

# The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

## *Full Moon Magick*



## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

What do you think about when you hear the word “Moon”? It may not be exactly the same for everyone, but most Witches would agree that it is, at the least, a powerful and mysterious force that influences Magickal energy as well as mundane behavior. If you met someone who claimed to be a Witch, but said she or he was apathetic about the movements of the Moon, you would probably think them incredible.<sup>1</sup>

That is because there is a close association between Witchcraft and the Moon. The same thing cannot be said about the practice of Magick in general. Some kinds of Ritual Magick are practiced in intellectual vacuums, but **good, old-fashioned Witchcraft depends upon our intuitive understanding of our place in the big picture.** This is sometimes referred to as “being grounded”.

*Here are a few patterns that lead me to that conclusion that Witchcraft is innately intuitive:*

Witches typically enjoy changes in weather.

Although Witches can leave our bodies in spirit form when trained to do so, we love the feeling of gravity because it connects us to the whole.

Witches are at home in physical bodies, enjoy physical bodies and often have to exert an abnormal lot of restraint to keep from eating, drinking and frolicking ourselves into health issues.

Witches instinctively know that “gateways”<sup>2</sup> often gravitate to reflective surfaces and, therefore, we are sometimes drawn to and sometimes suspicious of a random mirror or puddle.

<sup>1</sup> **in-cred’-i-ble** Pronunciation: \in-kre-də-bəl\ Function: adjective Date: 15th century  
Etymology: Middle English, from Latin incredibilis, from in- + credibilis credible  
Def: too extraordinary and improbable to be believed (making *incredible* claims)

<sup>2</sup> **Gateways**, meaning access to another dimension, plane or “way of being”. SIA Third Year Study.

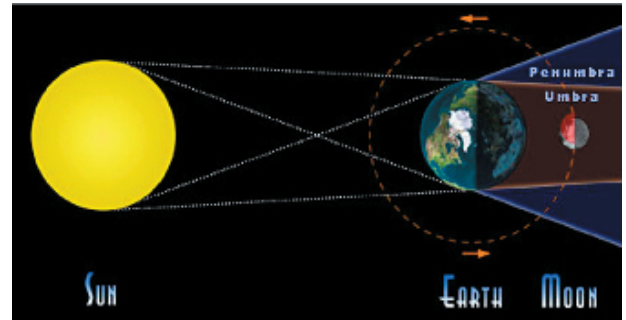
## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

Witchcraft is influenced by the Moon in all its forms, but especially the full Moon. In fact, the observance of lunar cycles is a key characteristic of a successful practice of Witchcraft and, as you know, my calendars and planners – *Seasons of the Witch* – are based on this principle.

I have even had the full Moon sing me out of my bed in the middle of the night; this before I began my practice of tracking lunar cycles. I rose in darkness, drawn by an inexplicable force down a hallway and into a small bathroom. There, I beheld the full Moon perfectly centered in the window frame, haloed by a magical mist, climbing just above the tree tops. And I thought, "Thank you for waking me. I'm so glad I didn't miss this."

