



books★ gardening★ recipes★ ritual elements★ articles

# Sword & Chalice

magazine of the Wiccan Church of Canada



Vol. 6 | #4

S. Equinox  Beltaine

Mar 21 – May 11, 2023

HAMILTON ★ TORONTO ★ WINDSOR



# The Wiccan Church of Canada

The Wiccan Church of Canada has offered open Wiccan temples facilitating classes, rituals, and training to the public since 1979.

Drawing on resources available in our own communities and temples, we are a diverse, accepting, caring group of people united by our love of the Gods and our own journeys. W.C.C. classes and rituals are open to one and all, regardless of one's level of experience in the Craft. We offer an open, and accepting place to worship as an experienced practitioner or someone who's vaguely curious, all are welcome. We encourage you to check out the F.A.Q section on our website or contact us if you have questions.

We hope our publication will reflect the diversity of our membership in offering a local pagan magazine written by the community for the community. Our articles are the voices of our community, those with knowledge and resources to share. Herbs and seasonal recipes we've tried and keep bringing back to our feast tables. We'll keep you abreast of pagan events, vendors and local artisans, as well as WCC classes & rituals.

Temples are open for Sabbat ritual and gatherings  
watch local Temple FB for details

The WCC is pleased to offer free online weekly classes Tuesday 7pm - 9pm. As well as a social Meet & Greet every Wednesday night via the ZOOM conferencing app.

If you wish to participate, please email  
LPH.WCC@gmail.com with your email address.



In the Wheel of our year, the March equinox is the movement when the sun crosses the true celestial equator – or the line in the sky above the earth's equator – from south to north, around March 20 (or March 21) of each year. At that time, day and night are balanced to nearly 12 hours each all over the world and the earth's axis of rotation is perpendicular to the line connecting the centers of the earth and the sun. This moment of Balance is reflected in our response to the seasonal shift. We stand on the cusp of death and rebirth in some very literal ways. At this point we are ready to transition, ready to shed the winter and the things we have had to deal with in its cycle of introspection, regeneration and the process of germination. Armed with new ideas and eager for fresh starts we look ahead to the light half of the year, welcoming a lush, cleansing energy that enlivens us on levels we may have forgotten. In embracing the rejuvenation that Spring brings, we embark on a transformation right down to the blood and bone.

Scientists know that when seasons change, the retina naturally reacts to variations in the amount of daylight. This triggers hormonal changes. As a result of light changes, the body naturally produces less melatonin during spring, causing a lift in mood, a reduce desire to sleep, an increase in activity and a need to eat less. This is partly a psychological effect but also

physical. Evolutionary biologists believe that our bodies are programmed to be more active as the hormone mix changes with more light. Released from the chemical messages that make us withdraw in winter, the body feels energized, ready to hunt for food and to give birth (literally or figuratively) to new ideas and transformations.

Signs of spring are beginning to show and it's a beautiful muddy mess outside. Spring is wonderful time to get outside and explore. Every day there's something new, some

new change to see – bulbs are beginning to sprout, worms are out and it smells amazing! Take this opportunity to celebrate the season in the best ways ...

- Make a flower and willow crown
- Plan a garden, draw it out, walk it out
- Plant some seeds, plant with intent, make magic!
- Decorate eggs, its not just about the holiday, it's a celebration of life

(hard boiled, wooden, wax)

- Bring spring inside – open a window, hang suncatchers, bring in some cut flowers
- Enjoy a Spring picnic in the sun - Pack up a lunch and head to the park, public garden or trail for a lovely picnic together.
- Find a Spring Scavenger Hunt (find one online or make your own).

Good health and habits make a come-back, as our internal fire responds accordingly ... we have survived the winter, but now its time to Live ... bring on the Spring and the Queen of May





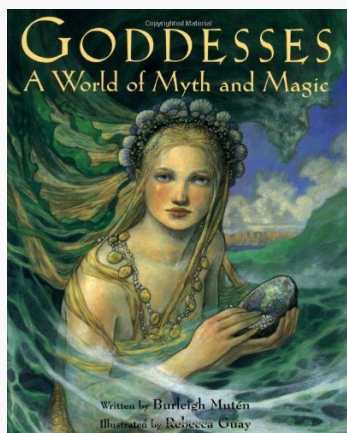
# Bellas' Book Nook



Sweet Ostara, Spring Equinox, how we have waited for your return. The days are noticeably longer, and the songs of the birds that herald the return of warmer weather fills the air. The winds of March can make us giddy with anticipation, inspiration, and dreams of gardens filled beauty and abundance. This edition's selection is with the energy of Spring in mind, where we can explore our deity, find beauty in Their prayers and song. Where we can focus our

inspiration on our own growth within the season, using the resources every personal library should have, in my opinion.

