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Mineral & Herb Focus

By: Pandora

Well, folks, here's a particularly *Pandora-y* take on stones and herbs. All information is contained in *The Encyclopedia of Magickal Ingredients*, by Lexa Rosean.

Dogwood

RULER: Diana

TYPE: tree

MAGICKAL FORM: sap, branch, leaf, flower

(Incidentally, it also happens to be my home state's State tree!)

Sit under a dogwood tree and make a wish for adventure.

Add leaves to love sachets to promote loyalty and fidelity.

Carry the branch or bark to draw trustworthy people into your life.

To help pets get along, take a hair clipping from each of and add to a jar of sugar water with dogwood sap. Shake the bottle daily until the animals stop fighting.



Calcite

RULER: Mercury

TYPE: mineral

MAGICKAL FORM: various colors

This slated or tiled gemstone is a very powerful tool for opening the brain's psychic centers. Hold this stone to deepen thoughts and increase the psychic senses. It is especially useful for astral travel.

Gold calcite promotes physical and emotional health and balance.

White calcite brings eloquence; hold it while composing a prayer, chant, or poem.

Gray calcite neutralizes negativity.

Use *red calcite* to get in touch with your feelings and open your heart.



Oregano

RULER: Jupiter

TYPE: spice

MAGICKAL FORM: dried

A common household spice, oregano adds flavor to foods but also enhances the magickal flavor to spells. Add some to money, health, or love recipes to increase your happiness and satisfaction with the results.

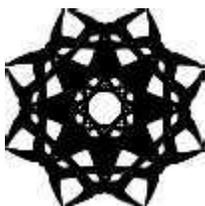
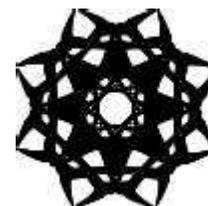
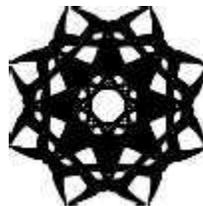
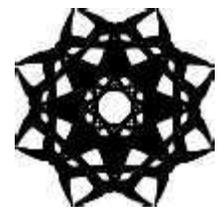
Peridot

RULER: Venus

TYPE: mineral

MAGICKAL FORM: cut and polished

Wear or carry this stone to increase your psychic intuition. This gem of rejuvenation and relaxation is one of the best for stress reduction.



Wee Pagans

By: TristA

Bringing in Spring

Donny was excited for Pappy to come and take him on their Spring hunt. They did it each year and it was one of Donny's favorite things, ever! They would walk around the neighborhood and look for signs of Spring together. Donny was excited this year because he could remember all the signs from previous years and would be able to name them all before Pappy did.

Donny hung his head when Pappy finally came because he thought that Pappy had forgotten their walk. Pappy told Donny to get in the car and buckle up because they were going somewhere special. Donny wondered where they would go because Spring coming was always something that Pappy never forgot.

They finally stopped at the edge of a wood and parked in a parking spot. Pappy told Donny to get out and gave him a foldable chair, after telling him he was old enough to carry it along the hike that they were going on.

"Where are we?" Donny asked.

"We are at a special Game Preserve; this is where we will bring in Spring this year," replied Pappy, with a big smile on his face.

They walked for a long time. Donny pointed out a few things that meant Spring was here to Pappy, like some blooming flowers and a growing weed. Pappy didn't seem interested; he simply nodded his head and continued walking.

When they came to a small clearing Pappy stopped and opened his chair, then sat down. He put his finger to his mouth, as if to tell Donny to be quiet. He pointed to Donny's chair and motioned for him to open it and sit down. Pappy then whispered, "This year, Spring will talk to us; it will tell us what is in the plans for this year. You have outgrown small walks in the neighborhood. Be quiet and watch Spring."

It seemed like all day before Donny finally heard it: baby birds in the trees, crying for their mothers. Pappy pointed up and said, "What birds say when they talk, and you are around, is that they are happy and happiness is coming your way." Donny smiled and listened to the chirping of the birds with a new meaning in his head.

Pappy's eyes got wide as he pointed to a rabbit in the near distance. He said, "See the baby there. Isn't he cute? The rabbit is telling us that the Spring will be peaceful. "

Donny was so excited with the things that Pappy was teaching him that he didn't even notice when it was getting dark and it took Pappy telling him to pack up his chair for him to even notice the skies.

