



Candle

Magick

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Candle Magick History

You see...Illuminating the darkness was one of early man's first concerns.

The Egyptians have been credited for the inventive use of soaking pithy reeds in animal fats for "rushlights" and the early use of beeswax. As early as 3000 BC, beeswax candles looking pretty much the same as our beeswax candles do today have been found placed in tombs of rulers.

Romans quickly adopted and improved the methods of candle making, adding a "wick" of woven fibers. Romans used these "candles" to illuminate their homes and places of worship. Although many ancient cultures also used clay type oil lamps for illumination, the principles were the same, a "wick" usually made of flax to hold the flame and "fuel" of animal fat, plant oils (such as olive oil) or beeswax.

The word "candle" comes from the Latin "candere" meaning "to shine."

Candles have a unique place in our society today and are also an incredible link with our past. Candles convey messages of romance, warmth, spirituality, secret wishes and brightness. Embraced by almost every faith, creed and nationality, there is something special about a candle solitary flame. It touches our souls. People of all faiths and walks of life and many different creeds, can join together in a candlelight vigil to grieve or come together in prayer. Candles are unique tools indeed to link mankind to the Divine.

Candles "connect" like a conduit between people to the Divine, and to the deceased. Early Christianity shunned the use of lights, because of the popularity of honoring the divine with light was viewed as pagan. The Greek funeral custom was to accompany the dead with

torchlight or candlelight so that the soul of the dying could not be seized by demons.

Anointing Candles

In ritual magick, we anoint a candle with specific corresponding oils to further bring about our will and intent to the purposes we have in mind.

Oil plays an integral part of candle production from its basic stages to the mixtures of scents blended with the wax. Many religions including and starting with pagans believed in the powers and properties of oils. In candle magick, anointing with oils is an integral part of the process.

The Hebrew word for Messiah is "anointed one" and when the Christ child was born, the Bible mentions that precious substances of frankincense and myrrh are brought to him by the wise men.

During biblical times the known oils used to heal the sick were frankincense, myrrh, rosemary, hyssop, cassia, cinnamon and spikenard. In translations of Greek and Hebrew, anointing oil means "The Holy Spirit poured out."

With the establishment of papal authority, royal anointing became necessary for a king to claim his crown. In the ceremony of coronation, most essential was the anointing of the new king.

Anointed candles can be used for purposes both magickal and religious. On a spiritual level, what do we consider that anointing with oil will do? As with its use in all religions, it further connects us with the Divine. It links us spiritually, heals, and purifies us. Not only do we dress our candles with oils, we anoint ourselves with them in hopes of gaining a more spiritual contact with the gods.

How to Make Candles

Candle making require few special tools or materials, and are powerful focal points for visualization and personal power.

You can certainly run to the store to purchase candles for rituals, but those you've made yourself will personalize your magick to a greater power.

Again the key to a quality burning candle whether you make it yourself or buy it, depends upon the materials: wax, wicking, stearic acid, dipping vat, thermometer, wire, nuts or washers and pliers. Optional: water dip container, dye.

Some wax formulas that are used today:

70% paraffin + 20% stearic acid + 10% Beeswax

90% paraffin + 10% stearic acid

48% paraffin + 52% beeswax

Here is the list of materials along with some useful tips:

Wax

The most common types of wax used in candle making are beeswax, paraffin wax, and dip-and-carve wax.

Beeswax comes in one-pound cakes or sheets. The sheets are sometimes used for making rolled candles. The rectangular sheets measure about 8 x 16 inches and are available in natural taupe, bleached white, and various dyed colors.

Beeswax can be used alone or combined with other waxes. Adding beeswax to other commonly used waxes will both soften colors and enhance burning time.

When using beeswax remember that it is naturally sticky. When making molded candles you will want to treat the mold with a releasing agent (such as silicone spray) to make it easier to remove

the candle. Also, keeping the temperature above 160° F when you pour the candle will help to keep it from sticking as much.

When you are using 100% beeswax to make candles there is no need to add opaque crystals (beeswax is naturally opaque) or stearin to your candles. These two ingredients are listed below.

Paraffin wax is less expensive and more widely available than other types of wax. It is the primary ingredient in most molded candles. Because it is colorless and odorless it is also used more when adding dyes and fragrances. It is also harder than bees wax and produces a candle with a sheen. When combining bees wax and paraffin wax use a ratio of one part bees wax to ten parts paraffin wax. You should not have any problems with sticking when using this small amount of bees wax.

Paraffin comes in ten or twelve-pound blocks or in granular form. You can also buy it with ten percent stearin already added. You can also find different types of paraffin wax, classified by the temperature at which it melts and the pliability of the wax at room temperature. For most candle making projects it is best to get paraffin wax that melts at 135° F to 140° F but you will still need to melt the wax to 160° F or more for most recipes. The exact temperature depends on the candle making method you are using, the type of mold and the effect that you want to achieve.

Dip-and-carve wax is a little softer than paraffin wax. This quality keeps it from cracking when it is carved. It is also better for dipped candles. The softer wax helps the layers adhere to each other better.

Wick

The wick is a conduct that supplies the flame with a steady stream of wax. The best wicks to use are made with tightly woven cotton fibers. Wicks come in rolls or pre-cut lengths. Although they are made of cotton most will be treated with substances that allow the wick to burn along with the wax.

There are three types of wicks: flat braid for dipped candles, square braid for molded and rolled candles, and wire-core for long-burning candles such as container candles. Be sure to choose the right wick for the candle you are making. The width of the candle determines the thickness of the wick. If your wick is too thin for the candle it will not supply enough wax to the flame and your candle will not stay lit. If the wick is too thick it will flood the flame with melted wax. The package that the wick comes in will suggest the best candle-diameter. Here are some tips:

Candles 3/4 inch in diameter or less use 4/0

Candles 3/4 - 2 inches use 2/0

Candles 2 - 3 inches use a #1

Candles 3 - 4 inches use a #2

Candles over 4 inches use a #3

Wick holders

These are small squares of metal with a hole in the middle. They are used to anchor the wick to the bottom of container candles. Insert the wick into the hole and pinch the holder together to hold the wick in place.

Double Boiler

Using a double boiler will help to keep your wax from reaching too high of temperatures. After use you can clean the top of the double boiler by wiping it with a dry dish towel before the wax residue hardens.

Cookie Sheet

A cookie sheet or baking pan can be a very useful piece of candle making equipment. You will need it for laying out primed wicks, salvaging unused wax, and creating homemade wax sheets. You will want one or more with high sides - about 3/4 of an inch - so it will hold wax.

Dipping Can

A dipping can is used to hold the hot wax when you dip or over dip candles. You can buy a dipping can at a craft shop or you can find a tall narrow pot to use. Be sure that it is at least 2 inches taller than the candle you want to make. Set the can in a pan of boiling water to keep the wax at a consistent temperature.