At this time of the year, some of us may feel younger as Spring brings out the 'kid' in us. This made me think that many of us, including the children in our pagan community, may be curious about the Gods and Goddess we worship. While looking for something else, I found a brilliant book all about Goddesses



**Goddesses: A World of Myth and Magic, written by Burleigh Muten, is beautifully illustrated by Rebecca Guay. ISBN:**

**1-84148-075-4**, 80 pages, and published in 2003, by Barefoot Books, Cambridge, MA. The only copies available were, on the Canadian Amazon site, for \$16.22.

It's an amazing book filled with the names and stories of Goddess that are familiar and many others completely unknown to me. Rather enjoyed the short story of Hanna Hanna, Goddess of Wisdom, on whom the people could call upon in times of Trouble. The Rain God of the Hittites, fell into a deep sleep, and Hanna Hanna sent her sacred bee to find him, and her sacred eagle to bring him back, so he could

end the draught caused by his slumber. Well worth trying to find, as it can lead to all sorts of interesting conversations about various Goddesses from countries around the world.

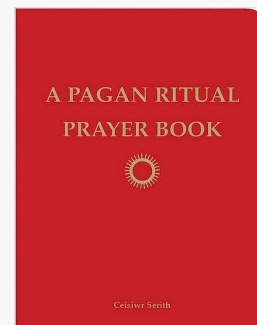
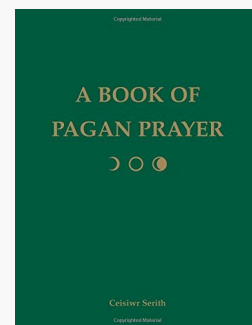
I must admit that I suffer from bouts of writers-block, be it reviews or ritual. When this happens I turn to prayers or chants for inspiration, I will always fall back on two books. The first, **A Book of Pagan Prayers (2002 - Green Cover) ISBN: 1-57863-255-2**. Chapters cover topics on the basics of prayer, sacred space, composing prayers, and various prayers from the time of day, to safety in one's travels. Well rounded and worth looking at page 160:

*Blessed be Eostre, Springtime Queen, Blessed in all the signs of warmth's return, Blessed in the scent of thawing Earth, her own true incense rising up in her praise.*

**A Pagan Ritual Prayer Book (2011 - Red Cover,) ISBN: 978-1-57863-484-2**, both published by Weiser Books, covers the foundation of worship, building ritual space, callings, praise of Deities and Sabbats, and much more than I can cover in these brief words. So, I will leave you with this from page 164:

*Kite aloft on the winds of March, Carry my prayers to the Gods of Spring.*

And with that, I say, stay safe, stay healthy, and Happy Reading!





# Violets

## *Herb Lore with Glenys*



The Violet (*viola odorata*) is one of the early flowering plants in spring. It is the common species and one of five hundred or so species in the genus *Viola* from the family *Violaceae* which include Pansies. Its common names include wood violet, sweet violet, English violet, common violet, florist's violet, or garden violet. Please note that African violets do not belong to the same genus or family and therefore do not make a suitable substitute. The violet was originally native to northern climes of Europe and Asia, but gardeners introduced to *v. odorata* to North America and Australia where it spread. There are approximately thirty-five native Canadian violets (*v. canadensis*, *v. sororia*, among others) but the article is about *v. odorata*

Violets are normally pale to rich violet colour, white or sometimes yellow and are scented. The serrated, heart-shaped leaves radiate around the base of the stem and low to the ground. The flowers grow on a single leafless stalk. The flowers have a paler/white area in the center and are slightly hairy and drooping head. They prefer shaded or cooler areas and will wilt if in full sun or hotter areas. They are often located in forest edges or clearings. Violets grow to a height of 4 to 6 inches and have a spread of 8 to 24 inches. They replicate through runners. The colour violet comes from the rich colour of the flower. *Viola* is Latin for purple.

The scent of the Violet has proven popular and was in common use during the Victorian era. The French are known for their Violet syrup made from an extract of the flowers and is a common ingredient in violet scones and marshmallows.

References to the flower are found throughout history including classical Roman (Pliny and Horace) and Greek mythological sources as well as poetic references from the likes of Ovid, Homer, Sappho, Shakespeare, Shelley, Keats, and Dickenson. In Greek, the flower is referred to as *Ion* and the term for the chemical compound related to its scent is *ionone*. This relates to the name of the Goddess directly associated with the myth of the violet, *Io*

Violets are useful as a culinary herb. The leaves make a wonderful addition to a salad or cooked like spinach. The flowers are lovely in jellies or candied and make a pretty garnish on a salad or on top of a dessert. They also make a lovely tisane. Medicinally, violets have been useful as diuretics or mild laxatives as well as cough syrups and an anti-inflammatory.

Violets are used as a funerary flower, especially as it relates to the death of a child. They are planted on graves of children and used to ease the grief of loss.

