MAGICKAL ASTROLOGY

Use the Power of the Planets to Create an Enchanted Life

SKYE ALEXANDER

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INTRODUCTION

Studying astrology can bring the higher perceptions that life requires.

—Robert Hand

We live in a magickal universe of unlimited potential, a universe comprised of seen and unseen, physical and nonphysical worlds. Most of the time we are only aware of the physical realm—and only a small part of that. Our vision is limited; so is our ability to shape our destinies. These worlds are infinitely complex, yet with the right tools and understanding we can navigate them gracefully. With the knowledge of astrology and magick, we can erase the barriers that normally restrict us and walk between the worlds. We can expand our perception to understand our place in the cosmos. We can transcend time and look into the past and the future. Most importantly, we can create the lives we want for ourselves and help others to do the same.

No one knows how long humans have been using astrology and magick. Archaeologists have found Egyptian star charts dating back to 4200 BCE, although some studies suggest that our ancestors tracked lunar cycles as early as 32,000 years ago. Magickal practices are described in ancient texts and abound in the ageless myths of every culture. My guess is that this wisdom has always been with us and we are just beginning to remove the shroud of fear and superstition that has kept it hidden for millennia.

The Interweaving of Astrology and Magick

Astrology and magick serve as links between universal forces and earthly experience. Like myth, meditation, and music, they provide windows through which we can glimpse the Divine and see its hand shaping the manifest world.

St. Thomas Aquinas believed that "the celestial bodies are the cause of all that takes place in the sublunar world." Astrological forces exert a profound influence on the everyday impulses and activities of humans as well as the functioning of the natural world. Not surprisingly, magick, which utilizes the energies of the heavens, nature, and the human psyche, has woven astrology into its fabric.

Many schools of thought exist in both astrology and magick. None is "right" or "wrong"—all are valid. They all "work." Astrology and magick do not endorse nor reject any spiritual path, although some schools of thought have roots in specific cultural and/or religious traditions. The astrologers and magicians I know believe that all quests for truth lead to the same end. Although the first path you take may not be the one you continue on, as you learn more and put your knowledge into practice, you'll naturally gravitate toward the path that's most appropriate for you.

In the past, due largely to fear of persecution, access to secret societies and teachings was restricted. Today, occult knowledge is widely available in bookstores and online, enabling seekers to study astrology and magick and to pursue their own paths, solo or with a group of like-minded individuals. Online sites now make ancient texts available to those who wish to peruse them. We have greater opportunities for study and the

exchange of ideas today than ever before. I urge you to experiment. Read all you can. Allow yourself to be led by your inner knowing.

The astrological information contained in this book is of the contemporary Western tropical variety. This does not mean I discount Chinese or Vedic or heliocentric astrology, only that I am a contemporary Western practitioner who, after more than four decades of work, finds this system to be the most effective for my purposes. Most of the magickal information I've included follows Wiccan and Neo-Pagan traditions because these are harmonious with my Celtic heritage, my feminist leanings, my Aquarian dislike of rigid hierarchy, and my love of nature. But I also use feng shui extensively, along with some Eastern yogic practices, some Native American wisdom teachings, and a few Golden Dawn–style rituals. I share with you what works for me and encourage you to use what you like, reject what you don't, alter it, expand upon it, put your own individual stamp on it.

What Is Magick?

In essence, magick is the process of consciously creating circumstances by manipulating energy. From the magician's point of view, there's no such thing as luck—we make our own "luck." Witchcraft, ceremonial or ritual magick, shamanism, ecstatic sex, and feng shui are all types of magick, and there are many others. Despite differences in their outer forms, all have one thing in common: they focus the magician's intent, strengthening his or her ability to direct natural energies in order to produce a desired effect. Will is the power behind magick—magick is willed action. Aleister Crowley, one of the most famous magicians in the modern era, said, "Every intentional act is a Magical Act."

Magicians are aware of the subtle energies that exist all around us and have learned to consciously tap these energies for specific purposes. They don't just perform a ritual or spell now and again; they are in constant contact with the forces of the cosmos and try to live in harmony with those forces. As Donald Michael Kraig explains in his book *Modern Magick*, "Magick is not something you do, magick is something you are."

To Believe, or Not to Believe

One of the first questions people ask when they learn that I'm an astrologer is, "Do you really believe in that stuff?" No, I explain. Belief requires faith in something you can't necessarily justify with actual data and predictable results, such as belief in a Divine Power. Astrology's validity has been demonstrated in countless ways for many centuries. I've witnessed its validity time and again in my own life and the lives of hundreds of other people.

Of course, most people's knowledge of astrology does not extend beyond the superficial horoscopes they read online—they're just for fun, the astrological equivalent of fortune cookies. Real astrology is a complex art and science, and proficiency requires many years of study, application, and a certain innate aptitude. Marc Edmund Jones, one of the great practitioners of the modern era, once remarked that he'd studied astrology for fifty years and barely scratched the surface.

If humans weren't such unique and intricate creatures, astrology might prove even more accurate. Free will—the choices we make based on our individual levels of awareness—affects how we respond to and utilize cosmic energies, which makes it tricky for astrologers to predict events with

absolute certainty. Still, people generally respond in calculable ways to planetary influences, and the more we understand about these influences, the more control we have over our lives. As astrologers are fond of saying, the stars don't compel, they impel.

