



The Three Keys Ritual

This material has been provided as bonus content available exclusively to members of the Keeping Her Keys community.

This is an all-purpose ritual designed to bring your intentions in line with Hekate's will and ask for Her blessing and guidance. Adapt it for your specific working as you feel led. Suitable for all types of devotion and witchery.

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Overview

Two of the most powerful symbols associated with Hekate are threes and keys. She has various epithets associated with the number three – including *Trimorphis* (of three forms), *Trioditis* (of three roads), and *Trikophalus* (three headed). There is also Her dominion over Land, Sea and Sky – conveniently a triad, too. She is associated strongly with a three-way crossroads and offerings to Her left at such a place are very well received. Hekate *Kleidouchos* is the Keeper of The Keys of the whole world, according to Her Orphic Hymn and other sources.

This ritual combines the symbolism of three and keys. Adapt the ritual for your specific purposes – whether to express devotion or for a spell involving Our Lady. I’ve provided guidelines and a list of correspondences below. To keep things simple, I am using “working” to as a catch-all phrase for describing the various things that can be done with this ritual.

Preparation

The preparation that you do in advance of the ritual helps to ensure that the working is successful. You’ll need to plan so you have the proper materials, have written your specific intention, and scheduled the working for the appropriate part of the lunar cycle.

Materials

You’ll need three keys, construction paper (black, red, white), a black marker (or even silver, gold, and pewter), string (black, red, white), a ruler and scissors. A hole punch makes it easier for poking a hole in the cardboard tags that you’ll be making. You should also have a magickal bag for storing the keys in.

The keys can be any sort of key that has been cleansed and consecrated, including drawings, etc. or you can create them entirely in your mind's eye. You can even draw them on a piece of paper. I recommend using keys or even making your own. I've got a blog on Patheos that explains how to make them [using polymer clay](#). You need the cardboard to make tags that go on the keys, and the string is to hold them in place.

If you don't already have an altar set up for Hekate, you should also have a representation of Her. It doesn't have to be fancy – you can draw a picture of Hekate, make a strophalos, or print one off.

List of Materials:

- 3 keys
- black, red and white cardboard
- black, red and white string (like embroidery floss)
- black fine-tip marker (or silver, gold, and pewter/bronze ones)
- witch bag for storing the prepared keys in
- scissors, pencil, ruler and hole punch
- representation of Hekate
- offering to Hekate

Setting Your Intention

Before you get started preparing the keys, you need to develop your intention. Start by writing down your preliminary goal and then refine it until it is as specific and precise as possible. If the goal of your ritual is to simply express devotion to Hekate,

then that is your intention. For most workings, we have a specific desired outcome. It may be to express gratitude to Hekate. In this case, you can use three different epithets and imbue your gratitude for that specific epithet onto the key that represents that one. For example, if my goal is to offer up thanks to Hekate for helping me out of a difficult time, I could pick three epithets that are appropriate such as *Enodia*, *Lampadios*, and *Soteira*.

Scheduling the Ritual

Determine what part of the lunar cycle is best for the type of working that you will be doing. Usually, the dark moon (*Deipnon*) is reserved for honoring Hekate and not doing spells of a personal nature. The first day after the dark moon (astrological new moon) is *Noumenia*. This is a great time to focus on your intentions for the next cycle. I usually do a combination of honoring Hekate, petitioning Her for assistance, and making affirmations about personal development areas I've working on. Other than these two days, the rest of the lunar cycle is suitable for more selfish workings. The waxing moon to attract things, the waning to send them away.

The Keys

Now that you've developed your intention, you're prepared to start in on the keys. Each key is used to represent a specific aspect of your working.

The basic idea is that each key represents part of your intention or the energy that you are going to imbue into the key to help you manifest your desired outcome.

You can keep this ritual very simple by having only one theme – symbol, epithet, etc. – per key or you can use multiple themes like I did in the Healing from Trauma ritual. I usually have three themes per key because, well, threes. It's also a number that

I've found is sufficient to cover all the aspects I want to include in a working, but not so many that it gets confusing.

You can refer to the section below on correspondences to help you select the different themes you'll use, or devise your own.

