

A person wearing a long, flowing red velvet hooded cloak stands with their back to the camera in a long, arched stone corridor. The corridor features a series of repeating arches supported by columns, with a patterned floor. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The text "EVERYDAY MAGIC" is overlaid in the upper center of the image.

EVERYDAY
MAGIC

LESSON 1.2: INTRODUCTION & PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT



Riga cast a circle...

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Key:



Prepare for a ritual or meditation.



End of the lesson. A new petal will be colored in as you complete each week.

The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram

A lot of people have resistance around the pentagram, because those darned Satanists appropriated it, turning it into something dark. They did this by turning it upside down, just like they turn Christian crosses upside down. But the true pentagram, right-side up, is an ancient symbol of *life*. So, enjoy the pentagram guilt free!

The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram (LBRP) is a rite to set protection and create sacred space. It was developed by The Golden Dawn, a magical secret society that got its start in Victorian England. But the group didn't spring up out of whole cloth. To develop their system, they dug deep into esoteric Judeo-Christian mysticism and European magical practices.

The Golden Dawn fell apart in the early 1900s, but its influence lives on, in Gardnerian Wicca, for example. One of our most famous Tarot decks, the Rider-Waite-Smith, was a collaboration of two Golden Dawn members — Arthur Waite and Pamela Colman Smith. This deck is rich with magical symbolism, which we'll explore in week four. Because the circle-setting ritual you learned in the first lesson is based off the “classic” LBRP, we thought it would be useful if you learned a bit about the source. (It's nice to know where practices come from, even if you never use the originals!).

But back to the pentagram. Magically, the pentagram's points symbolize the five elements that make up our world. These are elements magicians must master — both within themselves and their environment. Sound familiar? It's magic!

The idea of building a sacred space is ancient and goes well beyond protection. Not only does setting sacred space “clean” your environment, but it also takes you between worlds. By casting a circle (or pentagram), you're symbolically placing yourself at the center of the world. (And since the world is globe-shaped,

The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram

technically any point you pick is the “center”). This sacred, center space, this world of elements and angels, creates an opening both upward and downward. The three levels of reality — upper world, lower world, and our own mundane world — are joined at the axis mundi, the universal pillar, which connects the three worlds. In this ritual, you become that axis mundi, the cosmic pillar at the center of the universe. And we master our world by calling in the directions and the five elements.

Our four elements are more than they appear. They *represent*. As above, so below: the medieval philosophers (and Riga is old school) believed that everything on our plane was a representation of something else on another plane. So an earthly king represented the power of the divine, heavenly king on earth, and the lion, king of the beasts, represented earthly kings.

Under the Golden Dawn system, the elements fell into five classes: fire, water, air, earth and spirit. From a “correspondence” (or symbolic) perspective, things can be fiery (e.g. a candle flame or salsa or passion), or watery (e.g. intuition or wine or reflections), or airy (e.g. wind or smoke or the intellect) or earthy (e.g. salt or gluttony or a job). You can use these elemental correspondences to symbolically “charge” magical spells and rituals.

More on that later.

Riga Hayworth works intensively with a sixth element: void. She calls it the “in between.” For her, it’s the nothing that came before the Big Bang, the emptiness, the crossroads space of the Greek goddess of magic, Hecate, and of the trickster god of Hoodoo. This is the space of pure potential, from nothing to something — void is the starting point of our creation. I’m starting to see the concept of this sixth element crop up in modern witchcraft (maybe it’s always been there, and I

The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram

just didn't notice). I like to think the empty center of the pentagram represents this sixth element.

So what about that fifth element? Medieval alchemists believed the four elements mixed together in differing patterns or “recipes” to make up our physical world, and everything that exists on this plane is animated by spirit — the fifth element. Because of spirit, the elements that make up an oak tree (for example) are more than just a jumble of stuff. Spirit enables the tree's essential “oakiness.”

Magicians play in this elemental dance. The first step in the dance is to remedy any imbalances in your mind, body or emotions, all of which are connected to these elemental energies. Understanding and working with your own psyche and the elemental world is, therefore, one of the first steps in successful magic.

The elements correspond to the four directions. To the east, air. To the south, fire. To the west, water. To the north, earth. (The void is the center of the circle, which if you're practicing alone, kind of makes you the center void, the axis mundi. Don't let that freak you out—as you'll learn in a few weeks in our shamanism unit, you sometimes have to scrape yourself down to nothing—bust down that ego— before you can become what you want).

Now, the direction you “draw” your pentagram in is important. The pentagram on the next page represents an “earth banishing” pentagram. Draw the pentagram with your “wand,” your index finger, vertically in the air as if drawing on a wall.

The LBRP cleans up your magical environment, protects, and opens a pathway for you to work with other realities. But before you perform a LBRP, make sure your “real world” environment is clean as well. Clean the space you'll be working in, and take a shower or bath (a salt bath is optimal).

The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram

You'll find the full ritual on the next page. Try *either* the LBRP *or* Elizabeth's *Casting a Circle* exercise from Day One of our course. One will likely resonate with you more (and that's okay!).

What's your biggest takeaway from this lesson? Share it in our [Facebook group](#)!



The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram

Stand in the center of your room and face East.

1. Touch your forehead say *Ateh* (Unto Thee).
2. Touch your heart space and say *Malkuth* (the Kingdom)
3. Touch your right shoulder, say *ve-Geburah* (and the Power)
4. Touch your left shoulder, say *ve-Gedulah* (and the Glory)
5. Clasp your hands upon your breast, say *le-OLAHM, Amen* (To the Ages, Amen)
6. Still facing East, use the index finger of your right hand and draw a banishing pentagram in the air in front of you, perpendicular to the floor and starting in the lower left corner at Earth.
7. Stab the pentagram with your finger and say, *Yod He Vav He*.
8. Turn to the South. Draw the pentagram and stab it. Say *Adonai*.
9. Turn to the West. Do the same, but say *Eheieh*.
10. Turn to the North. Do the same, but say *Agla*.
11. Turn to the East (so you're back where you began). Extend your arms in the form of a cross and say...
12. *Before me Raphael, behind me Gabriel,*
13. *On my right hand, Michael, on my left hand, Auriel,*
14. *For about me flames the Pentagram,*
15. *And in the center stands the six-rayed star.*
16. Touch your forehead, and say *Ateh*.
17. Touch your heart center, and say *Malkuth*.
18. Touch your right shoulder, and say *ve-Geburah*.
19. Touch your left shoulder, and say *ve-Gedulah*.
20. Clasp your hand upon the breast, say *le-OLAHM, Amen*.



Test this out over the coming week. How does this clearing ritual “feel” compared to the Casting a Circle exercise from earlier this week? Tell us on our Facebook group!

VOID

Centering herself, Riga
reached for the in-between.
The energy was there and
not there, cool, powerful.
— The Hoodoo Detective

RESOURCES

The Sacred and the Profane, Mircea Eliade

The Golden Dawn: The Original Account of the Teachings, Rites & Ceremonies of the Hermetic Order, Israel Regardie

HOMEWORK

Before the next class begins, try either the LBRP *or* Elizabeth's *Casting a Circle* exercise from Day One of our course. One of the rituals will likely resonate with you more.

