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Scents and Tastes in Ritual Magic

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Scents and Tastes in Ritual Magic

The senses of Smell and Taste are both chemical senses. Both are very important to human beings, even though neither is one of our stronger senses. They convey messages to us of far greater significance than just whether things are good to eat, by evoking memories or feelings that are usually. Both smell and taste are of great importance in ritual magick, enabling us to tap into some of our most ancient racial memories and through them, the archetypal energies of the universe.

Humans have poor senses of taste and smell compared with most animals. The sense of smell or taste of a dog or cat is about a million times better than that of any human being. Cats and dogs get as much information from sniffing and licking as humans do from their highly developed sense of sight. The principal factors of importance in determining what something tastes or smells like to humans are the geometrical shapes of the molecules which it emits into the atmosphere which enable them to fit into 'slots' in the various taste and smell receptor cells in the mouth and nostrils. Differently shaped slots evoke different tastes and smells. The sense of smell is used to assess the chemical composition of substances at a distance, using airborne molecules released by the substances. The sense of taste can be used to

test them when they are in contact with the body.

Taste

Humans can distinguish between four distinct primary tastes: Salt, Sour, Sweet and Bitter. The various parts of the tongue are not equally sensitive to these four tastes. The tongue is most sensitive to Sweet at the tip, Bitter at the back and sour at the sides. Salt sensitivity is more widespread, but is greatest at the tip of the tongue. There are also Sour and Bitter receptors in the palate; and some Bitter receptors in the larynx.

If you want to avoid a nasty taste from medicine, put the pill or liquid on the centre of your tongue, which has no taste receptors and wash it down quickly. All flavours are composed of combinations of the four primary tastes with the smells and tactile sensations (rough, smooth, etc) from whatever you are tasting.

In magick, the sense of taste as a whole is referred to the Human Activity of Swallowing, which corresponds to ninth letter of the Qabalah, Teth, a Serpent.

There are four primary tastes and six secondary tastes, which can be referred to the Planetary Energies. See the Table with this article.

The sense of smell is processed by the most primitive part of the human brain. It enables us to tap into our deepest genetic inheritance. In both human and other animals, smell is very important in relation to both memory and sexual activity.

The human activity of smelling is referred to the seventh letter of the Qabalah, Zain. There are seven primary smells, referred to the Planetary Energies.

Using the Correspondences

Using these fundamental smell and taste correspondences you will be able to develop you own incenses, perfumes and foods for your ritual magical activities. By carefully selecting and combining scents and tastes you will be

able to focus those cosmic energies that you want to use.

Even the best books on correspondences seem to be full of incenses or perfumes or plants that you may have never heard of, or have no way of obtaining. Now you have the information from which to develop your own.

It is only during the past quarter century that scientists have really begun to understand the processes of taste and smell in humans and other animals. The results of their feelings have required magical adepts to examine very carefully those fundamental human scents.

The below correspondences are not only in accord with current scientific understanding of how the human body works, they also fit in with the most reliable traditions concerning the ritual use incenses, perfumes and foods.

Primary Tastes

Tastes	Examples	Correspondence
Salt	salt	Moon
Bitter	quinine	Mercury
Sweet	sugar	Venus
Sour	lemon	Sun

Secondary Tastes

Tastes	Examples	Correspondence
Bitter-Salt	vinegar and lemon [.1]	Pluto
Salt-Sweet	salt and sugar mixed	Neptune
Salt-Sour	salt on lemon	Uranus
Bitter-Sweet	sugar-free chocolate	Saturn
Sweet-Sour	Chinese sauce	Jupiter
Sour-Bitter	grapefruit	Mars

There are 24 possible ways of combining the 4 primary tastes, with an infinite variety of tastes that can be generated by varying the proportions of each taste. [1] Battery acid would be a good correspondence here, except it is poison-ness.

Primary Scents

Scents	Examples	Correspondence
Musk	angelica	Sun
Camphor	mothballs	Moon
Ether	dry-cleaning fluid	Mercury
Floral	roses	Venus
Putrid	rotten eggs	Mars or Pluto
Mint	peppermint	Jupiter/ Neptune
Pungent	vinegar	Saturn or Uranus

There are 5040 possible ways of combining the 7 primary scents, with an infinite variety of scents that can be generated by varying the proportions of each taste.