Magically, there references to the use of violets. They are sacred to deities including *Io*, *Zeus*, *Venus*, *Persephone*. They are feminine, related to the element of water and the planet *Venus*. They are often used in rites of the dead. Violets have also been associated with a woman's wellbeing where the flowers were soaked in goats' milk which was applied to the skin to enhance beauty and appeal. The plants can be used for rituals or spells related to modesty, humility, simplicity, serenity, peace, and good fortune as well as to ease anger. They are associated with women's mysteries. Lastly the leaves of the violet are a prime ingredient in the making of a wash for tools of divination.



# Aquamarine

The name Aquamarine comes from the Latin phrase “aqua marinus” meaning “water of the sea”, getting its name as it resembles the beautiful sparkling colour of the ocean waters. It is blue to blue-green in colour and is a variety of Beryl. Aquamarine is coloured by trace amounts of iron that find their way into the crystal structure.

Aquamarine was thought to be used in ancient times by the Romans to purify water and guarantee safe travel by sea. It was thought to be the mermaid’s stone, and sailors used it as an amulet to keep them safe from storms and bring them securely home from sea. They would also use it to ensure a good catch of fish while out faring. Roman craftsmen made goblets of aquamarine to help aid digestion after overeating. Aquamarine was believed to soothe and prolong relationships, and was given as an anniversary gift long before its official listing for the 19th wedding anniversary. It was also thought to render soldiers invincible, and was carried into battle as a stone of protection. In this day, it has been reinterpreted by some as a form of protection during legal battles.

**Element:** Water

**Energy:** Receptive

**Planet :** Moon & Neptune

**Chakra:** Throat

**Zodiac:** Aries, Gemini, Pisces

**Tarot:** The Hanged Man

**Sabbat:** Ostara



**Magical Properties:** Authority, Calm, Clarity, Communication, Compassion, Courage, Creativity, Desire, Energy, Fear, Grief, Happiness, Healing, Independence, Insight, Inspiration, Introspection, Knowledge, Loss, Love, Magic, Marriage, Peace, Personal Power, Prophecy, Protection, Psychic Ability, Purification, Rebirth/Renewal, Reflection, Relationships, Self-Worth, Strength, Stress, Travel, Visions, Wisdom, Youth

## Magical Uses

Use it as a conduit to focus and amplify the Universal Life Force, giving us the energy to accomplish our goals. Wearing aquamarine will help us gain what we seek, enhances our life, protect what we value, and defend us from undesirables. Use it in rituals to cleanse and protect, especially regarding Water rituals. Worn, it helps to resolve legal and judicial affairs favourably. Wear it to project an aura of real strength, to make others pay attention, even when you may not have full confidence in yourself. It can be worn or rubbed on the body prior to magical rites to purify oneself, or bathe with an aquamarine in your water during magical purification.

## Healing Uses

Aquamarine is beneficial for balancing anger and fear, and helps clear past abuses. It assists us through transition and change, removing barriers, and helps overcome the fear of the unknown. It is a powerful stone for cleansing the emotional body, allowing us to open up and communicate. It allows for better relationships, love/self-love, and compassion. It works to balance the mental, emotional, and physical bodies, which helps us attune ourselves to universal truths.

We use aquamarine to bring on the joys of spring; smelling the flowers, walking barefoot on the earth, planting seeds, listening to the birds sing, journaling our dreams, and shedding the limiting ways of being. It's a time of beautiful colours transformation, and uplifting vibrations. The gem removes stagnant energies and inspires openness, confidence, and a renewed sense of purpose. Use it during your Ostara rituals and celebrations to embrace the new energy with a positive attitude and open mind, while releasing anything that no longer serves you.



# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

## LIMITED TIME OFFER

**Great to wear at Events, Festivals, PPD Days, Camping and Fundraisers**

Once every 5 years Sandy Busby puts this together for people to have a chance to order our shirts and help support the temples. All proceeds go towards the maintenance public temples, class and ritual service.

**All orders must be PREPAID and in by Mar 31th**

Contact Sandy to order: [sandybusby62@gmail.com](mailto:sandybusby62@gmail.com) or 647-657-2523 9am to 5pm.

(2 locations for p/u Toronto or Hamilton Temple)

Price already includes tax and temple donation; just tell Sandy which temple.

V Neck and Crews are a true fit, they do not shrink or fade even after 5 years.

V Neck Unisex XS to XL \$30.00

2XL \$32.00

Crew Neck Unisex XS to XL \$30.00

2XL \$32.00, 3XL \$34.00, 4XL \$37.00

Racerback \*\*fits small 2XL = XL, XL = LG etc...