Although modern Western astrology is most often utilized as a tool for gaining personal insight—much like psychology—it's also used to predict earthquakes and weather patterns, to gauge trends in the stock market, to prevent injuries in the workplace, to diagnose and treat illnesses, to solve crimes, and more. Its applications are probably limited only by our imagination.

Conversely, when I tell people I practice magick, they rarely express skepticism. Everyone, so it seems, believes in magick—and many fear it. We've been taught to think of magick as something evil and dangerous, and magicians as malicious creatures who put curses on people they don't like. Even at the time of this writing (2018), Merriam-Webster erroneously defines "witch" as "one that is credited with usually malignant supernatural powers*; especially* a woman practicing usually black witchcraft often with the aid of a devil or familiar." This definition does not present an accurate understanding of witchcraft or reflect changing perceptions about witches.

True, magick can be dangerous if misused. But so can cars and electricity. I have a healthy respect for magick, just as I do for the ocean, and recommend that you not stray beyond a depth that is comfortable for you in either case.

You'll See It When You Believe It

It's important to understand that our ideas influence events. The Buddha taught "we are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world." More recently, quantum physics has demonstrated that the observer influences the observed. This is one of the premises on which the practice of magick is based—you can, and do, create your reality.

In *The Magician's Companion,* Bill Whitcomb writes, "You cannot observe a phenomenon without altering it by your mode of perception. There is no such thing as an independent observer. You participate in creating the world by perceiving it." Esther and Jerry Hicks have popularized this idea in their books about the Law of Attraction. I tend to agree with Vladimir Nabokov's opinion that "the word, 'reality,' must always be used with quotations." Absolute truth may exist, but it is unknowable to humans. Like blind men describing an elephant, we filter our understanding of reality through our limited perspectives, social conditioning, and individual worldviews.

On the other hand, refusing to believe the possibility of something's existence can inhibit your ability to see or experience it—though it will not negate its existence or validity. This is particularly true when working in the unseen worlds and with subtle energies, where the rules aren't the same as in ordinary, material existence.

An open mind is the only prerequisite to studying astrology and magick. If you deny the basic tenets of astrology and magick—that all things are connected, that there are many levels of existence and intelligence beyond what we can perceive with our physical senses, and that

our thoughts can and do affect situations—you're unlikely to make much progress and may end up "proving" to yourself that these things are indeed hokum. Of course, if you weren't already open to these ideas you probably wouldn't be reading this book!

CHAPTER 2

YOUR BIRTH CHART: YOUR CONNECTION TO THE COSMOS

We are born at a given moment, in a given place and, like vintage years of wine, we have the qualities of the year and of the season of which we are born.

—Carl Gustav Jung

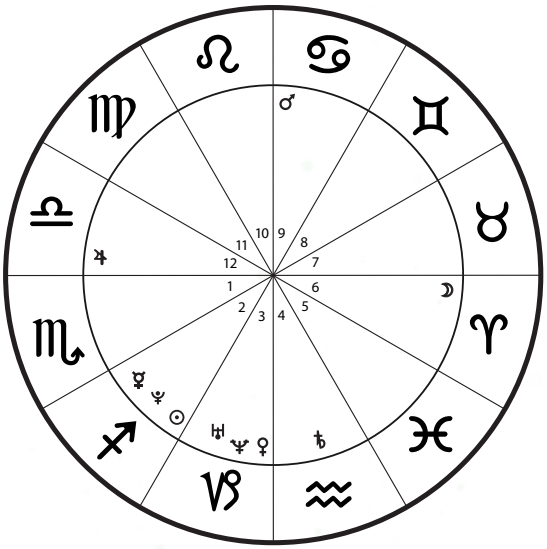
We see the concept of "as above, so below" expressed best in the birth chart or natal horoscope. Your birth chart is a two-dimensional picture of the heavens as seen from earth at the time and place you were born. It shows the positions of the sun, moon, planets, and other bodies in the sky as well as their relationships to one another. Each factor in the chart means something to an astrologer—and each factor influences you in myriad ways.

You can cast a birth chart for a business, city, country, event, or just about anything. The same general rules apply. Let's say, for example, you want to do a chart for the start of a business. An astrologer would calculate the chart based on when and where you launch the business. The chart will describe the characteristics inherent in the business, its strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and potentials.

The natural zodiac, showing the signs in their natural houses, and natural planetary rulerships

Although numerous types of astrology exist, for the purposes of this book we'll use conventional geocentric (earth-centered) Western astrology. Because we are concerned with how the heavenly bodies affect life on earth, geocentric astrology views earth as the center. The other members of our solar system are interpreted according to how they appear from our vantage point here on earth.

In this book, we'll consider how the heavenly bodies affect you, how they connect to the natural world, and how observing their movements—in relationship to your chart and to earth—can reveal the future. We'll also look at how you can tap astrological energies in magick work. Understanding your own birth chart as well as the correspondences between planetary energies and symbols, plants, and crystals and gemstones will help you perform magick more successfully.



A sample birthchart. Depending on the time and place of your birth, the signs shift into different houses, the planets fall into different signs and houses. Where the sun lands determines your "sun sign." The chart shows the sun in Sagittarius.

Astrology is an ancient, vast, and complex field that's far too extensive to cover in any single book. For those of you who are not already familiar with astrology, the basics provided here will help you begin working with celestial energies to better understand yourself and your place in the cosmos. First, however, you'll need to have your birth chart cast by an astrologer or via a website or app. You'll find plenty of online sites that can erect a chart for you. Better yet, schedule a personal reading with a professional astrologer.

