

The Book of Novicia, Chapter One

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## *INTRODUCTION*

Welcome to the first lesson of the first year of Season in Avalon. In a sense the credit for the opening of this school goes to hundreds of Seasons of the Witch devotees who have written or called and asked for it. I have pledged to tell you the truth about Magick as I know it and to give you value that far exceeds your tuition. - Victoria David Danann

**I will not wait until the last lesson of the fourth year to reveal the real "Secret". I give it to you now and it is this.**

**KEY: Magick is not something kept in a chest or cauldron to be trotted out for an occasional spell. Everything in the Universe is Magick and everyone in the Universe practices some form of Witchcraft either deliberately or unknowingly. The key is the discovery (and understanding) that every thought, word, and deed is a form of spell . Every thought, word and deed is an action to which there must be a reaction according to basic cosmic law. Do not fly past this concept without allowing it to make a lasting impression on your mind because this is the essence of the gold sought by the ancients; mystics and alchemists.**

If it were possible for you to control every thought, word and deed you would be a god. This isn't possible. But it is possible to control some factors most of the time and others on occasion. That, with the addition of external aids such as astrological planning, elements, herbs and divinatory tools, will set you on the path to mastery of the Witchcraft Arts.

Everything in the Multi-verse exists in a state of vibration –even inanimate objects and bodies that no longer house life. Different states of being cause humans to vibrate at different rates. Poverty has its own rate of vibration as does prosperity. Heavy metal music has its own rate of vibration as does a Pan flute. Wearing a different color changes your

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vibration as does rearranging your furniture or the acquisition of a new thought. The people you encounter change your vibration. What you eat and drink changes your vibration. As you can imagine, potential examples are endless. By the time you have exhaled the breath in your lungs your vibration will have slightly altered for better or worse.

(Later in your training we will discuss how this is related to the Cosmic law that “like attracts like”. Rich people feel comfortable with other rich people. Happy people like to be with people like themselves and so on and so on.)

These two KEYS are the foundation, the Magickal building blocks, we will use as a springboard to practicing the Art of Witchcraft masterfully. They will be repeated again and again and again. Some things, especially those that run contrary to critical mass opinion, are subject to super-entropy and must be reinforced with frequent repetitions or your under-mind will begin to express doubt and chip away at your Witchly self-confidence.

Online training is an excellent way to acquire these skills partly because it requires more self-discipline than being a sorcerer’s apprentice and partly because it forces a level of engagement that might be circumvented in a physical course venue. Follow the steps in the time given, in the order given with no attempt at short cuts and I promise you will broaden your wisdom and hone your Magickal skills.

Throughout the lessons you will find insets identified as “keys” or “principles”. Pay particularly close attention to these.

### ***First Lesson, First Year Outline - FOLLOW THESE STEPS***

1. Introduction
2. Lecture
3. Assignment
4. Seasons of the Witch BONUS exclusive to SIA students
5. Q & A - Post any questions at [witch-school@sbcglobal.net](mailto:witch-school@sbcglobal.net).

# Finding the Sorcerer Within - The Path of Dreams

*Why have you come to the altar?*

*What is it about the idea of Witchcraft that attracted you?*

It certainly wasn't the Hollywood, pop-culture, Christianized (i.e., Satanic) version of Witchcraft. Actually, I already know the answer to that question and it's reflected in these words you probably read in Orientation.

***1.) We believe that your dreams and desires are the ultimate clues to your purpose for being here. That is why I call this the Path of Dreams.***

***2.) We believe that Magick is the ultimate self-help device and that it is available to any person with the inclination and commitment to tap its Power. That is why I think of the journey as Finding the Sorcerer within.***

We will spend the next three, possibly four, years finding and refining the Sorcerer who lives within you.

The Path of Dreams is not a religion or a "tradition" or a cult. You could be Wiccan, Witch, Pagan, Heathen or even (gasp) Christian. The principles of Witchcraft will work so long as your beliefs do not conflict with an exercise to the point where they could obstruct the processes you set in motion. As astounding as it may seem, some techniques will work even if your belief is contrary to your purpose. We will talk more about this when we come to the lesson on Physical Magick.

***The central question to Magick is this.... what do you want???***

If you didn't want something, you wouldn't be right here, right now, reading this.



**Super Powers under lock and key**

Who hasn't fantasized about what it would be like to fly, be physically invincible, move objects by telekinesis, see the future or even be temporarily invisible? These stories are popular because most humans are fascinated by the prospect and that fascination is kindled by the spark of truth. You may not achieve these exaggerated and distorted expressions of power, but you can create your reality. In fact, you do – everyday. What holds you back from creating the reality you want is partly the handicapping crush of mass opinion and partly a lack of understanding how to find and manipulate your own innate powers.