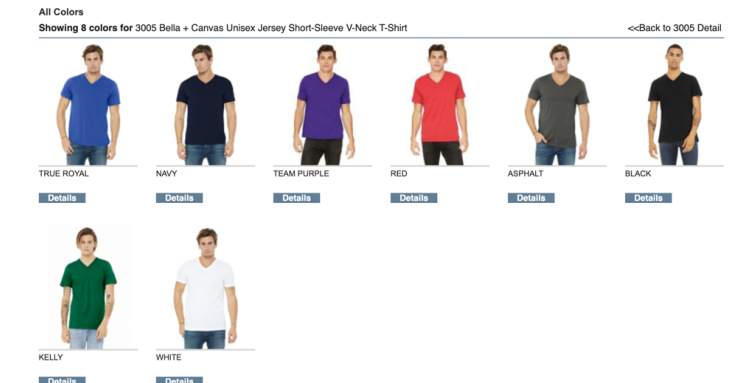
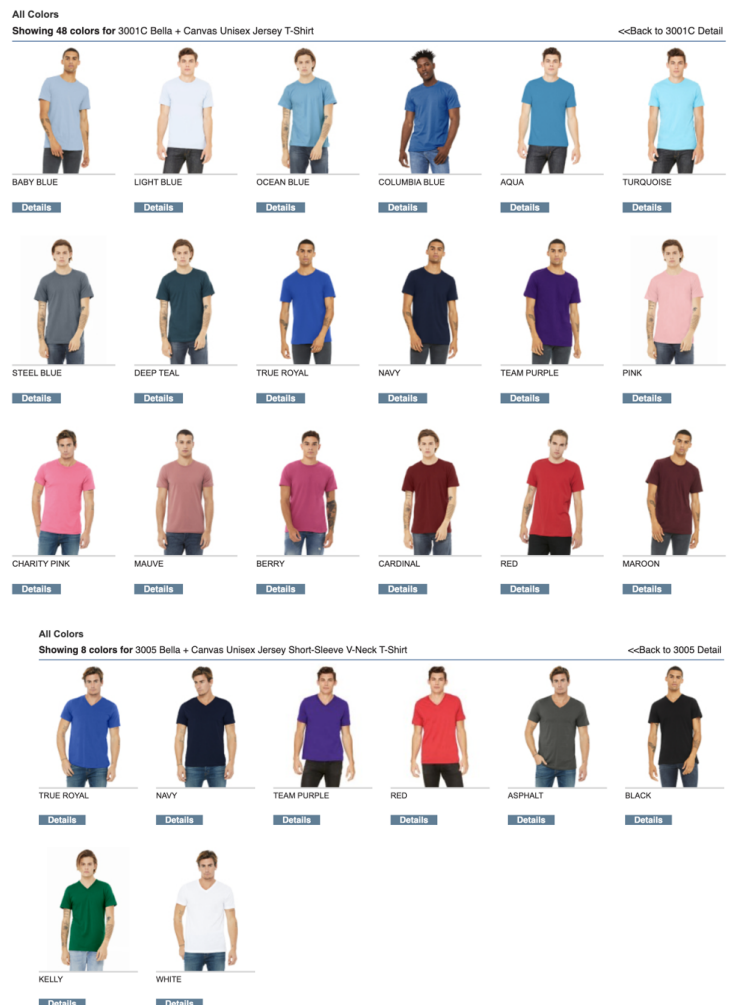
S to XL is \$31.00

2XL is \$34.00

Unisex Jersey Short-Sleeve



Flowy Racerback Tank







# The Sabbat Table

## Hamentaschen Cookies

Submitted by Karen Dales as a wonderful full moon or sabbat treat for her coven

### Ingredients

**3 eggs**

**1 cup of Oil**

**1 cup of Sugar**

**2 tsp baking powder**

**1/2 cup of water**

**1/2 cup orange juice**

**1/8 tsp salt**

**4 cups of Flour**

yields 5 dozen

1. Combine ingredients in order given, using enough flour to make a soft dough which is not sticky.
2. Let stand 15 minutes to rest.
3. Divide into 4 parts.
4. One at a time, roll each to 1/4 inch thickness on a floured surface.
5. Cut into 4 inch circles.
6. Place a spoonful of desired filling in center (chocolate, apples, cherries, raspberries, fruit preserves of any kind, Poppy seeds, etc.
7. Form into triangles by folding sides towards the middle and pinch the touching sides together.
8. Brush with a beaten egg.
9. Bake on a lightly greased baking sheet at 350°F for 30 minutes, until golden brown.

**Pysanka eggs are a popular item from the Ukraine. This tradition stems from a pre-Christian custom in which eggs were covered in wax and decorated in honor of the sun god Dazhboh. He was celebrated during the spring season, and associated with birds. People were unable to catch birds, as they were the god's chosen animals, but they could collect the eggs, which were considered magical things.**







With Spring finally upon us, the ancient motifs surface and assure us of our own place in the dance of the seasons. Spring brings us new birds and beasts, growth and renewal, with emblems connecting us to the process since the beginning of time. Whether it is the ancient greek concept of the Orphic Egg and the beginning of all things, or a cosmic eggs hatching creators and sun gods; the egg has long been a symbol of fertility and rebirth. A motif that threads its way through all of our cultures, our

myths and our hopes for the future.

