

Magic and the Inconvenience Factor

Along the way students of magic invariably run into the “inconvenience factor.” That is, at some point students will be forced to decide whether to value life above magic, or magic above life. In other words, the study of magic will at some point become highly inconvenient to our everyday lives because in the study of magic we are forced to rearrange our lives to make space for the magic to occur.

For instance, in our Basic Magic course we teach the Navajo Beauty Way exit ritual, which is a contact ritual with sky and earth that is done each time we go outside from an enclosed space, such as a building or car. This requires us to pause in our busy day, still our minds, greet sky and earth, and wait for a response. While the whole procedure takes only about a minute, it’s amazing to see how much we are inconvenienced by such a pause in the midst of the activities that make up our everyday life. In fact, because most of us are in a hurry, the exit ritual can seem highly disruptive. And yet, it is this disruption that is responsible for creating an opening in our awareness or a shift in our consciousness – and that shift allows magic to exist in our lives.

In the beginning, the study of magic occupies a certain slice of our lives, but doesn’t penetrate into our everyday lives. We might go to class or spend a certain amount of time studying the material. Eventually, however, magic will spread into more and more areas of our lives, and we must choose whether to give priority to magic or life. With the weekly class commitment in our school, students inevitably have to choose, at one point or another, whether to attend class or handle the difficulties of normal life (going to a friend’s baby shower, taking the kids to an event, entertaining unexpected guests). In fact, some students encounter great difficulties attending class for short periods of time while dealing with the inconvenience factor. For example, the phone goes out of order or the teleconference service can’t be reached. Other students have bouts of car trouble or family emergencies on every class day. These are all expressions of our struggle with the inconvenience factor.

In our experience, successful practitioners must eventually place magic as a priority above the distractions of daily life. Focused study on such esoteric material is needed before any deep understanding can be gained. However, we’ve found that after an initial period of rocky adjustment, placing magic above daily life distractions actually increase the flow and ease of life itself because magic teaches us to work with rather than against the major Universal operating laws.

If you find yourself getting into a conflict between life and magic, know that the inconvenience factor is at work in your life and that it is a normal process. If you make the effort to place your magical studies as a high priority, you will find your everyday life will become smoother as a result. As a magical practitioner, you must verify for yourself through your own observations and experience whether this is so. We believe you will find it to be true.

Good luck and remember to have a light touch with this.

Stephanie Yeh and Alan Joel

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