Donny was not excited to go but was excited at all the new things he had learned. He told Pappy that he was glad they didn't just walk around the block and do the 'little kid' stuff this year.

Beltaine Booklet

By: TristA

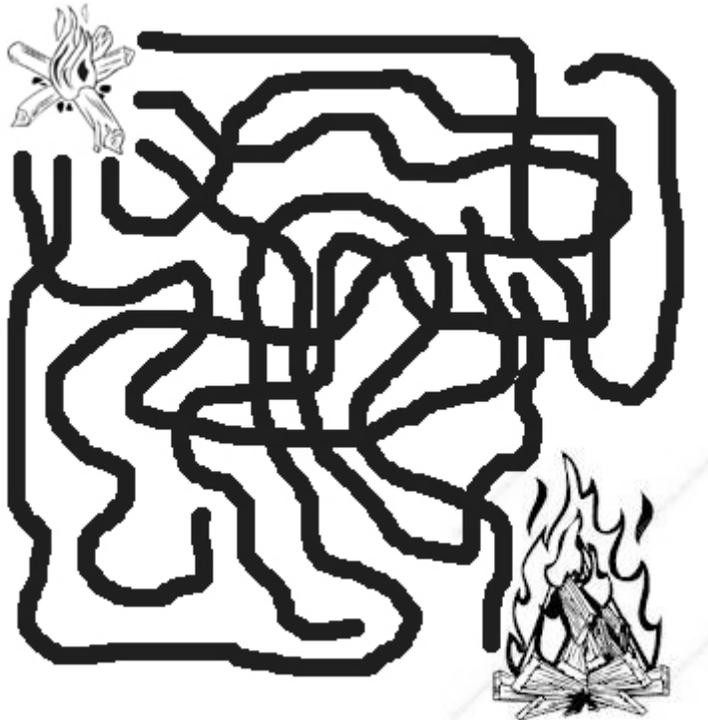
Where did Beltane get its name? See the possibilities below:

b	a	b	a	a	b	t	l
a	e	e	l	a	a	b	e
b	e	l	l	o	u	s	n
o	l	o	a	t	s	b	e
b	s	b	b	n	a	a	t
a	b	e	l	i	o	s	l
a	s	b	e	l	i	s	e
b	s	l	i	l	l	e	b

Word List:

- Beltene** – Irish Death God
- Beli** – a Welsh God
- Belanos** or **Belios** – Celtic Fire God
- Baal** – Phoenician Vegetation God

Start the Belfire! – trace the correct line from the starter fire to the belfire.



Belfires are usually lit on the eve of Beltane and kept going throughout the holiday in many places.

Beltaine Booklet

By: TristA

Cleansing in the belfire – circle the things that you can cleanse in the smoke of the belfire.



Take your taste buds on a spree with your Pagan adult as you try eating some fresh flowers. Be sure that they are safe, so check with an adult before consuming. Below is a small list along with what they taste like to get you started.

Anise Hyssop - licorice

Carnation – spicy pepper

Chamomile – light apple

Dandelion – mushrooms

Gladiolus – lettuce

Lilac – lemony

Beltaine Booklet

By: TristA

Make crowns for both the King and Queen of May:

King

Pick up leaves off the ground or pick a few from a tree that are thick and have long stems. String the stem of one leaf into the top of another and back around to the first leaf. Try this as many times as needed until large enough to fit the head of the King then string last leaf into the tip of the first leaf to tie it off.

Queen

Pick different kinds of flowers with long stems and leaves. Tie stems of the flowers to ribbon (one or several long strands). Be sure not to tie them towards the end of the stems, but more towards the top allowing stems to hang down. When enough flowers are together to tie all the way around the Queen's head, tie ribbon and allow excess to hang down in the back. Take stems and tie them together weaving them around the flowers themselves for a touch of green.

Draw a line through the puzzle below to find the names of the Beltane Spirits.

D												
	U						O	C	Y			
		S		T	H		R		E	L	R	
			I	O	E		N				A	
					G						B	
					R		G	R	E	E	N	
					E		E			N	H	
				E			H			J	O	
	A	M	N				T					
	N	J	A	C	K	I	N					

DUSTIO _____

If you're interested in the spirits, look them up and learn more.