Eggs as part of our Spring rituals have been used to ensure fertility, prosperity and peace. Always treated with reverence, the egg is a fragile symbol of Life and balance. There is a ritualistic element involved in the painting of eggs, a magical thinking, calling out to the gods and goddesses for health, fertility, love, wealth, and peace. We imbue our hopes in the language of art, colour and symbols; sharing with each other that need for renewal.

Many design motifs on modern Easter eggs date back to pre-Christian times to early Slavic cultures, some even give evidence to dating as far as matching neolithic imagery. While the symbols have remained through the ages, their interpretation has changed or been repurposed through artistic or religious license. However, underneath of it all, a triangle still speaks of the three elements, earth, fire and air. The equal armed solar cross which depicts the rising sun is also now the symbol of the risen Christ, but its power remains steadfast through time. Sun and star symbols once referred to Dazhboh, a sun god, and the fish, spoke of a plentiful catch and a full stomach. In decorating our eggs today we still speak to our ancient connections through flowers, vines, the serpent, the sun and the moon, the old gods, the old ways, and the old beliefs.

One of the most enduring examples of the talismanic use of the egg is the Ukrainian pysanky. A pysanka is an egg decorated using a wax resist (aka batik) method of application. Its name derives from the Ukrainian verb "pysaty," meaning "to write." Colours, symbols and rituals were often unique to each family or region, however, customs were preserved faithfully and passed down, from mother to daughter, through many generations. A pysanka held very strong magic, and was used for protection of the family and the home throughout the year. Often on display throughout the spring and summer, a bowl full of colourful pysanky kept fire and harm from the home.

In connecting with this age-old practice of offering an egg to your household and friends for prosperity, explore the significance of the Egg in your own cultural heritage. Embrace the energy of the season, inscribe your hopes and prayers with colour and meaningful symbols. Create magic.

**As an emblem of life, the egg is the perfect magical tool. It is recognized globally as a symbol of fertility, new life, growth and prosperity.**

- Make a wish: Write a wish on a hard boiled egg, then leave it in the woods or natural setting as an offering.
- Bury a raw egg in the garden. A buried egg in your spring garden blesses the harvest for fruitful yield.
- Try Ovomancy, a method of divination which involves dropping an egg white into boiling water and then reading the shape it takes.
- Leave eggs at the graveside of a loved one to bless their eternal life and heal grieving souls.
- Craft some candles, eggshells make excellent candle vessels. Use natural beeswax and a cotton wick, and they are also 100% biodegradable.

## Naturally Dyed Eggs

Per cup of water use the following:

- 1 cup chopped purple cabbage = blue on white eggs, green on brown eggs
- 1 cup red onion skins = lavender or red eggs
- 1 cup yellow onion skins = orange on white eggs, rusty red on brown eggs
- 1 cup shredded beets = pink on white eggs, maroon on brown eggs
- 2 tablespoons ground turmeric = yellow eggs
- 1 bag Red Zinger tea = lavender eggs

# FORESCOPES

by Lady Iris

Have you had your whammy yet? If not, here it comes for ALL of us. As we head into Spring Equinox on March 20, we are riding the wave of the spiral horns of two Aries New Moons. One arrives just following the Equinox, coming up in the first sign of the zodiac like a mountaintop-size wave hitting the beach. This ram moon has something to do with what it is you are landing this year. How are your hooves making your mark in the world? This is not a time to be timid. What are your plans to climb aboard the massive flow upward you are creating? If you don't have any, get some before the second Aries New Moon on April 20th when, if you don't have your footing, you will be blown off kilter.

Stomp your ground and don't be afraid to blaze new trails if necessary as the Full Moon in Libra on April 6 provides balance and choice for your path. It's a tough road but you are willing to walk it for the rewards of self realization and enhancement. Just remember to dance with both feet to control the teeter-totter fulcrum of energy between the horns of these Aries New Moons. The Full Moon in Scorpio at Beltaine on Friday, May 5th welcomes your own personal creative carnival to town. Witch, if you want to get technical, the fifth is the cross-quarter date midpoint between Equinox and Summer Solstice. This intense Full Moon finds you ready to marry your dreams to reality and take them forward with gusto!

As the Sun moves into Aries on March 20th, the whole spring theme of new beginnings has the bright solar light guiding the way ahead. At this time, Venus also conjuncts the North Node of the Moon in Taurus, adding steady heartfelt desire to your personal preference and purpose. Get ready, aim and fire your intentions for betterment in whatever area of your life you may have been ignoring or putting off.

The shift to a new polarity for each of us in our own way is supported by Pluto transiting into Aquarius on March 23 with the emotional power of Mars moving into Cancer on March 25th. All the tools you need to succeed are available for you know – if you know where to look.

