

INTRODUCTION FOR COURSE MATERIAL

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From Church of Seven Arrows

Introduction to Magic

For well over a million years, our ancestors roamed this planet and lived successfully, and for the most part well, without needing all the aids and protections we have come to believe are necessary. Somehow, these Old Ones were able to balance themselves so as to harmonize with the requirements of a wide variety of conditions.

As part of just being human, they had the awareness and balancing skills (in terms of energy handling) that we of 20th century America must devote much time and work in studies, such as those in this course, to develop.

We hope that in working with this material you will become a happier and more “evolved” human as a result of your efforts.

Dedication

To all those Old Ones who, by one means or other, passed on to us some understanding of what humans have been and can be.

To all of the students over the years who have shown us as much as we may have shown them.

To all those who are even now striving to recover the full range of human awareness and competency in accord with the ecology and energies of the planet, and the requirements of our environment.

Into the Practitioner’s Worlds

Welcome to the Universe as seen by a practitioner of magic, a Universe that is orderly, full of never-ending wonder, and neither particularly hostile nor particularly friendly, except in whether it is approached correctly or not.

Approached incorrectly, the Universe, like any other machine, can become a thing fraught with fate, luck, and other “untold awful mysteries” lurking

in wait at every turn. If, on the other hand, it is approached correctly, the Universe becomes a thing of consummate interest and enlightenment, a place where one can learn and grow and enjoy unendingly, each turn of the path bringing some new wonder into view for joyful exploration.

Magic is one of the oldest sciences on our planet, its development beginning in the dim mists of the past when some ancient man undertook willful contact with higher powers, and manipulation of the physical environment by indirect and non-physical means.

Many of the ancients revered by our culture as “Fathers” of modern science were actually practitioners of magic whose research happened to develop in culturally acceptable ways. The same is true of the ancients now regarded as great philosophers or teachers, who were practitioners whose research uncovered basic knowledge about the non-physical aspects of the Universe.

So it is that magic can be seen as a science, and studied and practiced as such, either within or outside of a religious framework. Though the technical language of magic is different from that of the modern scientist, the magician works with the same laws and principles of the Universe as the physicist, chemist, or astronomer.

The competent magician uses the laws from a slightly different viewpoint and in slightly different ways, whether to heal the sick, avert a disaster, divine the past or future, or perform rituals of invocation or banishment of non-physical beings. The major difference between the physical scientist and the magician is that the former uses the psyche, mind, and body to build physical tools to manipulate the Universe, while the latter considers the psyche, mind, and body to BE the tools, occasionally using additional tools to refine their control.

Magical effects such as telepathy, clairvoyance, telekinesis, psychic healing, spells, and prayers are merely particular applications of the laws and principles governing electricity, internal-combustion engines, or chemical reactions.

The magician understands the Universe in terms of 4 basic elements: Air, Fire, Water, and Earth. Thoughts, emotions, chemicals, experiences, bodies, and even atomic and sub-atomic physics can be successfully analyzed and understood with the 4 elements.

The safe and successful use of the procedures given in this course requires two things from you:

- 1) Careful and detailed reading of the text materials (look up all words you don't understand in a good dictionary, being careful to use the first meaning given as the original meaning of the word).
- 2) Follow precisely the instructions given for any particular exercise or operation. Remember that ALTERED PROCEDURES PRODUCE ALTERED RESULTS!

A Word on the “Inconvenience Factor”

It has been our observation, through the teaching of many classes, that the student of magic inevitably comes up against the “inconvenience factor” when beginning the study of magic. In other words, at some point early in your magical training, it's likely that taking the time to do magic (whether it means doing homework or attending class or applying what you've learned in class to your life) will be highly inconvenient. It will require you to make many small and some radical changes in your life. For some people, it manifests in the inability to get to class because of a sudden bout of phone or car trouble, relatives unexpectedly coming to visit, work hours becoming radically increased, or unforeseen travel. For others, family or career demands suddenly become “too much” and “something must give.” For others, some drastic event occurs in their life.

All those who have pushed through the inconvenience and finished the course have found their lives radically improved, no matter the temporarily inconvenient conditions in which they found themselves. You will have to make the choice of which is more important – magic or convenience. In making your choice, remember this: while magic may be highly inconvenient, when applied properly, it can greatly reduce the level of struggle and increase the level of joy in your life.

At the beginning of your magical journey you will be able to straddle the two worlds, mundane and magical, sometimes choosing mundane convenience and sometimes choosing magic. However, as you progress in your studies and your intention and will grow in strength and force, the two worlds will diverge more and more. At some point, you will need to make a choice between the two worlds – magical or mundane? You will know when you have reached that point.

A Word on Partners

Over the years we have observed that students who take this course with friends, partners, significant others, or students who find partners once they start the course generally have much better results. Therefore, if you have not signed up for this course together with someone you know, whom you can practice and do homework with, we suggest you look over the class list and find one or two

people who would be willing to work with you on homework, exercises, and general discussion about magical topics. It is easy, especially in the beginning, to become overwhelmed with the daily tasks of life and forget to do our magical practice. Having one or more partners to check in with throughout the week between classes will help you remember that you are a magician engaged in magical study. Plus, having partners makes this study much more engaging and fun!

Rules of the Road – The Ethics of Magical Practice

Rules of the Road are the set of Universal ethics, which must be followed for safe and effective magical practice. The Rules of the Road are not the same as morals (what our culture teaches us is right and wrong) or ethics (what we personally believe to be right and wrong), as both morals and ethics change over time. Particular morals or ethics may or may not agree with the Rules of the Road.