### The Scientific View

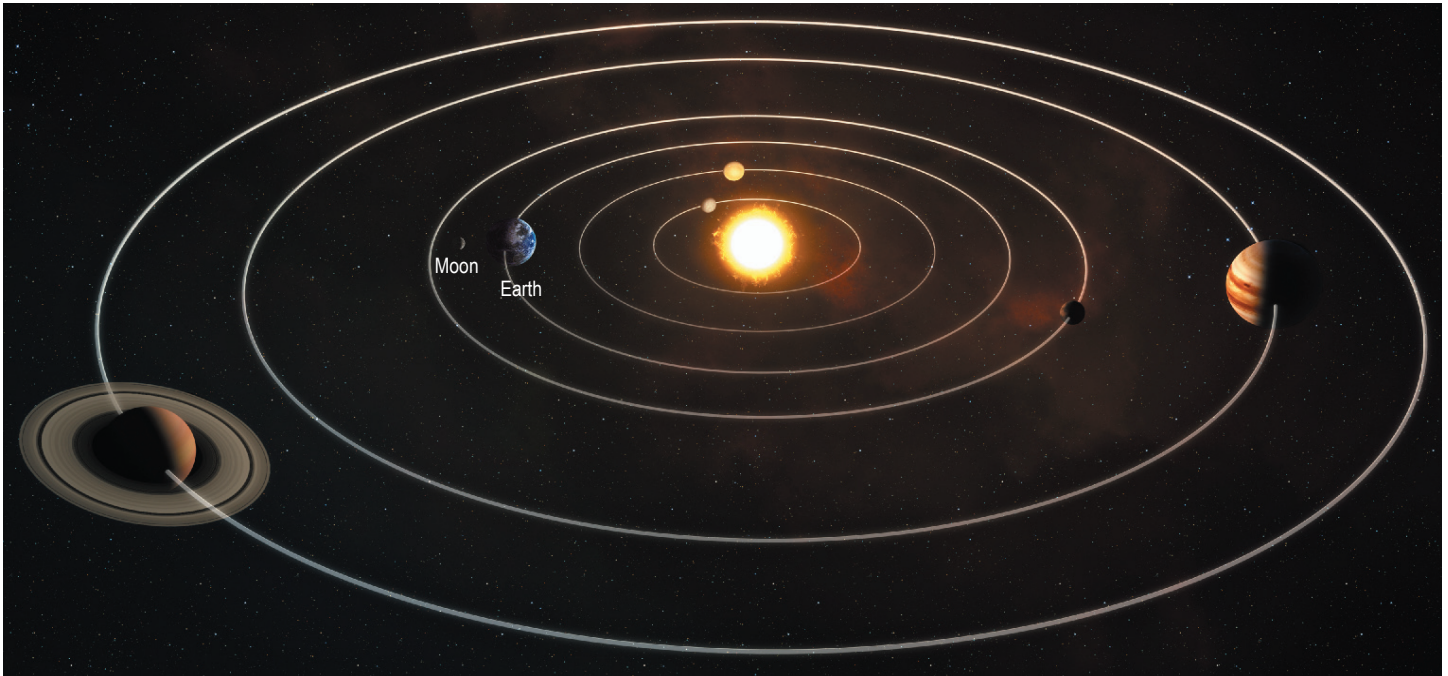
Let's begin our discussion with the scientific view. As I have told you before and will say again, I believe that science and Witchcraft are on a convergent path such that, someday, events and phenomena now considered mystical may have common explanations and be part of science textbooks. It's important to understand the scientific view because it provides some of the threads woven into the tapestry of the wise.



This diagram shows the relative sizes of the Sun, the Earth and the Moon.

The Moon is a terrestrial planet like Earth, but smaller. It acts as a satellite of the Earth, reflecting the Sun's light. That reflected light appears to be reddish-orange when seen in the night sky just above the horizon, fading to shades of pink as it "rises" higher, and finally resolving to a majestic silver-white. It is also moving away from the Earth at a rate of about 1 1/2" per year.

The ancients did not know the moon's light was reflected, but thought it generated its own light. The fact that the moon and the sun appear to be the same size, about the diameter of a quarter, when viewed from Earth, lends a symmetry and romance to the movements of these two heavenly bodies that has profoundly effect our mythos and



The SOLAR SYSTEM.

our thinking about the juxtaposition of day and night, darkness and light.

The Moon passes through all 360 degrees of the zodiac every 27-29 days so that astrological signs change every 2-3 days.

In addition to the fact that we simply love to look at the moon, viewing each full Moon with a sacred reverence as if it was our first, the Moon creates a cycle of tides. Tides are created because the Earth and the moon are attracted to each other -- like magnets. The Moon tries to pull at the Earth to bring it closer, but the Earth is able to resist and hold onto everything except the water which is always moving. Each day, there are two high tides and two low tides. The ocean is constantly moving from high tide to low tide, and then back to high tide with about twelve and a half hours between high tide cycles.