Beltaine Booklet

By: TristA

Signs of Spring Nature Quest

Take the time to fast, even if it is for only one day, and then go on a walk in the woods to see which animals appear to you. Read what they are telling you by using your own correspondence journal, the few examples below, or the clues your Pagan adult escort knows of.

Ant – work harder to solve your problems.

Cat – get detached from problems in order to fairly solve them.

Dog – be more loyal to friends and family.

Eagle – be sure to get more information before reacting

Horse – you need to be strong to move forward.

Owl – believe in yourself and the decisions that you make.

Rabbit – be alert.

Raccoon – be careful when deciding something of difficulty.

Snake – change is on its way.

Squirrel – don't be wasteful.

One of the biggest attractions of Beltane is:

__ H __ __ Y P __ __

Make a Maypole using a pencil, ribbon, and straight pin. See if you can use it like the real Maypole with a friend or parent.

References:

Beltane by Raven Grimassi
The Sabbats by Edain McCoy
Seasons of the Sun by Patricia Telesco

Young Pagans

By: TristÅ

Dream Diary

It is a good thing to keep a dream diary if you want to read your dreams. Keeping the diary can help in so many ways. What you put in it is up to you; however, a few ideas are listed below:

Have a diary section where you will write down the dreams you have. Remember the specific things and the things that stand out. Be sure to include notes of the day after entering your dream information.

Include a dictionary section where you write the things that stand out which have a specific meaning to you.

Example from a diary:

Monday May 5 –

Dream: I dreamed that I was moving into a very large house. I was attacked by monkeys.

Notes: I met a new girl today that moved to the neighborhood, she is a potential friend as we had a lot of fun talking. I saw a lot of red today.

Friday May 17 –

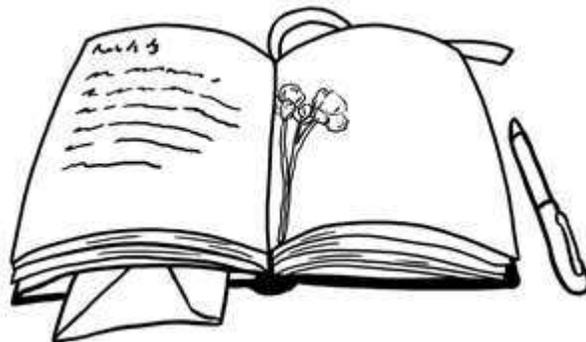
Dream: I dreamed that I was moving into a little house. Everything was sideways.

Notes: Today I met a new student in school. I smelled the scent of roses a lot today.

Since same things happen in the dream and notes so an entry into the dictionary is made.

Letter M:

Moving – when dreaming of moving usually means I will meet someone new.



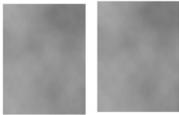
Young Pagans

By: TristÅ

Controlling Dreams

There is no way to totally control your dreams; however, there are things that people do to help themselves have the right kind of dream or ward off bad dreams. Most people are familiar with the dream catchers that aid good dreams by keep the bad dreams from coming to you. There are also things called dream pillows that help you have the kind of dream you want. Below are some directions for you to make your own. Because they use herbs in them, a small herbal dictionary is also included for your use with your own dream pillow.

Dream Pillows:



Cut two 7 x 7" squares of material of your choice. Pay special attention to the colors and check in your correspondence journal as to the color's meaning.

Place them together with the colored sides not showing. Then you need to hand sew around the edges getting all corners but leaving a place in the top to stuff it later.



Next, turn it inside out being sure that all the corners are out. You will then need to stuff it with fiber-fill or other stuffing material and a few teaspoons of chosen dried herbs to call certain dreams to you.

Lastly, you will whipstitch—or handsew-- the opening shut.



* You may wish to make several dream pillows that have different herbs in them to use at different times, but on a semi-regular basis.

