



August Newsletter

In this Issue

Site Announcement - We're Moving!
Important August Dates
New Items at The Witch's Apothecary
The Witch's Apothecary August Sale Items
Herb of the Month – Benzoin
Stone of the Month – Turquoise
Rune of the Month – Uriz
Tarot Card of the Month – The Fool
Correspondence of the Month – Trees
Spell of the Month – Book of Shadows Consecration

Site Announcement

We're moving! Take a look at the new site www.WitchSuperCenter.com. Be sure to update your bookmarks. We're still in the process of adding products and moving files. The Witch's Apothecary site will be active until August 31st, at which time we'll move it to the new server and begin redesigning it. You will need to visit our new site, www.WitchSuperCenter.com to place an order after August 31st. Thanks for your patronage.

Important August Dates

(All times are CDT)

August 1 - Lughnasadh/Lammas

Lughnasadh/Lammas

Animals/Mythical Creatures - griffins, basilisks, roosters, calves, centaurs, phoenix

Gemstones - aventurine, citrine, peridot, sardonyx, yellow diamonds and citrine

Incense/Oil - wood aloe, rose, rose hips, rosemary, chamomile, eucalyptus, safflower, corn, passionflower, frankincense, sandalwood

Colors/Candles - red, orange, golden yellow, green, light brown, gold, bronze, gray

Tools/Symbols/Decorations - corn, cornucopias, red, yellow flowers, sheaves of grain (wheat, barley, oats), first fruits/vegetables of garden labor, corn dollies, baskets of bread, spear, cauldron, sickle, scythe, threshing tools, sacred loaf of bread, harvested herbs, bonfires, bilberries, God figures made of bread or cookie dough, phallic symbols

Goddesses - the Mother, Dana (Lugh's wife & queen), Tailtiu (Welsh-Scottish), Demeter (Greek), Ceres (Roman grain goddess honored at Ceresalia), the Barley Mother, Seelu (Cherokee), Corn Mother, Isis (Her birthday is celebrated about this time), Luna (Roman Moon Goddess), other agricultural Goddesses, the waxing Goddess

Gods - Lugh (Celtic, one of the Tuatha De Danaan), John Barleycorn, Arianrhod's golden haired son Lleu (Welsh God of the Sun & Corn where corn includes all grains, not just maize), Dagon (Phoenician Grain God), Tammuz/ Dummuzi (Sumerian), Dionysus, plus all sacrificial Gods who willingly shed blood/give their life that their people/lands may prosper, all vegetation Gods & Tanus (Gaulish Thunder God), Taranis, (Romano-Celtic Thunder God), Tina, (Etruscan-Thunder God), the waning God

Essence - fruitfulness, reaping, prosperity, reverence, purification, transformation, change, The Bread of Life, The Chalice of Plenty, The Ever-flowing Cup, the Groaning Board (Table of Plenty)

Dynamics/Meaning - Lugh's wedding to Mother Earth, Birth of Lugh; Death of Lugh, Celtic Grain Festival

Purpose - honoring the parent deities, first harvest festival, first fruits grains & drink to the Goddess in appreciation of Her bounty, offering loaves of sacred bread in the form of the God (this is where the Gingerbread Man originated!)

Rituals/Magick - astrology, prosperity, generosity, continued success, good fortune, abundance, magickal picnic, meditate & visualize yourself completing a project you've started

Customs - games, the traditional riding of poles/staves, country fairs, breaking bread with friends, making corn dollies, harvesting herbs for charms/rituals, Lughnasadh fire with sacred wood & dried herbs, feasting, competitions, Lammas towers (fire-building team competitions), spear tossing, gathering flowers for crowns, fencing/swordplay, games of skill, martial sports, chariot races, handfastings, trial marriages, dancing 'round a corn mother (doll)

Foods - loaves of homemade wheat, oat, & corn bread, barley cakes, corn, potatoes, summer squash, nuts, acorns, wild berries (any type), apples, rice, pears, berry pies, elderberry wine, crab apples, mead, crab, blackberries, meadowsweet tea, grapes, cider, beer

Herbs - grain, acacia, heather, ginseng, sloe, cornstalks, cyclamen, fenugreek, aloes, frankincense, sunflower, hollyhock, oak leaf, wheat, myrtle

Element/Gender - fire/female

Threshold - noon

To learn more about this and other Sabbats, get The Sabbats eBook at www.the-witches-apothecary.com/the-sabbats-ebook.html

August 1 - New Moon, 5:12 am

New Moon Rituals

The time of the new moon is a time of new beginnings. This period also represents the youthful aspect of the Goddess. In the form of the Maiden, she represents youth, change and a fresh start. Children can also be Named and Dedications can be made. New Moons are great times to move, start new projects or cast new spells. It is also a good time to shed your past ills and to refresh yourself for coming trials.