Thermometer

A thermometer is a very important tool in candle making. You need to reach and maintain the right temperature to make beautiful candles. You can use a candy or cooking thermometer. Make sure it registers between 100° F and 225° F.

Scale

You will need a scale for weighing wax and other materials. You can use a kitchen scale found at department stores or a postal scale available at office supply stores.

Molds

You can find a wide variety of candle molds at most craft stores. You can also use your creativity and look for other items that can be used as molds or containers. Tin cans, jello molds, cake pans, sea shells, etc.

Wicking Needles

These are heavy duty steel needles that come in four to ten inch lengths. They are used at various stages of candle making. They are used to wick an already molded candle. They can be used as tie rods to hold the wick in place when making molded candles.

Other Items:

Stirrer - A wooden spoon or chop stick to mix in dye or scents and to stir the wax.

Cutting tools - A sharp craft knife to cut beewax sheets and trim wicks.

Pouring Pot - A pot for pouring melted wax into molds.

Heat source - A heat source is needed for melting the wax. A stove, camp stove or hot plate will work fine.

Pot holders, waxed paper, silicone spray and **mold seal** are also good to have on hand.

Safety tips for candle making:

1. Never leave children alone with melting or melted wax. Because it does not boil or steam, they may not realize how hot it is.
2. Never leave hot wax alone.
3. Never heat wax over 275° F, wax flashes from liquid to flame at 375° F.
4. Never let wax come in contact with flames. If you develop a wax fire, treat it as you would a grease fire. Do not throw water on it. Use a fire extinguisher (type ABC) or if it is contained in a pan, cover with a lid, extinguish any heat source and leave the lid in place until the area has cooled.
5. Use a temperature gauge and always know what the temperature is at all times.
6. Always use the water bath method of melting wax, never place your wax container directly on the heat source. Also, use a wire rack to keep the wax container from resting on the bottom of the water pan. Keep a close watch on the water level, it will evaporate quickly and must be replenished frequently. When done this way and properly supervised, you will eliminate any flash potential.
7. Don't pour wax down the drain, it will block them.

Molded Candles

Molded candles can be made in all sorts of shapes and sizes. There is the basic molded candle removed from the mold. You can make a container candle where the candle is left in the mold and the mold becomes part of the candle. A pretty tin can, a sea shell, a hollowed out tree branch, an egg shell or a glass dish are just a few of the containers you can use. See the note below these instructions to make a container candle. This recipe makes one 7 x 2 inch pillar.

You will need:

A 9 inch length of #1 wick. If you did not buy a preprimed wick then you need to prime it before you start. You can do this by dipping the length of wick into melted paraffin wax for about 20 seconds. Lay it straight on a waxed paper lined cookie sheet to dry.

1/2 pound of bees wax or 1/2 pound of paraffin. If you use paraffin instead of bees wax you will also need 0.8 ounces of stearin. If you plan to scent or color the candle use the paraffin and add the scent (just a couple of drops) and or color to the melted stearin before adding the paraffin.

One 7 x 2 inch mold.

To prepare the mold ensure that it is clean and dry. Spray a bit of silicon spray inside the mold to make it easier to unmold the candle. Thread the wick through the hole in the bottom of the mold and pull it up to the top. Tie the top of the wick to a wicking needle and rest it on top of the mold. This forms a "tie rod". Turn the mold over, center the wick, pull it taut, and secure it with plenty of mold seal. Seal up any cracks in the mold with mold seal.

In the top of a double boiler over medium heat, melt the bees wax and bring it to a temperature of 160° F. If you are using paraffin wax add the stearin first and bring to a temperature of 190° F. Remember that different mold materials call for different wax temperatures. If a different temperature is called for on the mold you are using go by that temperature. When the wax has become heated to the correct temperature, transfer it to a pouring pot. Be sure to have your mold at room temperature or warmer before pouring the wax into the mold. If the mold is cool it will cause the wax to harden unevenly.

To pour the wax hold the mold at an angle (this helps to prevent the formation of air bubbles) and as it fills gradually tip the mold back up. Fill to about a 1/2 inch from the top of the mold. Gently stir the wax in the mold with a narrow stick or wicking needle, scraping the sides of the mold. This will help to release any trapped air bubbles and ensures that the wax hardens more uniformly. Cool the candle for about an hour.

While the wax is cooling it may shrink causing a slight indent to form around the wick. To fix this take a wicking needle and make several pricks in the indent. Heat the wax to the temperature you used previously and refill the indent. This is called "topping off" Continue to let the candle cool for another 30 minutes to an hour. If needed top off the candle again until you achieve a level surface.

After the candle has cooled for 6 to 8 hours and has begun to pull away from the sides of the mold you can unmold it. Place the candle in the refrigerator for about 20 minutes to shrink the wax. Remove the mold seal from the bottom of the mold, then using the tie rod pull the candle out of the mold. Remove the tie rod and turn the candle over. Cut the wick off just below the surface of the bottom of the candle. To level the bottom of the candle, heat a pan lined with foil until it is very hot. Place the candle on the hot foil and rotate for a few seconds until the base is even. Finally trim the wick to 1/4 inch and you are ready to light it.

NOTE: If you are making a container candle use a wire core wick and wick holder. Anchor it to the bottom of the container by pouring in enough wax to fill the first 1/2 inch of the container. When the wax has cooled wrap the end of the wick around a tie rod and rest the rod on the top of the container. Take up any slack in the wick and center it. Fill with wax and top off as directed above.

Dipped Candles

This recipe makes six 10 x 3/4 inch tapers.

You will need:

4 pounds of bees wax.

Three 24-inch lengths of flat-braided 2/0 wick

A drying rack. You can make a drying rack by hammering pairs of nails into a board or by suspending a dowel or slat between two chairs.

Place a 12-inch dipping can in the bottom of a double boiler over medium heat. Heat the wax to 160° F.

To start dipping your candle pairs drape a wick over 3 fingers so the sides hang separately and evenly. Dip the lower 10 1/2 inches of wick into the wax and hold for 10 seconds. Remove the wick and hang it on a drying rack to dry. This primes the wick and adds the first layer to the candle. Dip the other two lengths of wick the same as the first. Be sure to check the temperature of the wax often to maintain a constant temperature of 160° F. Start with the first pair again and dip only the lower 10 inches of wick to create a 10 inch candle. Repeat again with the other two pairs hanging the pairs on the drying rack each time.

The optimum drying time between dips depends on your work room temperature. The cooler the room, the shorter the drying time. For the best results dip the candles while the previous layer is still tacky. Continue dipping the candles until they measure 3/4 of an inch in diameter (about 30 dips) then dip once more.

To give the candle a smooth, clean finish, bring the wax temperature up to 180° F. Dip each pair for 3 seconds. Allow the candles to cool for 4 minutes. Hold the candle with a sheet of waxed paper to keep from leaving imprints. Trim the base of the finished candles with a sharp knife. Return the candles to the drying rack and allow to cool for several hours or over night. Trim the wicks to 1/4 inch and the candles are ready to light.

