

# The Book of Novicia, Chapter Six

## *Introduction to Elemental Magick*

*This is what many of you have been waiting for... first contact with esoteric Magicks.*

Beginning with an assumption that you have completed the first five chapters of the Book of Novicia, this marks the six month of training. Your first year of training is about acquainting you with various Magickal principles and building foundations. The subject matter will be revisited next year and the year after, at different levels, in greater detail. I am certain that, if you persist in your study and follow my recommendations, you will be ready for bigger challenges when the time comes.

The process is similar to committing your body to a physical fitness program during which you slowly develop greater strength and capacity in your heart and lungs respectively while also isolating and targeting each muscle group. You are in a preparatory program designed to make you Magickally confident and fit for experiences outside those common to the mundane world.

Much of this work is of the kind that must be experienced and integrated by slow absorption to be authentic, reliable and substantial.

**PRINCIPLE: The path of memorization may appear to be the “obvious” choice from the perspective of the masses because it is the well-worn path but, like most choices made en masse, it leads to a dead-end. The true path to Magickal mastery is more obscure. It requires personal validation and reliance on one’s own intuition.**

Let’s begin by distinguishing between the types of Elemental Magick. The term Elemental Magick is usually taken to mean any spell or ritual that makes reference to the four ancient elements of Earth, Fire, Air and Water. Mentions of Elemental Magick in *Seasons of the Witch* specifically means Magick designed to deliberately evoke Elementals. And that

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is the study we now commence.

My Witches' Dictionary defines Elementals as ....

*...an ancient, occult identification of nature spirits and creatures, most of whom can travel without impediment between dimensions. These include the groups which correspond to the four ancient elements such as gnomes, salamanders, sylphs and undines as well as dragons, faeries, elves, satyrs and many more.*

If you are thoroughly indoctrinated into the mundane cult of the rational mind, you are probably asking yourself how such things could exist in a 21st Century world where all questions have been answered and everything explained. Only fools might believe there are such things. But, are there such things? Is communication possible? And, if so, would it be advisable? The question of "how" will be addressed in second year. As to the rest, I invite you to complete this lesson's assignment and draw your own conclusions.

Dion Fortune once said, "To the untrained person, nothing is real but the material things he can bump into and fall over. But anyone with any experience in scientific work knows that there are unseen forces of existence on the level next removed from dense matter which we can get at with absolute certainty. Why should there not be others just a little further on?"

### ***What are Elementals?***

Are they real?


Or are they simply tools to help ignite imagination?

The simple answer is yes. They are real. They serve as tools to help ignite imagination and they can sometimes be persuaded to assist with Magickal undertakings and various other tasks. Whether they exist in a dimension completely independent from humanity or whether they are the result of thought forms repeated until they evolved into sentient beings is a question we will take up in second year.

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In Chapter Two, you were given a passing acquaintance with the first definition of Elemental Magick. The second definition is far, far more complex partly because there are many different ways to approach the subject arising from the views of the various Magickal disciplines. I don't want to get unnecessarily bogged down in Magickal academia. So I will present rudimentary aspects of three basic systems. Each has symbolism you have probably come across.

### 1.) The **ALCHEMICAL ELEMENTALS**

EARTH	North	Solids, molecules adhere together	GNOMES. Germanic, mythological creatures, small in stature, with subterranean habits and vast treasures. Often requested to assist with issues of wealth accumulation and wealth protection.
AIR	East	Gases, molecules repel each other and diffuse to their utmost limits.	SYLPHS. Elemental spirit of the air which sometimes take the shape of lovely, winged, humanoid creatures. Some believe that stories of angels are sylphs mistakenly identified. 
FIRE	South	Transmutation.	SALAMANDERS. Not related to the amphibious species found on planet Earth, but, rather, are Magickal spirits which can assume diverse forms including dragons or fire itself.
WATER	West	Liquids, molecules are free-moving.	UNDINES. Water elementals often depicted as mermaids (or mermen); the essence of water in creature or entity form.