The cardboard is used for key tags. On each tag you'll write the theme for that key and then attach it. If you're using three themes for each key, then you'll have nine in total.

Example of a 1 x 3 Ritual

This is the simplest form of the Three Keys Ritual. Each key only has one theme, for a total of three themes. You can use three epithets of Hekate, for example. This would only be applicable if the sole intention of your ritual was to express devotion to Hekate. In all other instances, you're going to need to "fix" the energy of your intention onto each key.

Example of a 2 x 3 Ritual

The most basic form of the Three Keys ritual using a specific intention. You'll make one tag with one intention key word on it and then have one epithet or correspondence on a tag per key. You end up with two tags on three keys (2 x 3). If I was doing a spell for a windfall of \$2000, I would do something like this (based on the correspondences table in the next section):

My intention: to manifest a windfall of \$2000 before June 15, 2018.

Key	Energy	Tag 1: Epithets	Tag 2: Outcome
1	Underworld	Chthonia	\$2000
2	Middle World	Enodia	\$2000
3	Upper World	Soteira	\$2000

Example of a 3 x 3 Ritual

This is the approach that I typically use. I choose three themes for each key, for a total of nine. For example, I could have an epithet for each key, a color for each key, and then a word associated with the energy of that key and my specific intention.

Building upon my intention to manifest \$2000 by June 15, 2018, I could make this spell much stronger by activating my energy to get to work finding that cash:

Key	Energy	Tag 1: Epithets	Tag 2: Intention Key Word	Tag 3: outcome
1	Underworld	Chthonia	Release unnecessary expenses	\$2000
2	Middle World	Enodia	Look for extra income	\$2000
3	Upper World	Soteira	Ask for help	\$2000

In this example, the energy of the spell will be increased because you are infusing it with your commitments to make the extra cash appear because Tag 2 has been used to identify solutions to the problem. You can really do this with just about any intention.

Using the Three Keys Ritual to Hasten Finding a Romantic Partner

Here's an example of how the Three Keys Ritual could be used to help hasten you finding a romantic partner:

- On the black tags I would:
 1. identify my problem – lack of a partner,
 2. put “love” on a tag as the emotion, and

3. perhaps choose the dog as my symbol (dogs are known for their devotion and other desirable characteristics, but make it clear you're not looking to manifest a canine – unless you are).
- On the red cards, I would put:
 1. Find a healthy, satisfying long-term relationship as my intention – but I would abbreviate it somehow,
 2. For my behavior, I would write something like “act to attract” (kind of cheesy, but it gets the point across), and
 3. Choose the full moon as the symbol because I want my intention to be “fully” illuminated.
 - On the white cards I might put:
 1. the dominant thought I want to have in the future as I manifest my ideal relationship, such as “I deserve a healthy relationship.”
 2. I could choose a rose since that is both a symbol of Hekate in the upper world – where I could meet my partner on an astral plane before in mundane life – and because it represents romantic love.
 3. Finally, I might put a single sword as a symbol of both air and of cutting through to a new beginning.

I choose this example of romantic partnership because the appropriateness of asking Hekate for help with this sort of business is often debated. I happen to think it's acceptable to petition Her for help with anything if careful planning goes into the ritual.

Using Hekate's Correspondences for the Keys

I've developed a list of correspondences that can be used in the ritual. I use it as a reference for when I'm planning a ritual or spell. Table 1 summarizes several correspondences of Hekate. I've organized the table so that each key reflects a certain type of energy so everything within a column for a key has similar energetic properties.

It may be that for your ritual, you want only one type of energy, like if you were doing an act of devotion for Hekate as Queen of the Underworld or as Soteira. Working with a specific epithet, or class of epithets (underworld, neutral, upper world) is really the only time that I would say that a ritual or spell should only use one type of energy. Balance is key in most other areas, which is why I designed the table this way.

Sources

The list is based on ancient sources whenever possible, but I've had to add some of my own interpretations to incorporate contemporary areas of witchcraft. In addition, I've added the Three Selves and Personal Change since many of us blend our personal development work in with our devotion and witchcraft.

