

Wise Words from The Old Crone

Altars

An Altar is a mainstay of Pagan worship. It is a place of focus where we can visualise and anchor our intentions and wishes for spiritual fulfilment and enlightenment. It can be a magnet for positive and creative energies.

Personal Altars, often, but not always, reflect our own desires and beliefs. They are often based around the four elements which gives them a framework. You can of course include anything meaningful to you such as personal artefacts or seasonal items.

An altar does not have to be large or laden with symbolism. It can be kept in a small box to be taken out when desired, kept on a window ledge, a shelf or a small table. It can be as simple as a candle, a crystal and a bowl of flowers or a plant. It is an area in a room or garden for reflection and meditation as well as ritual practice and spell work.

Most people have just one altar but you can have several as I do. I also move items around as I feel they sometimes need to be. My main altar is a full on, bung it all on, altar on a wide window sill, dominated by a huge amethyst geode cave, alongside candles, candle holders, crystals, Gods and Goddesses, seasonal items and all sorts of things which are meaningful to me. Wands, my Athame, incense, feathers, chalices and loads of other 'junk'. Yes really, even dragons, wizards and witches, a metal spiders web with crystal cabochons and a stained glass type sticker of an angel along with a picture of Glastonbury Tor stuck on the window. I have four black, painted canvases of Goddesses, two painted by Fairy Bec, of Air and Water and two painted by me, of Fire and Earth. (lots of sparkle and shine on them).

These are all things I have collected or made over many years. At certain seasons I add live flowers, holly, oak leaves, roses and anything I feel like which will make my altar come alive. I am sure I have forgotten something. My main altar is a bit like my life.....there's a lot going on!

For ritual practice I choose the items most useful and seasonal for my circle casting and usually place these in the centre of my dining table so my

'Circle' can all sit around in comfort, or as more recently on Zoom, easily shared. I choose a cloth which reflects the season and although I love white candles, at Samhain I always use orange or purple candles just because I like them and at Yule I prefer gold or red. Choosing a few items for a ritual altar, for me, makes it more practical and workable.

I also have a small altar by my laptop in my home office. Crystals, fairies and a candle. It was with hope that I would concentrate more as I am so easily distracted. Maybe that is why I also have a tiny glass Christmas tree with baubles there as well. (Hmmm!)

In my bedroom I have a small Buddha, a tiny Ganesh and a minute fimo witch alongside a photo and a crystal.

On a further window sill, a cup and saucer topped with a photo of my mother, an inspiration to me, two found crystals and a gifted feather. I have recently created a mediation space in my garden with a three panel wooden depiction of a Buddha, draped with solar powered star shaped lights and flanked by trailing fuchsias.

I keep all my divination tools separate on a bookshelf in my bedroom. I am not sure why as there is no real reason, its just what I do, unless I want to bless and consecrate them. Then they are brought down to my dining table altar when I perform a ceremony.

Creating altars with items of personal note and memories, reminds us of all the good which surrounds us and can assist us in our Pagan worship, to find peace and calm and most of all hold positive energies for us to tap into.

I hope this will inspire you to make more of your altars and ensure they are a useful and integral part of your Pagan practice.

Blessed Be

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