

## GLOSSARY OF WITCHCRAFT & WICCA

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ALTAR - A sacred space or table used for rituals, spellcasting, and honoring deities or spirits. An altar often includes candles, symbols, crystals, and other objects that hold personal or symbolic significance.

ANCESTOR WORK - Honoring and connecting with one's deceased ancestors, seeking their guidance, and recognizing their influence and wisdom in personal and spiritual matters.

ANCESTRAL VENERATION - Ancestral veneration is the practice of honoring and connecting with one's ancestors. It involves acknowledging and paying respect to deceased family members and seeking their guidance and wisdom. Ancestral veneration can be done through rituals, offerings, creating ancestral altars, or participating in ancestral healing work.

ASTRAL TRAVEL - Astral Travel is the practice of intentionally separating one's consciousness or spirit from the physical body to explore other planes of existence. It is often used for spiritual exploration, meeting spirit guides, or gaining knowledge and insight beyond the physical realm.

ATHAME - An athame is a ritual knife used in Witchcraft and Wicca. It typically has a black handle and a double-edged blade, though the blade is not meant for physical cutting. The athame is primarily used to direct and channel energy during rituals and spellwork.

(B)

BESOM - A besom is a traditional broom used in Witchcraft and Wicca for various purposes. It is often associated with sweeping away negative energy or creating a sacred space. In some traditions, jumping over a besom during handfasting rituals symbolizes the couple's transition into married life.

BESOM CHANT - A besom chant is a rhythmic and often rhyming incantation recited during the crafting or consecration of a besom (broom). It is believed to infuse the broom with magical energy and intentions, making it a potent tool for cleansing, protection, or ritual purposes.

BOOK OF SHADOWS - A personal journal or grimoire that contains rituals, spells,

symbols, and personal experiences related to Witchcraft or Wicca. It serves as a repository of knowledge and a record of a practitioner's spiritual journey.

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COVEN - A group of Witches who come together for shared rituals, magical workings, and spiritual exploration. Covens often provide support, guidance, and a sense of community for their members.

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DEITY - A divine being, often associated with specific aspects of nature, such as gods and goddesses. Wiccans and Witches may honor various deities from different pantheons, depending on their personal beliefs and practices.

DIVINATION - The practice of seeking insights or guidance through methods such as tarot cards, runes, scrying, or other forms of fortune-telling. Divination is often used to gain clarity, make decisions, or receive spiritual messages.

DOWSING - Dowsing is a divination technique used to locate objects, energy, or information using a dowsing rod or pendulum. It involves tapping into intuitive or psychic abilities to receive subtle vibrations or energy shifts that guide the dowser to what they are seeking.

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ELEMENTAL - A spiritual entity or force associated with the four elements of earth, air, fire, and water. These elemental energies are often invoked or honored in rituals and spellwork.

ESBAT - A regular gathering or ritual held during the phases of the moon, often associated with the celebration of the Full Moon. Esbats are occasions for reflection, spellcasting, and strengthening connections with lunar energies.

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FAMILIAR - A familiar is an animal companion, often a pet, that is believed to have a spiritual or magical connection with a witch. Familiars are believed to assist in magical workings, provide protection, and offer guidance to the witch.

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GREEN WITCH - A green witch is a practitioner who focuses on herbalism, plant magic, and a deep connection with nature. Green witches work with the energies and properties of plants for healing, spells, and spiritual purposes. They often have a

profound respect for the earth and emphasize sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

GRIMOIRE - A grimoire is a book of magical knowledge and spells, often handwritten by an individual practitioner. It contains instructions, rituals, correspondences, and personal experiences related to Witchcraft and magic. A grimoire is a personal and often treasured tool for magical practitioners.

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HEDGE RIDING - Hedge riding is a shamanic practice in which a practitioner enters an altered state of consciousness, often using rhythmic drumming or meditation, to journey between the physical and spiritual realms. It is a form of astral projection or spirit travel for the purpose of gaining knowledge, meeting guides, or performing magical work.

