

Gylden Briefing: Blood magick ©

OK, then – no such thing as white or black magick, but there are areas of spellcraft that can be described as **dark** and those witches who take time to read about it, often describe themselves as “*grey witches*”. And, to some extent, if you are a healing witch, one point of view is that it’s important to know about the darker side if you need to heal someone completely. This article is an overview of blood magick with a tangent into curses. Please do not try any such magick unless you are working in a group or have experience.

Why use blood for magick?

So, now we move to the area of using **blood** in spells and, to be honest, there’s a lot of fake news about this subject. I’ll try to cut away some of the myths and summarise where possible. But the most common query is that of **why** anyone would want to use blood in a spell. It could be said that blood adds power to a spell, because it’s your blood that is one of the main ingredients. Of course, if using your own blood makes you feel sick, either try a substitute or forget that spell. Here’s a few tips on using blood to boost other spells:

- a) Use a couple of drops to anoint or charge a protective amulet.
- b) Add a little blood to empower a witch bottle.
- c) Use a couple of drops to anoint or charge a candle.
- d) If you’re writing your intent on a slip of paper, add a little blood to the paper.
- e) When making a pouch, add a drop of blood to the pouch.

Note: blood adds power, as already mentioned – a spell that uses blood cannot be undone. Treat any blood used with respect, ie handle it with care.

In one way, blood represents the spirit of the source and can be used to influence people, but only with care about the real intent of the spell. A blood magick spell does have a better chance of success with this extra spiritual fuel – my tip would be to rehearse the words, any chants and the self-protection before running the spell for real. Ask for help from another practitioner, if you’re unsure.

Preparation

Zing! – time to dispel an urban myth. Blood magick is never the same as sacrifice, human or otherwise. It only needs a little drop of blood for an effective spell, either by pricking your finger or (if female) using a little menstrual blood. Let's try to forget all those films where an evil hag killed someone with a long knife for the blood magick spell. It is possible to use blood magick for revenge, but there are easier ways.



Oh yes, also remember to maintain **hygiene and safety** by putting TCP and a plaster or bandage over the place where you drew the blood. Do not forget to sterilise any needles in advance and use clean cotton pads for cleaning your skin thoroughly. Running a successful spell won't be much recompense for picking up blood poisoning later. Ah yes, also sterilise all the tools used in the spell – wand, chalice, candles, holders, etc.

It doesn't really need me to say only take what you require for that spell – a few drops at most. This might seem obvious, but it might be worth practising the drawing of blood. If you're like me, ie diabetic, it's not a problem because of the insulin self-tester, but quite a few people have problems taking their own blood for a spell on a hit-and-hope basis. Reminds me of the time I went for a blood test at the clinic and the nurse attempted to take a vial of my blood for testing. I say "attempted", because she actually hit a main vein in my arm – there was blood on the floor, on the pillow, on the chair and everywhere except in the vial! True story that.

Blood magick in practice

I've already referred to the point that a blood magick spell cannot be reversed. Thus, it's vital that you know in advance why the spell is necessary. Think of it like a binding spell – experienced witches tend to avoid binding spells on the grounds of ethics. Newbies or the unethical simply rush in and think that love spells (for example) made with their own blood will have much more power. Well, they're not wrong, but I'm quite unequivocal in condemning anyone who casts a spell that forces a third party to do something against their will.

So, you need to think about **intent** and whether the spell needs the extra infusion of power from your blood and spirit. This point also applies to blood taken from a third party or an animal – best **not** to do so, as it may be contaminated with negative energy. Again, if you're casting a blood magick spell that is tainted with your desire for revenge on someone or another powerful emotion, it's a good idea just to step away from the spell, take a deep breath and consider your motives. It's another reason why blood magick is best done in a group – for other people to provide **balance and focus**. There's lots of points to consider, in advance, before casting a circle and splashing the blood around. Here's a few more to think about.