Herbal Dictionary:

Calendula blooms = good health
Chamomile flowers = soothe & uplift
Lavender = peace
Mint leaves = prosperity
Rose petals = love
Rose geranium leaves = elegance & devotion

Nature's Connection

By: P. Nichols

Connecting with Nature is something all good Pagans should do. To help with this, a topic will be chosen each issue for you to read about, connect with, and add to your correspondence journal. If you have a suggestion about something you would like added simply e-mail P. Nichols at paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com

Apple Tree

Ogham: Quert, Q

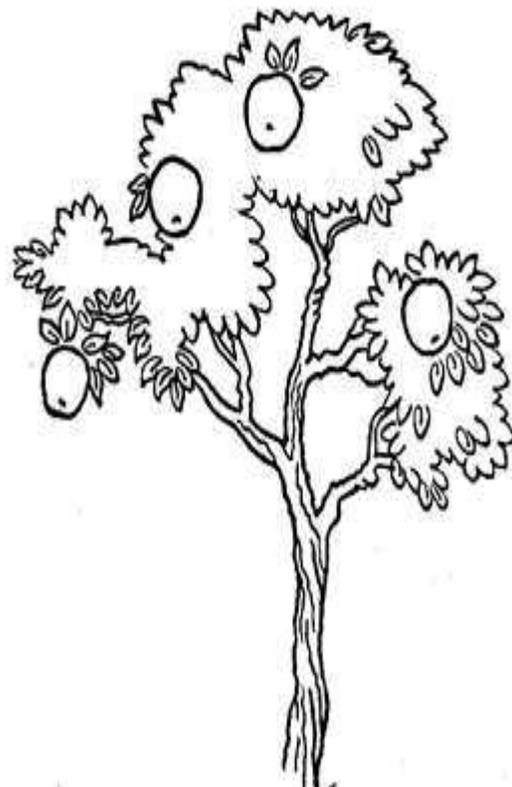
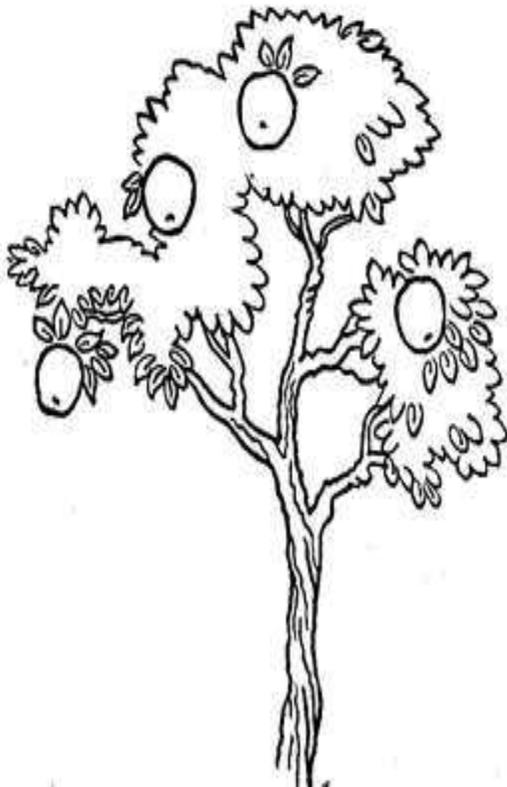
Rune: Perth

Energy: feminine

Apple trees are—believe it or not—a member of the rose family. They have oval green leaves with fuzzy, soft hair on the underside on separate stems. Apple trees can grow to nearly 12 meters (about 40 feet) depending on the variety. It blooms in the spring with clusters of pink-to-white five-petaled flowers. After pollination, the fruits (the apples), grow throughout the summer and reach maturity in late summer or early fall. There are 25 species and more than 7,500 known cultivars (types) of apple trees, each with a unique apple.

Speaking of unique apples, growing seeds from hybrid apples results in the original, wild apple tree and not the hybrid. To keep hybrid apples going, growers must graft branches of them onto the rootstock of wild trees. The Baldwin apple, for example, has been kept alive by grafting since its discovery in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1793.

Historically, the apple tree was viewed by the ancient Celts as an otherworld tree, leading to the realm of the fairies. For them the apple tree also symbolized the “World Tree,” around which the Universe revolved. This tree was so sacred that to chop it down or cause great harm to it was punishable by death. It shares the month of June with the Hazel tree and plays a part in Summer Solstice celebrations. Apple trees can also play host to the sacred plant (and also a plant-parasite, because it can not grow without a host), the mistletoe.



