

The Book of Novicia, Chapter Three

ENVIRONMENTAL MAGICK

Note: Remember, you must keep and complete a 13 Moon Journal, divided by chapters that correspond to the lessons, in order, reflecting your reactive thoughts and conclusions. The first chapter of your journal or Witch's Diary would contain the process you went through to determine what you want from life and, indirectly, from Magick, along with notes on the Treasure Map assignment and spell work if any. The second chapter would contain your construction of a Practical Magick spell and a Ritual Magick spell along with notes on what spell you cast, when and the conditions. Leave space to record results at a later time when you have results to record.

PRINCIPLE: The “where” plays a significant role in Magick.

PRINCIPLE: The condition or state of the “where” is equally important.

In the first part of the first lesson I told you that ...

... every thought, word and deed is a form of spell

and that

... everything exists in a state of vibration.

If you want a good life (however you define it) and, after all, a good life is the point and checkpoint of a successful Magickal practice, you must begin to pay attention to factors that may have been unimportant, unnoticed, ignored or neglected. Your consciousness must be retrained to see your life through Magickal eyes. You must look at such things as how you live, where you live, who you live with, play with, work with and how each

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of these things could affect your Magick for better or worse.

Whereas the first lesson was centered around gently persuading all the parts of yourself, including the captive and repressed, to reveal what you *really* want from life, this lesson is, in large part, detective work. Your goal is to begin the process of learning how to identify and eliminate your Magickal saboteurs; things, places and sometimes people -- all around you, integrated into your life -- that could interfere with, or even sabotage, your Magick.

How I wish this was so simple as a list. I could post it. You could take notes. It would be accomplished quickly -- without a lot of time and effort, but, like most things related to Magick, it's not so simple. If it was, everybody would do it and everybody would live their ideal life.

What complicates the task is that perpetually troublesome fact of your uniqueness as an individual citizen of the world and as a Witch/Sorcerer.

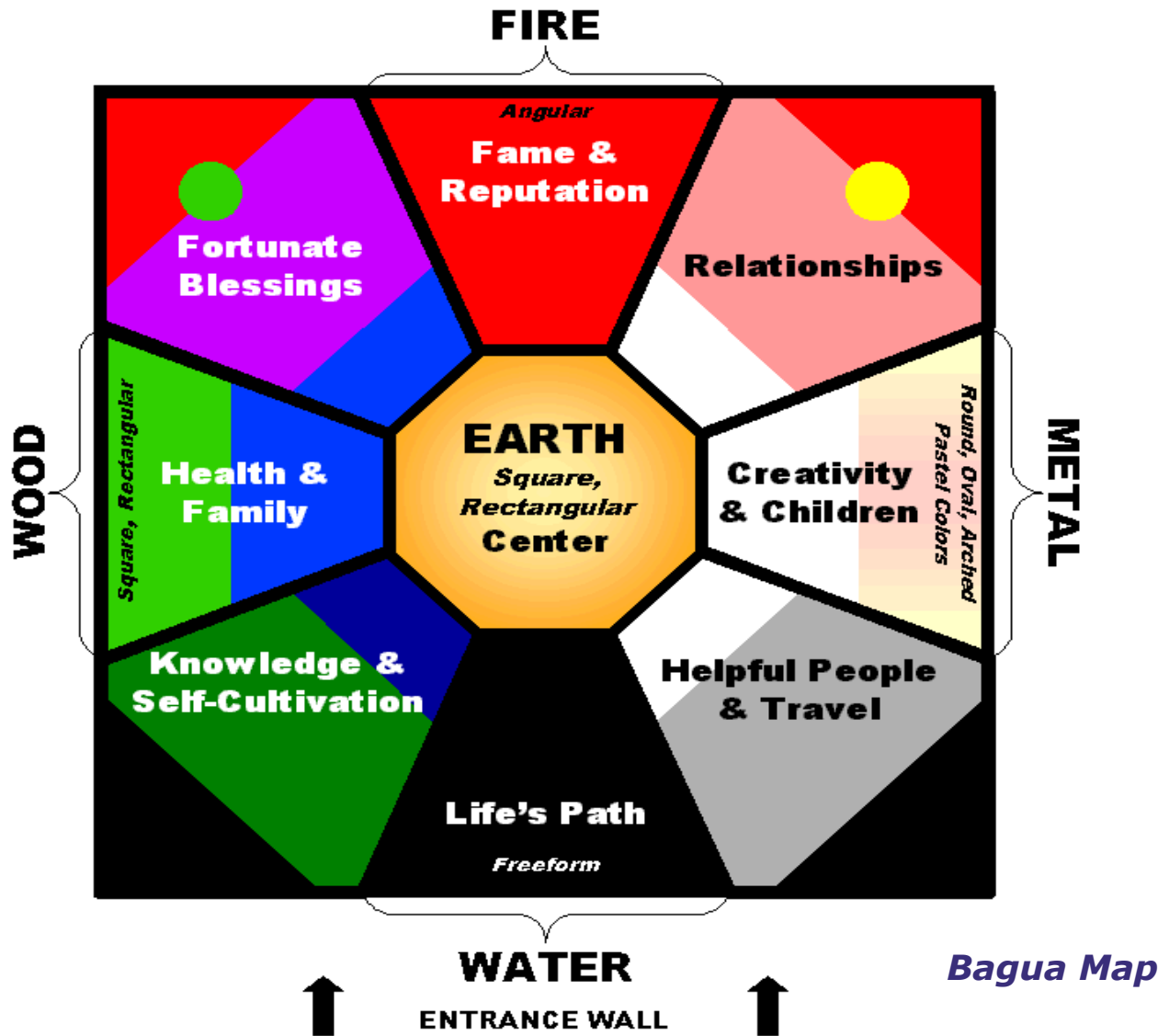
In this chapter, the lecture and the assignment are interwoven.