Sometimes the most important asset we have is either so obvious or obscure we completely miss it. Meditate and ask for guidance to set your intentions in alignment with what is best for your evolution this year. Mercury enters Taurus on April 3, not quite keeping our communications up to our heart centre, but the messages you need will arrive at just the right time, especially once Venus enters Gemini on April 11. By then, your heart and head will begin to agree. On April 20, when the Sun traverses into Taurus (the same day as the second Aries New Moon) all aspects of your efforts should be moving forward together in harmonious progress.

## Spring Equinox to Beltaine 2023



**ARIES:** Your independent nature often keeps you isolated from others to pursue your own path along the road less travelled. But, with the current energies within the realm of two New Moons in your sign, welcome companionship and collaboration at this time. Two heads are better than one.

**TAURUS:** The vision you have always had of who you would be if you could just be yourself has arrived in unexpected circumstances. What you always thought would happen was just a projection, what is really happening is a better plan - courtesy of the universe. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

**GEMINI:** Jump start your year by putting your overthinking mind to work plotting the story ahead. You truly are a master manifester whether you have a personal manifesto or not. Winging it has been your style for far too long. Time to coordinate your guides, skills and tools. Plan to act and act your plan.

**CANCER:** Have you been told you are too sensitive? Been withdrawing from situations for the good of your peace, while holding resentment close to your heart? It's time to remember those crab claws of yours can be offensive as well as defensive. Your feelings deserve to be heard. Be out, loud and proud.

**LEO:** As everyone else pushes their ideas, you wonder sometimes how you dropped the ball on leading the pack. Your popularity mojo has suffered in isolation. If your circle of friends feels like it has become stale, it probably has. They already know how amazing you are. Strut your stuff to a whole new crew.

**VIRGO:** Tension comes from being too tied to the outcome you may have no control over. Stop being so hard on your perfectionist self and chill. The basis for self sabotage is often setting too narrow goals and particular signs of success. Take it easy on yourself and know everything is as it should be.

**LIBRA:** You are the fulcrum in a pretty chaotic life crunch right now. Is it all your burden to carry, or have others been overloading your good will? Your own peace needs to be your priority so as to avoid the distractions even our beloveds can project onto us. Focus on your own balance first.

**SCORPIO:** You are set for the whirlwind of transformation coming your way. Face the wind in gratitude and watch out for loose debris as others can't handle the weather like you can. This is a good time to remember how intense you can be when you choose not to participate. Let integrity be your guide.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Becoming free and clear of the cares and concerns of life entangled with others is attractive, but also removes the mirrors and feedback you need to reflect on your truth. We all want to be liked, even if we think we are smarter than everyone else. Become humble and accept some help.

**CAPRICORN:** With strong front hooves and a muscular tail, the sea-goat symbol for your sign can not only dive the depths but also climb the heights. Remember this as above, so below dichotomy as you make decisions about your current direction. You can have it all, but not always all at once.

**AQUARIUS:** Whatever age you are at, this is your era. Your deepest and most repressed thoughts are coming to the surface in clear, concise and creative ways. Are you taking notes? Even the most complex grand schemes may be approached with careful planning. Take it step by step.

**PISCES:** It's been a busy life full of change and sacrifice for you lately. Know even the worst storms pass and sometimes leave revealed treasures in their wake. Hunker down if you need to, but do it over a map and roll with the waves as they crash through your life. Your next destination will arrive soon.

*The Forescopes are for entertainment purposes only. No claims are made for accuracy nor intention to affect the actions or outcomes of others. Everyone maintains their personal responsibility for use or interpretation of this Forescope. Lady Iris has been an intuitional astrologer for almost 40 years. She charts the progression of transits through time using the Tropical Midnight Ephemeris in Eastern Standard Time available online at [cafeastrology.com](http://cafeastrology.com).*

# The Azteca "Alphabet"



by Ross Carter

Unlike many other cultures, the Aztecs did not have a written language or alphabet. They used pictographs, similar in concept to hieroglyphs of ancient Egypt, in their art as a form of communication. Most neo-pagans are familiar with the idea of runes but it is possible that there are more neo-pagans today who can understand and communicate via runes than there were average Aztec citizens that could understand and communicate with their own system of pictographs, or word pictures.

The problem that exists with this system of word pictures is the same problem that exists with most works of art; the interpretation is completely up to the interpreter. Thus, even though some of the Aztec codices have been interpreted to a plausible story line, we have no way of confirming that our interpretations are correct, let alone exact. To this end, I decided to create from my own resources, an Azteca "alphabet", as a tool that may be used in the making of talismans or for ritual markings on ritual tools. I must emphasize that this alphabet *is not* genuine Aztec *anything*; it was created solely for the purposes of my work with Aztec deities.

