
Traditional Materials

There is a notion of magical “conductors,” “insulators,” and “resistors” within the work of Dee and others. The below are examples that have place in the narrative.

Ashes

Completely inert matter, a line of ash can disrupt magic crossing it or define an insulating circle.

Blood

A supreme conductor, “the blood is the life,” and the life-principle can be seen as the essence of magic. Having a blood connection to a target, or establishing one to a magic item, gives advantage. Merely spattering one’s blood while casting magic adds little more.

Bread/Grain

A “power sink,” transmuting magical force from supernatural to natural. Some effects may even be transferred to bread and eaten by “sin-eaters.”

Hawthorn

Associated with Christ’s crown of thorns and growing over sacred wells such as that at Glastonbury, hawthorn has been used to protect homes from fairies and witches. Casting magic across a hawthorn hedge, at someone wearing a hawthorn badge, or into a house guarded by a hawthorn wreath, is at a disadvantage. Carved hawthorn, ironically, makes a superior magic staff – possibly because the wood contains and focuses energies.

Iron

A legendary resistor, iron harms faeries, drives off the Devil, breaks charms and glamours. The blacksmith is traditionally considered holy, thanks to constant, purifying exposure to iron. Casting magic on someone wearing iron, into a house protected by an iron cross or horseshoe, or on a blacksmith, may mean penalties; castings on or across iron itself may suffer. Iron *cannot* serve as an insulator, and any iron item intended to contain magical power must be “magically degaussed.”

Meteoric iron is a conductor, since it fell from the higher spheres. This “Star-iron” causes no negative effects, and in fact grants (depending on purity and quantity) to magic using or cast through it. Steel is “impure” iron, and doesn’t share properties of iron.

Running Water

Often seen as a barrier against evil and possibly magic – likely because its lower incidence of amoebic contamination reduces the odds of disease, which is commonly associated with curses.

Salt

An ancient charm against evil (probably due to its preservative effects), and traditionally magical (likely due to “uncanny” power to restore food’s taste), salt assumes diverse roles in different traditions; e.g Rock or granulated salt is a resistor to castings across or into it. A pool or dish of salt water can “ground” energies; when magic is cast within scent of salt water, this ‘grounding’ inhibits harmful effects. Saltwater bodies large enough to show tides (seas, estuaries, and oceans) keep their salt in flux; therefore, magic cast on or across them is highly variable at any moment. This doesn’t apply to Water magic, and possibly other “ocean-flavored” workings.

Silk

In fairly traditions silk can conduct magic or, tied in a circle, insulate it.

Appendix 1: Definitions

1. Invocation, abjuration

Invocation: The act or form of calling for the assistance or presence of some superior being, especially prayer offered to a divine being; an attempt to make someone have a particular feeling or remember something; to cause something to be remembered or expressed; the act or process of petitioning for help or support

Abjuration: A solemn recantation or renunciation on oath; as, an abjuration of heresy; to say formally or publicly that you no longer agree with a belief or way of behaving; to reject solemnly

2. Divination, obfuscation

Divination: The act of divining; a foreseeing or foretelling of future events; The apparent art of discovering secrets or the future by preternatural means; An indication of what is to come in the future or what is secret; a prediction; the art or practice that seeks to foresee or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usually by the interpretation of omens or by the aid of supernatural powers.

Obfuscation: The act or process of obfuscating, or obscuring the perception of something; the concept of concealing the meaning of a communication by making it more confusing and harder to interpret; to make something less clear and harder to understand, especially intentionally; Confusion, bewilderment, or a baffled state resulting from something obfuscated, or made more opaque and muddled with the intent to obscure information

3. Alteration, restoration

Alteration: The act of altering or making different; The state of being altered; a change made in the form or nature of a thing; a changed condition; to change something, usually slightly, or to cause the characteristics of something to change; to make different without changing into something else

Restoration: The process of bringing an object back to its original state; the process of restoring something. to return something or someone to an earlier good condition or position; The receiving of a sinner to divine favor.

4. Domination, liberation

Domination: Control by means of superior ability, influence, position, or resources; prevailing force; to have control over a place or person; rule, or control.

Liberation: The act of liberating or the state of being liberated, set free; The process of striving to achieve equal rights and status. to help someone or something to be free

5. Creation, destruction

Creation: Something created such as an invention or artwork; Bring to existence from nothing, or a recombination of unrelated things. to make something new; to bring into existence

Destruction: The act of destroying; to damage something so badly that it cannot be used; to put out of existence.