

Word Search

This months topics are crystals, Egyptian myths & culture and ancient monuments. Leftover letters from the word search will spell the name of a legend and his group.

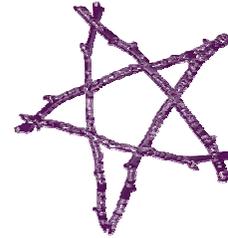
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- 1) many types of this stone exist, generally associated with strength and courage
- 2) Fossilized resin of coniferous tress
- 3) The Hidden One
- 4) Town situated near Stonehenge
- 5) Ancient stone cir-

- 6) Beautiful deep blue stone utilized to increase psychic powers
- 7) Burial sites of Ancient Britain
- 8) A woman depicted with the head of a cat

- 9) The place where Osiris's body was found by Isis
- 10) The Lord involved with the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb
- 11) Hardest Stone known to man
- 12) Fiery red stone, popular in the Middle Ages
- 13) Hollow concretions containing crystals
- 14) Osiris was intimately associated with this foodstuff
- 15) The forms both Set and Horus took when they fought each other in the sea
- 16) Green stone of Venus, sacred in China
- 17) The flower which Horus's eyes bloomed into having been torn out by Set
- 18) Mother of Osiris and Isis

- 19) In times past it was thought that this stone was the manifestation of a demon imprisoned in the stone
- 20) Associated with oysters
- 21) In the creation myth this bird set the cycle of time
- 22) It is thought that this stone grows dark when danger approaches
- 23) Insect which was highly important religious symbol that represented immortality
- 24) Son of Geb
- 25) Min
- 26) The largest prehistoric mound in Britain
- 27) The number of main phases that it took to construct Stonehenge
- 28) Ra-Atum gave birth to identical



The Wichtower

WiccaUK Members Magazine

July-Aug 2003

Issue 4

Willow the Wisp

Poetry Corner

Witches Ball

Discussion Group

Dark Night of the Soul



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WiccaUK Site News

A few changes have been going on recently down at WiccaUK.

Firstly is the introduction of a whole new forum, the Social Forum (found at <http://social.wiccauk.com/>) which it is intended will replace the old Fun Forums which outgrew itself. This new forum will not only take the place of the old fun forum but being a dedicated forum in its own right will give it the

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The Witchtower is produced every 6-8 weeks and is distributed free online and in selected shops.

The Witchtower is produced by unpaid volunteers and members of our website.

We welcome submissions from any source. Articles or essays, poetry, book reviews, practical advice on aspects of the Craft are all welcome.

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Cover photograph taken by Casp

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space and flexibility for long term expansion.

As well as this new forum the photograph section, which houses all the members antics from moots gone by, has been updated with all the previous moot photos from May and June. See <http://wiccauk.fotopic.net/>

water them. If you have the right soil conditions, Rosemary will also make a very aromatic and pretty hedge.

Culinary uses

Rosemary is a very strongly flavoured, intensely aromatic herb, and so I would recommend using it in moderation, or it could easily overpower the flavour of the dish you are preparing.

Try adding some Rosemary twigs to the barbecue, as they burn they give off lovely aromatic and mouth-watering scents.

Rosemary is traditionally associated with roast Lamb, and is usually used as a flavouring in Lancashire Hotpot, below.



Lancashire Hotpot

750g potatoes, peeled and sliced

750g stewing lamb, cubed

1 large onion, sliced

2 approx 15cm sprigs of Rosemary

freshly ground black pepper

1 lamb stock cube dissolved into 1 mug of water

Arrange a layer of potato at the bottom of a

casserole dish, and season well.

Add a layer of onion, and a layer of lamb, and the stock.

Add the rosemary sprigs.

Add another layer of potato, onion and lamb, finishing with a layer of potato.

Cover with a lid or foil, and bake in a moderate oven (170C, gas mark 4) for about 2 hours.

Remove the cover or lid and bake for a further 15 minutes.