Nature's Connection

By: P. Nichols

Apple Tree

Ogham: Quert, Q

Rune: Perth

Energy: feminine

The ancient Celts considered the apple to be the most magical of all the fruits and also thought of the apple as symbolizing immortality. Furthermore, they used the apple in divinatory practices as a symbol of prophesies. At Samhain, during the time of the apple harvest, it plays a large part in the celebrations and rituals where they re-used in the game “bobbing for apples” and as offerings to the dead.

The wood of the apple tree is often used in smoking meats, carving, and making divining rods. Apple wood is also one of the nine sacred woods of the sabbat fire and, when used to make a wand, will aid opening the door to the fairy realm.

In China, apple blossoms symbolize feminine beauty and are a symbol of peace. The flowers can be added to homemade incense and used in teas. There are many apple blossom festivals around the USA; perhaps the biggest one is the 11-day festival in Wenatchee, Washington that has been running since 1920 and attracts around 100,000 people, annually.

To the ancient Greeks it symbolized life and wisdom. In Greek mythology, the Hesperides nymphs tend an apple tree that grows apples of immortality. Gaia, the Earth goddess, gave some of these apples to the goddess Hera as a wedding gift.

The Scandinavians believe that the Norse gods acquired their powers and eternal youth from the apples guarded by the goddess Idun.

Cut an apple horizontally and you'll find and you'll find a five sided star (a pentagram) inside. Apples are cut this way at Gypsy weddings and one half is given to the bride and the other half to the groom to eat. However in Transylvania, red apples are waved at brides during the wedding.

In the 1800's, Germans living in Lower Saxony would pour a baby's first bath water out onto the ground at the base of an apple tree to ensure the baby would have rosy cheeks like red apples.

Nowadays, in Austria, it is thought that a girl can learn about her future by cutting an apple in half on St. Thomas' night. If an even number of seeds is shown, she will marry soon. However, if she accidentally cuts a seed in half then she will have a troubled love life and may end up a widow.

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away”. Apples are said to help improve your mood and physical well-being. Apples are said to remove negative energies and bring forth positive feelings and inner peace. Shamans have used them throughout the ages to provide protection during their spiritual journeys. Vitamins and minerals in apples can help prevent fatigue and numerous maladies such as infections, high blood pressure, gout, rheumatism, and kidney diseases.

From the time of the ancient Greeks through the Middle Ages the term apple was applied to many yellow and red fruits such as that of the yew tree, quiches and even the pomegranate. For this reason, some of the tales of old that reference apples may not actually refer to true apples.

Quick facts:

- New York City is known as the “Big Apple”.
- The ancient Levantine people in the Middle East would not eat apples because they believed that spirits inhabited them.
- The Latin word for apple, *malum*, means “evil”.
- Apple trees were brought to North America by European colonists.
- China grows more than one-third of all the apples in the world.
- Wild apple trees often grow thorns.

Apples are great source of Potassium, iron, and vitamins A and E.

Divination Corner

By: Pandora

Here, you'll find a place where you can begin to learn more about various types of Divination. Currently, we're working with Tarot.

The next card we'll be looking at is also from the Major Arcana. Depending on the deck, the third card could be either: the Empress *or* the High Priestess, simply a difference in wording, but with the same intent. The archetype represented by the High Priestess is that of the strong, matriarchal, and even motherly figure.

DIRECT

This woman is the best type of leader: she is the kind that brings out and even encourages the best from those that she discovers follow her lead. She is not always in a particular leadership role, in terms of the reading, but aren't those the best kind of leaders? Those that lead without meaning to? She is typically fairly quiet in-nature, but she is undoubtedly the leader of the group, a mentor that others naturally gravitate towards; she inspires almost to the level of a Muse.

As this card may regard a situation, it sings only of positive things, even creative growth. There will be a seemingly endless abundance of creature comforts. And, in relationships, there will be a pregnancy of love and partnerships, as well as the literal kind. After all, you can't have a matriarch without a mother!

REVERSED

A creative block is abundantly clear; for instance, the writer's block I encountered while trying to figure out how to best describe this card and its meanings would be a perfect real life interpretation of its Reversed meaning. The block is entirely internal, as it even creates a sort of misery, in that you (or your recipient) are/will be viewing the creative self-worth via the lack of productivity. Projects are started—even if only titled (like this page, for over a week)—but left undone. Even the home feels more like a house, instead.