The Planets

The planets make things happen in a chart. Planets provide the energy, the impetus, the action in a chart. You could think of the planets as actors on a stage, carrying out the drama of life.

For convenience, astrologers often refer to the sun and moon as "planets" even though we know they are not. We also speak of the sun's "movement" through the birth chart, although the sun, of course, does not actually move. I discuss the celestial bodies and their energies more fully in Chapters 6 and 7, so I'll only give some keywords here:

Sun:	☉	Identity, self-expression, conscious personality, your role in the present lifetime
Moon:	☽	Emotions, the subconscious, home and family matters, the past
Mercury:	☿	Communication, mental orientation, short trips
Venus:	♀	Relationships, love, creativity, money, women
Mars:	♂	Assertiveness, action, physical energy, desires, men
Jupiter:	♃	Expansion, good luck, long-distance travel, higher knowledge
Saturn:	♄	Limitation, responsibility, work, stability, tests/ challenges
Uranus:	♅	Change, unexpected events, anything unconventional
Neptune:	♆	Spirituality, illusion, imagination, dissolution, sacrifice
Pluto:	♇	Transformation, power, obsession, fears

The Houses

The twelve houses in a chart represent areas of life experience—where the action takes place. You could think of the houses as the stages on which the planets perform. The planet(s) and sign(s) positioned in a house show what sort of energy is focused into a particular area of your life and how you express the issues associated with that house.

Look at your own chart, or the illustration shown on page 00, and you'll notice the circle is divided into twelve wedges, like slices of pizza. Each of these sectors is known as a "house." The twelve houses are arranged and read counterclockwise—the first house begins at the nine o'clock position.

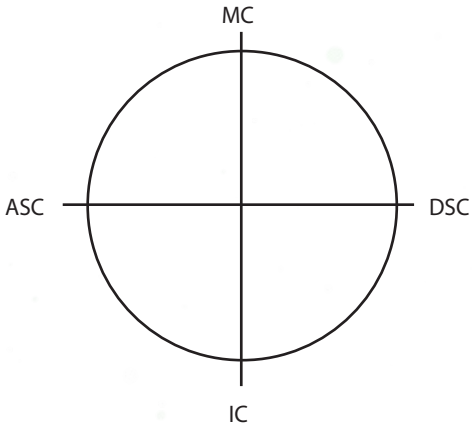
Astrological charts can be drawn in various ways. Usually the houses are not equal in size; however, they may be depicted as equal for convenience, as in the illustration above. Some astrologers prefer chart images that show the houses according to their actual proportions, so that some sectors are larger than others.

A house that contains many planets (such as houses 2 and 3 in our example) is an area of life that's important to you, where a lot of action is likely to occur. If you have Venus, Mars, and Jupiter in the fifth house, for example, you may have many love affairs and/or be very creative. An empty or "void" house does not mean a part of your life is missing; rather, it suggests that things related to that house may not be of central importance to you in this lifetime. A void seventh house doesn't mean you'll never marry—only that marriage isn't necessarily a primary focus for your development in this incarnation.

Brief descriptions of the areas of life associated with each house are included below to help you understand your own chart. You'll find many books that examine the houses in detail. Dane Rudhyar's *The Astrological Houses* and Robert Hand's *Horoscope Symbols*, for example, offer valuable insights into these sectors of the birth chart.

First house:	Physical appearance, personality, the image you project, how you appear to other people initially
Second house:	Material/financial resources, talents and abilities with which you can earn money, values, sexuality
Third house:	Relationships with siblings and neighbors, communication, early education, your near environment
Fourth house:	Your sense of security, early childhood, heritage, relationships with parents, home and family matters
Fifth house:	Self-expression, creativity, children, love affairs, entertainment, where you invest your love
Sixth house:	Work, service, work relationships, health especially as it relates to work
Seventh house:	Marriage or significant romantic relationships, business partnerships, counselors, other contractual one-to-one relationships
Eighth house:	A partner's resources, other people's money (such as loans or inheritances), occult knowledge, death and rebirth
Ninth house:	Higher education, religion/spirituality, long-distance travel, publishing/widespread communication, foreign cultures
Tenth house:	Public image, career, social position/status
Eleventh house:	Group activities, professional organizations, goals and objectives, friends, things that encourage and validate you
Twelfth house:	The subconscious, latent talents, secrets, endings, unacknowledged parts of yourself, hidden enemies, self-undoing

Angles



Look at your chart again (or the illustration here). The lines that separate the individual houses are called "cusps." The four most significant are known as the ascendant (the cusp of the first house), the imum colei (the cusp of the fourth house), the descendant (the cusp of the seventh house), and the midheaven (the cusp of the tenth house). These partition the chart into quadrants:

Ascendant (ASC): Self

Imum colei (IM): Inner/personal life

Descendant (DSC): Significant others

Midheaven (MC): Outer/public life

Does your chart show the sun, moon, or any planets very close to one of these angles? (In our birthchart example, Mars, Jupiter, Venus, and the moon sit on the MC, ASC, IC and DSC respecively.) If so, that heavenly body will have particular significance for you with regard to the area(s) of life described by the angle(s). In predictive astrology, these angles are important, too—when a planet or other heavenly body contacts one of them you'll experience pronounced effects in the areas related to the angle.

