



# **How to Make Astrological Talismans**

(What every astrologer once knew how to do)

By Donna Woodwell

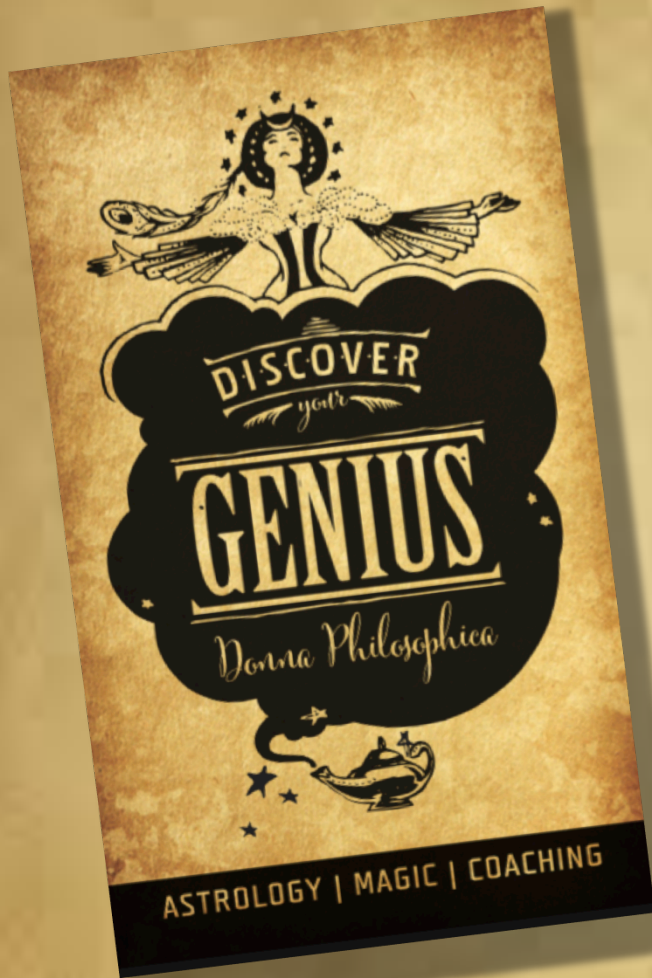
# Today's session



Objective: A basic understanding why and how to make astrological talismans

- A Brief History of Magic
- How to Make Talismans
- Ideas for Using Talismans

# About Donna...



- Psychic and scholar
- 20 years shamanic & magical training
- Full-time professional astrologer and metaphysical coach
- Received Master's Degrees from University of Texas
- Teaches at Kepler College and UT extension courses



**A (very) Brief History  
of Magic**

# The Magician's Paradigm



Magic assumes the existence of a meta-physical reality, a sacred or vertical dimension.

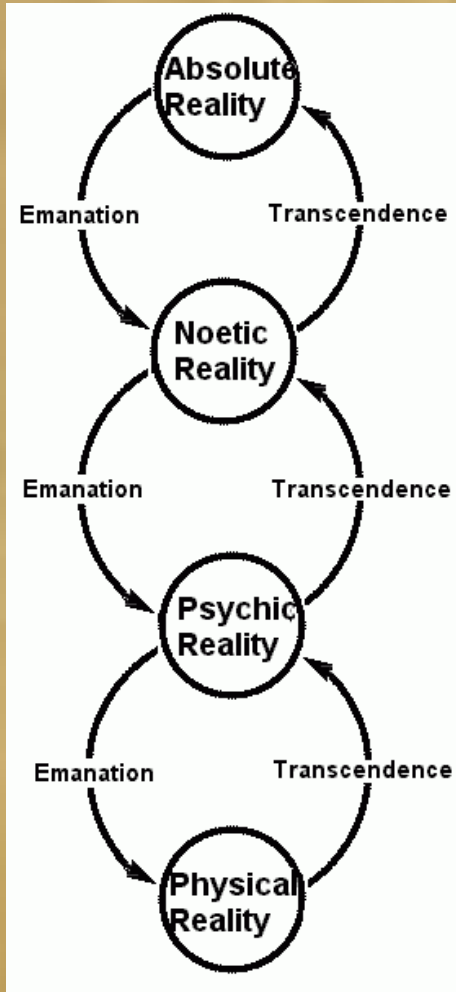
- Dualism of Meta-physical and Physical (e.g. Mind and Matter)
- Monism, with the Metaphysical as the primary ground of being (i.e. Mind, of which Matter is a special type)