The world of pretend is fertile ground for Magick and all of us who practice must be adept at pretending. So let's begin with an exercise in pretending that you are your own Magickal mentor in Spirit form, come to do an assessment and review of your life so far. You're going to look at everything about your present life with the detachment and objectivity of an outsider -- without explaining or defending, without guilt or pride, without emotion. For now, your job is to compile the facts.

Let me interject a note here on the art and practice Feng Shui. Many of our students have studied Feng Shui or have at least a passing familiarity with the concepts and the Bagua map. There is a lot about Feng Shui that is valuable and could be applicable to this Lesson. (See A Note on Feng Shui, page 64 of Seasons of the Witch Primer.) There are also elements that are problematic simply because Eastern Magicks and Western Magicks are organized and conceptualized differently because of cultural perspectives. These differences make the practical application of Feng Shui difficult for Westerners at

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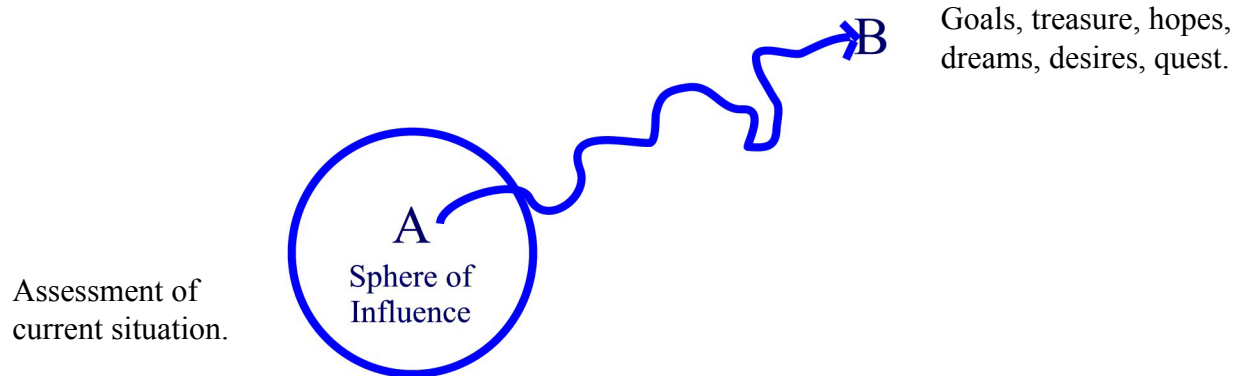
best. Without belaboring the point, let me say that a devotion to Feng Shui would not interfere with the principles in this lesson. The two approaches can exist harmoniously in parallel.