The New Moon can be thought of as a time of learning. Don't be hesitant to try new spells at this time. You might also like to set in motion house protections or wards. Some Wiccans celebrate the exact night of Dark Moon by honoring the Crone aspect of the Goddess (such as Hecate), focusing on lessons they have learned in the past cycle and banishing negativity from their lives.

August 1 - Solar Eclipse, 5:22 am

An eclipse occurs when the orbits of the **Moon** and the **Earth** align closely enough together with the Sun and the Moon to block the light of the Sun from the Earth (a Solar Eclipse), or the Moon (a Lunar Eclipse). Every month we have a New Moon, but only every six months do we have eclipses. A **Solar Eclipse** is when the Moon is exactly between the Sun and the Earth and blocks the light of the Sun from the Earth. **Solar Eclipses** are very powerful **New Moons** and are known to herald significant endings and beginnings. The ancient rule is that the effects of a Solar Eclipse last as long in years as the eclipse lasts in hours. Events that are triggered by an eclipse usually take six months to unfold, so you can expect this process of change to continue as you begin to feel like a flower opening its' petals Special opportunities to break old patterns become apparent as you begin to make major changes in your life. Metamorphosis is the word associated with eclipse. The **Solar Eclipse** on August 1, 2008 occurs at 5:22 am at 9°32 degrees of **Leo**. All **Leo** Sun Sign people will be most affected by this Solar Eclipse as will those with **Leo** rising. If you are an **Aquarian** or have **Aquarian** rising you will also feel this eclipse more strongly than most because in our sky the constellation of Aquarius is opposite the constellation of Leo and is in direct alignment with this eclipse. Overall, you will find yourself redoing your life from your toes to the top of your head and your appearance will be changed radically to reflect the massive changes going on within you!! Ultimately the changes in how you see yourself will affect how you are perceived by others thereby affecting all of your personal AND business relationships!! This is all good!! :-)

Read on to find out how this eclipse will personally affect you:

Aries:

Look for drama with children, if you have them - or with people who 'act' like children with you. Look for a relationship (not a marriage) to be tested. Expect disruptions in creative projects and basic communication. Flaws will be discovered so they can be corrected.

Taurans:

Situations going on in your home distract you from your everyday life as family ties produce their share of stressful situations. A fresh perspective washes away past negativity as you prepare for change ahead. All the more reason to rest and relax more this month.

Geminis:

Communication rattles your world as your mind is ready for new ideas. But, be sure that new ideas are worthy of your time. This eclipse will change your pattern of perception as you break with old ways of thinking to make room for new long-term growth. :-)

Cancers:

Financial thinking is forced to change and little stands in your way to achieve success. Your prosperity is dependent on revising your investment strategy. Issues reach a climax, your hard work is rewarded and you clearly see what you have yet to accomplish.

Leos:

Because this Eclipse is in YOUR sign, it is very powerful on you!! You begin to rethink your life purpose! Letting go of what is no longer appropriate is a must!! A small shift in your thinking or behavior begins a powerful process that moves your life positively forward.

Virgos:

If you are not on a spiritual path, you will likely start one as there are shake-ups in what you believe. You reconnect with your inner world and discover how past experiences are still affecting your current choices. Your spiritual journey may not be an easy one. :-)

Libras:

With this Eclipse landing in your 11th House of Friends, your friendships will be tested rather severely. There will be dramatic events in the lives of your friends and in organizations you belong to. An overbearing friend may go too far, forcing you to take a stand.

Scorpios:

Your career is at a dramatic turning-point, so look for a move within your current company or a move to a new one. You can't sit on the fence - you have to make a decisive move. Unexpected dramas precipitate this transformation so look for signs that help.

Sagittarians:

Visualizing life beyond its current horizons, perhaps additional education, is in the Stars. If a disruptive event occurs this will play itself out to be a good thing as doors open to get you closer to your true life's plan. Look for changes as flaws are discovered. :-)

Capricorns:

Show the courage to be honest about what you are willing to give in a partnership. You discover that previous promises are not as solid as you thought. Sudden expenses force financial changes that expose the fallacies of current thinking. Transition is key!