For situations, it can be a virtual or realistic roadblock to the task-at-hand. Even the home feels more like a house, instead. Relationships feel one-sided, whether for one or both partners. As the Direct meanings views the pregnancy of things, the Reverse meaning speaks to a possible unwanted or lost pregnancy of situations. This card could even speak to the sadness of poverty or financial challenges, if the current path remains unchanged.

As with all readings, it depends on the surrounding cards, in the Storyboard of the reading to truly clarify the full meaning. And, also with all readings, everything is changeable; well, that is, unless you are doing a reading for what you (or the recipient) is currently facing, in the present. In that case, relating to said path, this card represents where one is standing.

Just remember, if you stand in one place too long, you've actually moved backwards, as the rest of the world has progressed to move ahead. Yes, I know that's kind of a particularly deep concept, but it's the reality of things.

Teen Pagans

By: Pandora

Correspondences

The following is an intentionally random list of things, along with their correspondences, for you to copy into your Book of Shadows (Grimoire, Mirror/Shadow Book, etc). I suggest you'll likely want to put each of these on its own page, as you'll discover more to add, as time passes. Intentionally, these are all simply your starting point.

Amethyst: spirituality
Celestite: dreams, contact with higher self/spirits
ruby: strength
malachite: abundance
soladite: intuition
agates: calming
citrine: absorb negativity
black obsidian: deflect negativity
hematite: grounding
carnelian: memory aids
flourite: clumsiness
rose quartz: all types of love, not just romantic

Cinnamon: protection, abundance
orange: uplifting
rose: loving energies
willow: psychism
marigold/calendula: vision/view
peppermint: increase energy; cooling
elm: fairy magick
bergamot: protection
copper: Venus/Aphrodite energy/magick

Black: protection
Silver: goddess/Moon
Gold: god/Sun
purple: wisdom
red: fire; energy
pink: loving energies
white: protection; healing
green: prosperity; abundance
blue: peace
brown: grounding; stability
yellow: healing
orange: creativity

Middle Magick

By: Pandora

Hello, my lovelies! I've missed you! This issue we'll be going on a completely different tangent, than the past few issues. We won't be looking at altars or cleansing, or anything *particularly* magickal. Instead, we'll be looking at the *simply* magickal; the *mundanely* magickal, if you will.

Now, I am happily a Kitchen Wyitch; then again, you probably already knew that! That being said, it is one of the reasons this month's topic pressed on my mind to write to you about. I'll be discussing how something simple can be utterly magical, as well as magickal. Are you curious, yet? Good!

I'm pretty big on crafting; as a hobby and a lifeline. It has saved my sanity, on more than one occasion. Mind you, I'm not the world's most creative person, even if I do own a miniature craft store within the contents of my craft room. (I'm lucky enough to have one, though I'd be content with a corner) It's just that I breathe a creative life into the crafts that I do create.

Wait a minute! Didn't I just find a fancy way of saying it's all in the intent??? Yes! And that was the point, too. After all, isn't Magick and Spellwork mostly all about the intent?? It's the same thing, when I craft meals, too; it's with magickal intent that I use the ingredients that I do!

How am I going to incorporate that into something you can do? The easy answer is to tell you to keep reading, my dears. We will discuss making a Motivation board. (You can also use this technique to make a Meditation board, but we'll call it a Motivation board, for simplicity) In reality, you'll be crafting it with the INTENTION of manifestation. If you think this sounds eerily like casting a spell, then you've been paying attention, and I'm proud of you!

Truthfully, if you seriously think about it, when you have a goal and you do all the tasks that will put you towards attaining your goal, that's "mundane magick". For instance, you have a cross-country meet that you really want to place well in; you can't show up on race day and just wish it into existence. You need to train well, and eat properly, and keep your grades up; and, the Gods willing, run faster than most of your competitors. By doing all of those things, even though they seem particularly *un*-magickal, you are putting all of your intention into placing well in that race. You build the energy with the energy you expend into the preparation as well as the performance you put forth; again, you have to prove to the universal forces that you truly want it; just keep in mind, it's also a matter of perspective: you think finishing in the top 3 is the end-result you're looking for, when you finished 15th in the last race. Placing in the top 10 finishers is an awesome possible result! Don't expect amazing, instant results. That's not to say they can't, but remember there's always room for a different perspective.