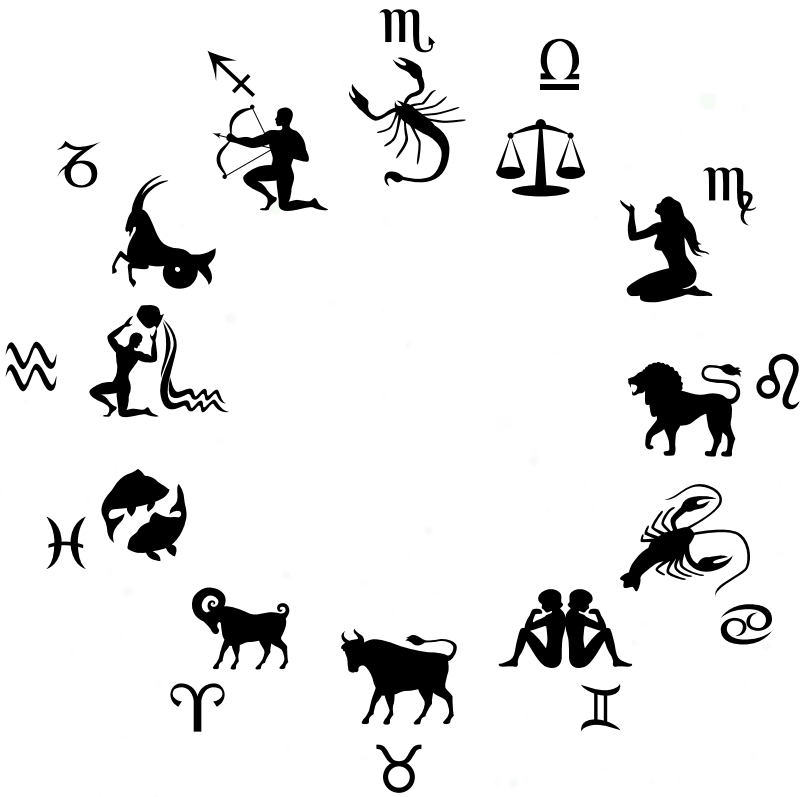
THE GAUQUELIN STUDIES

One of the most comprehensive studies of astrology's accuracy was conducted in the 1950s by two French statisticians, Michel Gauquelin and his wife, Françoise. These researchers erected and analyzed 27,000 birth charts—by hand, before computer calculations were possible—to see if there was any correlation between people's careers and the astrological factors in their birth charts. The Gauquelins discovered, much to their surprise, that the positions of certain planets did indeed have a strong impact on vocational choices. Mars, for example, turned up with regularity in a particular segment (now known as a Gauquelin sector) in the birth charts of soldiers even though the statistical probability of chance was one in a million, and in the charts of professional athletes when the probability of chance was one in 5 million. (See *The Gauquelin Book of American Charts* and *Cosmic Influences on Human Behavior* by Dr. Michel Gauquelin to learn more about their research and findings.)

The Signs

You're probably familiar with your sun sign. When someone asks "What's your sign?" he or she is asking which of the twelve signs of the zodiac the sun was positioned in at the time of your birth. Signs color the energies and actions of the planets—you could think of them as the costumes the actors wear as they enact the drama of life.

Zodiac means "circle of animals." In Western astrology, animal symbols correspond to eight of the twelve signs. Chinese astrology also uses animal symbolism, although the two systems are different.



The signs are represented by a band of constellations of fixed stars through which the sun, moon, and planets appear to move when we look at them from earth. Thus, the zodiac provides a backdrop for the heavenly bodies. At one time, the actual constellations lined up with the signs by the same names. However, this is no longer true due to a "wobble" in the earth's motion, which each year shifts the relationship between earth and the sun's position in the zodiac very slightly. The result is that the earth gradually slips backward against the backdrop of the stars, and the zodiac

belt appears to be advancing or preceding us. This is known as the precession of the zodiac.

Skeptics sometimes use this point in an attempt to discredit astrology's validity, but most Western astrologers find that this shift does not really alter the meanings of the signs. If your birth chart shows your sun in 10 degrees of Aries, for instance, you'll behave like an Aries, even though the sun is actually in the constellation Pisces.

Chapter 8 contains more information about the signs. Throughout this book we'll talk about the links between the zodiac signs and life on earth. We'll also examine ways to draw upon the energy of the signs in magick work.

Planetary Aspects

Astrologers call the angular relationships between planets or between planets and sensitive points in an astrological chart "aspects." Think of them as energetic connections. When two or more heavenly bodies are in aspect to one another, they influence each other's expression. The closer the aspect is to "exact"—meaning in the same degree of a sign—the stronger the relationship between the planets involved. A birth chart that contains many planetary aspects indicates an individual with a complex personality.

Aspects may exist at the time of your birth—in which case they'll influence you throughout your entire lifetime. Aspects also are formed temporarily during a transit, when a planet's orbital motion brings it into a position that forms a connection to one or more planets or sensitive points in your birth chart. When a transiting planet "hits" one of your natal planets, it stimulates action, emotions, and events.