Aquarians:

Your relationships get tested - severely! This is true for business AND personal connections. You are forced to reevaluate your commitment as ongoing dilemmas resurface that require your attention. Those that are weak will end paving the way for new ones!

Pisceans:

A small issue can turn into a major event at work as employers are embroiled in dramas with employees. The possibility of a job change can result. Your health also needs watching, but if you pace yourself and get some rest, flaws in your regime will be revealed.

August 16 - Full Moon 4:16 pm**Aquarius Moon**

The Full Moon in Aquarius is another eclipse. The final aspect of Moon sextile Pluto is great for calling forth magical opportunities and enhancing communication with other realms.

If you have never tried trance-work, this is an auspicious time to start. Think about what you want to do in trance. Have a pen and paper handy to record the results.

Sit or lie down in a comfortable position. Allow yourself to relax completely. Then visualize yourself going down a long staircase. Count the steps as you go down, one, two, three steps. You find yourself becoming more relaxed. Most people find that going down three to five sets of ten steps puts them in a light trance, relaxed enough to explore parts of their mind that are usually inaccessible.

While in trance, try projecting yourself to a comfortable place, such as a beach or mountain lake. You may meet a wise teacher or mythological figure during this experience. When you feel the experience is over, count backwards from ten to one, and then shout, "Wake up."

~ Magenta Griffith

New Items at The Witch's Apothecary

Incense Crafting & Use of Magickal Scents by Carl Neal – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/incense-crafting-amp-use-of-magickal-scents.html>

The Magick Toolbox by Carl Neal – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/the-magick-toolbox.html>

Pagans, The Original Pole Dancers T-Shirt – <http://www.the-witches-apothecary.com/pagan-pole-dancer-tshirt.html>

To see all of our new items, visit www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com

The Witch's Apothecary August Sale Items

Coexist T-Shirt – Regular Price \$16.99, Sale Price \$14.99

Pentacle Wind Chime – Regular Price \$12.99, Sale Price \$10.99

Magick Potions eBook – Regular Price \$4.99, Sale Price \$3.99

Herbal Energy Tea – Regular Price \$5.99, Sale Price \$4.99

Wicca Starter Kit with Money Spell – Regular Price - \$29.99, Sale Price \$27.99

To see all of our sale items, visit www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/saleitems.html

Herb of the Month

Benzoin - Air/Sun, Also Air/Mars, Gender - Masculine, Parts Used - Root and Leaves, Magickal Properties - Purification and Intellect, Uses - Burn for success in intellectual matters. Burn crushed and powdered leaves for purifying the home, self and other items of negative energies

To learn more about this and other herbs, get our Magickal Herbs eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/magickal-herbs-spells--recipes-ebook.html

Stone of the Month

Turquoise - sacred to both Native American and Oriental traditions, helps to connect with spirit and brings the energy of the sky down to earth. It is helpful in expanding awareness while still maintaining practicality. Turquoise moves the wearer toward integration and wholeness. Used on the throat chakra, turquoise promotes communication and the ability to speak honestly, clearly and from the heart, and reminds us of our connection to Earth and Sky. Ancient lore suggests that it also protects against environmental pollutants. In ancient times, turquoise was utilized to gain wealth. Wearing turquoise can speed the healing process. Lore also has it that the stone will change color, warning when the owner is in danger.

Rune of the Month

ᚱ Uruz (U: Auroch, a wild ox.) – Physical strength and speed, untamed potential. A time of great energy and health. Freedom, energy, action, courage, strength, tenacity, understanding, wisdom. Sudden or unexpected changes (usually for the better). Sexual desire, masculine potency. The shaping of power and pattern, formulation of the self. Uruz Reversed or Merkstave: Weakness, obsession, misdirected force, domination by others. Sickness, inconsistency, ignorance. lust, brutality, rashness, callousness, violence.

To learn more about this and other runes, get our Rune Dice Book at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/rune-dice-divination.html

Tarot Card of the Month

The Fool – The fool is the fearless traveler. He leaps before he looks and speaks before he thinks. Positively associated with innocence, new beginnings, joy, fearlessness, and spontaneity. Negatively associated with thoughtlessness, immaturity, impulsiveness, lack of responsibility and lawlessness.