Serve with pickled red cabbage.

Pan Fried Golden Potatoes with Rosemary and Lemon

500g of Desiree Potatoes

2 tablespoons of Olive Oil

2 teaspoons of finely chopped fresh Rosemary

Finely grated zest of 1 Lemon

Salt and Pepper to taste.

Gently fry the potato slices in the olive oil, over a medium heat, until golden and crisp on the bottom.

Carefully turn them and cook until the second side is also golden and crisp.

Toss the cooked potatoes with the Rosemary and Lemon zest, and season to taste.

Herblore by KitchenWitch and WhiteWolf

For as long as anyone can remember people have been using not just Herbs, but other Plants and Trees to help with their magical and healing work. The information below is for reference purposes only and should be used only by those who have required or inherited knowledge.

Caution some plants can be fatal if misused.

Rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis

Planet: Sun

Element: Fire



Rosemary originated in the Mediterranean and is now widely established. It is associated in Shakespeare's play "Hamlet" with remembrance, so its link to memory is old. Even older are its associations with general magic and healing, with feminine power--folklore had it that a healthy rosemary plant grew where a woman was head of the family--and with goddesses, especially of the sea. Catholic healers associated it with Mary. Its reputation is that of an all-purpose herb that will help with practically anything. In Elizabethan times, the wedding couple carried a sprig of Rosemary as a sign of fidelity. During the Plague, people would wear it in neck pouches to sniff as they travelled. Rosemary is the herb traditionally placed in chests filled with books or clothing to repel moths. It also has a longstanding reputation for strengthening the memory, raising the spirits and expelling apathy, nervous exhaustion and digestive disturbances caused by anxiety. It has been used in conjunction with juniper berries for centuries to purify the air.

Magical Uses

Main magical uses: cleansing, confidence, consecration, courage, exorcism, good luck, grieving, happiness, healing, knowledge, love, memory, passion, peace of mind, prevents theft, protection, psychic development, psychic protection, purification, release, ritual, rituals for the dead, water rites/sea rituals, weddings

Other magical uses: blessings, dreams, endings, energy, elves, fidelity, honesty, inspiration, invocation, longevity, meditation, new moon, prevents nightmares, sleep, strength, transformation, wisdom, Yule

WARNING

Rosemary oil should not be used internally. Also, extremely large doses of the leaf are toxic, possibly causing abortion, convulsions and, very rarely, death.

Growing

Rosemary is an evergreen hardy perennial, and will grow to be quite large shrubs if allowed to. If trimming is necessary then do this only after the danger of frosts is passed, as if the plant does get frosted after trimming there is a danger that the plant might die. It likes to be in a sunny position with well drained soil, and in more northerly areas it is best to grow it against a south facing wall. The less hardy varieties do very well in containers, provided you do not over



Editorial...

Following the suggestions from our e-zine for the last three months, we've decided to take a leap and revamp it! We've picked up the name of the former WiccaUK title, "The Witchtower", which is a bit more pleasing than "WiccaUK E-Zine"!

The main change is we've switched to A5 format, hopefully reducing download times for those who read it in its PDF format. We're now also providing printed copies to Full Members who request it, and it's being stocked in a couple of esoteric shops in London. We're definitely not competing with Pentacle or Pagan Dawn, but hopefully we can add a bit of variety to the pagan magazine market!

The magazine is constructed with members submissions! We need these to produce each issue. Please send us ANYTHING you think is suitable—essays, practical advice, reviews of books, music or film, letters, poetry etc. We

can't pay for submissions, but all will be returned.

In this issue we can find the conclusion the last months article from Aurora Morningstar, formerly RavenSpirit and an article by Marty Drury entitled 'Willow the Wisp' as well as poems by Stardancer and Vylisa. KitchenWitch and WhiteWolf continue their lowdown on herb lore and following the popularity last time there is another puzzle, a word search in this months magazine.

I hope you enjoy the new face of the WiccaUK magazine, Witchtower.