That being said, this is where we begin. I like to call this the "Crafty Li'l Wyitch" phase. You can use a corkboard, a shadow-box and/or any other variety of ways to display this. Tape, ribbons, thumbtacks, staples, glue: these will be your fixatives; just make sure they won't damage anything. Your creativity is the limit! Use magazines, pictures (again, making sure they won't be damaged), herbs, stones: anything that embodies what you're motivating yourself towards (or need to meditate and focus on). Arrange it in any way that pleases you; it doesn't matter if someone else doesn't like it, as long as it's not offensive or uses another's personal belongings without their permission, etc. After all, this is *your motivation* and not their motivation. (Even if you're incorporating Kali into your motivation, destruction is not an option ;)) It can be abstract, if you'd like, but it needs to give you clear focus whenever you look at it.

And now for the overtly magickal aspects of this task. Remember to smudge/cleanse your Motivation Board, when it's completed, and even if it will be a continual work-in-progress. Keep in mind, if that is your choice, do not add so much to it that it becomes visually cluttered, as your focus will be, too.

Next, place it in the moonlight, to charge it. Be cognisant of the cycle of moon you will be placing it in: waxing, waning, new or full. With that in mind, Full Moons are a great "Bring it to fruition" charging device, similar to the way that white candles are a good 'covers any need' candle.

And, the next step is to put it where you'll look on it daily, until it comes to fruition or no longer serves a purpose/need. When that happens, dismantle the Motivation Board, as best you can, using the same methods to clean and cleanse your area, as in our last 'chat'. Bury any herbs you used, as a gift back to Mother Nature.

I hope you enjoy making this, as much as I enjoyed sharing the idea. Stay well, my lovelies. Get Witchily Crafty!

~Pandora

Pagan Resources

There are many Pagan resources for kids, however, they seem to be hard to find. Below is a small list of the ones we found for you to check out. If you know of others or want your own listed here feel free to email us!

PaganMoonbeams@yahoo.com



W. Lyon Martin

artist • writer • storyteller • presenter



roots & shoots



Grey School
of
Wizardry



Meagan Stories



intelligent info for today's pagan kids...and it's free!

PAGAN KIDS!
GUIDES



ANCIENT LIGHT

Challenge for the mind, fun for the hands, joy for the soul

Pagan Parent

By: TristÅ

Introducing Magick to Kids

There is often a concern as to when and how to introduce children to magick. It is very difficult to show them that the real world of magick is nothing like that of storybook or stage magic.

The best way to do this is to start at a young age, when other forms of magic are introduced. For a child to learn that one word can mean different things does not take too much effort. For a teenager, showing the different forms of magic and magick comes up with adding a 'k' at the end and showing the definition to be the key in the differences.

But what about those of us that fall somewhere in between these stages and the main definition to the word is comprised of the tricks of stage magic and the mystical magic of fairytales? Things get a little tricky and confusing, at this point. To explain that stage magic is merely tricks for the eye, that are done well, is pretty straight-forward and easy to separate from magick. The difficult part then lies with the difference of storytale, unrealistic magic and real world magick that is done by nearly all Pagans. Explaining it is fairly easy and your child can memorize the differences in them fairly easily; however, to still believe in the fairytale magic is a different kind of feat. For my children, I changed the word from magick to fate but you could make it fit your path fairly easily.

Having your child introduced to a simple spell, every now and then, especially ones that do not take long to come to light, is a positive thing. By participating in these (or even watching) they will see the 'glamour' of the spell and, when it finally comes to light they will understand the difference. Your wording needs to accompany the action; however, the meaning will probably not be as enforced as it will be when the actions take place. Together, they will show and explain it more effectively to your child.

Remember you want your child's first taste of magick to be with you, not with a group of kids that know nothing of what they are doing. The more you explain and allow them to participate with you, the more they will truly know and they will not be likely to join in the 'wrong' kind or way magick is done in today's world.

Help Us

We are continually bringing content to both you and your child and love doing so. We would appreciate it if you could drop us a line: paganmoonbeams@yahoo.com and let us know what you would like discussed, introduced, or added to our regular content. Keeping things lively and interesting is our goal and we would sure love your help in getting to it.

Thanks in advance!

