

A Spellcasting Ritual to Hecate

I have done yearly rituals to Hecate on various days, in different ways. Sometimes at Samhain, or November 16th, or November 30th.

The version shown here is a more complex one – this was an Introduction to Spellcasting with Hecate. I think we had about 15 people at this one. This was a teaching ritual.

Preparation:

- Gathered or bought (1 for each ritualist) –
a small key
a small crescent moon (representing a sickle knife)
a torch or lantern (these were actually charm bracelet charms I found online)
(the above were all between 2” and 4” tall)
- Found a variety of nice small cardboard boxes (like large jewelry boxes), things that could be used to make small dioramas or mounted small wall hangings.
- card stock in 8.5x11, paint, markers, glue, glue sticks, glitter, string and cord
- tried to have enough crafting supplies on hand so each person could make what they needed...a small diorama for their altar, a necklace to wear, something to hang on the wall, the symbols mounted on a wand of power, etc.

made posters (see photos below) one each for key/sickle knife/torch

printed out a variety of stropholos, between 1” and 3”

printed (1 for each ritualist) different stropholos patterns about 6” diameter, and mounted them on cardboard

I set up 4 simple altars in the room, one each for the key, sickle knife, torch, and stropholos.

The altar had a poster hanging above it, and a small table with the items on it. (ie, poster about the symbol of the key, above a small table with all the keys laid out on top)

All the crafting items were on another table

The main altar was an altar to Hecate, which would also receive the offerings each ritualist would bring for Her.

The invitation specified people were to bring their journal to write in.

They were invited to spend some time dreaming into a piece of needed spell work

They were asked to bring an offering for Hecate

This is a workshop on design and casting of a spell. This is meant to allow you to try different things and feel what is good for you. You make this as complex or as simple as you want.

Ritual Flow

Ritual Conspiracy – brief rundown of what would unfold

Standard circle casting – Sandra

Calling in the Elements – asked for volunteers

Invoke Hecate - Sandra with Hecate's Charge

(I apologize, I don't know who originally wrote this to credit them)

*Hear me as Hecate and know me for who I am.
I am the womb from which all things are born.
I cut the cord at your birth, and I will welcome you in your final moments
and light your way along the dark passage between the worlds.
Seek me at the crossroads, and you shall be transformed
for there you will face that which terrifies you and emerge, vibrant and renewed.
I am the choices you struggle to make and the void of making no choices at all
I am the Key that unlocks every door,
the light that illuminates the inner mysteries,
the sickle knife that cuts through illusion and frees you of the choices not claimed
I make the weak strong.
I raise up the oppressed and empower the disenfranchised.
I am the forge that transforms your inner demons into tools of power.
I am the fury that rips the flesh from injustice
and the glinting sword that protects you from harm.
Open yourself to my embrace and overcome.
Seek me within and without, and you will be strong.
Know me and you will find the strength to make your choices and fully claim your power.*

Make an Offering to Hecate:

Each person had been asked to bring an offering to Hecate. They went and placed their offering on the altar, as part of the invocation, either speaking it out loud or silently.

Sandra - Intro to Spell Casting with Hecate

1. Intention, what do I want to manifest
2. Build the actual spell, both as a mental construct and physical representation
3. Visualize the manifestation and raise energy directed toward it

There are a hundred ways to do this, talk about examples

Tonight, we will be using the 3 Symbols of Hecate, and the Strophalos

Direct everyone to go the Strophalos altar and pick the one that calls to you

Strophalos means a whirling wheel. The verb is strophao, meaning to spin, to turn. The oldest known representation is from 2300 BC. It has long been associated with Hecate. What does the strophalos mean and how can we use it? There's a lot of different thoughts on that - it is seen as a connection to the soul's journey through life. Or a tool of manifestation that when rotated and concentrated upon, can alter one's consciousness, allowing entry into the liminal state where Hecate dwells. It symbolizes the labyrinth of Hecate's three-fold path and the goddess herself, who stands at the center where three roads cross.

For me, in spell work, I use it as kind of a road map, a guide to constructing and manifesting intention. I'll share with you some of the symbolism I see in the strophalos, feel free to add

to this as we go - and then you attribute whatever meaning feels right to you, whatever Hecate's energy guides you to believe.

The outer circle - Hecate as The Cosmic World Soul, represents the container of my world or what I am trying to influence or manifest

3 flanged labyrinth - some traditional associations - the serpent that is the life force of all things, birth/life/regeneration. The triple nature of Hecate, the three possible paths of the crossroads of choice, any triplicity that is helpful to you in your work...past present future, mind body soul

inner circle - this circle represents our sovereignty, our self, our power.

central six-pointed figure - the divine within us, or emanations of divine self, different powers gifts or strengths we have or we want to cultivate

How you might use the strophalos: for example, intention is to develop a daily practice. Outer circle could be what you want in a daily practice. The three coils could be 3 specific actions you need to do to create the daily practice. The inner circle could be how you will change as a person as a result of the daily practice. The center figure could represent 6 things you want in your daily practice.