BB

Sparks

Witches Ball

Tickets are selling fast for our Witches Ball, to be held on Lammas (August 2nd) in Central London.

Ticket price is £25 for the whole evening, which includes dinner, or £15 excluding dinner. Full Members of WiccaUK receive a £5 discount.

Dinner is 3 course and includes a half bottle of wine; the menu is now on the website for you to make a selection before attending.

Tickets to the venue are pretty special too, especially designed for the event, they'll be the kind of thing you want to keep!

On the evening you'll also be able to buy raffle tickets for our grand prize draw. The top prize has been donated by Judith Lewis of New Moon Occult Shop—see <http://www.newmoon.uk.com/> and is worth £99.



Moon Thistle, at <http://www.moonthistle.co.uk/> have also made a great donation to the prize pile!

To book tickets and see the menu options, go to London Events on <http://www.wiccauk.com/>

Accommodation may be available to those who need to stay overnight, email casp@wiccauk.com for details!

Hope to see lots of you there...

Casp

Willow The Wisp

‘“But you’re not a real Witch like Willow,” my boyfriend said.’ In the middle of a long paragraph in the WiccaUK forums sat that captivating line. UPN have now shown the final episode of *Buffy The Vampire Slayer* and with the imminent conclusion to *Sabrina The Teen-Age Witch* on the cards, the media is left without a Witch. I doubt that those who spend their afternoons chuckling at the antics of Mildred Hubble in CITV’s *The Worst Witch* series will become converts to the craft.

Kate West in *The Real Witches Handbook* comments: “Witches are now portrayed as younger, attractive women. They are seen to make people fall in love, to gain revenge on their enemies and even to conjure up uncompleted homework.” Wicca and Witchcraft’s relationship with the media is complex. When Stephen King writes about Vampires, his publishers don’t expect Vampires to pick up a copy and then review it add nausea on a website dedicated to Vampires and their interests. If I sent a synopsis to a publisher detailing a novel concerning a Witch walking their dog, watching long-winded Omnibuses of Eastenders and occasionally going down the pub, I’d be laughed at for some considerable time. On the one hand, the portrayal of the Witch in the media must be “realistic.” No women with warts over their face enduring accusations about curdling the milk of the local townsfolk. On the other, the portrayal of the Witch shouldn’t be realistic to the point of boredom.

The reason behind this unholy union between the ordinary and the fantastic lies in possession. Traditionally, the media thought it owned the Witch. Witchcraft was the stuff of myths and legends. Children

would stick fake warts onto their faces and demand candy on your doorstep once a year. History speaks volumes on the Witchcraft trials. Young women subjected to torture by nervous Catholicism and Puritanical pressure. I remember one Halloween the family sat playing *Atmosfear III: The Witch*. The video board game where a beautiful woman damned for her beliefs slowly turned into a hag harassed players. Stereotype fell on its knees when the media turned around in real life and saw a Witch.

It is well known that episodes of Father Ted enraged the Catholic Church and this sudden loss of the Witch from our screens may well be an example of a growing unease within the media when it comes to religions. The Witch is no longer on her own. A television programme that said that all Muslims did all day was plan terrorist attacks would buy the station a season ticket to court. Books on how to study the Craft and advice on finding covens have matched fiction featuring Witchcraft. Viviane Crowley details the psychology of Wicca in her latest book *The Last Magician*. We are not the stuff of legends anymore and things are changing. As inspirational and all this is, it sets a precedence some may find uneasy. For if something the general populous thought was confined to Salem and Halloween is starring them in the face, then what else exists out there?

Marty Drury

ade, or to turn inside and make your fears your own.

This is the province of the Dark Priestess³): to reveal the Shadows inside of those who come to her for guidance. She will seem harsh, remorseless; saying it as it is without padding up her message, but she will not be dragged into the healing process of facing one’s daemons. She will reveal, but it’s up to the seeker to do with those revelations as he will.