Pagan Parent

By: Pandora

Signs & Symbolism

This issue, I felt it appropriate to discuss what has been overwhelmingly on my mind, as of late. But, before we delve into that, I think I should give you a little bit of back-story:

I am a Reiki Master, and fairly regularly host Reiki Shares for some local Reiki Practitioners and Masters; this helps us re-balance ourselves, as well as each other. It also gives us an outlet for professional discussions that can be spoken in blunt words. We can also share new and interesting experiences, as well as just our viewpoints.

Anyway, I hosted one such Reiki Share, just recently, that had a very curious happening. And it didn't just happen once! Well, first, let's get to what happened. I was the first to receive (Reiki Shares are where we each take turns receiving the Reiki energy from the others). During the session, one of the Reiki Masters mentioned that I set of keys I keep on the back of the door were swinging, ever-so-slightly. As there is no direct airflow in the room, we became even more aware of the fact that my house is home to many spirits, not that they ever truly let us forget. I even looked, and saw the keys moving, as if 'someone' had lightly bumped the door.

After my receiving session, it was my turn to "give". I tend to work with my eyes closed, with a few exceptions. For me, it helps me to see with my third eye and intuition. For no particular reason, I was struck with the notion that I should open my eyes, and looked directly at the again-swinging keys. After glancing around the room to ensure it was not my cat who had caused this, I mentioned this to the Master that was now receiving the Reiki energy. It was

blatant, and couldn't be passed off with a more mundane or scientific reasoning.

The funny thing about these keys? They fit no lock in my house. They are rather large, and ornate and hang on their own iron ring. I have a 'thing' for keys, in general, and when I saw these keys in the store, I was immediately struck with the thought that this single set of keys available for sale was a sign. One that I needed to keep with me, although my intuition wasn't telling the secret of 'why', just yet. As it turns out, they were listed in the store's inventory as Hecate's keys. At the time, it seemed perfectly normal that I'd pick up some of the Great, Dark Goddess' keys. At home, they immediately became a permanent and natural fixture on the back of the doorknob in my Reiki/Meditation room.

I thought about them not one bit, as a particular focus of attention, after each of these instances. But why mention this, at all? Because the day after my Reiki Share, when I reached down to pick up a book, from the floor; it wasn't until I saw the cover that I started reading into the signs I had been all-but-slapped with: a book on Hecate, with a large portion devoted to her various guises and—you guessed it!—her keys!

Obviously, the Goddess had stopped by! Interestingly, she made herself known to more than just myself. The swing of the keys, when I think about it as I type, was reminiscent of someone holding out keys and swinging them (albeit in a more mild, almost 'sneaky' velocity), as if to say, "They're right here, in front of you. Come get the keys (logically, to open to door to the next adventure of my future)!" And, amazingly, I had the keys all along!

Anybody who's watched *The Sound of Music* has heard the line, "When God closes a door, *somewhere* He opens a window." Sometimes, you just need to *see* (not necessarily find) the key. Keys represent the finding of a solution to an obstacle. Unlocking your potential. A new pathway presenting itself.

Keys mean this, and so much more! Remember to keep your eyes open for the answer, because it may already have presented itself, just not ostentatiously; in Life, keys are small and simple, yet they possess so much raw power. They make the impassible, passible; the impossible becomes possible.

When you see a key, remember they are a sign. Remember what they symbolize, because *you* may carry the key that someone else needs!

Pagan Parent

By: TristÅ

Book Review

Title: The Pagan Family: Handing the Old Ways Down

Author: Ceisiwr Serith

Pages: 211

Printed: 1994

You will find the book packed full of information and ideas to pull together the Pagan family. Each chapter is well-written and does not contain any repeats like many Pagan books seem to do. Many ideas for incorporating or carrying on of Pagan traditions in the modern-day family are included. There are many ritual and prayers included for you to use or as a guideline to aid you in writing your own. When crafts are mentioned, the book goes into detail and offers photos to help you in complete them. My favorite part of the book is the birthday section because it offers games as well as decorating ideas for a Pagan children's party. The children section offers a lot of unique information that can be used on children of all ages. Every stage of life is covered in detail and offers more than one way to celebrate them. All spokes of the wheel are covered, rather quickly, in the book. The times of the moon section covers different ways to celebrate all stages of the moon with your family, especially the kids. In the back of the book the appendix covers: protective symbols, offering ideas, and color associations.

Overall I would consider this a great addition to your family Pagan library--even though it may be considered an older book--because it is still a good find for today's world.

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