# From One to Many...



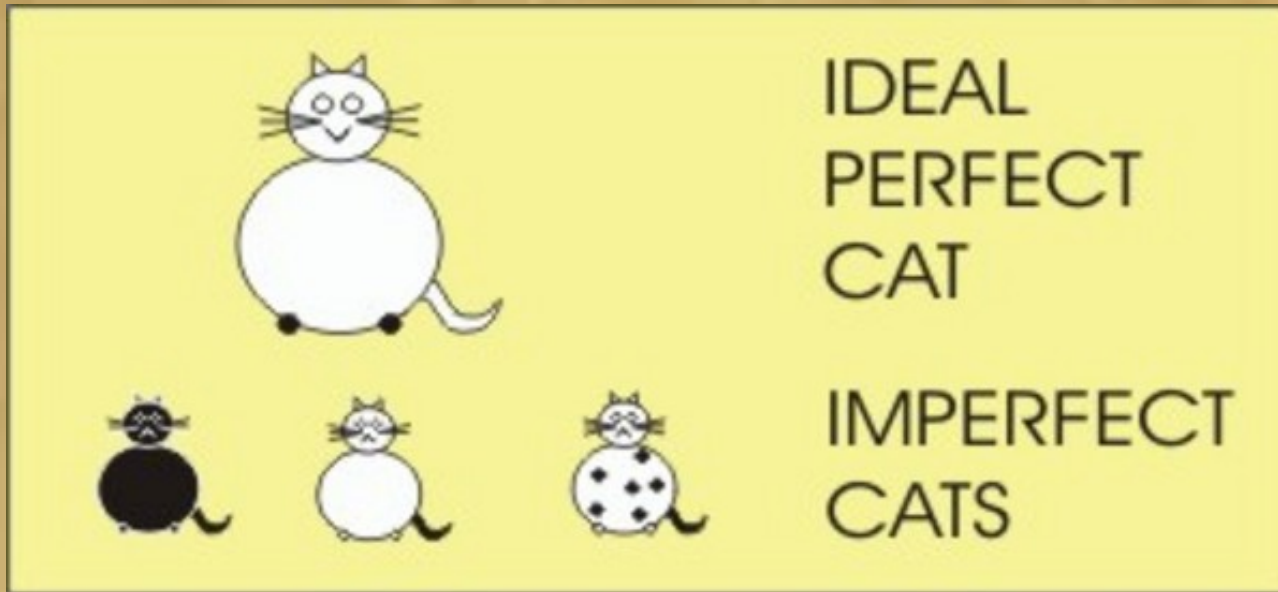
- Theory of Emanations, how creation occurs from One to Many
- Egypt, Babylon, Greece, Judaism, early Christianity all had their versions

# Plotinus' Cosmos



- To En – The One
- Nous – Platonic Forms, Logos, Divine Intellect, "Spirit"
- Psyche – Desire, Movement, Daimons, Planetary Intelligences, "Soul"
- Physis – Nature, Personality, Ego
- Hyle – Prima Materia

# Formal Causes



- Templates for all things exist on the meta-physical
- Nature (Matter) follows these templates.
- A system of correspondences joins all levels
- The deeper meaning of "Above & Below"



# Magic, defined...

"To change or cause material, psychological or spiritual events through meta-physical means, such as the sympathetic resonance with natural objects, the intervention of spirit beings, or by the action of human desire, sexuality or focused emotion."