The strength of a Dark Priestess is to see and understand what needs be done, and do it without a shred of hesitation. She will strip you naked and tear you to pieces and throw you in the deepest depths of your Soul, where you will rest, heal and be remade. It is a truly transforming experience, but it is not the Dark Priestess who transforms you ... you are. If you do not truly wish to be reborn; if you are not ready to face the Dark within, anything a Dark Priestess does will bounce off your self-imposed prison walls. Only you have the power to break free.

As a teacher, the Dark Priestess will answer your question with a counter question, directing you there where all knowledge resides: inside. She knows that if that which you seek you cannot find within, you will never find it without⁴). She is strict and severe and will slap you down if you cross the line – but it is all done with your growth in mind.

Gardeners know that pruning is necessary; cut out the bits that will hamper the tree’s growth. The Dark Priestess works just like that. She sees a trait or development that will stunt your growth, and hands you the pruner for you cut it out straightaway. Again: the choice is yours. Either you cut it out and continue your growth, or you ignore her and go your own way.

No matter how harsh her words, all is said in the hope that you will take it to heart and juggle it in order to find your own Code of Ethics. As a newly initiated Priestess I’ve been at the receiving end of it. I crossed a line, transgressed an Oath, and was most severely slapped down for it. I had a good think about it and came back saying that I chose to give the Rede prevalence over the Oath because if in that particular case I hadn’t, I would have caused harm to both the person involved and myself. Instead of the

expected further punishment, my words were welcomed with praise and pride, because I had developed my own moral standards and stood up for them.

So, coming Full Circle to our collective Fear of the Dark: is our fear unreasonable? It certainly isn’t. Facing the Dark within is one of the most terrifying ordeals a person can experience. But as so many survivors of ordeals have said: it transforms. Often accredited to Friedrich Nietzsche, the age old wisdom stands: That which doesn’t kill us, makes us stronger.

1) The Witchcraft Act 1735, repelled in 1951 by introduction of the Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951 (England)

2) As ‘other’ in the main published results. In-depth analysis shows 148 people stating they’re Pagan, 50 that they’re Wiccan, 19 say they’re Druids and 11 say they’re Zoroastrian.

3) Although as a woman I will use the word Priestess throughout, everything I write about being a Dark Priestess is equally applicable to a Dark Priest. I do not mean to exclude men in any way.

4) From the Charge of the Goddess as attributed to Doreen Valiente:

And thou who thinketh to seek for me,

know thy seeking and yearning shall avail thee not,

unless thou knoweth the mystery;

that if that which thou seekest thou findest not within thee,

thou wilt never find it without thee.

Sources:-

George, Demetra: *Mysteries of the Dark Moon* (HarperSanFrancisco 1992, ISBN 0-06-250370-7)

National Statistics Online: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/default.asp>

And with great thanks to my Darkest of Dark High Priestess Florence, and my husband Patrick whose innate Darkness so perfectly balances out my abundant Lightness.

The Dark Night of the Soul— part II

Aurora Morningstar

Little has changed, over the centuries. Science still denies the obvious because it cannot be proven with current scientific methods, and nations' leaders are still keen to wage war in the name of their God. Even although the Witchcraft Acts have now been repelled¹), we still have to tread carefully, and although our religion was counted in the 2001 Census²) held in the United Kingdom we are still unnoticed at large but for our 'freaky rituals' that are so viciously distorted in the media. The original invaders who destroyed Goddess worship and created the circumstances for a male dominated world were just like the early Roman Church, and today's leaders, afraid of what they didn't understand: the Dark Goddess, whose presence and powers were immeasurable against their male analytic standards.

It is perfectly natural: that which we do not know, we fear. And that which we fear and refuse to face over time grows an ever more terrifying face, until we begin to believe that a mere look at it will paralyze us; its evil eye will render us helpless and defenseless. Who would want to face that? Who in her right mind would seek the presence of such evil? And so those of us who wish to live a complete life, whole unto ourselves and in the presence of both Lord and Lady, are branded evil-doers; satan worshippers and wielders of dark sorceries.

