and stones. Have fun with it, and to get you started, here is a crystal spell:

#### ***Crystal Spell for Clear Communication***

Use this spell to improve communication at home, in relationships, at work, or even with the divine, or favored deities.

Charging a stone or a crystal with your magical purpose and intention is a very powerful way to open yourself to that magic. Stones and crystals, as you have read, are very powerful and hold a lot of energy. This spell is a great way to infuse your stone or crystals with the power of your intentions. It is meant to be carried or worn on the person so that you can connect to the energy of that purpose throughout the day.

You will need:

- Aquamarine
- amethyst
- clear quartz (optional)
- 1 white or yellow candle (colors of communication)

Aquamarine is a bridge between the heart and throat chakra and therefore promotes a clear channel of heartfelt, honest, open and compassionate communication. This is a stone for speaking truth. You can also add a piece of lapis lazuli to enhance that power and carry both stones with you (optional).

Amethyst is notable for opening your sense to communications through the divine and spirit. It can clear energy blockages to help with the flow of energy, including communication.

Quartz can be used to enhance the overall power of your spell when used in conjunction with the other elements.

#### Instructions:

1. Cast a Basic Circle.
2. Place your amethyst (and quartz) in front of your candle and light it.
3. Hold your aquamarine (and additional stones if using) in both your hands, palms pressed together.
4. Close your eyes and ground yourself. Take several deep breaths.
5. Spend time visualizing your communication moment and the feeling of relief and satisfaction as the result of your clear and direct communication. Picture yourself calmly and openly talking truth and how good it feels to express yourself.
6. Picture that energy flowing from you through your hands and into the



stone.

7. Speak the following words while holding the stones in your hand:

My voice is true and clear, of heart.  
I give these stones my powerful start,  
To use my voice as clear as a bell,  
I speak my truth and all I have to tell.”  
And so it is!

**\*\*NOTE:** If you are wanting to communicate more with the divine than a family member or boss, you can change the words spoken to reflect that purpose and intention.

8. Now, place the aquamarine (and/or other stones) next to the amethyst and quartz and let the candle burn there for at least an hour or until burned out.

9. Close your circle.

10. You can now carry your stone with you to give you the energy of clear communication in the moment when you need it the most.

**\*\*You can also add herbs and oils to your candle to incorporate some additional power and magic to this spell. Frankincense essential oil and dried peppermint would be an excellent way to derive more clear communication from your candle magic.**

## Chapter 8: Step by Step guide to Candle Magic

Candle Magic is easy and fun. A candle is one of the more important tools you will use in any of your spells. Not only does it represent the element of fire and the direction of the south, it also brings light to your altar and gives life force to your magic. It is the one tool in the tool kit that can represent all of the elements, as you read in chapter 2.

With candle magic, all you need to know are a few basic things:

- 1. Colors-** each color in the rainbow has meaning and magical purpose. The color of candle that you choose has a great impact on your spell. There are several meanings for each color and for some spells you may need a variety of colored candles to activate your magic. The color carries meaning as much as lighting the flame does.
- 2. Symbols-** symbols are often carved into the wax of the candle in order to give it an additional power, purpose and meaning. Pentagrams or pentacles are rather common, but you may also have a lot of symbols that you already like to work with for your spells. Whatever the symbol, carving it into the candle and allowing it to melt away as the spell gains power is an important part of the ritual of candle magic.
- 3. Oils-** oils rubbed on the sides of the candle add an additional essence to the magic. You may find that the added aroma can have a pungent impact and positive output for your spell. Many Wiccans use essential oils, or even herbal olive oils to anoint the candles for extra magical focus. This is usually a step that occurs before rubbing herbs onto it.

**4. Herbs-** herbs are heavily used in magic and they can even be helpful with consecrating your candles for heightened magical purposes. Using dried or fresh herbs adds the powerful property of whatever you are using to the power of your spell. You want the herbs to stick to the edges of the candle, so doing this step after you wet it with oils, is best. Apply the above steps to your candle magic rituals and find an even greater resource of power in your craft work. Here is a list of some of the candle color meanings to help you with your spells:

**White:** all colors, innocence, the Maiden (Triple Goddess), purification, peace, healing, truth and sincerity, cleansing, spirituality, clarity, wholeness and joy, protection against negative energy, meditation, calm, focus.

**Yellow:** intellect, inspiration and creativity, communication, confidence and charm, persuasion, wisdom, mental strength, concentration, memory, logic and learning, personal power, self-esteem, cheerfulness, joy, optimism, Air element.

**Orange:** success joy, stimulation, energy, prosperity, good fortune, courage, energy building and boosting, power, legal matters happiness and enthusiasm, clears negative emotions, attracting friendships, emotional healing.

**Pink:** all forms of love, forgiveness, emotional and spiritual health, harmony, joy, compassion, love spells.

**Red:** fire and passion, fertility, sex, power, virility, potency, courage, blood, action, vigor, Mother (Triple Goddess), Fire element.

**Purple:** highly spiritual, psychic abilities, awakening, vision, clairvoyance, inner eye, intuition, respect, honor, wisdom, purification, progress, spiritual growth, stress reduction, insomnia, healing.

**Blue:** soothing, inner peace, harmony, tranquility, patience, kindness,

healing, serenity, truth, wisdom, communication, loyalty, peaceful home,  
Water element.

**Green:** Mother Earth, fertility, nature, growth, abundance, financial success, money, luck, prosperity, generosity, emotional and physical healing/rejuvenation, renewal, good harvest, earth magic, Earth element.