Spring Tides occur on the full Moon and new Moon when the Earth, Sun and Moon are in a line. At these times, high tides are extra high and low tides are extra low. While the



## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine



vocabulary of tides is usually applied to oceans and large lakes, there is some effect on all bodies of water. **That includes your body which is composed of about 60% water.**

It is only logical to conclude that this magnetic ebb and flow affects body chemistry and, therefore, moods. There may also be some relationship between the Moon's influence and menstrual cycles.

Intellectually we know that the light of the Moon is Sun's glory reflected onto a dead planet. But, intuitively, we know it must be more. Surely, the first human who ever looked into the night sky was struck with reverence for the awesome beauty. History is full of testimonies to the Magickal nature of the Moon.

### ***Here are a few examples of The Moon as Sacred Symbol.***

Isis wore a full Moon with horns as her sacred headdress.

Druids used a Moon-shaped sickle for sacred ceremonies.

Arianhrod – Welsh Moon Goddess: Symbol is the silver wheel.

Artemis (Roman), Diana (Greek): Goddess of waxing Moon and hunt. Symbol was the crescent moon and star.

Magick space is cast as Circle in honor of the Moon. (The stone circles of the Orkney Islands are still called "Temples of the Moon".)



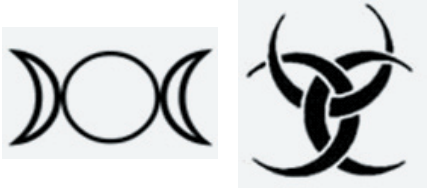
Isis Headdress



Brodgar Circle, Orkney Islands, Scotland

## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

Crystal: The stone represents the full Moon and its divinatory powers.



The Lunar Triple Goddess symbol<sup>1</sup>, the three aspects of the Moon (waxing, waning, and full) representing the sacred feminine trinity (mother, maiden, crone).

When you cast a Full Moon Circle, it is, in a sense, a pact invoking the powers of Magick and mystic traditions that span millennia.

Ancient Thessalian Witches were reputed to have said, "If I command the Moon, it will come down; and, if I wish to withhold the day, night will linger over my head; and again, if I wish to embark on the sea, I need no ship, and, if I wish to fly through the air, I am free from my weight."

### The Astrological View

The Moon is thought to influence every aspect of life on Earth, human and otherwise, but emotions, feminine issues and the mystical even more so.

The Moon is said to represent the feeling nature of the individual (It) is associated with a person's emotional make-up, unconscious habits, rhythms, memories and moods. It is also associated with the mother, maternal instincts or the urge to nurture, the home, and the past. - Wikipedia



1



The biohazard symbol is sometimes confused with the Triple Goddess symbol. As you can see here, they are similar, but not the same.

## The Moon in Tarot

The Moon is one of the most Magickal and mysterious cards in the tarot. It invokes the strange and illusory world of dreams and shadow selves. **Witches must venture into this landscape if we are to have the prize of highly sensitized intuition<sup>1</sup>.** This is one of the most elusive and advanced quests of Witchcraft.

The Moon is the card of choice for spells to enhance intuition or to assist in meditations for the purpose of dream interpretation.