To learn more about this and other Tarot Cards, get our Basic Tarot Card Reading eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/basic-tarot-card-readin.html

Correspondence of the Month

Trees

Alder (*Alnus* spp.) – This tree is a water lover. The oily water resistant wood has been used extensively for underwater foundations and pilings in Venice and elsewhere. It is used in dairy vessels and the branches in making whistles. It is associated with Bran, as He used His body as a bridge to span dangerous waters. It is used in the construction of bridges. Bran's Head was oracular. Alder indicates protection and oracular powers.

Apple (*Malus* spp.) – A dense, fine-grained, rosy-colored wood with a slightly sweet smell. The Apple is the earliest cultivated tree. It is associated with choice. At Somerset, an auction was held for single acre plots on two pieces of common land. Plots were marked and matching marks made on the fruit. The apples were then placed in a bag and commoners were allocated land by the distribution of the fruit. All the acres of land were similar, as many times today choices must be made between similar and equally attractive things. Regardless, the choice must be made. In Norse myth, Idunna was the keeper of the 'apples of immortality' which kept the Gods young. The 'fruit-bearing tree' referred to by Tacitus in his description of Norse runic divination may have been the apple. Apple indicates choice, and is useful for love and healing magic.

Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) – A strong, straight-grained wood; sometimes has 'olive' streaks or stripes in the grain. The European variety (*fraxinus excelsior*) was referred to in the Eddas as the species of Yggdrasil - the 'World-Tree'. The first man, named Ask, was created from an ash log. Ash was commonly used to make spears because of its 'springiness' and straight grain. In North America, strips of black ash were split along the grain to make splints for baskets and hoops. It is used in weaver's beams. Women would weave cloth and intermingling threads together in a tight pattern as the microcosm and the macrocosm are united. Ash can be used in spells requiring focus and strength of purpose, and indicates the linking of the inner and outer worlds.

Beech (*Fagus* spp.) – Beech wood is closely grained, very easy to work giving a smooth even surface. At one time Beech tablets were used as writing surfaces because of the above mentioned qualities. Beech and book have the same word origins. Beech is concerned with ancient knowledge as revealed in old objects, places and writings. Beech indicates guidance from the past to gain insight, which protects and provides a solid base upon which all relies.

Birch (*Betula* spp.) – A lovely pale, fine-grained wood. Long associated with fertility and healing magic, birch twigs were used to bestow fertility on cattle and newlyweds, and children's cradles were made from its wood. Birch is one of the first trees to grow on bare soil and thus it births the entire forest. Criminals were at one time birched to drive out evil influences on them, to renew them for the new year. Birch was associated with Thor, probably in recognition of his role as an agricultural and fertility deity. Birch is an incredibly useful tree - nearly every part of it is edible, and it's sap was an important source of sugar to Native Americans and early settlers. The inner bark provides a pain reliever and the leaves are used to treat arthritis. It's bark was used for everything from paper to canoe hulls, and axe handles were also made from Birch. Birch is most useful for fertility and healing spells.

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) – Blackthorn is a winter tree. The sloe, its fruits ripen and sweeten only after the nip of the frost. White flowers are seen even before the leaves in the spring. It is black barked with vicious thorns and grows in dense thickets. The wood is used in the cudgel shillelagh and Blasting Stick. Its thorns are used to pierce waxen images. Blackthorn indicates strong action of fate or outside influences that must be obeyed.

Elder (*Sambucus* spp.) - The Latin name *sambucus* is derived from a Greek word for a wind instrument made from elder. The pith can easily be removed from the small branches to make a flute. Elder regrows damaged branches with ease and can root rapidly from any part. A tea for purifying the blood can be made from the flowers and wine from the fruit, but in general the tree is poisonous. In Norse mythology, the Goddess Freya chose the black elder as her home. In medieval times it was the abode of witches and it was considered dangerous to sleep under its branches or to cut it down. Sticks of Elder were used as magickal horses by Witches. Elder indicates the end in the beginning and the beginning in the end. Life in Death and Death in Life.

Elm (*Ulmus* spp.) – A slightly fibrous, tan-colored wood with a slight sheen. Elm is often associated with Mother and Earth Goddesses, and was said to be the abode of faeries, explaining Kipling's injunction; "Ailim be the lady's tree; burn it not or cursed ye'll be". Elm wood is valued for its resistance to splitting, and the inner bark was used for cordage and chair caning. Elm adds stability and grounding to a spell.