Correspondences Table Structure

The keys are arranged according to the three worlds: **sea, land, and sky**. When possible, I've included information in a fourth column called "completion." This is necessary because when some triads come together they synergistically form a fourth. For example, when the three worlds come together they make the earth.

The Energetic Realms

The Realms is the label given to the *energetic* worlds unlike the *physical* world of the earth. Thus, the universe consists of the underworld, the middle world, and the upper world.

Although these worlds exist purely on the energetic plane, it helps me to think of them in ways that I can understand. The energy of the underworld is dense and heavy like a hot, humid summer night when the moon is dark. In its depths, you can't perceive

anything because it's dark, nor can you breathe because the air is too thick. At the heights of the upper world, we can't breathe because the air is too thin. We can't perceive anything because we can see everything. In our metaphysical work, we sometimes put a foot into these realms, but rarely do we experience the depths or heights. The middle world represents the energy of everyday life which is a mixture of low levels of the other two realms. When all is going well, these energies are balanced.

Epithets

Since I've organized the table using the three worlds, I've chosen three epithets that reflect each of these: Chthonia (literally *of the Underworld*) for the under world, Enodia (*The Way*) for the middle world since Hekate is both the guide along our path and the path itself, and Hekate as Savior (Soteira) to represent the upper world.

Individual Characteristics

The next section focuses on individual characteristics that you can use for your personal development work, devotion, and spells. Emotions are placed in the underworld realm because these are our deepest drives, feelings, and instincts. Intellect is in the upper realm as the energy of the intellect is refined. I'm talking about at their purest states, most of everything that we are is a mixture of realms energetically speaking. Our emotions and intellect come together at our heart center to produce in the middle world.

Correspondingly, we have three selves that reflect the three energetic realms. They come together to synergistically form the soul. Our personal energy also includes time – past, present, and future. Using these time periods as themes can be very helpful if your intention is to let go of the past.

Key Companions

Types of Key Companions are the spirit guides that we may involve in our various workings.

Moon Phases

Using moon phase energy as part of the ritual. You already determined the best time to do the ritual using the lunar cycle. If you are doing a spell over a length of time, you can use the lunar cycle as one of the tags.

Other Correspondences

The rest of the Table contains various other correspondences. I've already written about some of them on *Keeping Her Keys* on Patheos Pagan, and I cover more of them in the months to come.

Example Using Two Correspondences:

Back to our money manifestation example: if I took \$2000 off Key 3 and instead changed up the wording and added parts of the moon cycle that map onto my intended actions then I can add moon phase energy to the spell.

- I can also rewrite my intention to this: I will do everything possible to increase my income between now and June 15, 2018.

Key	Energy	Tag 1: Epithets	Tag 2: Moon Phase	Tag 3: Intention Actions
1	Underworld	Chthonia	Waning	Release unnecessary expenses
2	Middle World	Enodia	Waxing	Look for extra income
3	Upper World	Soteira	Full	Ask for help

Table 1: Correspondences for the Three Keys Ritual

Focus	Key 1	Key 2	Key 3	Completion
The World	Sea	Land	Sky	The Earth
The Realms	Underworld	Middle World	Upper world	Universe
Energy Types	Dense	Balanced	Light	n/a
Epithets	Chthonia	Enodia	Soteira	Pammeter
Human Abilities	Emotion	Behavior	Thought	Soul
Personal Change	Problem	Intention	Goal	n/a
Selves	Underworld	Middle World	Upper world	Soul
Times	Past	Present	Future	n/a
Key Companions	The Dead/Daemons	The Living/Spirit Guides/Familiars	The Unborn/Angels	n/a
Moon Phases	Waxing	Full	Waning	Dark
Seasons	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Days	Monday	Tuesday	Saturday	
Colors	Black	Red	White	Gold
Animals	Dog	Horse	Snake	n/a
Tarot Cards	Cups	Pentacles	Swords	Wands
Plants	Garlic	Oak	Rose	n/a
Herbs	Basil	Chamomile	Lavender	
Stones	Hematite	Red Jasper	Clear Quartz	

This list isn't exhaustive. I've organized it according to the type of general energy associated with each column. If you want the sources I used in developing the list, just ask. Feel free to add your own items to the list. I will be writing more about the various parts of the chart.