Donna Woodwell

# Stairways to Heaven



- Theurgy (God-work) – to unite with the divine, to gain wisdom, understanding or be of service, etc.
- Magic (Practical/Mundane – to gain mundane power, wealth, love, sex, vengeance, victory, etc.

# Western Magical Legacy



Tradition extends from

- Egyptians, Mesopotamians, Indians
- Greeks
- Romans
- Arabs
- Medieval & Renaissance Europe

# Flavors of Magic



By Medieval times, distinction made between

- Natural magic – magic that relies on natural correspondence between nature and the divine to create effects
- Necromancy (or Negromancy) – conjure spirits in order to impel them to perform magical acts

# A Talisman is...



A "sacred enclosure" or "magical decoy" which attracts the "rays" of that which one seeks to manifest by creating an image using sympathetic words, pictures or materials

# ... in other words

"a magical figure charged with the Force which it is intended to represent. In the construction of a Talisman, care should be taken to make it, as far as is possible, so to represent the universal Forces that it should be in exact harmony with those you wish to attract, and the more exact the symbolism, the more easy it is to attract the Force – other things coinciding, such as consecration at the right time, etc."

Israel Regardie  
Golden Dawn teachings

# Attraction v. Containment



# Where does Astral Magic fit?

"[Astral Magic is] based on the notion that the powers emanating from the planets and stars could be channeled into talismans and images through the agency of named spirits and angels at astrologically propitious moments. Prayers were used to beseech and praise the actions of the spirits, rather than to command or compel them."

Owen Davies  
*Grimoires*



# Astral Magic Texts



References to astral magic scattered through books on philosophy, theurgy and magic since Babylonian times

Notable astral magic texts

- *Picatrix*, c. 1050 (Arabic, Spain)
- *Kyranides* c.400-1300, (Constantinople)
- *Heptameron* c. 1300 (Pietro d'Abano)

# Renaissance Astral Magicians



- Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499 )  
*Three Books on Life*
- Johannes Trithemius  
(1462-1516) *Steganographia*
- Cornelius Agrippa  
(1486-1535) *Three Books on  
Occult Philosophy*

"It is the Ficinian magic which Agrippa teaches in his first book, though he teaches it in a much bolder way. Ficino was nervous of the magic; he was anxious to keep his magic "natural," concerned only with elemental substances in their relations to the stars, and avoiding the "star demons," the spirits connected with the stars. It was really not possible to teach astral magic, whilst avoiding the star demons, as Agrippa saw and boldly accepted the challenge."

Francis Yates  
Warburg Institute

# Toward the modern age



Correspondences continue to be used

- Nicolas Culpeper (medicine)
- William Lilly (horary)
- Farmer's Almanac (agriculture)

Since the discovery of outer planets, some have tried to imagine correspondences for the outer planets\*\*

# How to Make Talismans

# 5 Steps to Making a Talisman



- Determine your intention
- Choosing your astral allies
- Elect a time
- Gather ingredients
- Assemble and consecrate

# Determine Your Intention



- Write your intention for your talisman.
- Be simple, clear and concise.
- Do not ask for more than one thing at a time

# Intention Examples

- To attract wealth
- To increase clientele
- To build a prosperous business
- To lose weight
- To have more energy
- To exercise every day
- To find my ideal partner
- To fall in love
- To be joyous and happy

**THINK! What are pros and cons of these statements?**



# Choosing your Astral Allies



- All planets have a *telos*, something they want to do
- Choose the planet(s) who **WANT** to do what you want to do.

# Planet *telos* highlights

- Sun – Decisions. Vitality. Healing. Purification.
- Moon - Nurturing. Relaxation. Dreaming. Protection.
- Mercury - Exchange. Negotiations. Study. Writing.
- Venus - Romance. Attraction. Pleasure. Sensuality. Friends.
- Mars – Courage. Action. Separation.
- Jupiter – Abundance. Wealth. Optimism. Wisdom. Balance.
- Saturn – Discipline. Grounding. Limits. Delays.

(look to handouts for more information)

# Outer Planets?



These are not tame planets!