One of our goals in this training is to free you from the trap formed by mass opinion. Here is one way you can tell if you are being held back by confinement. If you have a persistent or recurring idea of something you might have or do or be that is paired with a sobering bit of that's-not-in-your-future "wisdom", you are imprisoned by your own experience, education and the opinions of others extending from your friends and family to the global consciousness of the entire human race. Some religious systems have even proclaimed aspirations to heal or divine or manifest by metaphysical, or paranormal, means a "sin" thereby incorporating limitation as a virtue. This is true even when the icons of the religious sects openly used these skills themselves.

**You can't escape from prison if you don't know you're confined.**

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If you are able to visualize (that is to form pictures in you mind as a result of word suggestion), follow this example with me. Imagine yourself floating in black space surrounded by a light about the size and shape of a telephone booth. The light surrounding you represents what you believe about your ability to impact your world. If you can think back to a bygone era before cell phones, to a time when you may have stood in a telephone booth, you know that you could touch the four walls that enclosed you with your fingers without straightening your elbows. Our goal in this training is to expand your belief so that you have room to maneuver and work Magick in a less confined space.

Your attraction to this work is evidence that there is a compartment in your mind that knows you are able to manipulate reality to conform to your vision of what best suits you. As you open your mind to new possibilities, as your understanding expands, you will slowly push back the sides of your invisible prison and you will find that it will gladly give way to new ideas.

## Traversing The Path of Dreams...

*The methodology is Witchcraft. The process is Magick.*

**KEY: You put a little in. You get a little out.  
You put a lot in. You get a lot out.**

**CAVEAT:** As part of our pledge to ethics, we must include an admonition here that Witchcraft done well requires ongoing dedication. An analogy might be that of physical training. You can exercise, eat well and groom your body into peak perfection. But, if you stop, you find the body is a hard taskmaster. In a very short time you will be close to where you were before you started. A successful practice of Witchcraft requires ongoing study and practice. If you stop, the Art will slip away from you like smoke from a candle. I consider myself to be a perpetual student as well as teacher.

## *Why prepackaged spells don't work.*

**PRINCIPLE.** *Magick is the richest, most fertile ground for truth-seeking that I know. Real Magick challenges the individual to take responsibility for what they choose to believe and how they will apply those beliefs. Real Magick is not a process of following a prescribed checklist like a cooking recipe. Real Magick requires a unique contribution as can only be made by the individual who is practicing. The nature of real Magick dictates that no two spells (that work) would or should or could ever be the same.*

– Introduction, *Seasons of the Witch Primer*

No two spells would or should or could ever be the same as, according to the wisdom of ancient Greece, no one ever crosses the same river twice. Two identical spells, cast minutes apart by the same person would render different results no matter how slight. In the time it took you to read these two prior sentences, you have changed; physically due to aging, intellectually because of the acquisition of new information, experientially because of the reading of the lines, and psychologically because of the impact the concept made upon your psyche and perhaps in myriad other ways as well. This perpetual change is part of the beauty and excitement of living in a physical body, but it is also what makes Magick elusive and tricky.

## *Why you must serve as your own ultimate authority.*

**PRINCIPLE.** *A true Witch turns stones over without fear of seeing what may hide underneath. A true Witch is not a "sheep in the fold". A true Witch is not an ant in a colony. A true Witch will always be her/his ultimate authority. While you may be part of a group or system of study, while you may submit to the wisdom of the more experienced, while you may supplicate in the interest of perfecting your Art, the ultimate decision about what you believe and what you practice must remain your prerogative alone. A true Witch has an inner voice which cannot be betrayed without consequence. ... In final analysis, you must serve as your own priest.*

*– Seasons of the Witch Primer*

This is exactly why we are not offering degrees or certifications or titles. It is also why we are not going to require evidence that you have satisfactorily completed assignments or ask you to pass a test in order to move on to the next lesson. In fact, the idea of passing a test on Witchcraft is anathema to the Art. We hope you fully understand that skipping steps or rushing will self-sabotage your efforts.

We are not going to "grade" your work or decide for you whether or not you are ready to advance to the next lesson. This sort of personal assessment and responsibility is necessary to successful Witchcraft so this is a good place to start practicing it. – Orientation Information

## *Gender in Magick*

The world of trade, politics and corporations is ruled by masculine Magick and is normally uni-dimensional. Witchcraft is ruled by feminine Magick and may operate in one to six dimensions at once. It is scary to those who don't understand it because it is occult or hidden from view. Do not be put off if you are a man. You can practice Witchcraft in the same way that women may be politically astute or succeed as CEO's. It can be done, but it is more difficult. You will have to make some compromises and either summon or develop a strong feminine side.

**Witchcraft is a feminine Magickal Art because the manipulation of energy is mostly attracting and repelling as is the nature of femininity.** The fear of this basic truth is one of the main reasons why women have been demonized by patriarchal religions and why the suppression of female authority has been institutionalized and often made a cornerstone of doctrine.