Rolled Candles

Rolled candles are very simple to make. This recipe makes two 8 x 7/8 inch rolled tapers.

You will need:

One 8 x 16 inch bees wax sheet.

One 10 inch length of braided 2/0 wick.

1 to 2 ounces of paraffin wax for priming the wick. You can prime the wick as directed in the recipe for molded candles.

Using a ruler as a guide and a craft knife, cut the bees wax sheet into two 8 inch squares. Use a hairdryer to slightly soften the wax. Be careful not to over soften the wax.

Press the wick into one of the edges of a wax square, leaving 1 inch of wick extending beyond each side. Using a sheet of waxed paper between the bees wax and your fingers, tightly roll up the wax moving the waxed paper along so it does not get caught up in the roll.

When the candle is completely rolled, press the edge of the wax into the candle to seal it. You may need to soften it with the hairdryer. Repeat the process with the second square of wax. Trim the wicks to 1/4 inch and the candles are ready to light.

Taper Candles

Taper candles have been made in many homes. The most common material used for these was tallow - families would save animal fat to render into tallow for candle and soap making.

Step 1. Set up your dipping vat in a pot of water and place on a heat source. Using the vat to melt wax may require quite a few hours. For the candles shown here 140 melt point paraffin with 3% stearic acid was used.

Step 2. While the wax is melting, prepare some dipping frames. In its simplest form a Dipping Frame is a U shaped wire with a hook on each end.

Step 3. Cut a length of wick and tie a nut or washer on each end. Loop the wick over the dipping frame hooks. Before proceeding it is a good idea to set up something to hang each frame from between dips.

Step 4. I usually dip tapers at 150 to 155 degrees F. This provides a slightly lumpy, uneven surface. If you prefer a more refined appearance, temperatures from 160 to 170 degrees F. will give a smoother finish.

Step 5. The first dip should be held in the vat until the wick is thoroughly soaked with wax. Allow to cool.

Step 6. Dip the frame in and out in one smooth motion. It is important to dip to the same point on each dip for best results. Repeat for each frame. If using only one frame, allow to harden for a short while between dips, then dip again while still warm.

Step 7. Continue dipping until the desired thickness is achieved.

Step 8. If a smoother finish is desired, dip in water immediately after the final dip.

Step 9. Trim the bottom with a razor while still warm or with a fine toothed saw after hardening.

Base Candle

You will need: dipping vat or other container large enough to dip the candle and a wax pigment for color(available in most Craft Supply stores).

Step 1. Prepare dipping container by filling with hot water. This technique works best at about 150 degrees F. Texture will vary with temperature and dipping speed.

Step 2. Dip a few times, examining between each dip. This technique works by melting tiny amounts of wax off the candle surface. This floats and is deposited back on the candle as it is lifted from the water.

Step 3. Repeat until the desired amount of texture is achieved. Allow to cool.

Step 4. Use the wax based pigment and apply it sparingly with a fingertip or a soft cloth. Using a very small amount lightly highlights the texture.

Using this technique allows you to add more variety and interest to your candles.

Container Candles

Container Preparation

Before pouring wax the container should be preheated to 150 degrees. This will improve the finish visible through the glass, by helping eliminate "wet spots", lines, and bubbles. This is particularly important when pouring wax just above the melt point. Containers may be preheated in an oven or hot water, however should be brought up to temperature gradually to prevent cracking due to thermal shock.

Container Wicking

As a general rule, you should use cored wicking for container candles. Whether you use paper, lead, or zinc core wicking is largely a matter of personal preference. Zinc core is the easiest to obtain, and the most commonly used. Wick tabs should be used on all container candles to prevent the wick from falling over. Since most container formulas have a low melt point, they have a large melt pool. Wicking should be of a suitable size so the wick doesn't drown, and the melt pool extends to the sides of the container. The wicks may be pressed in place once the bottom starts to solidify. Some like to hot melt glue the tabs in place before pouring. A high temp glue should be used for this technique.

Pouring

The hotter the wax, the more it will shrink, so pouring is best done just above the melting point of your wax formula. If the container has not been preheated, pouring at a low temperature will cause the wax to alternately cool and flow going up the walls leaving a lined effect. Immediately after pouring, tap the sides a few times to dislodge any air bubbles.

Cooling

Depending on your wax formula, you may need to slow cool your containers to prevent the wax from pulling away from the glass,

causing "wet spots". Some techniques for slow cooling would include a hot water bath, placing in an oven, wrapping with newspaper, or placing in an insulated cooler.

Introduction in Candle Shapes

Altar Candles: The Altar Candles are used to represent the Deities or Powers with which you wish to communicate. This is a method of honoring them and their presence while tapping into their energy.

Two Altar Candles are placed on the altar, one to the left side and one to the right. The candles must always be taller and longer burning than any others on the altar. They must be lit first and extinguished last. Which of the Altar Candles is lit first depends on the type of Magick you are performing.

Color notwithstanding, the right candle represents male energy while the left represents female energy. Colors will vary from system to system and from Deity to Deity.

Astral Candles: These are "Personal Candles" of colors and shapes you feel right for you or another person. They are not to be confused with Zodiac Candles (listed later) that are affixed to you by birth sign.

Cat Candle: the Cat Candles are used for luck, jinx-breaking, and hexing, depending on the oils and energies placed into the candle. They are usually are found in three basic colors:

Black: used to banish bad luck and bring good luck. Gamblers should alter burning times between seven and eleven minutes per night.

Red: generally used for gaining the love of another by feminine (feline) guile.

Green: can be used to obtain money of a transient nature or to heal a sick pet.

Compass Candle: A Compass or Directional Candle is employed to help you determine a specific direction to take in life. It is usually a taper that drips freely when lit.

After assigning each of the four quarters a direction that you believe you would like your life to proceed in, observe the candle closely. The wax will drip in the direction that is best for you to take, not necessarily the one you might want, but you will be told what is best based on your present abilities.

Cross or Crucifix Candle: Sometimes referred to as the "Flora" or "Floral Cross" Candle, this comes in a variety of colors. It is generally burnt for protection and banishing. It can be used to represent angels which are called in to protect the home. One angel for each day of the week in the appropriate color.

Dehexing Candle: The best colors of Dehexing Candles are Gray, Silver, Black and bi-colored Reversible Candles.

Black: Absorbs anything coming to you.

Gray: neutralizes anything coming to you.

Silver: reflects the incoming energy back to the sender. The curse, jinx or crossing that was meant for you now rests on the sender. With the gray color, your energy must remain neutral.

Reversible Color: is usually found in a combination of Red and Black, with the Black absorbing the incoming energy and the Red concentrating it, adding any tidbits of your making, and returning it to the sender with interest.

