

Witchcraft as a Practice

Witchcraft is a basic method of spell casting that uses magical tools such as candles, herbs, oils and spell craft to create magical effects. It is a belief and practice that is known all over the world. It is estimated that there are over four million neo-pagans and non Christian theists today. These are basic definitions to describe various beliefs and practices like paganism, occultism, witchcraft, and Satanism.¹

Many have tried to theorize on the origins of the word 'witch'. The most accepted version seems to be 'wise woman' from the word 'wicce', however this generally explains the origins of how witchcraft is acceptably defined in Wicca. The author AE Waite, in the Book of Ceremonial magic, notes that the word 'Goety' Goetia was the Greek word for Witchcraft, which referred to the 'howling' of spirits when they are evoked.²

The word Goetia, or Goety is also usually connected with Sorcery, and magic in general. This definition seems to fit, considering that many practices of witchcraft incorporate the use of spiritual entities. In truth, there are many theories on how this word has developed, usually relating to those who use magic.

Magic is the art of directing specific results through the force of will. An example of this is Candle magic, where the witch could use a specific candle color, and anoint the candle with oils, and perhaps, carve a specific sigil into the candle, burn the candle on a certain day or time of the moon, to cause certain effects. Each thing that the witch does during the spell adds to the spells result.

Some also associate witchcraft with feminist magic. In the case of Wiccan witchcraft there are many feminist cults, some who are Dianic and lesbian. Yes, there are male witches, and many of the founders of Wicca were men, such as Gerald Gardner, Alex Saunders and Raymond Buckland.

Many male witches disassociate with the use of the title 'warlock', originally meant 'traitor, deceiver and liar'.³ Not wanting to identify with the Christian devil, they disassociate with this word and most prefer to be called witch. Not so with Satanists, whom some embrace the title of warlock with pride. The choice is personal, and once you practice and learn varied forms of magic you may not choose to conveniently fit into one label.

1 Adherents.com. August 2007. Major Religions of the World Ranked by Number of Adherents. Neo-Paganism.

Accessed 6/19/09, from: http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html#Neo-Paganism

2 A. E. Waite. October 1999 ed. The Book of Ceremonial Magic. Citadel Press

3 Encyclopedia of Witches and Witchcraft. Rosemary Ellen Guiley. Facts on File, Inc. 2nd edition. (1999)

Warlock from 'waerloga', Sorcerer or Wizard as defined by the Witch trial manuals

Satanic witchcraft is not just for women or feminists, it is all-gendered, it is not related to wicca, and it is not a religion. Witchcraft is a craft of magic, sometimes influenced by but not related directly to religion. And, Satanic witchcraft is the magic of the Satanist.

It is also not a 'birthright', one is not born into magic and witchcraft, but like any art it is a skill that some may be talented in naturally, and almost anyone can learn with study and practice.

It is said that all Wiccans use Witchcraft, but not all Witchcraft users are Wiccan. While it is true that Wiccans who use magic as a religion, burn candles and use oils and herbs for magic, there are many other traditions that use similar associations and methods to obtain magical results.

For instance, the Native Americans practice a form of natural religious witchcraft. Religious witchcraft is also used in neo-paganism, Kemetic paganism, the Stregheria tradition of Italian witchcraft, the Feri Tradition created by Victor and Cora Anderson, the Voodoo tradition, Santeria, Kitchen or Hedge witchery, folk magic, Celtic Witchcraft, in Satanism, and through many more practices that have evolved over time. Some of these traditions are a blend of mystical and magical associations from different cultures and religions.

The witchcraft methods these groups use, seem to be commonly found in occultism in general. Witchcraft was made popular when it was formulated by Wicca, but witchcraft did not originate with wicca, nor is it *owned* by Wicca. Basic evidence of this is found in the Greek culture who used magic and witchcraft in pre-chrsitian times, long before any modern-day wiccan ever lived.

The Three Fold Law, Law of Return

Wiccan magic is based on moral and religious beliefs of the Witches Creed, which contains what is sometimes known as the 'rule of three'.

Satanic magic does not have a similar creed. But, what influence does the three fold law have for Satanists? To begin with, the threefold law is not a part of satanic practices. It originates from the religion of Wicca and other neo-pagan practices that teach this as moral system of guidance. This law or creed states that what the witch does will return to them three times, for good or for evil. Some also use the eastern beliefs of Karma to illustrate this idea.

There is the threefold law (rule of three) which states "What you do will return to you threefold" and the Witch's creed: "An it harm ye none do what ye will". The three-fold law is a moral convention found most often in Wicca. It is not a 'lie', but instead it is a belief

that is instilled within Wicca followers for the sake of social order, tradition, and religious belief. It is known as the witch's creed, by these groups. Many authors in occultism have written about it, which may be why it is in the public perception that harmful magic will return to the sender.

For an example, Timothy Roderick, a Wiccan author, suggests that the emergence of witchcraft in the 1950's came from the influence of ceremonial magic, The Golden Dawn, and Crowley, all of which included Eastern mysticism in their practices. This lead Wiccans to adopt the principle of karma [borrowed from India], that they used in their magic practice as a moral guide. Roderick also suggests that "Witches [Wiccans] avoid harmful practices because they know that harmful magic harms everyone".⁴

In my experience with discussing the Creed and the Threefold law with Wiccans I have discovered that some do not adhere to this witches creed as strictly as some others do. There are some neo-pagans who would use harmful magic, but generally it is intended for protection, and not malicious casting. It gets further complicated when they add the element of 'Karma' to their deserving target! So there are exceptions to this rule, and it is a created rule like all other moral teachings of religion that are meant to be used as a guide within a religion.