Fir (*Abies* spp.) – Fir is a very tall slender tree that grows in mountainous regions on the upper slopes. Fir cones respond to rain by closing and the sun by opening. Fir can see over great distance to the far horizon beyond and below. Fir indicates high views and long sights with clear vision of what is beyond and yet to come.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) – A light, hard, apple-like wood. Hawthorn usually doesn't grow much bigger than a shrub, and is popular in England as a hedge plant. The wood from the Hawthorn provides the hottest fire known. Its leaves and blossoms are used to create a tea to aid with anxiety, appetite loss and poor circulation. The Greeks and

Romans saw the hawthorn as symbolic of hope and marriage, but in medieval Europe it was associated with witchcraft and considered to be unlucky. This seeming contradiction is to be expected from a tree with such beautiful blossoms and such deadly-looking thorns. Hawthorn can be used for protection, love and marriage spells.

Hazel (*Corylus avallania*) – Hazel is another food tree. In Celtic tradition, the Salmon of Knowledge is said to eat the 9 nuts of poetic wisdom dropped into its sacred pool from the hazel tree growing beside it. Each nut eaten by the salmon becomes a spot on its skin. The Hazel tree provided shade, protection and baskets. In Europe and North America, hazel is commonly used for 'water-witching' - the art of finding water with a forked stick.

Magickally, hazel wood is used to gain knowledge, wisdom and poetic inspiration.

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) – A beautiful white wood with an almost invisible grain; looks very much like ivory. Holly is associated with the death and rebirth symbolism of winter in both Pagan and Christian lore. In Arthurian legend, Gawain (representing the Oak King of summer) fought the Green Knight, who was armed with a holly club to represent winter. It is one of the three timbers used in the construction of chariot wheel shafts. It was also used in spear shafts. The qualities of a spear shaft are balance and directness, as the spear must be hefted to be thrown the holly indicates directed balance and vigor to fight if the cause is just. Holly may be used in spells having to do with sleep or rest, and to ease the passage of death.

Larch (*Larix europaea*) – A light softwood, very similar to spruce. Larch is one of the few conifers which shed its needles in the winter. It is closely related to the North American tamarack (*larix laricina*). The larch plays an important role in Sami (Lapp) and Siberian mythology where it takes the place of the ash as the World-tree. Their shamans use larch wood to rim their ceremonial drums. The smoke from burning larch is said to ward off evil spirits. Larch may be used for protection and to induce visions.

Maple (*Acer* spp.) - A very hard, pale, fine-grained wood. Although the sugar maple has the highest sugar content in its sap, all maple species can be tapped to make syrup and sugar, making them a vital resource to early North American settlers. In north-eastern North America, the annual 'sugaring-off' usually coincides with the vernal equinox, making it one of the first signs of spring. Maple can bring success and abundance.

Oak (*Quercus* spp.)

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) – A strong, straight-grained, slightly porous wood with a slight reddish hue. Its energy is a bit lighter and more 'fiery' than the other oaks.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*) – Darker and denser than red oak. Its strength and density have led to its being used in barrel-making and shipbuilding. It is useful for spells requiring strength and solidity.

Brown (English) Oak (*Quercus robur*) – A richly-colored dark brown wood. 'Bog oak' is brown oak which has fallen into a peat bog and been preserved there for hundreds of years until it begins to have the consistency of coal. Brown oak has a very earthy feel, and is useful for grounding.

Oak has been considered sacred by just about every culture that has encountered the tree, but it was held in particular esteem by the Norse and Celts because of its size, longevity, and nutritious acorns. The oak is frequently associated with Gods of thunder and lightening such as Zeus, Thor, and the Lithuanian God Perkunas. This association may be due to the oak's habit of being hit by lightening during storms. Specific oak trees have also been associated with the 'Wild Hunt', which is led by Herne in England and by Wodin in Germany. In general, oak can be used in spells for protection, strength, success and stability; the different varieties will lend their own special 'flavor' to the magic.

Pine (*Pinus* spp.) – The Pine tree is an evergreen, its old title was "the sweetest of woods". Its needles are a valuable source of vitamin C and can loosen a tight chest. The scent of Pine is useful in the alleviation of guilt. The Bach's flower remedies listsit for dealing with feelings of guilt. Pine indicates issues of guilt within you.