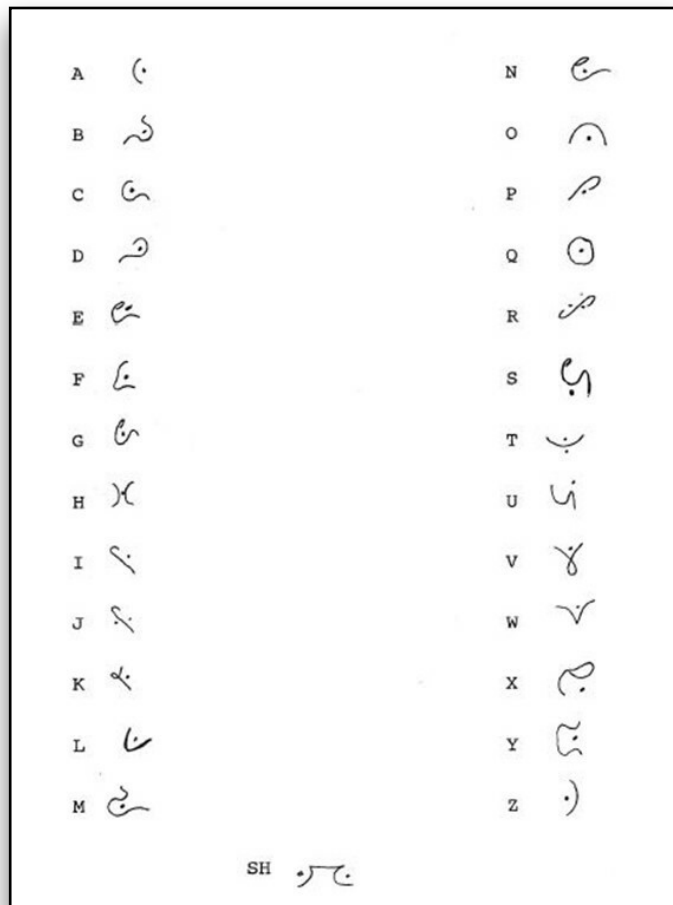
When first created in 1982, this alphabet was dubbed, "The Runes of Quetzalcoatl", he of course being the Aztec/Toltec deity of learning and knowledge, of civilization and, of course, communication. He was given the mythological form of a feathered serpent; a cross perhaps, between a bird in flight and a serpent in motion, both very graceful creatures indeed. (Several people have advised me, that these characters appear somewhat similar to old fashioned American shorthand, which I acknowledge, even though I am unfamiliar with it. Nor have I ever been exposed to it.

This gracefulness has been symbolised in this alphabet in that each figure is drawn with a single, graceful stroke and with few sharp corners or straight lines. This represents the unpredictable path that each of us must walk as we travel through this life. The dot, or dots in each figure represent the feathered serpent in his aspect as the morning star; the planet Venus. Where two dots are used, it is to represent Quetzalcoatl as both morning star and evening star. (His name also translates as "sacred twin", the twin being the evening star, Xolotl.) Functionally, the second dot also balances the appearance of the figure.

The figures for the letter A and Z have a special significance in the alphabet. The letter A, symbolizing Quetzalcoatl as the morning star, heralding the arrival of the new dawn and the letter Z symbolizing the approach of dusk and the setting sun as it is bid farewell by the evening star, Xolotl. Lastly, there is a special figure which can be used as an alternate for the letter X and its pronunciation as a "sh" sound in Nahuatl.

## The Azteca Stones

The Azteca Stones represent the logical extension of the Azteca Alphabet by taking the same images therein and incorporating them into a method of divination. The deities one might be working with in this form of divination would be Tezcatlipoca, (Smoking Mirror), the God of mystery and the unknown; the god of magic, and Tlazolteotl, Lady of Confession, without judgement; she who takes on the regrets of the dying before they pass into the underworld so that they may do so unburdened by said regrets.





When reading the stones, it is not necessary for the subject to ask a question or to give voice to what it is that they want to know as the reader does not need to know. Thus, the subject's confidentiality is intact. There is no way that a person can claim that the reading was influenced by the question, or that the reader was giving them the answer that they wanted to hear. This creates a divination system that is completely intuitive, for there is no way for the reader to know what you are seeking until the reading is over.

The stones themselves are made of obsidian. The white markings on each stone are identical to the images in the alphabet. In the case of the prototype set, pictured below, the corresponding letter of the common, English alphabet are painted on the underside of each stone for easy reference.