The Sylph

## 2.) THE WATCHTOWERS (Archangels)

EARTH	North	Auriel	Sacred Cow
AIR	East	Raphael	Sacred image of humanity
FIRE	South	Michael	Sacred Lion
WATER	West	Gabriel	Sacred scorpion with eagle feathers



Hanson Roberts Tarot

## 3.) THE ANCIENT POWERS

EARTH	North	Earth Irtha, Earth, Diana, Artemis	Earth as mother or wild huntress.
AIR	East	Frya, Frigg, Aradia, Arachne	Queen of Witches. Embodiment of wind, air and lightning.
FIRE	South	Fosite, Woden, Lucifer, Pan	The "Horned One". Cernunnos in Celtic.
WATER	West	Wr-alda, World, Leviathan, Hydr	The seven-headed dragon moves through the Earth like the flow of Magickal energy.

Let us consider the representatives in each of these systems Primary Elementals. There are, as indicated earlier, an encyclopedic array of secondary, or lesser, nature spirits and creatures who may eventually be helpful in your practice, but we will take that up another time.

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Your assignment for this lesson is the invocation of the four *Primary* Elementals on the next full moon. I use the word invocation as distinguished from evocation because we are going right to the top of the hierarchy of the Elemental Kingdom; to the four great powers themselves. If you are reviewing this lesson on the date of delivery, you have two weeks to prepare.

First, choose the system that most appeals to you. Regardless of which you choose, we are going to refer to the elements as Earth, Air, Fire and Water because the simplicity of calling these essences by the names of your native language is more viscerally powerful and perhaps more poetic as well.

On the occasion of the next full moon you will create a Circle using a basic method from Chapter Two. Add to this a symbol of each of the four ancient elements placed at its compass correspondent.

### ***What will you use to represent the elemental powers?***

I want you to give some thought to this. Consider this step to be the biggest part of your preparation. It's kind of a scavenger hunt.

I would prefer that you use actual, physical objects as opposed to pictures and that you use samples of the element rather than traditional correspondents. Traditional correspondents would be a sword for Air, a chalice for Water and so forth. Here are some ideas to get you started.

**WATER** – actual water in a black or dark blue container



**FIRE** – in addition to the candle that you will light when you draw your Circle, you could add a grouping of three red candles clustered together or three orange candles in red containers

**EARTH** – actual dirt, rock, stones, crystals, salt or combinations thereof



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**AIR** – This is the trickiest one because air is difficult to capture. You could use a can of compressed air like the kind you buy for cleaning keyboards, but I recommend something *related* to air. It could be a wind instrument such as a flute or anything that depends upon air such as a balloon, kite, windsock or wind chime. I use a Chinese table chime similar to the one pictured below. The chimes are delicate enough to respond to your breath -- the element of Air (and life) generated in you, by you.



Standing Bamboo Chime  
from  
[TenThousandVillages.com](http://TenThousandVillages.com)

This is not a checklist, but a starting point. Be creative. Put yourself into the project. If your symbols aren't appealing to you, they will fail your Magick.



## INTRODUCTION TO ELEMENTAL MAGICK

### *An Invocation of the Great Elemental Powers*

Most of the time Magick will be purpose-driven, designed to aid you with a specific goal or manifesting spell. This exercise is **pure** Magick because it is Magick for its own sake; designed to inform and advance you as a Witch, Sorcerer or Magician – whichever term you prefer.

This exercise can be performed either on the next full moon or any time there is a notation of “Elemental Magick” in your *Seasons of the Witch* planner or calendar. These opportunities occur six or seven times during the year.