In a birth chart, the aspects are often shown by colored lines connecting the planets involved, such as red for squares and oppositions, and green or blue for trines and sextiles. Following are the most important aspects:

☌	Conjunction: Two or more bodies positioned within about 7 degrees of each other in the chart. This is generally considered to be the strongest aspect and it may be favorable or difficult, depending on the planets involved. Conjunct (or conjoined) planets operate in tandem.
⚹	Sextile: Two or more planets positioned approximately 53 to 67 degrees apart. This is a harmonious aspect, and the planets involved support each other's expression.
□	Square: Two or more planets positioned approximately 83 to 97 degrees apart. This stressful aspect indicates tension between the planets involved. Some sort of action is often prompted by the square—especially during a transit—in order to alleviate the tension.
△	Trine: Two or more planets positioned approximately 113 to 127 degrees apart. The trine is considered the most harmonious aspect. The planets involved enhance each other's energies and promote ease of expression.
⚻	Inconjunct/Quincunx: Two or more planets positioned approximately 147 to 153 degrees apart. This stressful aspect suggests difficulty integrating the energies of the planets involved.
☍	Opposition: Two or more planets positioned approximately 173 to 187 degrees apart. This challenging aspect produces stress between the planets involved, often resulting in projection, conflict, or an inability to integrate two facets of the personality.

Expressing Your Chart in Magick Work

We all possess magickal powers, and we are all capable of shaping our world. One of the wonderful things about magickal ability is that it doesn't discriminate—you can be any age, sex, race, size, or class. An open mind and a desire to take charge of your life are the only prerequisites for learning and practicing magick.

A quick look at your birth chart will reveal your special talents, skills, and attributes that you can express in your magick work. Your astrological makeup, as well as your personal interests, training, and life experiences, will be factors in the type of magick you feel drawn to and the ways in which you use your magickal abilities.

Do you have the sun, moon, or a few planets in Leo? If so, you have a dramatic personality and innate leadership skills. You could excel at conducting colorful rituals and celebrations. If you have a strong Taurus influence in your birth chart, you could be a natural at doing plant magick and concocting herbal remedies. If Gemini figures prominently in your chart, you may enjoy chants, affirmations, and incantations. Imaginative Pisceans often excel at visualization and can incorporate art and/or music into spellwork. Aquarians like group activities and might choose to join a coven or work with a group of other magicians, whereas home-oriented Cancers may prefer kitchen witchery and making magick brews.

If you have a majority of the heavenly bodies positioned in the upper half of your chart—especially near the midheaven—you're probably comfortable expressing yourself publicly and may choose to take your magick into the larger world. However, if most of the planets fall in the lower half of your chart, you might be more reclusive or choose to follow a solitary

path. People with a predominance of planets in the left side of their charts tend to be self-motivated, whereas those with a lot of planets in the right side—especially near the descendant—often prefer working with others or in a support capacity. Play to your strengths!

I encourage you to learn as much as you can about your birth chart. The more you know, the better you'll be at maximizing your potential. In astrology and magick, knowledge truly is power.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SILENCE

We must be still if we wish to perceive the subtle vibrations of the earth and sky, sense the currents in this world and beyond, and use them for magickal purposes. Focus and clarity are essential in doing magick. Just as static in the atmosphere interrupts radio transmission, mental static interferes with the smooth flow of magickal intent. Being quiet also means turning off the TV, phone, radio, stereo, and other outside "noise" periodically and spending time in silence and solitude.

CHAPTER 3

MAGICK AND THE ASTROLOGICAL ELEMENTS

The four elements of astrology (fire, earth, air, and water) are the basic building blocks of all material structures and organic wholes. Each element represents a basic kind of energy and consciousness that operates within each of us.

—Stephen Arroyo

Our world is comprised of four fundamental energies or "elements" that are the building blocks of life. When astrologers speak of the elements, they aren't referring to the scientific table of elements—they mean the archetypal modes of experience that are inherent in all things. Although these four elements—fire, earth, air, and water—exist physically, for the purposes of this book I am more concerned with their vibrational natures than their material ones.

From the magick worker's point of view, everything resonates with the energetic patterning of one or more of the elements. We are composites of the elemental energies contained in our birth charts. The zodiac signs, which we talked about briefly in the previous chapter, can be grouped according to the four elements; we'll discuss these more fully in Chapter 8.

The four elements are essential ingredients in the practice of magick as well as astrology. We see them depicted in the tarot and in the tools magicians use in rituals and spellwork (which we'll discuss in chapter 5).

In medieval medicine we see representations of these elements in the four humours, where they corresponded to personality types and physical constitutions: sanguine, phlegmatic, choleric, and melancholic. In Jungian psychology the elements appear as the four character types: intuition, sensation, thinking, and feeling. Some people associate the four Christian gospels and Buddhism's Four Noble Truths with the four elements.

According to astrologer Stephen Arroyo in his book *Astrology, Psychology, and the Four Elements*, "The four elements are not merely 'symbols' or abstract concepts, but rather they refer to the vital forces that make up the entire creation that can be perceived by the physical senses . . . The elements are therefore not only the foundation of astrology and all occult sciences, but they comprise everything we can normally perceive and experience." Indeed, as you read on, you'll begin to realize how the elements are integrally connected and powerfully expressed in every area of life on earth.

Because magicians are concerned with shaping the forces of heaven and earth to create desired results, they attempt to attune themselves with the four elements and understand how these energies operate in both the physical and nonphysical realms. You, too, will benefit from gaining a deeper knowledge of these forces and how they operate in our everyday lives and in the universe.

Fire

We can begin to understand the essence of the fire element when we look at its celestial counterpart: the sun. This heavenly body provides the life-giving warmth and light we need to survive on earth. Without the sun's fiery energy, nothing on our planet would thrive. In an esoteric sense, fire represents the creative spirit that enlivens form, initiates action, and sparks imagination. According to Kelynda in her book *The Crystal Tree,* fire is "the life force that drives all things to grow, flower, reproduce, and die."