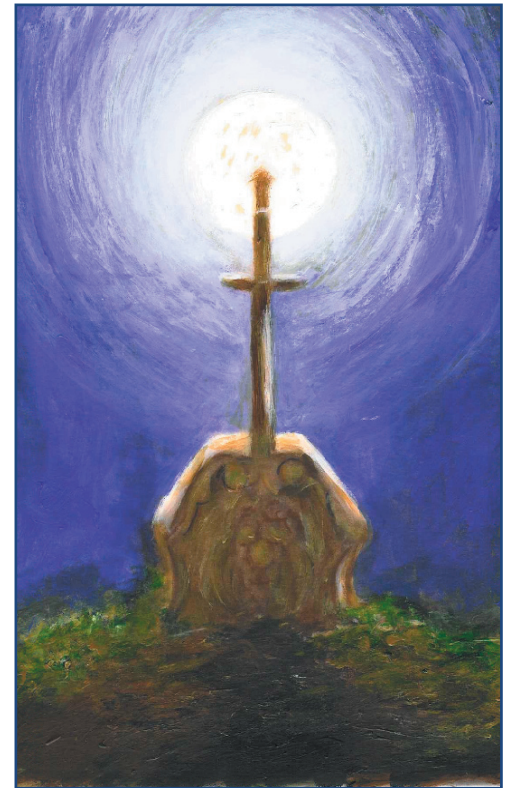
– *Seasons of the Witch Primer*



Hanson Roberts



Golden Tarot



Middle Kingdom Tarot (unpublished)

<sup>1</sup> SIA Third Year Study.



## Esbat

The term esbat is old French meaning (sexual) “frolic or romp”. The term was used during the witch trials to describe social intercourse with the “Devil” although other kinds of intercourse were implied. Resemblance to the word sabbat is coincidental. **The word has been adopted by the modern Wicca movement to describe full Moon celebrations.** Traditional Witchcraft practitioners have always observed full Moon celebrations, but do not call them esbats<sup>1</sup>. A traditional Witch would call this event a Full Moon Sabbat<sup>2</sup> instead.

Wicca and Traditional Witchcraft agree that the full Moon is sacred because of heightened Magickal energy. This table shows the differences in terminology.

	<i><b>Old Pagan Holidays</b></i>	<i><b>Full Moon</b></i>
<b>Traditional Witchcraft</b>	Festivals	Sabbat
<b>Wicca</b>	Sabbats	Esbat

## Full Moon Celebrations

Sometimes you may want or need to use the power of full Moon energy for spell casting purposes. Other times, you may simply want to celebrate the Moon for its sake. I believe that all Magickal creatures – and I count myself among them – are drawn to dancing (or cavorting<sup>3,4</sup>) in the moonlight; be it Summer, Winter, Fall or Spring.

If not dancing, then basking. Turn your face to the full Moon, close your eyes and

<sup>1</sup> Technically, an esbat rite could be performed during any moon phase, but it is generally used to mean “full Moon” observance.

<sup>2</sup> There are distinct vocabulary differences between Wicca and Traditional Witchcraft.

<sup>3</sup> Cavort: Pronunciation: \kə-vort\ Date: 1794

1 : to leap or dance about in a lively manner 2 : to engage in extravagant behavior

<sup>4</sup> During the times of the witch trials, suspects were often accused of cavorting with the “Devil”. Of course, you can’t cavort with a Christian myth, but you *can* cavort.



## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

absorb the rays. If your full Moon celebration is not purpose-driven, it's an excellent opportunity to gather with others of a like mind. Formal rituals are not necessary; walks on the beach, chairs in the backyard, an hour on the roof, there are infinite ways to celebrate the Full Moon and all are valid. **For solemn gatherings, there's no text more beautiful than this.**

### *The Charge of the Goddess*

*Listen to the words of the Great Mother, Who of old was called Artemis, Astarte, Athena, Melusina, Aphrodite, Cerridwen, Arionrhod, Brigid, and by many other names:*

*Whenever you have need of anything, once a month, **and better it be when the moon is full**, you shall assemble in some secret place and adore the spirit of Me Who is Queen of all the Wise.*

*You shall be free from slavery, and as a sign that you be free you shall be naked in your rites.*

*Sing, feast, dance, make music and love, all in My Presence, for Mine is the ecstasy of the spirit and Mine also is joy on earth.*

*For My law is love is unto all beings. Mine is the secret that opens the door of youth, and Mine is the cup of wine of life that is the cauldron of Cerridwen, that is the holy grail of immortality.*