Devil Candle: This ominous candle is used to banish a jinxed or crossed condition in the home or place of employment, or about one's person. It is commonly used to exorcise someone of undesirable habits, energies, and entities. Mainly used in conjunction with the Psalms. It can be used to create a jinx, hex, or crossed condition.

Devotional Candle: Devotional Candles, a from of Novena Candle, are usually those found in picturesque, heat resistant glass containers.

The pictures on the glass are usually of various Saints or Loas while a prayer is normally inscribed on the reverse.

Double/Triple Action Candle: Double Action Candles have two colors. They are usually referred to as dual action or dual purpose candles. Exemplified by the Red and Black Reversible candle mentioned above.

Triple Action Candles have one more color than the double action ones, hence one more action in combination. As an example, a typical triple action combination would be Red (passion), White (protection), and Green (money).

Floating Wick Candle: This candle merely exchanges the wax body for one of fragrant oils. A floating wick is suspended in the oil that lies within a decorative holder. These not only are beautiful at social gatherings, but you can remove stale cooking or smoke odors as well. You can energize the oil body as you would a wax body, but you must do so through the glass as the oil has no solid structure.

Glass Oil Candle: Though similar to the Floating Wick Candle by virtue of using oil instead of wax in a (glass) container, the Glass Oil Candle's wick does not float. It is suspended into the oil body from a separate metal or glass fixture. The Glass Oil Candle comes in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors, and is extremely useful in Magick as a Perpetual Flame or Altar Candle. The fragrant oils can be exchanged to match the Magick you are performing. The thick glass is usually safe and heat resistant.

The container usually has a small opening where new oil can be added without extinguishing the flame. As many of the containers are transparent, it is easy to see when the oil needs replacing.

As an Altar Candle for a magickal act, use the glass tapers. A neutral yet high vibrational oil in a thick crystal taper burns long after your Magick is complete.

When using the Glass Oil Candle in a magickal act, always imbue the container first with your will. Do not anoint the container however. Instead, with your will, imbue the oil meant to go into the container. In this way, the container has stored energy and power along with the oil.

Hand of Glory Candle: The Hand of Glory Candle and spell dates well into the early Middle Ages. According to Anna Riva in *Candle Burning Magick*, the spell was attributed to Albertus Magnus. Whether Magnus was the originator of this work or was simply passing on even older folk lore is not known.

The real danger of not understanding the "whys" or "hows" of Magick is well depicted with this legend. It also illustrates the real need for you to master the basics and then build upon them for your own understanding of Magick.

There are several legends on how to obtain and use the Hand of Glory. Generally, the hand of a hanged thief or some successful criminal (at least until he was hanged) was taken, then processed and dipped into hot wax. The hand was then set afire so that the light from it would render its carrier invisible, along with paralyzing anyone seeing it.

Before you start digging around in your local graveyard, let's examine the thoughts behind this magickal legend.

First, the taking of the hand of an executed man, once a thief, now a spirit and invisible to mortal eyes, was believed to bestow his invisibility trait to the possessor.

Second, the legend is so incomplete that the exact "facts" cannot be ascertained. You can do much better with Creative Visualization or Candle Magick and leave the hands with the owners.

With Creative Visualization, you can cloak yourself in a cloud of mist using the energy from the solar plexus. This raises the bodily vibrations to the point of invisibility. I use this method on our car

when a traffic cop is getting ready to pounce. Remember though to lift the veil before driving off or you may find yourself in frequent auto accidents!

With Candle Magick, you can control the mind of those you wish to be invisible to by using image candles. By willing others not to see you, you can come and go as you please.

Combining the two methods for a more theatrical approach, obtain some graveyard dust. Create a white, wax image candle of yourself, including the dust within the wax. Conjure your Magick around your will and your desire to become invisible to others. As you burn the candle, envision yourself surrounded by a white cottony substance. This takes a lot of concentration, since anytime you lose your concentration, you drop the veil and again will be visible.

The Guardian Flame Candle: There are many magicians who will only light a ritual candle with the "Sacred Flame" that has been dedicated to a Deity. This flame stands as a guardian in the home or temple. The glass Oil Candle is excellent for his purpose.

Household Candle: An all-purpose candle used for Magick.

Invocation Candle: An Altar Candle used to invoke a specific Deity. The Seven-Day Novena Candle is frequently used as an Invocation Candle as it is tall and will normally outlast other candles on the altar.

Jumbo Candle: A larger, thicker version of the Household Candle.

Knob Candle: this candle has seven small knobs, one atop another, and stand approximately seven inches high. One knob can be burnt each day while concentrating on what you desire to manifest into your life. A separate oil is used for each knob or an all purpose oil can be used on all seven knobs, the choice is yours.

The Black Seven Knob Candle provides an excellent way to banish undesirable energies from your home and the surrounding area. Burn one knob each day, starting on the Full Moon and working until the

New Moon for best results. Use a Green Seven Knob Candle or a White Seven Knob Candle to build a protective wall around your home and those you love.

Mummy Candle: Traditionally, this candle is used to acquire success and power. I prefer to use to ward off illness, dangerous situations, or the specter of death.

Novelty Candle: Any candle that is not housed in glass and has a shape other than cylindrical. Some examples of the Novelty Candle are the Cat Candle, the Skull Candle, the Seven Knob Candle, and the Adam and Eve Candles.

Novena Candle: generally, this is a seven to twelve day, glass-enclosed candle. Frequently it is inscribed with pictures of various Saints along with prayers or chants on the reverse.

Seven-Day Novena: This long-burning candle is housed within a thick, heat resistant glass, and comes in three varieties: Plain Novena, the Spiritual Novena, and the Specialty Novena. Each comes unscented and in a variety of colored wax and glass casings.

Plain Novena: This is an unmarked Seven-Day Candle found in a variety of colors.

Spiritual Novena: This candle comes with various depictions of Saints or Holy Personages on the glass container along with specific prayers or petitions to that Saint. The scene in which the Saint is depicted is usually a clue as to the Saint's power and use.

Specialty Novena: This candle is made of specific colors and sports specific designs on the glass container. It is named for the various actions it is to perform, and is often confused with the Novelty Candle. Remember, Novelty Candles do not come in glass containers and are not cylindrically shaped. Their names include Lucky 13, Controlling, Double Action, Reversible and many others.

Offertory Candle: This is the name for the main candle that offers your desires, goals, or wishes out to the Universe for manifestation. It is also known as a Purpose Candle.

Phallus Candle: A candle in the shape of the male organ, it can be used for anything dealing with male sexuality, sterility, or impotence.

Protection Candle: A candle of any shape and size. The color here is what counts. Burn a White candle or a Saint Candle whenever doing destructive Magick (banishing disease, for example) to protect yourself from harm. Also use Silver if you are doing destructive Magick against another person who also knows Magick.

Should your Magick return unexpectedly, neutralize it with a Gray Candle.