Q & A: You are welcome to email your questions to [witch-school@sbcglobal.net](mailto:witch-school@sbcglobal.net).

If it is a question that requires a personal response we will answer directly. If it is a course-related question that could benefit the entire student body, we will post both question and answer online under the Q & A section for that particular lesson. If your question is course-related, please identify the particular lesson, i.e. First Lesson, First Year, etc.

**Next Lesson:** This was a good beginning; a good introduction to the principle of spellwork and a good exercise in self-assessment. Next month we will begin to explore the subjects of Practical Magick and Ritual Magick.



## ASSIGNMENT



### The Treasure Map Challenge

The first assignment of your training is a Magickal paradox. It's a paradox because it's one of the most powerful spells I know, but anyone –beginner or skeptic –can do it and it will work! It requires no special knowledge, preparation, or even belief and yet its scope is broad enough and powerful enough to change everything about your life if that's what you want.

The Treasure Map spell operates on many levels using a weave of sound Magickal principles simultaneously. How it works, why it works is a mystery, but powerful forces will be set in motion to rearrange the future from the moment you begin thinking about it. It's one of the techniques that works whether you are Wiccan or Christian and, to a certain extent, whether you believe it or not. This is where I began, with a book by a 1920's Christian metaphysician, and I can't imagine a better beginning.

***If you have experience with this technique, good. Do it again.***

Materials needed: poster board, glue, colorful pens / paintmarkers / gels, magazine clippings and/or photos, a round mailing tube to fit the poster board when rolled up

It's important that you do these steps in order and that you allot the recommended amount of time for each one.

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**Week One** – Some intellectual and/or psychological processes can't be rushed. Some things, such as learning a foreign language for instance, require time to sleep and allow the under-mind to absorb, adopt and integrate.

The first week do nothing other than spend quiet time daily seriously pondering what you would do or be or have if there were truly NO limitations. Keep notes or journal. Make lists.

**CHECKPONT: 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. This is the best time to begin it.**

We are not intended to be complacent or content to the point of inaction. We are intended to be creative – to want and strive for more. A wise man once said that you cannot stay still. You are either moving forward or you're moving backward.



What is it that you would create if you were a god and you could wave your hand and make it manifest? A different career? Better health? A dream house? A dream vacation? A move? More time with your children? Financial independence? This list is as infinite as are your possibilities. Do not be afraid that something is too big or too far away to imagine. Do not be afraid that you may list too many things. You are the wizard in the Seven of Cups.

**Remember, s/he who aims at nothing is sure to hit it.**

## FOUR RULES

(1.) Do not include items that would cause harm to someone else – at least so far as you can reasonably conject. I’m not Wiccan per se, but it’s certainly a good rule for all kinds of sound reasons.

(2.) Do not set your intention to acquire actual human beings (a.k.a. love spells) and deprive them of their free will.

(3.) This spell is intended for you alone -- not somebody else. If you know someone who could benefit from this exercise, you are free to suggest the exercise. They are free to follow through and create their own Treasure Map or not. You cannot spare yourself pains of empathy if someone else chooses a difficult lesson set.

(4.) Do not tell anyone what you’re doing. I know that some of you are studying together in groups. Obviously, in that situation, others will suspect you are engaged in the same activity. That’s okay. You must, however, resist the temptation to show your work or discuss it in any way.

**PITFALL:** If you decide to allow others to see your work or discuss the project regardless of my warning, the energy (which would normally be building) will disperse and the spell will deflate like a balloon stuck with a pin leaving nothing behind but a waste of your time.

Some people have difficulty shifting gears from conventional wisdom which is basically “do nothing and wait to see what befalls you next”.

*An industrial psychologist once did a research survey to determine how most American adults chose their careers. The conclusion was this. The industry or occupation most people found themselves doing in their twenties was what they continued in until retirement. Most reported that they never made a conscious choice that \_\_\_\_\_ is what they would do with their lives.*

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That strikes me as tragic; a huge waste of possibility and potential. We are encouraged as a culture to mock “dreamers” and talk about hopes as “pie in the sky”; to think in terms of what looks reasonable to expect rather than, “What will you have?” If you find yourself blocked, unable to envision what you really want from life, you might try the “perfect day” technique. Just as it sounds, you begin by imagining what your perfect day would be from waking to retiring. Create an hour by hour schedule if you like. Or pretend that you’re playing a game such as, “What would you do if you won the lottery?”

Just start trying things on for size. If you used to think you wanted to \_\_\_\_\_, let yourself revisit the moment when you entertained that thought and see if it still holds interest for you. If for instance, in grade school you said you wanted to be a circus flyer when you grew up, ask yourself if there remains for you any appeal in that idea.