FIRE CORRESPONDENCES

- Zodiac Signs: Aries, Leo, Sagittarius
- Tarot: Wands
- Colors: red, orange
- Number: 1
- Shape: upward-pointing triangle

Active, outer-directed, and dynamic, fire symbolizes the raw, undiluted masculine or yang power present in the cosmos. The fire element underlies combat, sports, sexual passion, artistic inspiration, and acts of courage. People with an abundance of fire energy in their birth charts are assertive, daring, independent, self-centered, outgoing, optimistic, impulsive, impractical, idealistic, and visionary.

Fire Magick

Fire magick may involve physical fire, such as the fertility fires at Beltane rites (see chapter 9), or the element's spiritual, symbolic qualities—or

both. Because fire is associated with inspiration and creativity, artists can benefit from using fire magick to enhance their talents or promote themselves and their work. You can channel the element's stimulating properties to increase your vitality, help you overcome obstacles, bolster self-confidence and courage, or heighten desire. Fire is also associated with purification, so spells, rituals, and practices that involve destruction and regeneration often tap the energy of this element.

The most common fire spells involve candles. Every time you light a candle during a ritual or spell, you invite the fire element into your work. The same holds true when you build a fire during a sabbat ritual, such as burning a Yule log on the winter solstice. Other types of fire magick include the following:

- Symbolically releasing old, unwanted ideas/habits/behaviors by writing your intention on paper and dropping the paper in a fire
- Performing the time-honored ritual of jumping over a small fire to spark creativity in the body or mind
- Charging talismans, amulets, and other tools by placing them in bright sunshine or holding them in smoke
- Burning sage to purify sacred space
- Scrying by gazing into a flickering flame
- Working with nonphysical entities that serve as ambassadors from the fire element, including salamanders

Earth

The ground beneath our feet, which provides us with a stable foundation and nourishment, is an apt symbol for the earth element. The earth nurtures and supports us—Mother Earth is our home, the source from which we evolved and to which we owe our continued sustenance. According to mythology, our physical bodies were formed from her, and many cultures personify our planet as a goddess, including Gaia in Greek legends and Pachamama in the folklore of the indigenous people of the Andes.

EARTH CORRESPONDENCES

- Zodiac Signs: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn
- Tarot: Disks or Pentacles (shown as coins in some decks)
- Colors: brown, gray, tan, green
- Numbers: 4, 8
- Shape: square

We connect this element with security, permanence, structure, the physical body, and the material realm. Earth is the element of form—it embodies spirit and makes it manifest. Earth is one of two elements that symbolizes the feminine or yin principle. We see earth energy functioning in processes that involve planning and gradual development—the growth of plants, the construction of buildings, the day-to-day operation of a business or financial endeavor. People whose birth charts feature many planets in earth signs tend to be practical, sensual, stubborn, traditional, cautious, dependable, and methodical.

Earth Magick

Farmers, gardeners, horticulturists, geologists, and others who work with the land and plants can benefit from using earth magick. Our ancestors "blessed" the land on Beltane by engaging in sex outdoors, a form of sympathetic magick believed to increase the earth's fertility.

Because we connect the earth element with money and material goods, prosperity spells often harness earth energy. Healing spells that call upon this element to strengthen, support, or provide comfort in physical ways also fall into the category of earth magick. So do spells for protection, security, and stability.

Earth spells may include physical matter that evoke the earth, such as soil, salt, stones, or plants, or the element's spiritual, symbolic qualities—or both. The most common earth spells involve crystals and gemstones, though working with the energy of plants is also popular. Earth magick includes:

- Creating potions, salves, and poultices made from botanicals to promote physical healing
- Soliciting the aid of nature spirits known as devas in gardening and plant management
- Using crystals and gemstones to attract abundance and other tangible things in the material world
- Using plants or stones to provide protection
- Spending time in nature, honoring and connecting with the earth and her nonhuman inhabitants
- Preparing/eating foods in a ritual setting, thanking Mother Earth for her bounty

- Performing a sacred dance
- Practicing sex magick
- Working with nonphysical entities that serve as ambassadors from the earth element, including gnomes

Air

The air element encompasses the mental plane, ideas, language, and abstract thought. In *Astrology, Psychology, and the Four Elements*, astrologer Stephen Arroyo interprets air as "the world of archetypal ideas behind the veil of the physical world." Like the wind, which is an appropriate symbol for this element, air is changeable and without form, restless and impossible to contain.

THINKING MAKES IT SO

Our thought-feeling forms are like seeds which, when projected into the universe, take root in the energetic matrix that links us with everything else in the cosmos and eventually grow into material forms. Therefore, one of the first and most important things we must learn in magick work is to discipline our minds. Random, careless thoughts and idle statements can affect us as well as others. The more focused and impassioned our thoughts and words are, the more power they have.

A masculine or yang force, air is an outer-directed and active element. A distinctly "human" energy, the air element is present in most of our interpersonal exchanges and all forms of communication. Just as seeds and pollen are picked up by the wind from one place and carried to another

where they take root and grow, ideas spread and germinate among people via language and commerce—both air sign activities. Notice the zodiac symbols for the air signs—Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius—are not animals, like the other signs.