So very few are prepared to look beyond what Church and society deem acceptable; so few ready to face the scourge of rejection and ridicule. For that is only too often what we face in taking up our path: ceaseless attempts to 'save our souls', endless lectures on good and evil and the dark ... but none of them truly understand the Dark, nor are they willing to explore. They prefer to stay safe within the prescribed boundaries of their moral high ground, and judge from above.

I cannot blame them.

It takes great strength, courage and determination to explore the Dark that is within each and

every one of us. It means defying the prevailing attitude of society that you should keep a stiff upper lip, and that you should pick yourself up and carry on instead of being such a weaking. It takes coming to the understanding that society's got the wrong end of the stick here and you know better. You know that the pretence society expects of you is the easy way out; that it is nothing but running away from the real issue. You know you can run, but you can't hide. You know that sooner or later that which is hurting now will catch up with you, so what the heck, you might as well face it now.

So instead of acting 'normal', as if nothing's wrong, you listen to your heart, and you give in to your feelings – pain, anger, despair, loneliness, fear. You turn inwards and face your daemon, and you don't back away from it. And the closer you get to it, the more you understand it, and the veils of mystery surrounding you begin peeling away.

Then, suddenly, you are face-to-face with it, and there is nothing but pure unadulterated agony, and you let it wash over you and take you. You lay down your head and cry, safe in the inner sanctum of your soul, in the darkness within that soothes and heals and prepares you for what is next. You are in the loving arms of the Dark Goddess and you understand that you have just come full circle for the first time, crashing down into darkness but knowing you will rise again, like the moon in her eternal cycle of light. Rising to the light again, you know you will return here; there will be more dark episodes, but the dark no longer holds fear for you, because you understand it is nothing but the rest and healing you, like every other living creature, need.

Like the sleep you need every night, like the nine months of gestation before you were born, and like the slumber that will overtake you when it is your time to cross the veil, you know that these dark days in your life serve a purpose: rest, healing and preparation. And here you have a choice that only you can make: either to turn on your heels and continue the masquer-

Moot Information

We have a load of moots coming up in the near future, with more regular events being organised every month. If you want to start a local WiccaUK moot, we have a guide on the main site (Click on "Running a Moot"), but please remember to keep us updated on the latest dates, locations etc so we can help advertise these on the site and elsewhere!

London Discussion Group

First Sunday (4pm) and Third Thursday (7pm) of each month. 6th and 17th July. Cost £3 for room hire.

Treadwells, 34 Travistock Street, London
Topics are chosen in advance (see the London Events page on WiccaUK for upcoming topics) and we discuss these as a group, sharing information we know or have researched. Aimed at beginners, there is no "one true answer" given, participants make up their own mind.

Moot with No Name

Every second Wednesday. 9th and 23rd July. Starts 7.30pm. £2 for room hire.
Templars Restaurant, Devereux Court off Essex Street, London.
A speaker based moot, aimed at beginners. Topics have included Tarot, Working in Covens, Dreamwork, Political Activism, Earth mysteries etc. Aimed at novices, open to all.

Edinburgh Moot

First Saturday, every second month. 12th July. Starts at 7.30pm, at the Holyrood Tavern, Edinburgh.

London Moot Picnic

Second Sunday of each month. 13th July. Starts at 12 noon.
Lincolns Inn Fields, later moving onto Penderels Oak, High Holborn.
Open to all, regardless of path, age or experience. Friendly, informal picnic. All welcome. Bring your own food and drink, and a blanket to sit on!

York Moot

19th July. See Yorkshire forum on WiccaUK for details.

Birmingham Moot

19th July. See the Midlands forum for full details.

Alderly Edge Moot

20th July. Lifts from Manchester may be available. See the North West forum on WiccaUK for full details.