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NOTE: Regarding the Bagua Map interpretation on the preceding page. This was included simply as a curiosity because of the reference and should not be taken either as an encouragement to take up a study of Feng Shui or a discouragement. People who are highly intuitive and in tune with their environments can get something from the study when not taken too literally.

It may have seemed that the major undertaking of the first lesson was the construction of a Treasure Map spell. That would not be true. The Treasure Map spell was the **result** of the major assignment which was to determine what you want from life; beginning with an assumption that you want something you do not now have. In that process, hopefully you established a Point A representing where you are now and a Point B representing the culmination of your dreams and desires. Then you calculated the relationship between those two points to determine where you think Point B exists relative to your Sphere of Influence in Point A. It's not an exact science, but it is a subjective equation.



Perhaps a few of you found that you are content with your physical and geographical environment and have no desire for changes in that area. Many of you would like to move to a different climate or city or terrain. Most of you determined that you would like some sort of change in housing. Maybe you don't want to build a dream home. Maybe you want a modest remodel. Regardless, this is something most of you have in common.

KEY: One of the two broad definitions of “Sympathetic Magick” is that LIKE ATTRACTS LIKE. Things (and people) that are vibrating at similar rates are comfortable with one another.

So, simply put, one of the most powerful Magickal techniques you can employ is to take what you now have and make it more closely resemble what you want. The closer the vibration, the greater the magnetic pull.

The goal of this lesson is to take stock of your Magickal Environment and determine what, if anything, could be done to boost the power of your spell work and reduce resistance. This is part of the process I am teaching you, lesson by lesson -- how to recognize and take advantage of the Magickal aids that are available to all of us all of the time. The PowerCast™ system in *Seasons of the Witch* is a fine example of one of these.

Comparing this approach to rowing on a boat on a river, you have purchased the finest boat, made from the best materials. It is beautiful to behold -- waxed, shined with your name painted in gold lettering. The boat holds all the tools recommended by the boat salesperson: a pair of the best oars crafted with cutting edge, rowing technology, a nice buoyant life jacket sufficient to float even the body of one who has been too long and too often to the ale bench, provisions of snacks, drinks, first aid kit, a cell phone, a GPS, etc. You're well-prepared, ready to go and you've taken everything into account. Everything, that is, except the fact that your destination is upstream.

This analogy couldn't be more apropos to the practice of Witchcraft. You would be better off with nothing but an old canoe, a wooden paddle and a current going your way.



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Like everything in the Universe, Environmental Magick is a study of light and shadow pairing; identifying Magickal enhancers to boost power and identifying Magickal detractors that could drain power or offer resistance to change. Rowing downstream is so much easier.

A.) THE PHYSICAL ESSENCE OF HOME

First we'll outline the problem, then we'll look for solutions, cures or patches. Let's start with where you live. What is your impression of the place you now call home? If I ask you how you feel about where you live, what is your first reaction -- you know, the one that came to mind before you actually started thinking about how to frame your answer. Because, you know, that initial flash, the instantaneous word or picture of feeling -- that's the truth.

Begin by asking yourself some general questions like ...

What do you like? What don't you like?

What do you love? What do you hate?

Do you look forward to coming home at the end of your day? Do you dread it or feel indifferent about it?

How do you feel about the neighborhood (urban) or environs (rural)?

Perhaps most important, do you feel safe and secure?

Yes. Your environment is an extension of you. It's your creation even if you didn't have the knowledge to know you were creating your own reality at the time, but don't be afraid to confront the task and look at details. Every Witch starts somewhere. Write your positive answers down in your Witch's Diary and feel free to share what you like (or love) about your life with as many people as care to listen, but keep your more negative answers to yourself. Writing or speaking your more negative opinions will give them power to perpetuate and that's not the objective.

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Let's do a peel-the-onion-layers assessment. Most of us never look at our environments with a critical, detailed, objective eye. In fact, we train ourselves to overlook.

For instance, you don't have anything on top of your refrigerator. You get a box of oranges for Christmas. You eat what you can and throw the rest out, but the box was solid, had handles and is just too good to throw away. You're in a hurry. You look around and spy the vacant space on top of the refrigerator. So you put the box there. For the first three days, your eye catches on the box peripherally when you hurry through the room. You think you'll take care of it on the weekend, find a more suitable place for it, but you just don't have time right now. The weekend comes, but it's busy, too. A week passes. After seven days your eye no longer catches on the box when you go past. It has melted into your impression of the room and now it may very well be on top of the refrigerator until you move or get a new one.