Finalizing the Keys

After you decided what labels you are going to make as tags. It's time to make them:

1. Take the ruler and make a 2" x 2" square for each tag you are going to be cutting out. If you're doing a 3 x 3 working, you'll need 3 black, 3 red, and 3 white. Cut out the tags.
2. Draw or write your theme, time frame, intention key word, action, and correspondences – whatever you're using on each of the tags. Remember the three of the same color stay together.
3. Punch a hole in the upper left corner of each card.
4. Cut 9 pieces of string (4 in each color) about 8" long, then thread each string the hole of a card in the matching color.
5. Tie the three cards together.
6. Connect the three cards to the key by loosely knotting then around the hole in the key.
7. Repeat the process for the other two keys.
8. Take the three knotted cords of each key and loosely tie them together.
9. Place the prepared keys in a witch bag for protection unless you are doing the ritual right away.
10. Say a few words of protection over the keys if you are not using them right away.
11. Put the keys on your altar.
12. Place your offering to Hekate beside the keys.

Say a few words to hold them in stasis until it's ritual time:

Hekate Megiste,

Hekate Trimorphis,

Hekate Kleidouchos,

Hold these Keys sacred

And safe.

Ritual Preparation

Now that the keys are ready, you would write your part of the ritual script using the template I've provided. I've used epithets that are all-purpose ones, but feel free to replace them with your own.

When it's time to do the ritual, ensure that you are purified, and your space is sacred. There's suggestions for further reading on how to do this using Modern Hekatean Witchcraft at the end of this document. The amount of time the ritual takes will vary depending on how long the script is that you prepared for your specific working.

Ritual Script

Take three middle fingers on your left hand and point them up as you recite this:

Hail Hekate Megiste,
The Mightiest.

Take the three middle fingers of your right hand and point them down as you recite this:

Hail Hekate Triformis,
Ruler of sea, land and sky.

Bring both hands together at your heart center with the three middle fingers touching, and say this:

Hail Hekate Kleidouchos,
Holder of the keys of the universe.

Hear me now,
I am your faithful follower.

I come to you for guidance and blessing,
That my intention of _____
Is aligned with your divine will.

*Take the keys out of the bag. Hold them down towards the earth for a few breaths,
then up to the heavens for another few, and then bring them together at your heart
center. Take a few breaths here. Take the keys out of the bag.*

Key 1:

I offer You the Key of _____
It symbolizes _____.

Cut this key free from the others. Place it back in the bag.

I hold the Key of _____
I carry it as a symbol of my intention _____.
With Your grace, my desire will be made true.

Cut this key free from the other. Put it in your pocket.

I place the Key _____
In Your Hands,
With your wisdom, I will find _____.

Place the third key on your altar.

Hail Hekate Megiste,
Savior of All.

Hail Hekate Triformis,
Great Mother.
Hail Hekate Kleidouchos,
Keeper of the keys of the universe.
Accept my gratitude for your
Protection, guidance and wisdom.

Once this step is complete, you are open to receive guidance from Our Lady in her many forms. Take some time to meditate on the keys, your intentions, your commitment to the goal. She will come to you and provide guidance. Maybe not at that exact moment, but over the next few days look for Her signs and you will find them. Looking for her signs and activating your intentions in your mundane life are the next steps. Carry one key with you until your intention is manifested, leave one key on your altar, and put the remaining one in a liminal space.

Open your sacred space when you feel ready.



Learn More

- To see an example of one application of the Three Keys Ritual with lots of pictures, read [The Three Keys Ritual for Healing from Trauma](#).
- I've also written about [Making Magick with Hekate's Keys](#).
- If you're planning of using this ritual to help you make lasting change, you might want to read [this](#).
- You can find tips for creating sacred space for Hekate [here](#), and specific instructions on how to cast Hekate's Wheel [here](#).
- For more on correspondences, check out my article on [low-cost Modern Hekatean Witchcraft](#).