Some Novena Candles are considered Protection Candles. San Capistrano to keep away enemies; Saint Anthony for a job; Saint Jude for court problems; Sacred Heart for Marriage; Santa Clara for drug and addiction problems; Saint Michael for general protection. Whenever using the Saints, always write down your desire nine times on parchment and tape it to the candle bottom.

Using the Saints is not hard as the prayers are usually inscribed right into the candle containers.

Rebirthing Candle: A candle, with three or more days of burning time, that is used to guide the dead across to peace and rest.

Skull Candle: This candle, shaped in the form of a human skull, comes in several colors, the most common of which are Black, White, Red, and Green.

Traditionally, the Green Skull Candle is used to make someone who is gullible easier to separate from his or her money. It can be used to heal mental or physical disorder of the mind, brain or cranium. We have used the Green Skull Candle to aid in memory retention from College.

A Friend of ours had a brain tumor and asked for help. As the Black Skull is normally used to cause great harm, suffering and pain, we focused that destructive power and directed it toward the tumor.

It stopped enlarging and then could be removed safely by surgery. We then used the Green Skull on a waxing Moon to promote health and healing.

The Red Skull could be used to force someone physically to move away or to make him or her fall out of love with another person. Of course, the reverse could also be attempted depending on the Moon Cycle.

The White Skull Candle is the best one to use to bend someone to your will, contrary to our chart, as the Yellow Skull is very hard to find. This is a very good reason to learn to make your own candles.

Skull Candles of the appropriate colors can be of great aid to activists who must deal with bureaucracies. The large entities can be equated to headless monsters that feed off the life energies of their employees. By using the Skull Candle to represent the thought form of the bureaucracy, you can tap this thought form's energy and thus control much of what happens to it. By making the thought form feed upon itself, you can destroy it or allow it to restructure.

Snake or Bust Away Candle: This candle is used to break free or "bust away" from evil. It is used to break free of undesirable conditions, situations or habits.

Vigil Candle: Any candle will suffice when burnt not only for a long period of time for another's benefit but also to peacefully demonstrate for a cause or action.

Witch Candle: Traditionally used as an extremely potent love candle, the idea of being to "bewitch" your intended.

Yoni Candle: The female counterpart of the Phallus Candle. Shaped like a Vulva, this candle is used in sex Magick, safe birthing, and most anything dealing with women and their sexuality.

Zodiac or Astrological Candle: This candle is used to represent each of the twelve signs of the Zodiac. It is specifically colored, scented,

and adorned with the information pertinent to the individual sign. Its use, normally in conjunction with other candles, is to represent your goal or target. The Zodiac Candle would be placed on the altar and then moved closer to the target candle to simulate the merging of the two.

How to Effective use the Color in Candle Magick

A major tool in Magick is the proper use of color to one's best advantage. In dress, decor, or healing, color is of the utmost importance to one's success.

Knowing what a color can do on a conscious, as well as a subconscious level, is what Candle Magick is all about. The following will introduce you to thirteen different colors.

White

A pastel combination of all colors, White reflects light with little to no absorption. Whenever in doubt in a magickal act, use White, which is the most highly balanced form of spirituality possible. White contains virtues in their highest form, and is therefore very protective. It is beyond the word or term God/dess. It is the Creative Source itself, zero, the alpha, the light from which all life springs, the female aspect of God, the Craft of the Wise, the full of the Moon, the symbol of the life giving mother, and all female mysteries.

Associations:

Planet: Moon

Day: Monday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Female

Other Colors: Silvers/Pearls/Creams/Grays/Iridescent Whites

Key Phrases:

To seem unreachable, untouchable, incorruptible; to repel destructive energies; to raise vibrations; to heal emotions, births, rapes, children, and pets; to build purity, balance the aura, confound enemies, create illusions, and contact spirit helpers.

Black

An intense concentration of all colors, it absorbs light. Unlike other colors, Black reflects very little, if any, light back to the viewer. This can give the false impression that Black is the absence of color. It is actually the absence of color reflection. Think of this color as a black hole in space. It absorbs all light with little or no reflection back, thus it becomes a receptacle or a transporter for all that you do not need or want.

Properly used, Black can be one of the most useful and powerful colors available. However, misused, it can cause disaster.

Associations:

Planet: Saturn

Day: Saturday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Female

Other Colors: Dark Blues, Black, Dark Browns, and most dark colors

Key Phrases:

To absorb or remove anything; to end something, to remove or encase undesirable energies; to break up blocked or stagnant situation. The great mystery solver. The Crone, the Unconscious.

Brown

Earth energy. It is feminine in its nature and related to its sisters the Moon and Saturn. Being a relatively balanced combination of Red, Yellow, and Blue, depending on the intensity level, it can be used successfully on Monday, Friday, or Saturday. Brown is one of the more complex colors, with varied associations.

Associations:

Planet: Moon, (Tan/Browns/ Venus, (all)/Saturn

Day: Monday/Friday/Saturday

Hour: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Female

Other Colors: Browns, earth tones

Key Phrases:

To acquire basic material needs for survival; to learn to ground and center your consciousness with the earth; to obtain money that is not transient by working with your hands, i.e. laborer, farmer, gardener, etc.; to attune with trees (re-browns) and communicate with their intelligence.

Gray

This color is unique, due to its aspect of neutrality. Gray can be used to neutralize anything from a Magickal act that no longer serves your best interest, to the neutralization of destructive energies in a passive, non-karmic fashion. It is a perfect balance of Black and White, and therefore absorbs and repels. With this quality, Gray draws in the undesirable energies and then sends them out to the universe for dispersal as neither destructive nor constructive properties.

Associations:

Planet: Moon

Day: Monday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Female and Male

Key Phrases:

To erase, cancel, neutralize, and return tot he universe without repercussion; to eradicate or jumble destructive forces; to attract neither destructive nor constructive energies to your life (this include people and situations).

Blue

Blue transforms violence, anger, and hate. It soothes and cools. It gives peace, calm, harmony, satisfaction, bliss, oneness, and understanding of the spiritual realms. It is predominantly feminine energy, and is ruled by either the Moon, Venus or Saturn, depending on the hue. However, many consider Royal Blues as belonging to the expansive male energies of Jupiter. Therefore, it is left up for the practitioner, to experiment and decide for him - or herself which works best.

Associations:

Planet: Moon, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter

Day: Monday, Friday, Saturday, Thursday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Female (sometimes Male when used with Jupiter/Thursday)

Other Colors: Blue Whites/Moon, Blues/Venus, Dark Blues/Saturn, Royal Blue/Jupiter

Key Phrases:

Religious beliefs in a pure and healthy state, inner calm, peace from within, first contact with Higher Self, spiritual well being, wisdom, truth and light, dedication, and loyalty.

Yellow

Yellow is a color on mental clarity, swiftness, and accuracy. A sunny, positive disposition with spiritual attuning to the healing forces of male energy (refer to Gold).