*I give the knowledge of the spirit eternal, and beyond death I give peace and freedom and reunion with those that have gone before.*



## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

*Nor do I demand aught of sacrifice, for behold, I am the Mother of all things and My love is poured out upon the earth.*

*Hear the words of the Star Goddess, the dust of Whose feet are the hosts of Heaven, whose body encircles the universe:*

*I Who am the beauty of the green earth and the white moon among the stars and the mysteries of the waters,*

*I call upon your soul to arise and come unto me.*

*For I am the soul of nature that gives life to the universe.*

*From Me all things proceed and unto Me they must return.*

*Let My worship be in the heart that rejoices, for behold, all acts of love and pleasure are My rituals.*

*Let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion, honor and humility, mirth and reverence within you.*

*And you who seek to know Me, know that the seeking and yearning will avail you not, unless you know the Mystery: for if that which you seek, you find not within yourself, you will never find it without.*

*For behold, I have been with you from the beginning, and I am That which is attained at the end of desire.*

Inspirational text by Doreen Valiente, as adapted by Starhawk

## Casting on the Full Moon

Some think the full Moon energy is available for spell work for 2 ½ to 3 days. As always you are welcome to experiment and draw your own conclusions, but I work with Full Moon Magick only on the day of the Full Moon except during hours when the Moon is void-of-course.

***NOTE: The 7th House system of moon-naming is fully explained in the Daily and Weekly planners beginning with 2009.***

**Full Moon Magick is all-purpose Magick.** The energy can be channeled toward almost any goal of manifesting an essence or thing. Spells for personal gain or enrichment generally get better results when cast solitary. However, depending on timing, you can usually cast as a Solitary and meet with a group for a more social celebration.

We all have multilayered lives with time and day constraints. Ideally, when you are in a position to choose, **full Moon Magick will be most potent at night** when you can actually see the full Moon.

## Moon Mirrors

**Divination** (noun) – A means of foretelling the future or uncovering hidden knowledge. Common modern methods include the use of scrying, tarot, runes and dowsing. to divine (verb).

**Scrying** (noun and verb) – Divining by gaze. The object of gazing could be a crystal, mirror (or any reflective surface), tea leaves, fire or even the eyes of another person in dim lighting.

– *The Witches' Dictionary, Victoria David Danann*

Many Witches discover early in their education that they have a talent for a particular means of divination, or that a particular divining tool appeals to them more than others,

## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

and they never get around to giving audition to other forms. As part of your training, I would like you to be personally familiar with various methods and experience each before you settle into a comfort zone which can be another way to say limitation or trap. Since we are on the subject of Full Moon Magick, it's an ideal time to introduce the art of scrying with a Moon Mirror. **A true Moon Mirror is a scrying device that has been Magickally empowered by absorbing Moon energy at the direction of the owner. This distinction is critical.** You can never accomplish real Magick using someone else's tools.

### Moon Mirror Fact and Fiction

1. **You can't buy a Moon Mirror that is ready to use.** You can buy a mirror, but, until it undergoes a Magickal transformation at the direction of Witch or Magician, it will be just a mirror.
2. Any mirror will do, but round mirrors seem to feel appropriate because they are the same shape as the full Moon.
3. Your Moon Mirror does not need to be backed with silver.
4. Your Moon Mirror does not have to be inscribed with any particular symbols to function properly.
5. **Your Moon Mirror does need to be "cleared"** before you charge it. You could ritualize the process, but the easiest way is simply to wash it in salt water and dry with a clean cloth.
6. You do not need to leave your Mirror outside overnight. Position your mirror so that it catches the reflection of the full Moon. An hour or so should fill the Mirror with Magickal energy. Direct the charge with a quatrain chant such as...

*Mirror, by the Mysteries, be  
Blest with Magick.  
Let me see.*



## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

7. **Do keep your Mirror in a dark place** when it's not in use, like a box or drawer, preferably covered by black cloth. (I like velvet because the fabric absorbs and holds the darkest shade of black.)

