

## ***Protection magick - overview ©***

**Questions? Feel free to raise any points at any time. You'll find the notes of this session and detailed guidance on spells on our website = please take a card with you at the end. I've also put a file on the website on *Blood Magick*, which is yet another way of adding extra power to a spell.**

Like electricity or the wind, magick is a force of nature. We can't see the wind or the lightning descending from the sky, but we can see the effects of these forces in the lightning ascending in a flash or the wind in the trees during a storm. Magick can be seen by its effects, but we can't ladle out two spoonfuls of magick. Please, please try to remember that magick is a form of power – anyone can do magick, but it needs to be handled responsibly. OK then, let's chat about ***WHY we need protection magick.***

Like any potentially dangerous force, one must take precautions when using magick. Take spiders as an example – my friend, Paul, keeps tropical spiders as pets. Some of them have **urticarious fur** (every hair follicle is tipped with poison to deter predators), which means that he must use thick gloves when handling a spider.

So, when we talk protection magick, we're actually talking about **insurance**, i.e. precautions to stop negative energy invading your space, upsetting your spells, affecting those you love and stopping any psychic attacks. It is a truism that some people will use magick for power, material gain, for revenge on someone or to bind another person, eg in a love spell. The Rede might say not to do this and the Threefold Rule likewise, but how to dispel a malign influence is not covered in detail.

And this talk is about how to use protection magick to help you – it's a form of healing and it's my experience that says that **all** witches should have some knowledge of darker magick in order to properly heal others.

Many times, I've gone along to a moot where the theme has been protection magick. A very common technique is to protect oneself in a bubble of white or blue light where you are safe – this seems to be a relatively modern development. Here's me saying that it's not enough if you are under psychic attack or if someone is trying to harm you or those close to you.

An experienced witch who casts a targeted curse on you will be able to go straight through your bubble – pop! Having cast protection spells in the past (for me and those I love), means a little more power is needed – extra insurance if you like. Other witches add rebound spells to their shields – I have something different, which we can talk about later.

OK, we'll now talk about the **HOW of protection magick**. To be fair, whole books have been written about this topic and what we'll try to do here is to give an overview, but there was a discussion on spellcraft at one of our Gylden Fellowship meetings and we try to look at other types of magick as well in the monthly **Gylden Magick** magazines, stored elsewhere on our website and on Facebook in **Gylden River LRC**.

There's also a **second file on protection magick – in practice** that sets out some of the basic protection measures. So, this one is like an overview of the subject and the other is a selection of spells and techniques. Should you want to add extra power to a spell, the website includes a piece on the use of **Blood Magick** too.

But first, let's think about **when** we need to protect ourselves – think of it like a series of concentric circles that radiate outwards.

- Protecting yourself, your family and your home.
- Protecting yourself in the workplace.
- Protecting yourself during magick.
- Protecting yourself for self-defence against an attack.

It's almost ironic that people used to protect their homes **against witches** or evil spirits, as a matter of routine, perhaps by apotropaic markings, iron horseshoes, certain herbs planted near to the house (betony, rue, angelica), etc. There are some basic things that you can do to protect your loved ones.

- Regular smudging.
- A witch bottle.
- Circle of protection.
- Protective wand or staff, made of rowan wood.
- Protective crystals, eg black tourmaline, jet or celestite.

Before casting any spell or doing ritual work at home, some form of smudging is needed – of you, the altar and anything else in that area. If you are creating a **magick circle** in the lounge, you can sweep the circle with a broom or use natural items, eg branches.

Do remember to draw the circle clockwise (deosil) to enclose positive energy. Use your own words to create the circle, but build in your intent that it is a place of safety for you. You can also call in the elements, depending upon the spell to be cast. At the end, the circle is dismantled anti-clockwise (widdershins).

**Smudging** is a good way to cleanse an altar, your home or people taking part in a ritual. Sage purifies both you and your site, banishes negative energy and/or entities and calms people, pets and spirits. Take the smouldering stick and fan the smoke over all the area or person being cleansed, ie including walls, ceiling, floor.

**A witch bottle** is a good way of protecting your property, be it a house or a flat. Details of how to make a witch bottle are contained in our second file on protection magick.

At one of these moot discussions, someone asked me what colour my bubble was and I replied that was not my choice. A good way of protection is to use a **guardian**, i.e. request the help of an elemental spirit for self-defence and to respect any help that is given.

There was silence in the moot when I said this and added that the person sending malicious magick against me would not be subject to the threefold rule. They would be the target of the threehundredfold rule from the wrath of the being that was protecting me. For this type of spell, though, one does have to renew the request regularly.

Moving on swiftly, let's have a look at things like **amulets and talismanic charms** for personal protection. I'll try to be brief here, because this topic has also been the subject of books. Such items are often natural that seem to be attuned to your energies, eg holey stones, flints, fossils, four-leaved clovers or pebbles that resemble eyes. Mint, sage and oak are also believed to offer protection.

An amulet is like a charm that is designed for a single purpose that is special to the person making or carrying it, like warding off harm and a talismanic charm is there to focus magick on a short-term purpose. Such charms are very ancient and have been found in digs in Iraq. Today, it is best for each person to fashion his or her own talismanic charm for protection, for luck or against evil. Here are some things to consider when creating such charms.

- Zodiac signs or runes on parchment or thick paper.
- Use of correspondence tables to define which sigils to use.
- Ribbons, again using correspondence tables for colours.
- Herbs, eg fennel, basil, anise or cloves.
- Crystals, eg jet, black tourmaline or obsidian.

If you follow a Wiccan path, it's probably best if you skip this bit about **extra protection against hexes or psychic attacks** - follow up the advice given so far. This is because the Rede and the Threefold Rule are part of your belief. Not all witches are Wiccan though and it's my experience (I'm not Wiccan) that any witch needs to have some knowledge of what is termed darker magick, in order to fully embrace lightwork. So, this bit is about breaking a malicious spell and the best way is to consider one of the following.

- 🚩 A banishment spell.
- 🚩 Use of doll magick.
- 🚩 Use of a poppet.
- 🚩 A curse-breaker spell.

I'm not going into these in any great detail, partly because they take practice if you're not used to them and partly because you really need to have the right focus and intent. OK then, here goes.

1. Using **dolls** is an ancient type of magick. As protection, you make a doll of yourself with lots of reflective paper, charge it in moonlight, put a note with it, cast a suitable spell and bury the doll on the edge of your property.
2. A **poppet** is not dissimilar. It's used for lots of magick, eg binding and to repel harm - a life-like figure, made to represent either you or the person acting against you. A poppet can be made from anything from straw to clay, dressed in clothes and any items associated with the subject of the spell. This is called *sympathetic magick*. I do have a poppet spell, but it's much stronger when done in coven.
3. A **banishment** is a binding spell and should be done with care, like those above. The easiest one I ever found was to set up your sacred space, write the person's name on a bit of paper, cast the incantation and then burn the paper to ashes.
4. Finally, there's a **hex-breaker** and all witches have different types - there's one in my grimoire - but it's best if you fashion your own incantation. Put simply, take a black candle and a few herbs in a cauldron of water, cast the spell and let the candle burn out - best done in the open air.

Here's a classic poppet. Anyway, I hope that you have found this introduction to protection magick useful - all the ideas from this overview can be supplemented by the **Blood Magick** and **Protection Magick - in practice** files on our website and queries forwarded to us - blessed be.