To practice magic safely and effectively you must know and abide by the Rules of the Road since, as far as we know, the Rules of the Road operate whether you know of them, believe in them, or agree with them. Additionally, normal scientific physical laws and principles must be followed.

Two Major Rules:

1. Whatever is done to the environment or to other beings in the environment brings similar effects upon the doer.

This is often called the Law of Karma. The Universe doesn't care why some action was taken, or whether the doer is trained in magic or aware of the Rules of the Road. Although many different teachers have stated this law in many different ways, including the Golden Rule, it is especially important for magicians. A magician's acts are consciously and willfully directed, and are therefore more powerful than the acts of untrained or unfocused people. So the effect of this law in relation to a magician's acts becomes much more powerful. This applies to both constructive and destructive acts.

Note: While many religious and other practices consider that Karma can carry from lifetime to lifetime, it is our experience that the Universe operates under a system of "pay as you go." In other words, the effect of any act upon the environment (or upon beings in the environment) comes back to you within a relatively short period of time – within hours to days.

2. The magician judges the "goodness" or "badness" of his or her own acts, whether they are conscious or unconscious acts, on the basis of what the

Universe reflects back on him or her. The same is true of judging others, entire communities, states or nations.

On a practical level, one can judge one's compliance with the Universe's standards of right and wrong, or good and bad, in terms of one's level of health, soundness of social relationships, luck with appliances, and sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter. If your "luck" seems consistently bad, then you're probably acting contrary in some way to the Rules of the Road, regardless of what your intentions are.

Ethical Laws of the Rules of the Road

These ethical laws will give you a more detailed standard by which to measure your acts, or the acts of others, to determine whether they are in accordance with Rules of the Road. Judge any act of magic by these laws before doing it.

1. Do nothing that will harm another being unless you are willing to suffer like or greater harm. Note that what the Universe considers harm may be different from what our culture teaches as harm.
2. Don't bind another being unless you are willing to be likewise bound. This applies to many love spells and some kinds of healing rituals.
3. Never use magic for show, pride, or vainglory. Using magic to show off, to prove a point, or from a place of injured pride usually results in side-bands (undesirable side effects) to the operation that will bring very undesirable backlash from the Universe.
4. Never set an extremely high price for the use of magic (especially divination, healing, or spells) based on your having special knowledge. With some operations that take significant man hours, such as divination, it appears by our observation to be appropriate to charge the same fee as any other professional might charge per hour in your local area.
5. Don't use any special word, symbol, incantation, or spell unless you understand thoroughly and completely its mechanics, content, and intent! Be very wary of using other people's operations if you wish to avoid "frying" yourself, either figuratively or literally!
6. Never do a spell without first doing a divination to determine a) if you should do it, and b) exactly what needs to be dealt with. Modern American social values and overt appearances of a situation are not trustworthy guides for a magician wishing to avoid bad karma. In other words, there may be hidden factors in the situation, which cause the doing of a spell to be against Rules of the Road.
7. TAKE YOUR TIME, THINK IT THROUGH, AND DO IT RIGHT!

Charging the Sun Candle

Charging the Sun candle is a way to create sacred space and clear “junk energies” from a room. Charge the Sun candle before each class. To clear space in a room, charge the Sun candle and leave it burning in the room for 30 minutes. To clear multiple rooms, use multiple Sun candles or charge one Sun candle and leave it burning in a room for 30 minutes, then without blowing out the candle, carry it to another room and say the charge verse again. See the video clip on charging the Sun candle for more details.

1. Place an unscented Sun yellow candle (pure yellow, not too orange) in the room or space you want to clear. Have wooden matches handy to light the candle (don't use a lighter). If you don't have wooden matches, paper matches will do.
2. Stand in the south with the candle to your north.
3. Light the candle and wait for the flame to settle into a working flame (a tall, strong flame). Make sure the flame isn't dampened or flickering excessively.
4. Hold your hands above and around the flame, and say the charge verse below in a voice of command. If there are multiple people in the room, change the word “my” to the plural forms “our”, and the words “Spirit” and “Aim” to “Spirits” and “Aims.”

Child of Wonder
Child of Flame
Nourish my Spirit
Protect my Aim

5. When you are done with the Sun candle, blow it out (don't snuff it out).

The Navajo Beauty Way

The Navajo Beauty way is a non-denominational set of exercises that we will learn in this course. It was created in very ancient times, and is designed to:

- Restore personal power through developing trust in one's wisdom gained through personal experience
- Enhance creative flow and one's connection to the environment and nature's laws and forces
- Help us learn new skills and use new tools for observing and maintaining harmonious and pro-active inner states

- Develop a practical working relationship with higher powers and beings or natural forces and laws
- Create stability and choice in walking in different realities and worlds.
- Being safe and protected without the need to build walls or hide behind masks.
- Establish and maintain contact with higher powers and beings or natural forces and laws so as to live in compliance with and gain support in our creative endeavors.
- Maintain spiritual integrity for individuals or groups during times of high external change and stress.
- Preserve cultural and spiritual identity beyond the efficacy of sociological myths in times of breakdown, and restructuring of communities, tribes or nations.
- Restore the balance both internally and externally between the feminine aspect of integration and oneness, and the masculine aspect of separation and duality.

Optional Reading: Carlos Castaneda's, *Fire From Within*

If you wish to study the way a magician thinks and acts, especially with regard to the challenges in one's life, Carlos Castaneda's book, *Fire From Within*, is an excellent source. Read especially the second chapter on petty tyrants. The rest of the book, especially the first 8 chapters, will also give you an excellent background from which to approach your magical studies.