Use with caution, the outer planets are not domesticated.

- Uranus – Catalyst
- Neptune – Dissolution
- Pluto – Transmutation

Once unlocked, you can't go back.

# Zodiac Signs as Composites

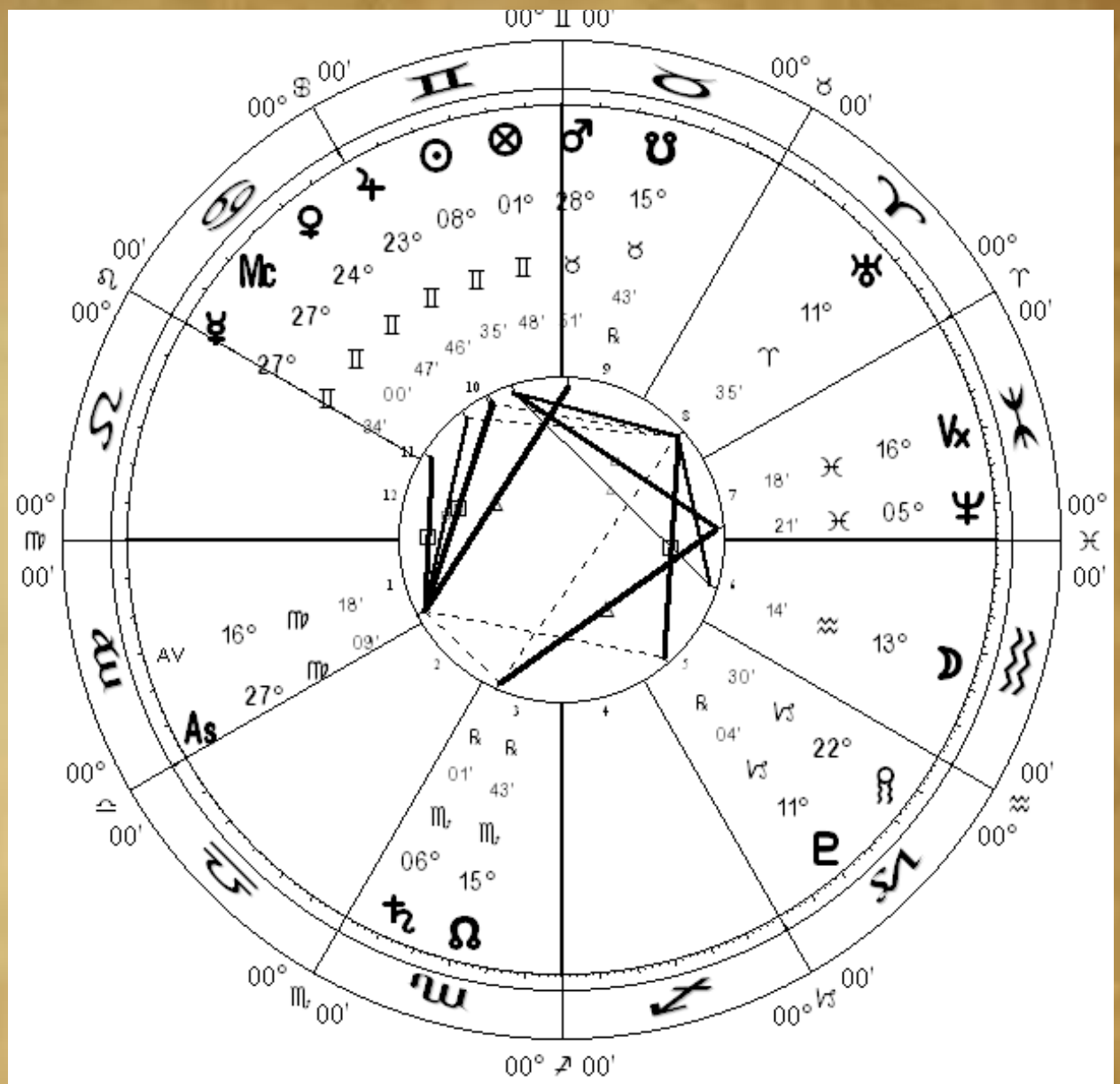
- Leo: Sun (Fire)
- Cancer: Moon (Water)
- Gemini: Mercury + Air
- Virgo: Mercury + Earth
- Aries: Mars + Fire
- Taurus: Venus + Earth
- Scorpio: Mars + Water
- Libra: Venus + Air
- Sagittarius: Jupiter + Fire
- Capricorn: Saturn + Earth
- Pisces: Jupiter + Water
- Aquarius: Saturn + Air

