

Creating an Epithet Oracle Set



To create this oracle set, you will need either bay laurel leaves or objects that can be used as tiles, such as little clay charms, pieces of wood, flat stones, or even heavy paper.

Supplies

- Bay laurel leaves are easily accessible and have been connected to divinatory practices since ancient times. Fresh leaves that have been dried for a few days' work best for adding words and symbols, although the dried leaves work as well.
- If you are using tiles, choose a medium that feels right to you.
- Acrylic paint markers work well for writing epithets and symbols on the leaves or tiles.
- I recommend keeping your finished set in a dedicated cauldron or bag.

Process

Once you have chosen your epithets and your medium, develop keywords for each one. If you're assigning a cauldron to the oracle set, be sure to cleanse and enchant it before reciting the incantation below. You can also place stones and botanicals within the prepared cauldron to augment its divinatory potential.

Determine how you'll represent each epithet—through words, symbols, or sigils. You can also choose to allow their representation to come through during the enchantment phase. Then craft an incantation that evokes them, being sure to include both the epithet

and its meaning. Here's an example that you can use as inspiration for crafting your own unique incantation. Change the epithets and meanings to the ones you have chosen:

Gr̥at Hēkatē,
Queen of Witches,
I call upon your blessing for this set,
Attuning to your guidance and truth.
Kleidoukhos, Keeper of Keys, the Key of Wisdom.
Chthonia, the Depths, the Key of Revelation.
Enodia, the Crossroads, the Key of Possibility.
Propylaia, Gatekeeper, the Key of Transitions.
Dadophoros, Torchbearer, the Key of Illumination.
Hēros Pyr, Sacred Source Fire, the Key of the Sacred.
Nykhia Mēnē, Night and the Moon, the Key of Intuition.
Paionios, Healer of Shadows, the Key of Healing.
Gēnētēira, Primal Mother, the Key of Nurture.
Anima Mundi, Soul of the World, the Key of Transcendence.
Guardian, Guide, and Gatekeeper.
Attend your epithets.
Render these [leaves/tiles] your divine oracle.
As it is spoken,
So it becomes.
Hail Hēkatē.

Once you are satisfied with your incantation, you can begin reciting it while inscribing the leaves or tiles.

Begin with the opening lines, then add each epithet to the leaf or tile as you speak the associated line. You can pass each leaf or tile through a suitable sacred smoke, such as mugwort, to amplify the power of the set, but it's not required. Place each completed leaf or tile in the cauldron or bag. When all the leaves/tiles are complete, hold your chosen container and repeat the closing lines of your incantation, rotating the container clockwise for as many turns as you have epithets.

Working with the Epithet Oracle

You can hold specific questions in your mind or write them on a piece of paper and add them to the leaves or tiles in the cauldron or bag. You can use this set in your daily reading to unlock overarching themes and advice, or you can reserve it for special lunar phases like a full or new moon. I recommend drawing one or two leaves or tiles for each reading, using the first to discern a general message and the second to expand upon it. Work with the keywords to discover their meaning. You can carry your oracle set with you or keep it on your altar.

This is a great project to do with a partner or with your coven, exchanging readings for one another.