This is the kind of thing you're looking for in this exercise. Things you wouldn't "SEE" if you weren't deliberately looking at the details of how you live.

Come through your main entry like you were entering your home as a guest. Think of yourself as an inspector with a clipboard. Go room by room, foot by foot, asking yourself these questions and others that may come to you spontaneously. Reach out with your innate Magickal senses and you will know what needs attention. When you notice things that could or should be changed, make to-do notes, but do it in a positive way. Sometimes Magick is "spin".

Examples of to do / not to do:

Note to self -- paint the kitchen perky yellow

Instead of -- hate the slime-green kitchen paint



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1. Are there any noticeable structural defects?
2. Is there clutter that could drain your energy?
3. Is there uncleanness that could cause depression?
4. Is there wear and tear that could effect your health or the aging process?
5. Are there odors?
6. Are reflective surfaces shiny?
7. Are clear surfaces clear?
8. Is there a "piling system" (too many papers) that could be demotivate?
9. Are there colors that are offensive?
10. Are there dark spaces that are "creepy" or foreboding?
11. Is the exterior view pleasant?
12. Would you feel proud and pleased to have people over?
13. Do you have so much "stuff" that there's no room for anything new?
14. What things evoke an emotional response -- of any kind -- whether it's sentiment, delight, satisfaction, regret, revulsion or a host of other possibles?
15. What things evoke an aesthetic response, good or bad?
16. What things make you feel good about yourself and what things don't?

B.) THE PHYSICAL ESSENCE OF YOUR WORK SPACE

I know your choices are limited unless you work for yourself. Still, there are things you can do to create a more Magick-friendly atmosphere at work – where most of us spend most of our waking hours. You may also be in the process of conjuring an ideal work environment which is, of course, the ultimate solution.

Some of the most offensive work situations are also, unfortunately, some of the most common. In the profit-driven world of the 21st Century, the last thing to be taken into consideration is the mental and emotional well-being of workers. In fact, such things are not even factored into the decision-making processes of large companies.

For office workers, here are my top three insults in order of importance in descending order.

1. A workspace with no windows. Aside from the dubious effects of fluorescent lighting, not being able to see the world as intended by genetic programming is disorienting. Even a view of a parking lot is better than no view at all. At least you have some natural light and are in touch, personally, with weather conditions.
2. Conditions of extreme stress caused by unreasonable demands or conflicts. You don't have to be personally involved in an inter-office conflict to be negatively affected by it. If you're sensitive enough to be attracted to the study of Witch Arts, you're sensitive enough to be affected by frustration or other malignant emotions that occupy your space. When I say "your space", in this case I mean everything within, say, a ten to fifteen radius of you.
3. In the early nineties the word cube took on usage as a verb because working in cubicles had become that commonplace. While I'm sure this concept is very cost effective, it creates a sensory assault combined with deprivation of privacy and autonomy. It is a caustic environment for Witches.

I'm sure you have two or three of your own you could add to this list. If you have a particularly troublesome work environment, refer to the *Master Grimoire* for herbal

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remedies. Plants, real ones, are marvelous buffers. Sometimes the cure can be as simple as having the nerve to ask to use an unoccupied window office until it's needed. Don't be lazy. Decide to show up for your life and get creative. Magick works most efficiently when it's well-supported on the mundane level.

C.) YOUR MAGICK SPACE

By this I mean the space where you actually cast. It doesn't have to be the same every time, but it does have to be clean in the physical sense and cleared in the metaphysical sense. It should also be free of things that would distract your focus.

Clearings

Light a nice bunch of tied white sage. Encircle yourself in the smoke while you're creating some protections around yourself. Open the main entry door and leave it standing open. Start in the farthest part of the house with your smoking sage. Chant a rhyming verse of your own writing to rid the property of anything unwanted – seen or unseen.

Work your way toward the front door room by room, herding everything you don't want in that direction just the way you would round up livestock. Have a pot of sand or water by the front door ready to receive your sage "smudge stick" and a dish of salt. Issue a final YOU ARE BANISH-ED command. Sprinkle your salt across the threshold. Close the door with authority and put out the sage.