# Elect a Time



- Choose a time that supports your intention. Some options:
- Planets on the Ascendant or Midheaven
  - Planets in good condition, in own sign, well received
  - Planet ruling house associated with your intention in good condition
  - In planetary day and hour
  - Moon in good aspect and not Void

# Mercury Talisman Electional



Mercury Talisman  
NATAL CHART

# Gather Ingredients



Collect ingredients favored by the planets highlighted by the electional chart.

- Jewelry (already made)
- Colored Beads
- Stones
- Small bags
- Paper Talismans

And use your imagination!

# Assemble and Consecrate



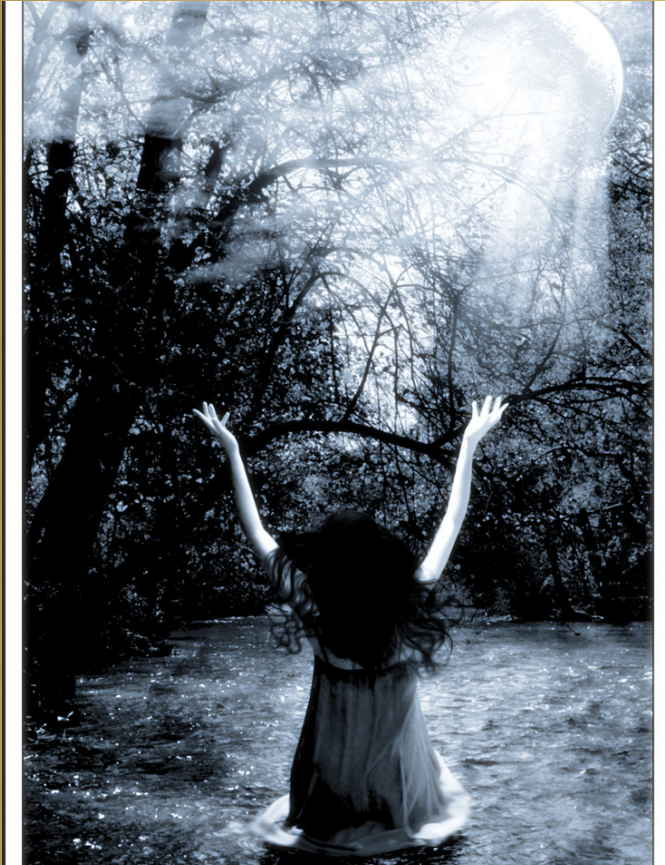
Consecration opens the talisman to the divine forces.

When the time is right:

- Purify & Invoke
- Ask for assistance from planets and spirits of ingredients
- Make an offering (candle, incense, etc.)
- Express gratitude



# Advanced Techniques



- Reiki/Energizing Talisman
- Filling the aura with the presence of the planet (e.g. drawing down the Moon)
- Charging in a dream
- Charging with sex magic



# Ideas for Using Talismans

# Ficino's "Remediation"



Two ways to work with planetary energies..

- Become the avatar of the planet
- Do the complimentary opposite to find balance

# Become a Planetary Avatar



- Establish a relationship with each planet as part of a spiritual practice
- Create a talisman for each planet, and carry it on the appropriate day to strengthen connection to planets (lesser circulation)
- When a planet is transiting, get to know the planet, like a house guest

# Complementarity



- Identify temperament... too much/too little
- Decrease what's too much by increase what's missing
- There's no one right answer, the art part is in figuring out the right balance to shift the energies
- Experiment! Experiment! Experiment!