AIR CORRESPONDENCES

- Zodiac Signs: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius
- Tarot: Swords
- Colors: yellow, blue
- Numbers: 5, 11
- Shape: upward-pointing triangle with a horizontal line through its center

Individuals with an abundance of air energy in their birth charts are mentally oriented, sociable, talkative, inquisitive, detached, changeable, inventive, and often impractical. They live in a world of ideas, which may or may not translate into material realities. Yet their thoughts sow the seeds for future growth—thus they serve as intellectual avatars who inspire developments that benefit the rest of us.

Air Magick

We employ the air element in virtually all magick work, for it signifies the power of thought and the imagination. The spoken word plays a role in many spells and rituals too—we use affirmations, incantations, prayers, and other verbal and written spells to tap into this elemental energy in magick work. Because air involves interpersonal relationships, you can use air magick to improve your connections with other people.

AFFIRMATIONS VERSUS INCANTATIONS

Affirmations are short, succinct phrases that describe the condition or result you seek. They're stated in a positive way, in the present tense as if the desired result already exists. Here's an example: "I am happy, healthy, and fulfilled in all areas of my life."

An incantation is an affirmation set to rhyme. The catchy phrasing and rhythm make it easy to remember. An example might be: "My life is rich in every way/I am grateful every day."

Other examples of air magick include the following:

- Visualizing
- Chanting and singing
- Designing magick symbols known as sigils (see Chapter 10)
- Calling the quarters when casting a circle (see Chapter 4)
- Burning incense to send messages to the spirit world
- Verbally evoking or invoking deities
- Keeping a grimoire or book of shadows
- Communicating psychically
- Hanging prayer flags
- Working with nonphysical entities that serve as ambassadors from the air element, including sylphs

AIR MAGICK SPELL TO HEAL A RELATIONSHIP

If you've lost touch with someone or would like to apologize, air magick can bridge the gap and restore communication between you via psychic channels on the spirit plane.

- Relax, put your mind at ease, close your eyes, and focus all your attention on the project before you.
- Call the person by name and ask him or her to listen to what you have to say. (If you sense this isn't a convenient time, ask when you can try again.) Imagine this person is standing at the end of a road and you are at the beginning of it. Envision yourself traveling along the road toward him or her, taking time to observe the journey in as much detail as possible.
- As you make your way, you'll notice a number of obstacles in the road—rocks, fallen branches, snow, flooded areas. These obstacles represent the problems or situations that are separating you. Whenever you come to an obstacle, visualize a strong, healing wind blowing it out of the way so you can continue. If your purpose is to apologize to someone you've harmed, say you're sorry each time the wind blows an obstacle from your path.
- When all the obstacles between you have been blown away, you arrive at your destination and stand facing the person. Deliver your message, and then notice his or her reaction. Thank the person for listening.
- Open your eyes and know that your message has been heard.

Water

Emotions, dreams, mystery, intuition, and imagination belong to the water element. Like its physical counterpart, water is fluid and ever changing. And like the sea, its energy can be calm or turbulent—it may buoy us along or engulf us. The water element connects us with other people and allows us to respond to stimuli in our environment. It also nurtures us both physically and spiritually, for without water much of life on earth would cease to exist. Astrologer Liz Greene in *Star Signs for Lovers* writes, "The element of water, astrologically, is the most enigmatic of all the elements . . . furthest from the rational realm."

WATER CORRESPONDENCES

- Zodiac Signs: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces
- Tarot: Cups
- Colors: dark blue, sea green, violet
- Numbers: 2, 9
- Shape: downward-pointing triangle

Water is one of two elements that symbolize the feminine or yin principle. People whose birth charts contain an abundance of water signs are sensitive, impressionable, intuitive, reclusive, compassionate, changeable, imaginative, and impractical.

Water Magick

Because we connect intuition and emotion with water, this element is present in most magick work. Sometimes water magick involves actual water

or other liquids. Concocting potions, teas, and brews is the most common form of water magick. Channeling and divination are also magickal practices that utilize the water element.

The element of water is present in emotions and relationships, so water magick can be effective in love spells. Water magick can benefit artists, musicians, healers, and people who want to enhance their creative or intuitive abilities. We associate water with cleansing; therefore it is often used for purification practices. Other types of water magick include the following:

- Taking ritual baths
- Scrying with water
- Practicing dreamwork
- Practicing psychic healing
- Working with the higher realms and spiritual entities
- Using music in spells or rituals
- Working with nonphysical entities that serve as ambassadors from the water element, including undines

Element Symbolism in Dreams

The four elements appear with regularity in our dreams. A dream about fire usually represents the life force or desire. Consider the form in which fire appears and how it relates to other symbols in the dream. A cozy flame crackling in the fireplace suggests warmth, comfort, and nurturing, but a

blazing inferno could mean your passions are raging out of control—especially if your house (a symbol of your life) is burning up.

The earth element can represent various things, depending on the form it takes in your dream and its relationship to you as well as the other dream symbols: your foundation (the ground under your feet), nurturing and sustenance (the land from which crops grow, Mother Earth), or physicality and the material realm. Is the earth in your dream rich and fertile? Arid and barren?

Dreams about the air element may involve flying or being "up in the air" on a high building, bridge, or cliff. Air is related to mental activity, so if you dream of flying in an airplane or soaring through the sky under your own power like a bird it may mean you feel detached from the material realm, your body, and physical sensation. A gentle breeze could symbolize the presence of new ideas; a hurricane might indicate that you feel overwhelmed by mental demands.