Associations:

Planet: Mercury

Day: Wednesday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Male

Key Phrases:

To obtain knowledge; to learn swiftly; to gain insight into problems. Yellow represents all institutions of learning, particularly upper level studies (especially in sciences). Alters dark mental mood swings. Enhances the knowledge of healing, the ability to concentrate, and the retention of memory. Yellow attracts people, as it has a warm compelling energy, and can also be used to compel another to do your bidding.

Gold

The male half of the Cosmic or Universal Life Force - sun energy. Intelligent action or action motivated by deliberation and knowledge, usually with healing, money, or wealth in mind. Gold is related to Orange and Yellow, in that it is a higher vibration of these two colors, and any one of the three can actually be used on Sunday (sun) with

success. The choice here is for the practitioner to experiment, and then to decide which color suits his or her needs. Generally speaking, Orange vibrates to physical and mental action, while Yellow vibrates to mental action only (better attributed to Wednesday/Mercury). Lastly, Gold would be indicative of intelligent, quick action, with a monetary emphasis.

Associations:

Planet: Sun

Day: Sunday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Male (Amazon/Female)

Key Phrases:

To attract money and power (you constantly will have to work to keep it however); to heal and rejuvenate your being; to attract happy, active people into your life. Gold imparts the energy and intelligence to take proper action in a monetary situation. Attracts stock market gains, transient abundance, the appearance of wealth and grandeur. Epitomizes the gambler, the risk taker; chasing a pot of gold at the end of an elusive rainbow. It expedites money you know is coming but has not yet arrived due to red tape, lawsuits, etc.

Red

Red is a fiery color that attracts and magnetizes, but must be used with discernment to avoid disastrous results. The shade of Red used or considered in your magickal act will be of extreme importance here. Stay with the lighter, brighter shades of Red and leave the darker shades for the more experienced practitioners for now. The darker are for wars, battles, blood, hate, and danger.

Associations:

Planet: Mars
 Day: Tuesday
 Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd
 Energy: Male (Amazon Female)

Key Phrases:

Lust, physical desire, anger, base energy, war, blood, pain, attracts and magnetizes, courage, enemies, danger. Red stimulates and energizes. Cherry-Reds are for physical and mental lovemaking, but without the brutal force of the darker hues.

Pink

Pink is a lighter shade of red. It deals with a spiritual, emotional love rather than the physical form. Pink represents love that comes from the heart that is freely given without condition, such as the emotions and feelings between parent and child, close friends or family.

Associations:

Planet: Venus
 Day: Friday
 Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd
 Energy: Female

Key Phrases:

Love from the heart, without the sexual connotation, purest form of love, raises vibrations, love without selfishness, feminine, spiritual healing, banish lower vibrations and hate, love of friends and family, affections, unselfish emotions, to start a relationship.

Orange

Orange is a combination of Yellow/Mercury/mental agility and Red/Mars/action-energy. Thus you have the best of both worlds, the energies and actions of Red, yet the intelligence to know how to use this action. The overaggressive nature of the Red/Mars is now toned and tapered with the healing wisdom rays of Yellow/Mercury that nurtures the entire system. Sunday is the best day to use the color orange. It can be used on Tuesday or Wednesday with success, depending on your magickal goals. If used on Tuesday, the emphasis is on Physical action. If used on Wednesday, it is on mental action whereas Sunday is a balance of both.

Associations:

Planet: Sun/Mars/Mercury

Day: Sunday/Tuesday/Wednesday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Male (Amazon Female)

Other Colors: Orange, rarely Red, sometimes Yellow

Key Phrases:

Prosperity, energy building, attracts others in a positive way, attracts success, good luck and fortune. Builds vitality, energy, and stamina. Encourages fun and discourages laziness. Enhances mental agility, accompanied by the ability to take physical action toward a desired goal. Energizes the entire system. Promotes a happy-go-lucky appearance.

Green

Green really does bring the luck of the Irish, but in cases of money, you could be chasing rainbows. Money sought with this color

seems to fade quickly and trickle in a little at a time, just enough to whet your appetite (refer to Gold or Brown). Think of Green as being and elusive leprechaun and you will better understand what I mean. Green stimulates growth, especially concerning your garden and communication with plant life or garden faeries. Green is an Earth color, and is used on Friday. Depending on the magickal system you employ, it may be used on Wednesday, as Wednesday is also used for healing. Green used on Friday gives an emotional healing (matters of the heart), while Wednesday emphasizes healing knowledge.

Associations:

Planet: Venus/Mercury

Day: Friday/Wednesday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Female or Male

Key Phrases:

Money, healing, fertility, good luck and fortune. Attracts success. Communication with the plant kingdom (darker Greens) or faeries (Pastels). The secrets of healing are yours when you turn to this color. Use in conjunction with herbal healing techniques.

Purple

Purple is the color of expansion in all forms. If you want to do something in a big way, this is the color to use. Purple expands anything you desire, i.e., spirituality, business, money, health or love. The Royal Blues are less expansive, dealing more with the emotional and spiritual levels of Jupiter. Therefore, the Royal or Dark Blues are attributed to Saturn.

A word of caution, however: if you do not already have the items you desire, do not use Jupiter. Jupiter only expands and brings you

more of what you already have. To obtain the items of the desires, use Sun/Sunday/Orange in order to manifest what you currently do not have in your life.

Associations:

Planet: Jupiter

Day: Thursday

Hours: 1st/8th/15th/22nd

Energy: Male

Other Colors: Purple, sometimes Royal Blue, Dark Purple/Saturn

Key Phrases:

Money begets money, the rich get richer; poverty begets poverty, the poor get poorer. Purple brings more of what you already have, in a big way. Wisdom, high idealism, knowledge of the higher realms of Magick, spiritual protection and healing, the becoming of your highest potential, becoming your God/dess self, reversal of a jinxed condition. Manipulation of law, business, commerce, courts, judges, people in a position of power over you. Enhancement of power, psychic ability, male energy. Influence older men of power and women with a strong male nature. Protective energy, bestows fame, power, and recognition in a chosen field. Progressive energies that continually expand the field.

Oils and Dressing the Candles

You'll need oil to anoint the candle. This is called "dressing" the candle and it's a very crucial part of every candle spell: you're "addressing" it so its message is delivered accurately. Sure, you can buy perfumed candles that are already scented: please, save them for relaxing in the tub. You can even buy candles that are already dressed, but since the point is to personalize the candle exclusively to you, what good does it do to have the candle dressed by someone else? Dressing your own candle assures that you are attuning that candle to your intentions, personalizing it, enlisting it as your ally.

What kind of oil? Many metaphysical shops sell oils suitable for candle dressing. Some are attuned (through the herbs they contain) to certain colors, some have colorful descriptive names like "Come To Me" and "Fast Luck." Select these oils based on color and/or purpose, and pick a scent you find pleasing. A small vial will suffice for starters: you can gradually collect a variety of oils for different candle occasions.