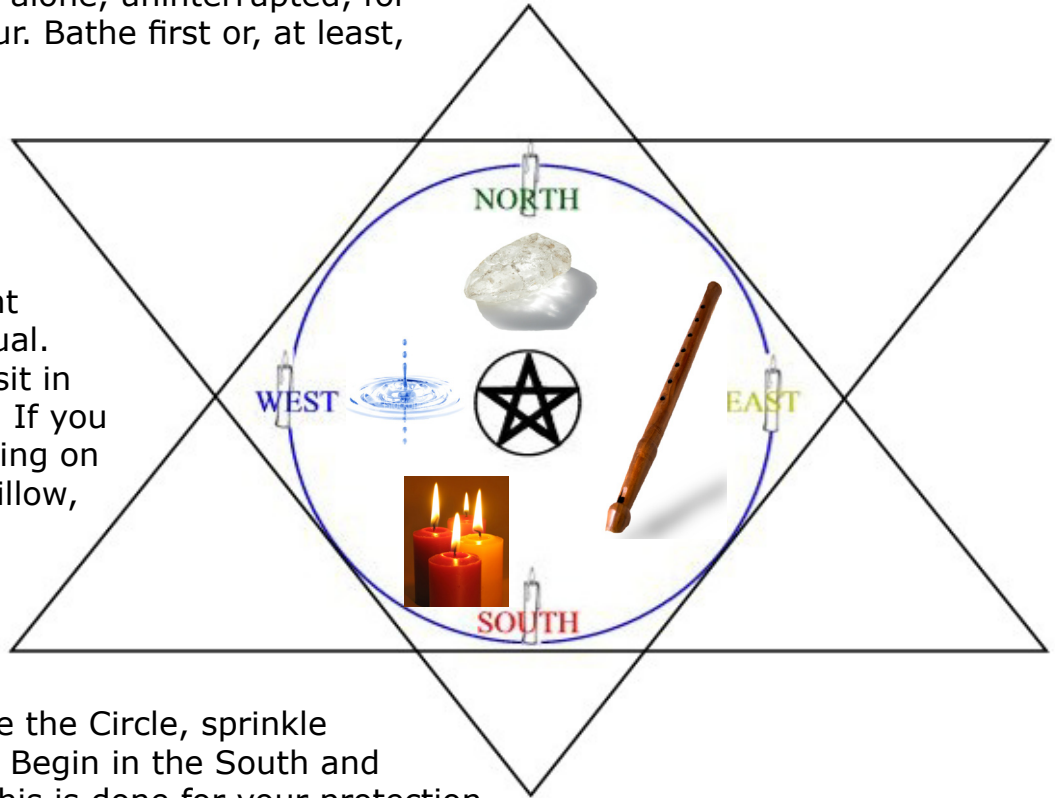
#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. four candles to mark the quarters of your Circle: yellow, red, blue, green
2. one taper – color of your choosing – for ceremonial lighting (a lighter or match, lighters may be preferable because the smell of sulphur can be distracting to you as well as a repellent to some entities)
3. box salt
4. representations of the four ancient elements
5. floor pillow or chair (You do not want your attention drawn toward physical discomfort.)
6. a drink of hot tea with honey or similar



## THE RITUAL

1. Work after dark by candlelight unless the moon is void-of-course. If that is the case, darken the room as much as possible.
2. Arrange to be left alone, uninterrupted, for thirty minutes to an hour. Bathe first or, at least, wash hands and face.
3. Place your Elemental symbols at the appropriate compass points next to the candles you will light when you begin this ritual. Leave enough room to sit in the middle of the circle. If you are not comfortable sitting on the floor or on a floor pillow, leave room for a chair.
4. First, be certain you have *all* required materials inside the Circle. Then, from inside the Circle, sprinkle salt all the way around. Begin in the South and go doesil (clockwise). This is done for your protection.



If all goes as planned, you are going to open a door to another dimension through which various things (beneficial and not) can pass. For the protection to work, you must *intend* to be erecting a protection barrier. The salt is a support, not a stand-alone remedy.

**KEY – Magick is fueled, directed and controlled by intention.**



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As you sprinkle the salt, you may picture that you are creating a cylindrical shield of light or a round, stone tower. Use an image that appeals to you. Chant a rhyme OUT LOUD as you go. Nine times is ideal. Something like....

*Only those that wish me well  
may come within the Circle's spell.  
None may press within or pass  
Unless I name. Unless I ask.*

5. If you are working with system One or Two, begin your Circle in the East. If you are working with system Three, begin in the South. First light your taper, then use it to light each directional candle -- in silence. If you have additional candles to light, do it now. When you are finished, you may extinguish the taper with a snuffer or blow it out.<sup>1</sup>

6. Be seated facing East or South, depending upon the orientation you have chosen, and begin to calm yourself. Using the meditation technique you learned in Chapter Four, use deep breathing and direct your muscles to relax. Release your stress. When you are ready, turn your thoughts to the Element you will call. Read these words with conviction three times.