A lake, river, ocean, or swimming pool in a dream represents your emotions. The condition of the water describes your emotional state and/or how you feel about expressing emotion. Is the water clear and inviting? Murky, turbulent, or cold? Are you swimming in it happily, letting the water buoy you up? Are you afraid to take the plunge? Do you feel you are "in over your head" or that the undertow is pulling you down?

Recording these dream experiences and symbolism in your grimoire can help you track what's going on in your life and your psyche at any given time. You may also notice connections between astrological cycles and your dreams.

Elementals

Even though you may not actually see them, nonphysical entities known as elementals share our world with us. Fairy tales often mention them, but don't dismiss them as mere fantasies. Sometimes they're considered nature spirits; however, I like to think of them as ambassadors from the four elements—fire, earth, water, and air. They manage, protect, and use the properties of the elements with which they're associated, and live in the physical representations of their respective elements.

Elementals can help you connect with the forces in nature and bring those energies to bear in your spells and rituals. Remember, though, that elemental beings don't live by the same ethics we do—in fact, they tend to be amoral and can play tricks or even harm you if you don't treat them with respect. Take them seriously. Speak courteously to them. And always thank them for their assistance.

Salamanders

According to the Renaissance-era philosopher and physician Paracelsus, salamanders move across the land like balls of fire or burning waves. Some people with sensitive sight say these fire spirits actually resemble lizards, and in folklore they may show up as dragons or other fire-breathing creatures. Thomas Bulfinch, in *Bulfinch's Mythology*, mentions cloth woven from salamander hair that wouldn't burn. If you look closely, you might see them dancing in a candle flame or ritual fire.

As emissaries from the realm of fire, salamanders can help you tap the fire element in spells for courage, passion, enthusiasm, or vitality. You could call upon them to give you an extra edge in any type of competition

or to turn up the heat in a romantic relationship. In protection spells, they can serve as warrior-guardians—think of those Gothic gargoyles perched on castle walls to scare away invaders.

Gnomes

Folklore depicts gnomes as trolls, elves, dwarfs, or leprechauns—remember the little guys in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*? As earth spirits, they oversee metals, crystals and gemstones, and plants. Their name comes from the Latin word *genomus*, meaning "earth dweller," and legend says they make their homes in caves or underground burrows where they stash gold, precious stones, and other forms of treasure. As keepers of the earth, gnomes ensure our planet's stability and fertility. They're a gardener's favorite helper, which is why we often see statues of them nestled in flowerbeds.

If you win the gnomes' favor, they'll aid you in prosperity magick—they have a keen appreciation for wealth and material goodies. These hardworking, practical elementals can help with establishing boundaries, stabilizing business and financial matters, or strengthening your determination in the face of daunting tasks. You can also call on them for assistance in spells for security, protection, and abundance of all kinds.

Undines (or Ondines)

Undines are spirits that reside in all of earth's waterways. The most famous undines in folklore are mermaids. We usually think of them as looking like beautiful young women with scaly fish tails, although legends describe them in many ways, from tiny creatures with blue-green skin to seal-like Irish selkies. The ancient Greeks categorized undines according to the

type of water they inhabited—saltwater or fresh, oceans, lakes, rivers, wells, or fountains. (See my book *Mermaids: The Myths, Legends, and Lore* for information about undines throughout history.)

Undines care for all water on our planet as well as marine life. Like the sea itself, undines can quickly shift from gentle to tempestuous, especially if they feel unappreciated. If you sit quietly beside a lake or stream, you may be able to see them as swirling forms or large, flattish bubbles on the water's surface.

These beautiful beings are sensitive and responsive to emotional situations, so you can call upon them to assist you in doing love spells. Undines will also work with you in creative endeavors—they appreciate beauty, art, and music. Invite them to join you in a ritual bath or other purification practice. They can also heighten your intuition and imagination.

NOW YOU SEE THEM, NOW YOU DON'T

Throughout history, people around the world have been fascinated by mermaids, water nymphs, and other types of undines. Seafarers made offerings to them to solicit their aid and protection. Although we don't know why so many people have seen them, it could be that shifts in atmospheric conditions or energetic patterns—or an expansion of an individual's perception—may cause these mysterious entities to become visible temporarily.

Sylphs

Sylphs hail from the element of air, and folklore often depicts them as diminutive winged beings soaring on the winds. Most likely sylphs are

responsible for the image we usually hold of fairies. Sometimes they appear as tiny sparkling lights, like fireflies. Their name comes from the Greek *silphe,* which means "butterfly." They manipulate the winds, aid us in breathing, and clean up air pollution.

As emissaries of the air element, sylphs can help you with any type of communication or intellectual endeavor. One way to connect with them is through practicing yogic breathing techniques. Invite them to assist you in creating affirmations and incantations—they'll gladly lend their energy to spoken or written spells. Want to ace a test, finish your novel, or negotiate a favorable contract? Ask the sylphs for guidance.

HOW TO WIN AN ELEMENTAL'S FRIENDSHIP

It's important to stay on the elementals' good side—don't underestimate their ability to do good or ill. Behave respectfully toward them. Give them gifts to acknowledge their assistance. Light red or gold candles to honor the salamanders. Bury a piece of flashy costume jewelry to show gratitude to a gnome. Sprinkle a few drops of essential oil in a body of water to thank the undines. Set a vase of fresh flowers on your altar to please the sylphs. Above all, treat everything in nature with kindness, reverence, and consideration.