Satanists are not neo-pagan or Wiccan, so why should these same moral laws apply to them in the use of magic? For example, in LaVeyan Satanic philosophy, LaVey suggests this same basic question of morality, by stating 'When a man smites you on one cheek smash him on the other! ..Self Preservation is the highest law' and the Satanic version of the golden rule, 'do unto others as they have done unto you'.⁵ LaVey rationalizes these laws instead of moralizing them. Satanism is an individual practice and because of this there are no standards that fit for all people.

This serves to illustrate a basic point that I think is common amongst all Satanists - that we have the option to take offensive actions using magic either for defense or manipulation because it is a matter of expediency, not morality.

Magic that is cast [as a spell, for example] has a specific purpose. It is sent in a specific direction and has a specific influence with a certain outcome; magic does not bounce around or multiply and return to the sender. Magic has a source, and when magic is properly directed it has a destination and a purpose that is intended to achieve a beneficial result.

Some choose not to moralize this process and bypass all the stigma,

⁴ Timothy Roderick. February 1, 2005. Wicca: A Year & a Day. Llewellyn Publications.

⁵ Anton LaVey. December 1, 1976. The Satanic Bible. Avon

worry, and fear that comes with religious neo-pagan magic. So to answer the Question: the only influence that the threefold law has in Satanism is that it should be recognized for what it is - a moral teaching that some witchcraft and neo-pagan cults use as a religious and social convention. Taking this into consideration it is easier to see why the moral teachings of some occult groups do not apply to the practice of magic as a whole.

White and Black Magic

Have you heard of magic referred to as white or black, or even green, or yellow? It seems that magic is represented by a rainbow of colors and everything in between. These names refer to schools of magic, specific practices that are taught to magicians through occult orders as traditions. Within these traditions, magic that is labeled as black is often the type that they warn against for various reasons, mostly because of moral ideals. Some who are in the Right hand path claim that only white magic is used to help or to heal, and black magic is used to destroy or damage.

Some occult orders want to teach that magic only works in a certain method, that their way is the only and true way, and that all other kinds of magic beyond this are false or evil. These occult leaders use moral doctrines are wrong, harmful to the self, or harmful to others, and are very restrictive in their guidelines.

Let us move beyond this restrictive thinking. Every school of magic is different according to what they teach. I will not teach you that black magic is evil, but I will warn you against the reckless use of personal power that could leave you very powerless in the end. The same could be said for paths of light or right hand paths of righteousness, and how absolute power corrupts absolutely.

I will suggest that all magicians should take personal responsibility for their actions, whatever they will them to be. Magic is real, and you really have to live with the consequences of casting a spell, whether that spell causes a chain reaction of events that are positive or negative. But, I guarantee that once you know how to use magic you will not want to live without it.

Apart from the teachings of some orders, magic in general is not ruled by some sort of cosmic justice. You only get what you give and nothing more. The 'forces of the universe' that the magician works with have no personal interest in us. Magic is a technique that is used by the magician for whatever the need may be. *Magic is not good or evil by it's own nature.* Instead, magic is a tool that is wielded by the magician. Much like the symbol in magic that represents the Will, magic, is like a sword or dagger - in some instances it can save your life and help you to survive, but it can also be used to

kill and destroy.

There are no colors in magic, only different methods by which magic are used. And, if magic could be any color at all, in general, it would be varying shades of Grey. Regardless, all of the knowledge of any magic system since the beginning of (recorded) magic is there for you to use at your desire to create what you want. You have to be able to expand your concept of choice. You are not bound by the same moral rules as these other magicians are. You are limited only by your imagination and your desire to succeed.

In time you can develop your own personal ethic in magic and decide what is right for you in whatever situation you are in. That is what Satanism and Satanic Witchcraft is about - creating your own personal Satanic path, and building the magical self.

For spiritual satanists, or for satanists who have an interest in the occult, the practice of magic is a great way to connect with the powers of the Earth and with Satan. Magic is an art and it takes a long time to learn through study and practice. This book is my guide. There is no fake history behind this method that I have created, just common witchcraft and magic methods that are put into a balanced framework that any competent satanist could work successfully with, regardless of their system of spiritual belief.

Herbs, crystals and stones, and planetary or astrological associations that represent specific aspects can be used in witchcraft to cast spells. Demons and gods associated with Satanism can be called upon during spell work. If you choose to add demonic associations into your practices, it is your decision. Hopefully this book will give you the knowledge to be able to create your own method of magic.

In general, Satanic witchcraft is a focus of the *dark aspects of witchcraft*. The dark is the maleficent, the destructive and the chaotic. Dark magic like this includes using curses, spells that manipulate situations that aid the magician. Other practices of dark magic include working with the demonic. Satanic witchcraft is, simply, witchcraft created by a practicing Satanist.

I practice solitary eclectic witchcraft, so my methods do not easily fit into typical categories. In this series of writings I will be discussing elemental associations, planetary and demonic associations, candle magic, the use of oils and incense, and many other topics. These are my methods, and this guide to Satanic Witchcraft is my creation based on my research and experience in magic and satanism.

To study magic, and to really see a benefit from using it, takes focus and determination. Once you understand the basic principles you

can achieve many things. But learning these basic principles will change your life forever. Knowledge is like a door into a new reality, and a life that is filled with magic potential. Once you pass through this door there is no turning back. You can have the success that you desire with a dedication to learning the craft of the wise.

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