Craft your Intention

We begin by crafting our intention. This is the basis of the spell we will craft. We are only working with personal sphere of influence spells here, not trying to affect other people – so what is the change that you would like to make in your life? What is the work you have come here tonight to do?

What kind of crossroads are you facing, what choices do you need to make, what do you need to let die to make room for something new to be reborn, what kind of change do you want to help make in your world, how can you more fully bring your gifts to this world...

Suggestions to help you craft your intention:

1. Strophalos as meditation or trance tool (demonstrate)
2. Get out of your head, into your body, move if you need to
3. Stream of consciousness writing
4. Pull a tarot card or two
5. Keep it simple, distill it down
6. Make it present tense, first person

Time to share your intention with the circle - what is your journey about?

Each person had a minute to share in circle

Crafting your spell. The art of changing consciousness at will

Now you take the intention you just crafted and make a spell out of it. You will craft a physical spell using each of these 3 symbols (lantern, key and sickle), in a way that speaks to you. The symbols are meant to help you clarify how you will manifest your intention, practices that will support you, ways to reset your thinking. You will have about 30 minutes, a bell will sound at 10-minute intervals.

One suggestion – you can set this up as a journey of sorts. Go up to the altar and get whichever symbol calls to you first. When you have finished with that one, go get another.

In addition to the physical representation with the 3 symbols, you can craft words - write a story - or a chant - or a rhyme - or an incantation - to go with it. If this is something you want to create in your life, what is it that will help you to do that? Will you put your object on your altar and chant your spell every night for 3 weeks? Will you bury it at a crossroads and not look back and trust that Hecate will help you manifest it? Will you put it on the back of your toilet and pick it up every day when you go poop? Do you want to ask your community for accountability or support in doing this work?

In many esoteric schools, the visualization of the spell work is THE MOST important part. You need to have a crystal clear vision of what you are trying to create. What does it look like, what does it smell like, what does it sound like? The more time you spend on creating this super clear vision, the more success you will tend to have.

As far as the Hecate's symbols - I know what they mean to me. What do they mean to you? I have written some prompts and questions for each - they are posted on the walls around the room. Let's share with each other some meanings or ideas we have about how we can use these symbols in crafting our spells.

Hecate's Lantern / Torches

- Illuminating consequences of different choices
- Shining a light down the path of the unknown
- What darkness are you afraid of inside of yourself?
- Using Hecate's light, I will illuminate ____
- Use the power of her light to ignite your own flame
- How does the lantern represent your own power to manifest, make choices and make changes?
- Help me see both the treasures and terrors of my unconscious, guide me through the dark shadow of myself to revelation
- When we face our shadows, we can access her powers of vision and renewal

Hecate's Keys

- How are the keys a meaningful symbol in your life?
- What gates are blocking you - how will you find the key?
- What is the key to your success in this spell work?
- What power can you unlock in yourself that would aid you?
- How does this key give you permission to transform, moving across liminal spaces from one way of being to another?
- How does the key symbolize freedom of choice and permission?
- How can this key protect you and close off what is not safe?

Hecate's Sickle Knife:

- What ties that bind you do you want to cut?
- On this new journey, what do you need to leave behind?

- How can endings / death benefit you?
- What delusions or false beliefs do you need to cut through?
- When you make a choice, can you let go of the other options without regrets?
- What fears or old wounds do you need to cut through to emerge vibrant and renewed?

(the 30 minutes I had budgeted for the physical crafting part was not enough – with everyone's consent, we ended up devoting an hour to that part).

When the Crafting was done, we asked everyone to put their spell craft on the Hecate altar. We chanted and raised energy, releasing the energy into the collective spell works.

Then took down the circle in the standard way.

Scroll down for images of posters

SICKLE KNIFE

- 🔪 What ties that bind you do you want to cut?
- 🔪 What delusions or false beliefs do you need to dispel?
- 🔪 When you make a choice, can you let go of other options without regrets?
- 🔪 What fears or old wounds do you need to cut through to emerge vibrant and renewed?
- 🔪 On this new journey, how can endings or deaths benefit you? What do you want to leave behind?
- 🔪 What gifts can Hecate as dark moon goddess support you with?



KEYS



- 🔑 What gates are blocking you - how will you open them?
- 🔑 What is the key to your success in this spell work?
- 🔑 What power can you unlock in yourself that would help?
- 🔑 How does this key symbolize freedom of choice/permission?
- 🔑 How can this key protect you and close off what is not safe?
- 🔑 How does it give you permission to transform, cross liminal spaces from one way of being to another?

LANTERN-TORCH

- 🔦 Using Hecate's light, I will illuminate _____
- 🔦 Help me shine a light down the path of the unknown
- 🔦 Illuminating consequences of different choices
- 🔦 Help me see the treasures and terrors, guide me through my shadowy self to knowledge
- 🔦 Use her lantern to ignite your own inner flame
- 🔦 What darkness in yourself are you afraid of?
- 🔦 How does her light show your own power to make choices & changes and manifest your intention?

