

Circle Casting Basics.

Part One...Getting Started

I love holding a circle casting with my fellow pagan followers. For me as well as those who join me, the rituals are energising, calming and healing.

If you are new to circle casting I hope this guide will help. I have written some of the questions I am asked with my answers to help you to really understand what is required and also what is not required; what is needed and what is not needed but most of all what it is that YOU want to get out of circle casting.

There are many ways to set and call a circle. In my practice there are no set rules but there are a few rituals to follow to make life easier for the caster and to make sense to the participants. You may follow one, or all of mine and when you feel confident, make them your own with your personal rituals and choice of settings and rites. Every practitioner is different and all of us follow different paths, sometimes a slightly different path and others a vastly different path. Remember this only.....

DO YEA NONE HARM, DO AS YOU WILL

Remember I have developed my castings over many years, sometimes by trial and error (yes I made mistakes) and sometimes from very simple roots.

Questions I have been asked

As stated before I am often asked questions regarding circle casting and all are relevant. There is no such thing as a silly question. The fact that a question is asked shows a real wish to do right, to learn and do good.

1. 'Do you need to cast a circle every time you perform a spell or ritual?'

Depending upon who you ask and which books you look into, the answer is different. Some people say that you need to cast a new circle each time you follow any ritual. In my opinion if you already have a sacred space be it a small altar on a windowsill or a table in a corner and this is your sacred space then the answer is no. If you are holding a circle casting with other followers then it is wise to create a new circle and invite these fellow witches into the circle.

2. 'Do I need special instruments and oils?'

The answer is simple. No, but you can if it is important to you. I love using clary sage, incense and oil burners just because I love the aromas. I make my own oils and herbal tisanes to my own taste and needs.

There are many items which can be used such as a celebratory wand, athame or dagger, a censer, crystals, a bell and so on but none of these are necessary for a simple casting. They can however help with any ritual as each item can bring the comfort of familiarity.

3. 'Do I need special clothing?'

Yes and No. You can wear whatever you like, or nothing at all. (ouch in my case....if you dare). Think about churches and any religious ceremony. Does it matter if the celebrant dresses in green or white, wears black or blue? It does not detract from the ceremony itself but it does add a certain nuance to the effect. Do I dress up myself?. Ha.... easy answer, I have several pagan style outfits, dresses, tops and skirts, and I love to wear them at pagan events. Whatever suits you and whatever you feel comfortable in. For instance I would not feel comfortable going into a supermarket in a long flowing gown, carrying an athame. In fact I might get arrested.

Tip.....Colour magic. Wear clothing according to the key colours of the wheel of the year.

4. 'Do I need to buy different coloured candles?'



Candles are important as they can assist in the focus of each ritual. It is up to what you feel as to the colour and significance. My candlesticks are what is important to me. I have a silver candle stick for Earth and North which is decorated with vines. For East and Air, a tall candlestick reaching up to the heavens. For Fiery South a winged Phoenix and for Watery West a blue and white candle stick which reminds me of a wave.

5. 'Do I need to chant special words?'

No not necessarily but sometimes special words said aloud include all the participants so they feel a full member of the casting. On your own again it is entirely up to you.

6. 'Does it matter if I get it wrong?'

No, it doesn't as long as you are careful. The universe is very forgiving and it is not a doctrine class where you have to get each word exactly correct and in the right order as long as you act with good intent. If you become flustered or forget what you are about to say, just speak out to your goddess and ask her for guidance. It will come. The deities do have a sense of humour and want to guide you whenever you ask. That is what they are there for.

7. 'Do I have to be very specific with my spell work?'

In your circle or even non circle you can perform whatever spell or act of worship, complex or simple, you wish so long as you remember what you give our returns three fold. You do however need to make sure you close the circle down after you have completed your ritual or spellwork and ground yourself afterwards. It is advisable for grounding that have a drink and a bite to eat. (always in my case ritual or not)

Remember this.....You don't **NEED** to do anything you are not comfortable with however in each kind of ritual there are certain patterns which make it easy for you and the others to follow.

Planning is vital to make sure you remember everything you want to do in your ritual and that you have all you want to include, to hand. Nothing is worse than forgetting a vital ingredient and then having to hunt for it, thereby breaking your concentration. My best advise is to write it all down and then practice on your own.

Blessed Be.

Coming soon

Part Two

Planning and preparing for the casting

Part Three

Calling the circle and grounding

Part Four

Rituals affirmations and spellwork