*( Air ) the Power from which I came,  
I call you by your English name.  
Visage form now, honor me,  
Sacred Ancient, Bless-ed Be.*

Close your eyes and, keeping your eyes closed, begin repeating the name of the Element again and again, in a whisper so slight it is almost a thought. Air, Air, Air, Air, Air, Air, Air, Air. Do not open your eyes. Let your mind be as clear as possible. Create an empty space to be filled. When you see an image or feel a presence, be silent.

<sup>1</sup> If you have heard that you should not blow out a candle, you can choose to continue to burden yourself with that restriction or not. I have heard several rationales to advance a rule against blowing out candles. The outrageous of these is that "it's an insult to fire". Why it would be less insulting to snuff a candle flame with fingers than with breath is completely beyond my frame of reference.

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Do not tightly grasp any expectation or preconception, of what you will see. Allow the essence of Air to appear in whatever form It chooses. Continue to do this until you see an image or until an impression crystalizes in your mind.<sup>2</sup> This may be a recognizable creature form or something abstract such as the appearance of dazzling flashes of pure colors moving, merging -- almost taking shape and then again receding. Some people "sense" rather than "see". If that is your predilection, you may sense an acute change of energy or even a feeling that a "presence" is near.

Invite the great Elemental Power to tell you or show you what it will. If, after five minutes, you have not had an experience, move on without disappointment. A lack of immediate connection should not be interpreted as a failure. Some people receive their visions or messages later in dreams. Others must spend some time patiently courting the rulers of the elements before they reveal themselves.

When the vision or sensation vanishes, thank the ancient power for the gift you have received with a simple, "Thank you." Turn yourself a quarter turn to the right. You may refresh your voice with sips of hot honey drink before you repeat the process at the next station of your circuit. Continue until you are back where you started. Close the circle by unwinding the energy widdershins (snuff the candles counter-clockwise beginning with the last lit and ending with first lit).

***Two last things*** before you undertake this marvelous and exciting adventure.

**First,** a caution, the four ancient Elements are a paradox. On the one hand they are not strange or foreign in any way. Your beautiful body is composed of them. Your personality is composed of them. On the other hand, their singularity is alien to human logic. If you make contact with one or more of the elemental powers, be receptive to messages, but do not attempt to respond. The Elemental Powers are not human. Even if they choose to appear as human, be assured that they are not. Each is an absolute without the

<sup>2</sup> You are equipped with Magickal sensory perception to some degree or another. You can locate it, learn to use it, direct it, call on it at will, but you must begin by reaching out with it. That's partly what this lesson is about. Your efforts will be awkward and erratic at first, but, like learning to ride a bike or drive a car, practice and patience will make you adept and eventually result in auto-memory.

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moderating, balancing influence of other elements. You cannot enter into a dialog with *pure* fire and be understood. And, you might get burned.

As said earlier, you will have an opportunity later in your training to communicate with lesser Elementals, request assistance from them, even develop relationships of a sort. We are working top-down as a courtesy to the hierarchy -- following a protocol of paying court to the "parents" prior to engaging the lower pantheon of the Elemental world.

**Second**, you may question your experience afterward and wonder if your impressions were simply your imagination. This is natural because the faculty that projects invocative images onto the movie screen of your mind is the same as that of imagination. If something about your experience is completely unexpected and unanticipated, then you can be certain it was genuine.

### RESULTS

There is no predictor of results with this exercise. You may receive dramatic displays of phenomena from one to four Elemental Powers or none at all. You might receive a vague sense of something, but be uncertain that it was an actual presence attempting to communicate with you.

Regardless of outcome, when the ritual is complete and you take stock, you will find that you feel "changed". That is because you have been introduced to esoterica, the occult world. You will, in the future, be recognized when you come to the Magickal river of the Elemental dimensions. You may not, as yet, be acknowledged, but you *will* be recognized. Regardless of the results, you have taken a first step into a place you have not known, a place where you also were not known.

**KEY. This lesson - introduction to Elemental Magick - is not about introducing them to you. It is about introducing you to them.**

It is a good beginning.

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You are welcome to send questions before or after the assignment or to relate your experiences. [witch-school@sbcglobal.net](mailto:witch-school@sbcglobal.net)

**IN CONCLUSION: This lesson contained two keys and one principle.**

***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 Six notes will be entirely about your experience during the prescribed ritual assignment -- your introduction as an Initiate to the Elemental community.

*In Chapter Seven we will do more advanced work on the Organization of a Spell.*