8. Use at night.

### More Notes on Moon Mirrors

While you can use any mirror of any shape or color, bought anywhere, many of us find it easier to scry black mirrors. These are not as readily available. For your convenience we have stocked some nice, affordable, black 6" round, beveled glass mirrors. [www.7th-house.com/MoonMirror.html](http://www.7th-house.com/MoonMirror.html)



### Sacred Water

You can Bless water for use in future healings or rituals on the Full Moon by catching the reflection of the Full Moon in the water. Bless with a chant such as....



*Water Spirits, hear my plea  
Gods of Moonlight, Blessed Be,  
Come together now transform  
Liquid Magick is reborn.*

Store in a dark container in a dark place.

### Moon Alchemy

See Optional Assignment #3.

## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

### ASSIGNMENT 1:

On the next full moon, clear and charge a mirror using the methods in #'s 5 and 6 on page 12. Look in your *Seasons of the Witch* calendar for the next "divination" PowerDay. Mark your calendar with a reminder to practice scrying with your Moon Mirror. The process is as follows.

Preferably, choose a time when there will be no distractions.

Lay your Mirror on black cloth or hold it in your hands.

Close your eyes, take three deep breaths (inhale and exhale slowly to a count of three) and clear your mind.

**Set your intention.** (By this I mean commit to the Magickal act. This is not a passive activity like passing the Magic 8 Ball at slumber parties. Nor is it a joke. **You must be engaged on a mystical level, ready and expecting to receive information.**)

You may ask a question or simply look. Many gifted diviners find that it is difficult, almost impossible, to get an accurate reading for themselves personally. **Of course the purest form of Magick would be to just ask to see what you need to know.**

When you open your eyes, begin to stare into the Mirror. After a few moments, you may notice that your eyes will go slightly out of focus. This is to be expected. Hold your concentration until you have received an impression of events to come. This impression may be imparted to you by actual pictures or by a thought that springs to mind feeling very much like intuition. Don't worry if you doubt your impressions in the beginning. With practice you will become more confident.

### ASSIGNMENT 2:

Create a store of sacred water. A dark glass container, like an amber bottle is best, but you could use plastic. Some ordinary drinking waters come in dark blue plastic bottles and will do the job.

## The Book of Novicia, Chapter Nine

### **ASSIGNMENT 3:** (optional)

There are several Moon Magick incenses published in the *Master Grimoire* by Pat Kirven Sawyer. I am including three here for those who don't own a copy. This would be a good way to expand your training in the Magickal use of oils and herbs. If you don't feel moved to experiment with the Magickal properties of oils and herbs this month, you may want to return to this exercise when planning a future Full Moon celebration.

**NOTE:** Be sure you are using **essential** oils and not synthetic. YES! There is a difference.

#### ***Moon Incense***

2 parts Frankincense  
1 part Sandalwood  
a few drops Eucalyptus oil  
a few drops Jasmine oil  
a few drops Camphor oil  
1 drop Bergamot  
Especially good for facilitating  
psychic workings, love rituals,  
healing, and castings for home  
or dreams.

#### ***Moon Magick***

Equal parts: Frankincense  
and White Sandalwood  
1/4 part Orris Root  
Few drops of Lotus Oil  
1 drop Bergamot  
All purpose incense to  
enhance lunar rituals  
including Full Moon.

#### ***Moonfire Incense***

1 part Rose  
1 part Orris  
1 part Bay  
1 part Juniper  
1 part Dragon's Blood  
1 drop Bergamot  
1/2 part Potassium Nitrate  
Burn for divination, love and harmony.  
**CAUTION!!** The Potassium Nitrate is  
included to make the incense sparkle  
and glow, as well as burn better.  
**If you add to much it will explode!**

**REMEMBER:** You put a little in, you get a little out.  
You put a lot in, you get a lot out.