You can also make your own oils, using specific herbs, essential or perfume oils and small amounts of any mild-scented vegetable oil, such as grapeseed or almond. (See Oil Recipes)

How to apply your oil to your candle is determined by your intention:

Inviting Stroke: When your aim is to call something to you and bring it into your life, apply the oil first around the top of the candle (in a clockwise motion, looking down at the wick), the bottom (again, clockwise, with the candle upside down), and then center (that is, around the candle's "waist", clockwise as you hold the candle upright). Then rub more oil from the top in toward the candle's center and from the bottom up to the candle's center. As you do this, hold a clear mental image of drawing good things to you, pulling them in toward your own heart-center.

Banishing Stroke: When your intention is to move stuff out of your life, reverse this process: apply oil in a counter-clockwise motion to top, bottom, and center, then rub out and away from the candle's center, keeping a clear picture of things departing as you do so.

For Novenas (tall candles in glass): These burn for days and many people feel safer about leaving them unattended (still in a bathtub or sink, please). Obviously you must dress them in a different manner.

To write directly on the candle, reach down with your tool and scratch the words into the wax around the wick.

Then, apply your oil around the wick and on the glass around the bottom only, working clockwise to draw to you, counter-clockwise to send away. With novena candles, petitions can be fastened directly around the glass jar itself, so the light of the candle's flame will shine through the paper as the candle burns.

Fragrance Associations

 Monday/Moon/Whites/Emotions
 White Rose, White Garden Lily, or Gardenia

Tuesday/Mars/Reds/Aggression
 Pine, Carnation, or Honeysuckle

Wednesday/Mercury/Yellows/Mental
 Lily of the Valley, Lavender, or Bayberry

Thursday/Jupiter/Purples/Expansion
 Magnolia, Sandalwood, or Sage

Friday/Venus/Greens/Love
 Primrose, Thyme, or Lilac

Saturday/Saturn/Blacks/Endings
 Water Violets, Black Orchid, or Hyacinth

Sunday/Sun/Oranges//Creating
 Rosemary, Rue, or Cloves

Fragrances Ruled By The Moon

Balm, Coconut, Eucalyptus, Gardenia, Jasmine, Lily, Lotus, Myrrh, Poppy, Sandalwood, Water Lily, Wintergreen

Fragrances Ruled By Mars

All Spice, Carnation, Dragon's Blood, Ginger, High John the Conqueror, Honeysuckle, Hot Peppers, Peppermint, Pine, Snapdragon

Fragrances Ruled By Mercury

Azalea, Bayberry, Clover, Fern, Lavender, Lemon Grass, Lily of the Valley, Mandrake, Mint, Hemp, Tobacco

Fragrances Ruled By Jupiter

Anise, Datura, Lime, Magnolia, Maple, Meadowsweet, Nutmeg, Oak, Sage, Sandalwood

Fragrances Ruled By Venus

African Violet, Cherry, Lilac, Primrose, Spearmint, Strawberry, Thyme, Vanilla

Fragrances Ruled By Saturn

Black Orchid, Hyacinth, Iris, Morning Glory, Opium Poppy, Pansy, Patchouli, Peyote, Solomon's Seal, Water Violets

Fragrances Ruled By The Sun

Cedar, Cloves, Chrysanthemum, Cinnamon, Frankincense, Juniper, Marigold, Rosemary, Rowan, Rue

Create an altar or special place where you can burn your candle and leave it undisturbed afterwards. You can add flowers, incense or other symbolic items if you wish.

Time your candle-burning to correspond to the cycles of the moon. You can find them out by looking on the weather page of your newspaper. To bring something into your life, do your rituals when

the moon is waxing (or growing). To rid yourself of something, do it when the moon is waning.

If you have knowledge of rune stones it is possible to carve them into the candles to help intensify the magick. Meditate briefly before lighting the candle to help still the mind and bring your desire into focus. When you light the flame, state your intention out loud, in simple, clear terms. Imagine that you already have what it is you want in your life. Continue to chant your desire as the candle burns. It is not necessary to chant the entire time. Watch the flame steadily, but don't stare intently. Focus on being receptive and open to what it is you want.

When you have completed your ritual, allow the candle to completely burn away. You do not need to stay with the candle after the ritual, but make sure that it is safe and red-hot wax will not cause damage or fire. Never re-use a candle which has been lit in any magickal ritual. It should only be used in that ritual and then be allowed to burn away, then dispose of the left-over wax afterwards. To help the candle magick you can also place a piece of the wax under your pillow and repeat the desire every night before you go to sleep. You do this every night for a week after the ritual.

TIMING

Much has been made of the astrological influences of candle magick. In candle magick the moon phase are the most important.

NEW MOON - If the goal you desire is one of a new beginning or a "start", the best time to do this is during a New Moon (this is when the moon is dark in the sky) While many do not like to work with a New Moon, I have come to discover it's one of my favorite times to work. This is the time I can to tie up loose ends, smudge the house, seal and protect. This is also a great moon to work with when you need to retreat a little bit and revive yourself. As it is the moon of

"hidden knowledge" this would be an opportune time to try to ferret out information that you feel you need to know. Although the darkness in the sky is startling during a new moon, it is often associated with dormancy. We know the moon is still there, even though her reflection may be hidden. I prefer to think often of some of the darker sides of the Goddess or the darker Goddesses themselves.

WAXING MOON: While the moon is slowly filling in from a crescent on it's way to full is the best time for work that "increases". I find this an excellent time to do financial, job, attraction or anything else that needs "increasing" in volume or intensity.

FULL MOON: The full beauty of a full moon night is enough to make you gasp. Ideally, this is the time for things to come to full fruition, especially if you have been working on candle craft goal to coincide from the waxing moon into the full moon. I like to think that the Goddess can hear you better on a full moon, but seriously, whether culminating an "increase" to end on the full moon, or starting a "decrease" to begin on the full moon to decline on the course of a waning moon, the full moon has an advantage because it seems like our invocations and focus are all in high gear.

WANING MOON: When the moon is slowly crescenting bit by bit into the new moon, this is an excellent time to work on banishing or getting things out of your life that you need let go of and leave behind. Again, if it's taking you longer to let go of things or get rid of situations in your life that have outlived their usefulness, you can always gear your candle working to culminate on the New Moon.

Often, a situation might arise which must be dealt with immediately, and cannot wait until the appropriate lunar phase. Listen to your gut instinct, and act when you must. Of course, there are always "ideal" times to light a candle. In fact, if we were to get really obsessive about perfect timing, we could consider the appropriate positioning of astrological elements, days, hours, months, and corresponding archangels to help us along. Let's face it, it's struggle enough to keep track of corresponding colors and oils to meet with our end goals!