Poplar (*Populus* spp.) – The White Poplar flourishes beside rivers, in marshes and in other watery areas. The pith is star shaped. The upper leaves are green, the underside is silver. The wood was used in the making of shields. Leaves move with every puff of wind. It is commonly referred to as the talking, whispering and quivering tree. The Anglo-Saxon rune poem seems to refer to the poplar as being associated with the rune berkano. Heracles wore a crown of poplar leaves when he retrieved Cerberus from Hades, and the upper surface of the leaves was thus darkened from Hades' smoky fumes. In Christian lore, the quaking poplar (aspen) was used to construct Christ's cross, and the leaves of the tree quiver when they remember this fact. The Poplar's ability to resist and to shield, its association with speech, language and the Winds indicates an ability to endure and conquer.

Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) – The Rowan tree (also called Mountain Ash) is long known for aid and protection against enchantment. Sticks of the Rowan were used to carve Runes on. It was also used in the art of metal divining. Rowan spays and crosses were placed over cattle in pens and over homes for protection. Its lovely red berries feed the birds in winter. The berries have a tiny pentagram on them. The pentagram is the ancient symbol of protection. The Rowan tree indicates protection and control of the senses from enchantment and beguiling.

Willow (*Salix babylonica*) – The willow is another water loving tree. Willow bark contains Salicin which is used in the treatment of rheumatic fever and various damp diseases. Her catkins, which appear in early spring before her leaves, attract bees to start the cycle of pollination. In western tradition it is a symbol of mourning and unlucky love. The Latin name for the weeping willow refers to the psalm in which the Hebrews mourn their captivity in Babylon by the willows. Willow indicates cycles, rhythms and the ebb and flux.

Yew (*Taxus baccata*) – A beautifully smooth, gold-colored wood with a wavy grain. All parts of the tree are poisonous except the fleshy covering of the berry, and its medicinal uses include a recently discovered treatment for cancer. Long associated with magick, death, rebirth and the runes, the yew may be the oldest-lived tree in the world. Ancient yews can be found in churchyards all over Britain, where they often pre-date even the oldest churches. There are some convincing arguments for it being the original 'World-tree' of Scandinavian mythology. In Europe, yew wood was used for making bows, while on the northwest coast of North America, the Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) is used by the Haida and other tribes for making masks and boxes. Yew may be used to enhance magickal and psychic abilities, and to induce visions.

To learn more about this and other correspondences, get our Magickal Correspondences eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/magickal-correspondences-ebook.html

Spell of the Month

Consecration of the Book of Shadows

The Book of Shadows is your own personal journal, so to speak. In it, write down spells and rituals and ceremonies you collect. In the beginning, record the basic rituals of spell binding, casting a circle, etc. After more practice and study, start creating your own rituals.

Your Book of Shadows can be anything. I have several large, three ring binders. I find it easy to add to them and reorganize them as I receive more information. Some people prefer more elaborate ones like hard-backed black books with "Book of Shadows" engraved on the cover in gold. Everyone has a different type of book. You can make your own from recycled paper and decorate the cover. You can use a plain journal bought from a store, it's up to you.

The Book of Shadows is a sacred thing. Think of it as your Craft Bible. Do not let anyone outside of your coven or trusted group of friends use or look at your book.

By purifying and blessing your Book, you are also blessing everything you write in it from this day forth.

Arrange to perform this ritual during a waxing moon (the time between a New Moon and a Full Moon). Cast a circle and place your Book of Shadows on the altar or on the floor in the center of the circle. Sit in front of it facing NORTH.

Visualize a beam of light shining down from the Heavens, and a beam of light from the top of your head, meeting as one. (If this is a group ritual, visualize a cone of light rising from the group.)

Pick up the book and take it to the NORTH.

*"I consecrate this Book of Shadows,
With EARTH so that it may be a fitting repository
For my magickal energy."*

Pass the book over the salt dish three times.

Say this each time at all the points, replacing EARTH with AIR, WATER, and FIRE. In the WEST, pass the book over the bowl of water. In the SOUTH, pass over the candle (careful not to burn your book!), and in the EAST, blow on the book.

Place the book on the altar and continue visualization. Slowly lower this cone of energy until it is absorbed into the book. Say:

*"I consecrate this Book of Shadows with SPIRIT.
So that it may be a fitting repository
For my magickal energy.
So Mote It Be."*

Break the circle in the usual way. Your Book of Shadows is now ready for use!

To receive more spells, get our Wicca 101 and Beyond: A Witch's Grimoire eBook at www.The-Witches-Apothecary.com/book-of-shadows-ebook.html