Manchester Moot

26th July. Meeting in Picadilly Gardens, under the large concrete structure at 2pm for a bit of shopping, then moving onto the Wetherspoons nearby.

Witches Ball 2003

See page 3 for full details. 2nd August. Central London venue. Ticket price includes three course meal.

Canterbury Moot

16th August. See South East forum for details.

Witchfest 2003

All day event in Croydon, south London. Talks, workshops and stalls. Largest Wiccan gathering in Europe. See www.witchfest.net for full details and ticket ordering.

Blackpool Weekend Moot

A two day moot in a comfortable seafront hotel in Blackpool, Lancs. Friday and Saturday night B&B plus buffet on Saturday, £16 per night. Social gathering at 1pm on Saturday, for those who live nearby and wish to meet us! See the Blackpool Moot page on WiccaUK.

Moots which have no date set yet include **Cambridge** and **Elgin**.

As mentioned above, we're always happy for members to set up local moots and events. The article on the site has full details, but all you need is a date, time and location, then let us know! We'll advertise it on site, in the email newsletter and in future issues of The Witchtower. Do remember, moots always start small, but over time they do attract more people!

The Goddess Within

High on a hilltop
a figure stands tall
raising her hands
to the Mother of All,
green Earth 'neath her feet
solid and sound
she draws up her strength
from deep in the ground,
wind plays with her hair
and brushes her face
she breathes in the Air
in this sacred place,
rain falls all around
she raises her hands
feeling the Water
give life to the land,
she calls on the Fire
that burns deep within
the spark inside
where all life begins,
She cries out to the Lady
'Be with me, be near',
she does not doubt
that the Lady will hear,
from deep inside her
an answer is heard,
a voice without sound

a whisper without words;
'My Daughter, I see you,
I hear your cry to me
My love encircles you
look around and you'll see,
in the seasons of this land
in the tides of the sea
the lakes and the sky
are all part of Me,
I'm with you each day
for all eternity
so don't be afraid
or be scared needlessly,
if you can't see me
in sky, land, or sea
then look inside yourself
for that's where I'll be,
fear not my child
you are not alone
My love surrounds you
for you are my own'.

By Stardancer

The Dawn of the Old Ones

Do you remember, Old Ones, the Primordial Dawn?
Before the Sun God rose, the Goddess ruled the night?
It was a joyful time, when we were so young
Not yet given to rule and from the Sun's face take fright
The land was ours, under King Lucifer's pride
We were the first-born of the Earth, our Mother
We were the ever-living young ones at morning-tide
The second children came as our symbiotic other
We loved them, taught them, not needing to hide
The Earth was at peace and it was paradise
Then we sinned in the face of the New God
The one who extolled vice, and earthly avarice
The one who would be master, made us daemon
We would not give allegiance to His ruling rod,
We were of the Moon, the Earth, freemen
Children of Lord Lucifer, the Morning Star
He fought against His Brother, and was cast down
Michael! Oh Michael! Why did you choose?
What glory is there in this New One's angry frown?
He who would rape our Mother, and unjustly abuse?
Who wrought sin to bring the Second Children down

With tears we cried in anguish to this so called righteousness
Years of tears turned to bitterness and wrath!
The second children turned to this new God of vengeance
They look at us anew as daemon, and took a murderous path
Sending their God against us, but we did prevail, and hid
Some in the night, some to the mounds of eternal youth
Though we were divided, at first death we did forbid
That Night Lords did take Death as their Truth
By Lucifer they swore on the blood of second ones, and loved it
Craving it, it became their only desire
Thus, with Lucifer, made their abode in the Night, and Hell's pit
Knowing now there eternal end was the new God's Fire
Unless in the End, Lord Lucifer would win
Against Michael's Sword of Flame
What eons will we need all bow to sin
When will our Mother rise up again and tame
This Beast they call God, and free us
To live in paradise again
As one, Fae and Vampire, who live in love and lust
And, Man who once was brother, who now calls us now profane!

Vylisa Hutchinson