HEDGE WITCH - A Hedge Witch is a solitary practitioner who is skilled in crossing the "hedge" or boundary between the physical and spiritual realms. They work closely with herbs, plants, and nature spirits, often focusing on healing and divination.

HEDGE WITCH - A hedge witch is a practitioner who specializes in working with the liminal spaces between the physical and spiritual realms. They are skilled in herbalism, healing, divination, and communicating with spirits. Hedge witches are often associated with traversing the metaphorical "hedge" or boundary between worlds.

HEDGEWITCHERY - Hedgewitchery is a form of witchcraft that involves working with the liminal spaces and energies between the physical and spiritual realms. Practitioners may engage in astral projection, spirit communication, or hedge riding to explore these realms and gain insight.

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KITCHEN WITCH - A Kitchen Witch is someone who focuses on domestic magic and utilizes everyday items found in the kitchen for spells, charms, and potions. They infuse their cooking and baking with magical intent and often work with ancestral and kitchen deities.

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PAGANISM - An umbrella term for various earth-centered spiritual traditions that honor nature and often include the worship of multiple deities. Paganism encompasses a wide range of beliefs and practices, including Wicca.

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RITUAL - A structured and intentional ceremony or practice that may involve symbolic gestures, invocations, prayers, and magical workings. Rituals are performed to connect with spiritual forces, set intentions, or celebrate significant events.

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SABBAT - Seasonal festivals celebrated in Wicca and some other Pagan traditions. These festivals mark significant points in the Wheel of the Year, such as Samhain, Beltane, and Yule, and are often observed with rituals, feasts, and community gatherings.

SABBAT STANG - A Sabbat Stang is a ritual tool representing the axis mundi, or the connection between the earthly and spiritual realms, used in some Witchcraft traditions. It typically consists of a staff with two prongs, each adorned with symbols representing the God and Goddess or other deities.

SABBATICAL YEAR - A Sabbatical Year is a period of rest and rejuvenation in a witch's practice. It typically involves taking a break from spellcasting, rituals, and other magical activities to focus on self-care, study, and personal reflection.

SCRYING - Scrying is a divination practice that involves gazing into a reflective surface, such as a crystal ball, mirror, or water, to receive messages or visions from the spiritual realm. It is a technique used to gain insight, seek guidance, or explore the hidden realms of consciousness.

SHADOW WORK - Shadow Work is the process of exploring and integrating one's unconscious or hidden aspects, often addressing unresolved issues, traumas, or

negative patterns. It involves introspection, self-reflection, and healing to achieve personal growth and transformation.

SPELL - A focused and intentional action or ritual that utilizes symbols, words, and energy to manifest a desired outcome. Spells can range from simple affirmations to complex rituals involving herbs, candles, and other tools.

SYMPATHETIC MAGIC - Sympathetic Magic is a type of magic based on the principle that like attracts like. It involves using physical objects or symbols to represent desired outcomes or to influence events. Examples include using poppet dolls or sympathetic spell components.

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WICCA - A modern Pagan religious movement that emerged in the mid-20th century. Wiccans follow a nature-based spiritual path and often venerate multiple deities, honor the cycles of nature, and practice rituals and spellwork.

WITCH - An individual who practices Witchcraft, utilizing magic, rituals, and spellcasting. Witches can be of any gender and may follow different traditions and belief systems.

WITCH'S LADDER - A witch's ladder is a magical tool made of a cord or rope with objects, such as feathers, stones, or herbs, woven into it. It is created with specific intentions or spells in mind and can be used for protection, healing, or manifestation purposes. The witch's ladder is often hung or worn as a talisman.

WITCHCRAFT - A practice that involves the use of magic, spellcasting, and energy manipulation to bring about desired changes or outcomes. It often involves working with natural forces, deities, or spirits.

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