The first week of the Treasure Map process is the most critical. Many of you have become well accustomed to the process of “settling”. Thinking in terms of having anything you want may seem alien and pose a challenge.

**Do not hesitate because something seems too big or out of reach. Likewise, do not be afraid that you may list too many things.**

**Week Two** - Now it’s time to begin refining your list – deciding whether or not the first things that came to mind are what you really want. This is a supreme test of self-assessment. You must try to separate ....



(a.) the powerful impressions of marketing wizards that lead you to believe you should want a BMW and

(b.) the powerful impressions of home, school, and church -- stamped indelibly upon your mind -- that taught you what you should want

... from the list of what you actually do want.

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The well-known expression, be careful what you wish for, is exactly the reason why you should spend all of this week and part of next “fitting” your dreams. A wish made casually and without sufficient forethought can lead to unsatisfactory results.

Spend the week going over your list daily and tweaking. Visualize yourself living with each thing on your list and do it to determine that these things fit like a glove. Today this may seem like a silly diversion. A few years from now you may reflect and wish you’d given this project the serious attention it deserves.

**PITFALL:** Be as clear and honest in your assessment as you can be. There was, in the center of my first treasure map, a fabulous estate that I had always admired. I loved the location. I loved the grounds. I loved the house and everything about the exterior presentation. When I was in the process of creating my treasure map, the house came up for sale. So I made an appointment with the realtor and went to see it. Because I had set my intention prematurely and fallen in love with the outside, I chose to ignore the fact that I hated everything about the floor plan, the decor, the lack of light and that it gave me a distinctly creepy feeling. I left the house in the center of my treasure map even though the idea no longer excited me. Looking back now, I can see how lucky it was for me that my under-mind intervened and made sure I didn’t get burdened with a large, dark, awful old house. Because of the unnecessary distraction and mixed feelings, it took longer than it should have to get to my real dream house -- the one that makes me think to myself everyday, “What a lucky girl am I!”

**Week Three** = Start going through magazines, catalogs and other photo sources to find pictorial representations of what you want. These are going to be permanently fixed to your poster board so size does matter. Find photos that are as close to the items on your list as possible. If you are able to find photos of the actual thing (*the* car, house, hotel, etc.), all the better. If it’s better health you want, find a picture of yourself when you were enjoying better health. Be creative. Look for the child who enjoyed doing cut-and-paste art projects. She’s still in there looking for a good reason to come out and play.

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**Week Four** ▢ This week you will actually create your Treasure Map. Arrange your collection and affix your pictures to the poster board. Add words or symbols as you wish. Make it as attractive to you as possible and **put yourself into it**. You don't have to be an artist or "crafty", but use some flourish. Work in private. Infuse life into the spell by picturing yourself already in possession of these good things or states of being.

When you're satisfied with the result, roll it up and place it in the mailing tube. On the occasion of the next new moon, during a time when the moon is **not** void-of-course, seal the ends with candle wax. Write on the outside DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (seven years from date). Then hide it away in a place where you will probably forget about it and not be likely to come across it often such as an attic corner. Leave it with a happy confidence that the future is already rearranging itself to accommodate your needs and desires.

P.S. When I say "satisfied with the result", it is with the understanding that none of us can ever be completely sure we're finished. If you have a perfectionist aspect to your personality, give yourself a deadline of 28 days from inception of the project.

**What To Expect:** *Your Treasure Map is powerful because it will work, but also because it mounts a Magickal campaign of monumental proportions. You are, after all, overhauling your entire life or lifestyle. That's no small undertaking. Some things may show up soon. Things that require a lot of cosmic rearrangement may take years. Either way, it's worth doing. Whether you have the life you want five or seven or ten years from now depends on what you do today. You can either be ten years older with the life you want or you can be ten years older with a life you settled for.*

**PRINCIPLE.** The length of time that elapses between the casting of this spell and identifiable results depends on the Magickal principle called the "Sphere of Influence".

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Think of yourself in the center of a sphere that contains your present circumstance. Metaphysically we would call your present circumstance your \*rate of vibration. If you want something far outside your Sphere of Influence, it will take longer to manifest because you have to change your Sphere of Influence to accommodate the new vibration. If you earn \$10 an hour, a raise to \$12 an hour is certainly within your Sphere of Influence. It is a change for the better, but not so much of a change that it would “make-over” your lifestyle. If it’s a big change, however, you may have to inch your way there by degrees. For more on this subject see *Seasons of the Witch Primer*, p. 22-23.

### *Beginner’s Luck*

**PRINCIPLE:** If you are new to Magick, you may find that you have some amazing initial success. The phenomenon of “beginner’s luck” is well-documented in the annals of Magickal circles. It’s like taking your foot off a hose that is running water. Initially there will be a big burst of pent-up energy when the obstruction stopping the natural flow is removed.