- Seasons of the Witch Primer

Some Neo-Pagan traditions assign high importance to the establishment of an altar in your home. You may want to have a central place for Magickal focus, but it isn't necessary. We'll discuss the prospect thoroughly in Chapter Five.



D.) ASSOCIATIONS.

Last, but not least, we must talk about the people who share your environment. Supportive relationships can help you go farther than you would have dreamed on your own. Destructive relationships can easily undo any and all of your Magickal efforts.

I have suggested to you that you think and talk positively about the things you want because it supports your Magickal work. It stirs the pot doesil (clockwise) which is a good thing. Negative talk, on the other hand, brings negative results. It stirs the pot widder-shins which undoes. You might remember it as *counter-clockwise is counter-productive*.

Here is some demographic trivia. Did you know that most Neo-Pagans, by a whopping majority, are female? (There are actually reasons for this which will be discussed in a later chapter.) Most are heterosexual, either married (to men) or have boyfriends. Most of the men in the lives of these Witches do not share their beliefs, but support their activities which really is just as serviceable as sharing beliefs.

That's the good news. The bad news is that some aren't so lucky.

For now, restricting the topic parameters to the positive-thinking aspect of Witchcraft, it is fairly impossible to move yourself toward "more" if there are people in your life pulling you back. The process of moving toward more involves changing your vibration. When you change your vibration you will begin to attract other people who share your vibration and repel those who don't. If your friends or family members are locked in a negative comfort zone, they will become frightened if they see you trying to break free and do everything possible to sabotage your efforts -- all the while believing it's for *your* own good.

You can usually work around that if it's family. You just see them for brief periods, infrequently. You will usually -- without even trying actively -- phase out friends who no longer support your vision and attract new ones who do. You will find yourself gravitating toward other people who intend to have their dreams and see them fulfilled. The hard thing, the nearly insurmountable thing, is what to do when the saboteur is your spouse.

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The question of what to do about negative associations, once your feet are set on the path of a truly upwardly mobile life (in the genuine, not just commercial, sense) has been posed to me over and over and over. I have witnessed this struggle by people very close to me.

In 1937 a man named Napoleon Hill wrote a book inspired by Andrew Carnegie entitled *Think and Grow Rich*. Some aspects of the subject matter are simply Witchcraft disguised and made palatable to mainstream readers. It has been many years since I read the book, but I remember the author listing a few attributes that successful people MUST have. One of those things was the right partner; meaning someone who shares and supports your goals, is dedicated to helping you realize your dreams and will not undermine your efforts.

As I said in the first part of Chapter One, every thought, word and deed is a form of spell. If you and your spouse are at odds about what you really want, you will cancel each other out.

THE WORK SO FAR IN REVIEW:

The process undertaken so far could be compared to preparation of a meal. When you enrolled in the school you decided you were going to cook. In Chapter One you decided what you were going to cook. In Chapter Two you learned two basic methods used for cooking. In this chapter we are clearing and cleaning the kitchen counters.

If you found that there is much about your life that could be improved, then good. How exciting! The more there is to accomplish, the more satisfying will be the journey. If there is much to be done, create a five-year plan of baby steps. Everything you do, even the small things, brings you closer to perfection.

Do not overlook cleanliness as a Magickal necessity. You can't have order of thought in a chaotic or unclean environment.

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Regarding your answers to questions on page 8, areas that need attention will probably be self-evident as will be the cures, remedies or solutions. You probably will not be able to everything at once. Again, that's okay. Make a five-year plan.

I suspect that this lesson, in particular, will spark a lot of questions about individual circumstances. You are welcome to email your questions.

IN CONCLUSION:

Magickal Notation: Don't forget your journaling. The keeping of a Witch's Diary is a big part of the process. No detail is too unimportant to record.

Your Chapter One notes will be about the process of deciding why you're studying Witchcraft and approaching life changes through the Treasure Map spell.

Your Chapter Two notes will be about the process of writing a Practical Magick spell of your choosing and a corresponding Ritual Magick spell.

Your Chapter Three notes will be about identifying possible problem areas in your environment that could retard your Magickal progress and making a plan for remedy or improvement.

In Chapter Four we will explore Mental Magick - Meditation as Magickal Tool. The Chapter Four lesson will also include an additional audio file to be used as a beginning meditation tool.