1. A good blood magick spell will be performed by someone who has done it before, is confident of the outcome and will not be put off by outside distractions.
2. After all, some people either faint or are sick at the sight of blood. If so, then the group may have to use some other form of **sympathetic magick** for that spell, eg hair, nail clippings, saliva or urine.
3. As with all spells really, but particularly with blood magick, rehearse the chants beforehand.
4. Try to find a sacred place for the casting that has no phones, computers, any sources of EMF smog, etc.
5. Again, as with lots of spells, if your intent is **greed**, eg to gain material wealth or personal power, just forget it. Blood magick for this type of intent will backfire in the most spectacular way. Can't speak from experience, but this is a general rule of thumb.
6. Another thing is that it's actually not safe to digest blood during a spell – one drop of blood is not a problem, but a lot may see you in A&E with organ failure or potential hepatitis.
7. Don't forget that **dragon's blood** is a blood red plant resin from South America.

Working with curses and hexes

Closely linked to the subject of blood magick is the area of curses and malevolent spells. Before we start with this topic, I'm not going to show you how to cast a curse or a hex for two reasons. Wiccan followers can probably add a third reason or so, linked to the Rede and the Threefold Rule, both of which were invented in the middle of last century.

My two reasons are, **first**, there's very few times when you need to inflict a curse on someone – quite often a basic knot or banishment spell will accomplish your aim. **Second**, you really have to feel your intent. Downloading a curse from the internet is just not good enough – you have to write your words from scratch and really focus on the subject of your malice – this is the correct term as there's very few good intentions in a hex!

Having said that, it's still important for a witch to know how to break a curse or hex. Sadly, I've had to do this twice so far in 2018, both for the protection of the same group of people from a, well, vindictive group of pagans.

Sometimes, you need extra power to break a hex and I'd suggest that either you ask another witch to boost your spell or you factor in a pre-spell, eg drawing down the moon, before you begin the protection words. That's what a hex-buster is – the ultimate protection spell – again, you need to write your words from scratch, invoke the help of your own deity and focus on the outcome.

Important safety tip: do not run this type of spell without experience, because of the rebound effect. You need to be protected from any fall-out from the breakage of the original hex. And here's the thing, I do call upon the help of a deity (of course), but I also request the protective power of an elemental spirit during the spell, which permits me to send a curse or hex back to source with interest. All you Wiccans still reading this text can now stop holding your breath (joke).

Actually, something very practical that you could use to protect you or your property against curses is to make a **witch bottle**. It could be anything from a small glass bottle and stopper to a jam jar, with the following contents.

- Pins, rusty screws or bent nails
 - Soil, salt or sand
 - Protective herbs, eg dill, rosemary or garlic
 - A small crystal to focus the spell, eg quartz
 - Red string or ribbon
 - Drops of blood or a blood-substitute from its maker
 - The lid or stopper should be sealed with wax from a purple or black candle, to repel negative energies – and a pentacle marked on the top
 - Dedicate the bottle – here’s a possible form of words, but it’s better to create your own:
 - *O Lord and Lady, who protect our home,
Guard us with all your might,
Protect us from all evil that comes,
With this bottle sealed so tight.
Keep us safe, I pray to you,
For this bottle to act as a guard,
Letting good to pass, but not the bad,
With the power inside this jar.
As above, so below, so mote it be.*
 - Don’t forget to put the witch bottle either on the perimeter of your property or anywhere it’s not going to be disturbed
- Tip:** if you’re creating the bottle for another, blood or urine is not needed, but you could use wine or mead instead and let the recipient consecrate it in his or her own way.

Conclusion: vampires

Vampirism remains a lifestyle of choice for many people across the world who believe in the power of the blood they consume - such people are described as **sanguinarians**. However, in other places, belief in the power of blood can be fatal (literally).

In October 2017, the UN had to relocate staff from two districts in southern Malawi, following a vampire scare that left at least five people dead. Lynch mobs had been responsible for the killing of those accused of vampirism during September-October. The Malawi President, Peter Mutharika, described the reports as *distressing and agonising*, adding: “*This development has been of grave concern to the President and the entire Government. Belief in witchcraft is widespread in rural Malawi, one of the world’s poorest countries, where many aid agencies work.*”

This outbreak of vampire-related violence was preceded by a similar wave of panic in 2002 in the neighbouring country of Mozambique. In 2002, rumours began to spread that vampires were working with the government to collect blood for international aid agencies - vigilantes took it upon themselves to address the issue, stoning to death, one man suspected of vampirism.

Of course, can't happen here – or can it? Hollywood films, books, video games and media have brought many new vampire clubs and organisations into the light (so to speak). Britain has a rich folkloric history of vampires with the earliest stories dated at 1180. It would seem that the power of blood magick is entering a new renaissance.