# Neutral Buoyancy



In a person's temperament, what are you trying to balance (and why?)

Use a talisman for counter-balance.

- Too flighty, try Saturn
- Too serious, try Venus
- Lack of spirit, try Sun
- Need courage, try Mars

# Transiting Influences



Ex. Saturn transiting ascendant:

- Be planetary avatar.. Work really hard!
- Do the complimentary opposite. Make time for pleasure

Ex. Neptune transiting opposite Sun:

- Strengthen Sun


# Shifting Energies



Q: What if asked to choose a date for a wedding. All dates provided by the happy couple are less than ideal.

A: Make a talisman that corrects the energies of the particular date. Can be a talisman made on a more auspicious day, art that balances the date, etc.





**What's Next?**

# Conclusions



- Destiny can't be broken, but it can be bent...
- By working intelligently with cosmic forces we can promote balance and harmony
- We are talismans of a sort, that interact with one another

# Upcoming at Kepler College

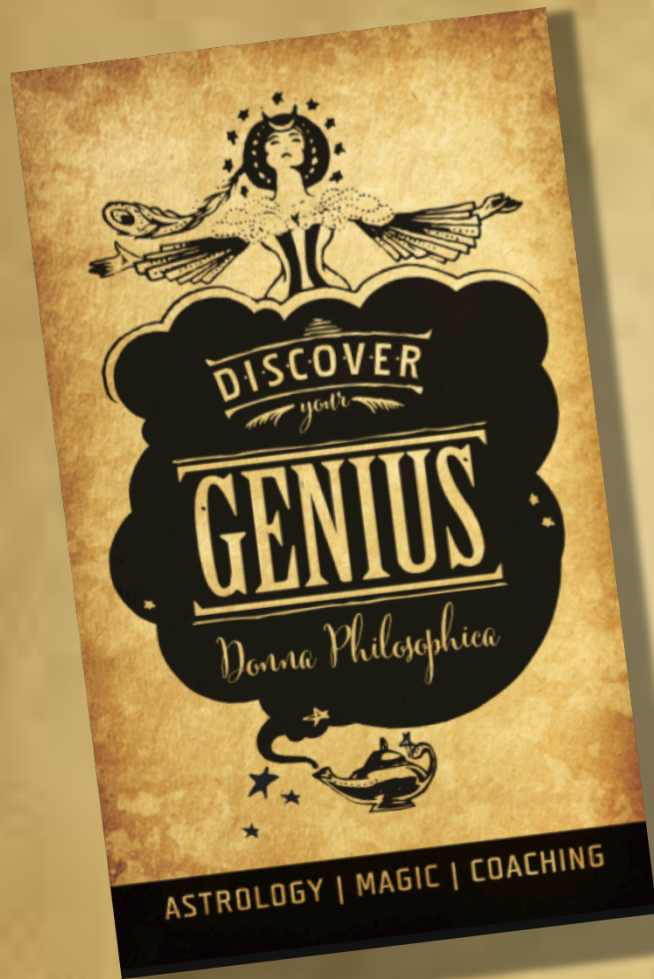
## **Astral Theurgy & Magic in the Ancient World**

- *With Joseph Crane & Donna Woodwell*
- Saturdays, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2015, 9 am-11 am PST
- 4-Week Workshop, 2 hours/session (8 hours)

## **Astrology, Alchemy & Magic in the Renaissance**

- *With Donna Woodwell*
- Saturdays, August 15, 22, 29, September 5, 9 am-11 am PST
- 4-Week Workshop, 2 hours/session (8 hours)

To register or find out more, go to [www.kepler.edu](http://www.kepler.edu)



Find more from Donna at  
[DonnaPhilosophica.com](http://DonnaPhilosophica.com)

- Online Classes
- eBooks & Recordings
- Radio Shows
- Consultations