**Brown:** grounding, balance, earth vibration, clear thinking/ decision making, common sense, stability, material gain, concentration, intuition, telepathy, locating lost objects, animal healing.

**Silver:** neutralizes negative energies and influences, protection against entities, stabilizing, inner peace, serenity, invoking female deities.

**Gold:** solar gods and goddesses, attracting cosmic influences, wealth, persuasion, victory, masculine, confidence, invoking male deities.

**Black:** banishes negativity, absorbs all colors, reverses hexes/curses, repels black magic, rids of bad habits, resilience, self-control, inner strength, deeper consciousness, healing support with loss and grief, Crone (Triple Goddess).

### **Candle Spell for Money Flow**

This money attraction spell is specifically geared towards candle magic. It is important while working this spell that you trust that your intentions will pay off, and that you don't need to worry about how it will happen. The Universe will deliver and you will have to stay open to any possibility.

You will need:

- One candle (gold or green for money spells)
- A candle holder or surface it can be stick to with melted wax (take safety precautions when working with candles)

- Sewing pin or crystal (the point of the pin or the point of a crystal will be used to inscribe a symbol into the candle)
- Patchouli essential oil (substitute olive oil if you have none)
- pinch dried basil

Patchouli and basil are herbs associated with wealth and money. You may come across other herbs that hold the same kind of magic and so you can decide on other herbs if you find something you like better.

Instructions:

1. Cast a Basic or Ritual Circle
2. Use the pin point or crystal point to inscribe a pentacle into the side of the candle (you can also choose other symbols that pertain to abundance, like runes or other ancient symbols you prefer)
3. Anoint the candle, rubbing the patchouli oil on the sides.
4. Roll the candle in the dried basil, allowing the herbs to stick to the patchouli oil on the candle.
5. Place your candle in its holder and make sure that the symbol you inscribed on it is facing you.
6. Take some time to ground yourself. Close your eyes and visualize that act of unexpectedly receiving money. You can also visualize yourself with paper money raining down on you, or standing in a river flowing

with shiny coins and paper bills.

7. With the imagery focused in your mind, speak the following words, or something similar:

“With fire light I summon the divine forces,  
Money flows to me from hidden sources.  
Showering me with wanted gifts,  
Surprising my pocketbook with a lift!”

8. Light the candle and as the wick sets to flame, announce: “So mote it be!”
9. Close your circle.
10. Leave the candle in place until it has burned out. Take safety precautions.

## Conclusion

Congratulations! You are fully equipped with everything you need to get you started on your journey as a solitary practitioner to cast your spells and perform your rituals. This book is a wonderful resource for you to use again and again as you build your tool box of magical implements and practice creating your spells with everything you have to work with.

As you move forward, look back through these pages as needed to help you write your own spells and rituals and find the right methods for you to create space with your altar and your tools. Keep looking for more information to build upon your magical practice and find new tools and implements of your own unique and eccentric making or finding to add to rituals and tool box.

I hope that you have found this book useful and helpful and if you have, a review on Amazon.com is greatly appreciated. I leave you with the words to help you on your way, and may you find all of the magic that you need in these pages today!

As you move ahead on this path of light,

May it bring you great insight.

Casting magic, making bright,

Ritual spells by Full Moon Light.

Honor Goddess, Mother Earth,

Father Sky, as you give birth,

To all the magic of your heart,

May this book be your perfect start!

And so it is!



## Conclusion

You are on this path for a very important reason. Something sent you in the direction of witchcraft, and whether or not you know a lot about it, or used to think that witches were the stuff of movies and the past, it doesn't matter. Anyone who is willing to dedicate themselves to learning new skills has already projected something positive into the universe. You reading this book is doing that.

You may feel self-conscious initially once you begin further researching which tradition you want to follow, ways that you want to set up your altar, which tools you want to locate and purchase for it, etc. You may worry about other people's judgments about what you are trying to do for your life. If you feel brave enough, you can search for forums or other groups on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com), who are interested in witchcraft, Wicca, and the notion of becoming a witch. You will quickly learn that you are not alone, in your worry or self-consciousness, and that there are many people who are feeling the pull of witchcraft.

If you live, alone it may be easier to set up your altar, along with your ritual tools. If you do not, it may be harder. You can start off keeping them in a private place, a place that allows you to be yourself and not feel criticized. However, eventually, try to feel strong about who you are and what you are doing to make yourself do better, and feel better. You are not worshipping Satan or joining a cult, nor are you suddenly starting to believe that you can fly through the sky on a broom. What you are doing does contain rationality to it; it is a form of self-care, self-love, and appreciate for everything around

you.

There are many other books that exist that dive deeper into the concept of Wicca as a religion, as well as other Wiccan traditions, and other Pagan-like followings. You may have certain ones more interesting than others. Feel free to explore, there is a wealth of information out there, and you can easily get your hands on it.

Finally, it is time for you to put your words into action. Think of magic that way; the transferring of intention to behavior that is tangible. Giving thanks to the core Elements of Wicca, and feeling a general sense of appreciation all around, is guaranteed to make your life better. Everyone has corners of their existence that aren't exactly up to par with what they are envisioning. Now, you can manifest those imaginings. Don't just leave your imaginings to your mind; know that they are all possible, and you hold the keys in your hand. The world of Wicca and other witches guarantee that only joy, thriving, happiness and constant growth are in store for you as an individual practicing witchcraft.

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[1] <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-wicca-and-modern-witchcraft/>

[2] <http://wicaliving.com/candle-magic-spell-beginners/>

[3] <http://wicaliving.com/herbal-magic-spell-beginners/>