Naturally one should rely on one's own instincts as to which color of a candle would work the best purpose for a healing or a sabbat. We can sometimes associate what is best for "fertility" or "money" simply by visualizing the green of a field or cash and associating that with the color of a candle. There are ancient ties with candles and scientific methods too. Within the color spectrum there are seven primary wavelengths or vibrations. Ceremonial Magicians have even ascribed colors to the Kabbalah. Without overwhelming yourself on technicalities of color, you can always make exceptions or go with what feels best. If you have a friend who's going through a tough time and pale blue does NOT feel like the right color to use, why not send healing energy with an orange candle to give her the zing and zest (and not to mention the strength) to handle whatever she may be dealing with?

The most important point in selecting a colored candle is to find one that relates to your own path, your own tradition and most importantly, to your "will".

The candle itself can be equated to the human body or human potential. It is composed of the magickal elements of Earth, Air, and Water. Once energized and lit, Fire and Spirit are added: All the elements necessary for Magick and life embodied in one compact unit.

Candle Symbology

Will

The energy you place into the candle is the unseen factor that creates change in accordance with your desires. That which gives shape and life to an action leading to an ultimate reaction. Will is symbolized by a properly energized and lit candle. Elemental Kingdom - a thought form created by the Magician.

Halo

The aura or halo around the flame represents divinity achieved, the life hereafter, the transmuted state of God- self. Elemental Kingdom- all on a spiritual level only.

The Body

The physical properties of the candle exclusive of the wicking. Whether you use a vegetable wax, a tallow or petroleum base, oil or bees wax, all the elements are brought to bear when the candle is lit. When unlit, all elements are present except Fire, Spirit and Will (if undedicated). Elemental Kingdom - as indicated - Earth-Air-Water.

Flame

The flame of the candle represents the seat of the soul. The spirit's transcendence and knowledge of its own divinity. Elemental Kingdom - salamanders. (Each tiny flame houses a living salamander.)

Wicking

The wicking represents the human potential when unlit. Once lit, it becomes the vehicle by which transmutation is made possible. Symbolized by the rising of the Kundalini. Elemental Kingdom - gnomes when unlit, sylphs and salamanders when lit.

Candle Holder

The candle holder represents reality as we perceive it along with all that contains and sustains us here on Mother Earth. Elemental Kingdom - Earth/Gnomes.

The Language of Candles

As you begin working with candles, you will discover that they have a unique language. The language is expressed by the dancing of the

flame, the wafting of the smoke, and the snap and crackle of the burning wax. In order to successfully interpret how your magical work is progressing, you will be communicating not only with your own subconscious, but with the Fire elementals as well.

Two candles will never react the same way when lit even when they are homemade and all things are known to be equal in their manufacture. Though undedicated, a candle has unique properties that individualize it from others of the same batch. When dedicated and lit, each candle displays its unique personality (shaped from your desires) that is communicated by the tiny Fire Element or Salamander housed within the flame. Communication with you will vary slightly from candle to candle depending on the task assigned it and how well you have aligned your intention.

As your candle burns, free your mind and concentrate on the candle. Watch how the smoke rises and the flame dances and listen to the sound it makes. The smoke may rise to the East or waft to the South, the flame may flare or dwindle, and the sounds may be of a popping nature. Ask yourself how these actions relate to the Magick you are performing. The answers you perceive are often startling and revealing about the true nature of your desires.

Do not be surprised if the unenlightened attribute the language of your candles to the myriad of "logical" explanations regarding drafts, chemical compositions, atmospheric conditions, etc. When the results are in and heads are scratched in dismay, just remember that "All of Magick Is a Seeming Array of Uncanny Coincidence to the Unenlightened."

The Flame

You will soon realize that your candle flame will frequently wav, dip, and bob regardless of how carefully you shield it against drafts. This is called a dancing flame, one of the ways a candle communicates with you. The dance has meaning and, once understood, can help you determine how your Magick is progressing.

Strong Flame: this indicates that power and energy are going into your desires for manifestation. This is a very good sign. When a figure candle is used, a strong flame generally indicates that the person represented by the figure is winning or angry or is using authority over another. when two figure candles are present, the higher and stronger flame represents authority over another.

Weak Flame: This can show you that you are facing heavy opposition and must redo the Magick several times in order to overcome the power you are facing. The weak flame can also indicate, on a figure candle, that the subject is losing the battle, argument, etc., against another. The weak flame that goes out usually means that you have missed your target altogether. Start over and be more careful of the intentions you put out.

Jumping Flame: This is an attention getter. It can indicate raw emotions along with explosions of energy, depending on the candle used and its intended purpose. When two figure candles are being used, a jumping flame usually means that an energetic or heated discussion or argument is taking place.

Rainbow Flame: As indicated by the name, this flame is composed of various colors. They have the same meanings as those listed in the colors page listed in this site.

Flame pointing North: Something physical is manifesting. This can be of long duration.

Flame Pointing East: Something mental is manifesting. New Ideas, intuitions.

Flame Pointing South: Something is happening that is aggressive in nature, a steamy, hot situation.

Flame Pointing West: Something emotional manifesting. A good sign of success.

The Smoke

The following general rules apply when interpreting the direction your candle smoke takes:

North:

You will have to work for what you want. Success will not be easy or rapid. Perseverance is the key here. In the case of health, it can mean a condition can get worse. Look to other omens for more information.

East:

Success comes with thought and strategy. Carefully review the situation. Patience is the key here.

South:

Success comes rapidly with your request. In the case of health, your recovery is immanent.

West:

When the smoke wafts to the West, the issue is too emotional. Step back, You are too involved. Look at the situation from a detached point of view to clear the mind. Then, reanalyze the problem. Is there something you are overlooking?

Candle Chatter

Candle chatter denotes communication on some level. That level will depend on the magick you are performing. Chatter is most common when using figure candles and can denote who is getting told what and by whom.

Soft, infrequent Chatter: Indicates intimate conversation and, at times, pure thoughts.

Mild, Frequent Chatter: Someone in a position of authority is giving orders or directions.

Strong, Frequent Chatter: Denote Arguments, quarrels or loud disagreements.

Remember, the language of the candle is important. The direction of the flame, the wafting of the smoke, and the audible chatter are all a form of communication for divination into past, current, and future events. Take notes and learn the language of the candle so you can better understand the workings of your magick.

Whenever you are looking for omens in candle language, always use your common sense. Remember that each magickal act is different and each candle is unique. Combine this awareness with your subconscious interpretations of the omens and you will find that your interpretations will vary from those of others under similar circumstances. experiment to find out what is right for you.

Word of Ethics

Please don't seek to control the free will of others... We've all heard and said phrases like:

"What goes around, comes around."

A candle spell probably won't get you the job you're not qualified for, the marriage proposal from someone you've never met, or the deed to that swell house you can't afford. This is why clarity is the first ingredient listed. Is our desire strong enough to keep us focused through choosing the correct day, waiting for the proper Moon phase, gathering our candle and other materials, and performing our spell and sustaining our intention while the candle burns? While doing whatever we need to do on a physical plane to bring about our wishes?

If we aren't doing what we can, practically, here and now, to help ourselves, why should the Powers of the Universe concern Themselves with our wishes?....