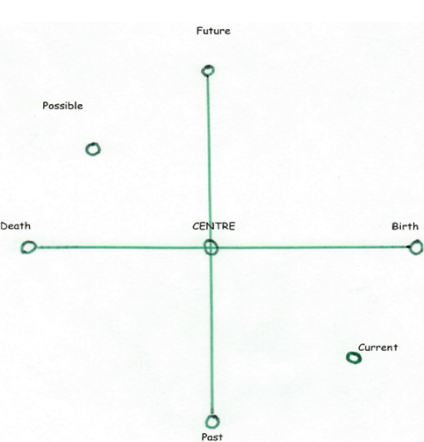
To read the images on the stones, one must imagine themselves drawing that image. Where would you start and finish the drawing? Your starting point can be considered to be the tail of the serpent – your end point, the head. This method might allow you to see forward direction in each of the images as you examine them. You might choose to start at the head of the serpent and end at the tail, which might give you some insight as to where your subject is coming from on their path. Some images, such as contain sharp changes of direction which may indicate a change on one's path or the changing of one's mind, or perhaps that a different approach to a task is in order. For the image, (which is also a common solar symbol), one must picture where to begin drawing the circle and when to draw the dot; first or last? These are just two examples of how to begin to interpret the images on the stones.

There are five of the stones that have a specific association to deity: the aforementioned A and Z, which represent Quetzalcoatl as the morning star and his twin, Xolotl as the evening star, the letter Q, (, above) represents Quetzalcoatl as the God of civilization, of law and of learning; the known and the knowable, while the blank stone represents Tezcatlipoca, the god of mystery and magic; the unknown and the unknowable. Finally, the stone for the “sh” sound is representative of Xipe Totec, the God of rebirth, in that its drawing represents the phrase, “the beginning, the continuation and the end, over and over”.

**Reading “The Azteca Stones”**

The vertical line, or time line represents the masculin elements of air (future) and fire (past) while the horizontal line, or life line, represents the feminine elements of water (birth) and earth (death). As well, the top portion of the cross illustrates an upright, male triangle and therefore represents the prime aspect of the cross, while the bottom portion illustrate the inverted, female triangle and is therefore representative of the mediatory aspect of the cross. Notice also that the cross pattern resembles an askew infinity symbol.

To read the runes, select only seven, (without looking at them), one for each of the seven tribes of the Aztecs. Lay them on the cross in the following order;



1-centre 2- past 3- current 4- birth 5- death 6- possible 7- future

They are read starting at past, then through in order with centre being last. (The first stone put down is the last stone read.) For the purpose of performing the reading, there is a twenty-eighth stone which is blank. This stone represents Tezcatlipoca as Smoking Mirror, God of mysteries, magic and the unknown. When placed upon the cross, it can represent an obstacle or an opportunity, the unknown, or unknowable. It can represent a conflict as a result of some old wounds or baggage. It can also indicate that it is time to make a decision and move on with an opportunity that has presented itself, either previously or in the present moment. The possibilities that can be read into this stone are endless, however, that is all part of the grand design.

Once the runes have been placed upon the cross, study them. The meaning of the runes for A and Z may seem somewhat obvious, indicating beginning and end, respectively, but there are other possible meanings, and all of the others are open to interpretation. Study each rune in the order that they were put down. What does the pattern of the rune say to you, the reader?

Also, look for words in the pattern as they may tell you something more about the individual that you're reading for. Remember that words can often have two meanings.

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# Community Happenings

## **Toronto Pagan Pub Moot**

"It is an open and friendly social event that meets in person every Third Calendar Monday of every month and virtually every Fourth Calendar Monday of every month. It is open to Pagans, Wiccans, Witches, Druids, Asatru, etc of ALL ages and those who are new and would like to learn more, to those who have been walking the path for decades."

**TPPM dates 2023**

## **Wiccan Church of Canadas Wednesday Meet & Greet**

WCC Online COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER  
7pm-8pm every Wednesday.

As with all WCC public events, there is no cost to participate.

The format is open and relaxed. We might discuss things like what people did to celebrate last Saturday's dark of the moon, or other magical happenings in our community. Books. Crystals. If it's pagan, we talk about it. You do not need to have your video on if you don't feel like being seen. Several of us do that. But we welcome and encourage everyone to participate in the conversation.

The link/password for these sessions (and the weekend classes) are e-mailed to registered participants before each meeting.

To register, please send an e-mail to our priesthood, at [LPH.WCC@gmail.com](mailto:LPH.WCC@gmail.com). This e-mail will not be used for any other purpose then to offer you the meeting link. We respect your privacy.



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# LOCAL RESOURCES

## HAMILTON

### Obskurah Bazaar

Candles, Tarot & Oracle decks, magical curios, ritual supplies, spiritual self-care items, herbs, books, incense and occult inspired accessories are available online or at our retail shop in Hamilton, Ontario. Our goal is to provide ethically sourced, sustainably made, fair trade and ecofriendly products that support fair wages and working conditions for the makers and honor their traditions.

### Treasures for the Soul

We offer a variety of New Age, Self Help and Metaphysical Products and Services to aid in your journey of Spiritual Development. You can find many products ranging from spell kits and ritual supplies to herbs, oils, candles, divination tools, magical items, home decor, books and much more

### Madame Phoenix Esoterica

Madame Phoenix produces hand made, top quality spiritual and occult supplies using only the highest quality, all natural ingredients from beginning to end.

## TORONTO

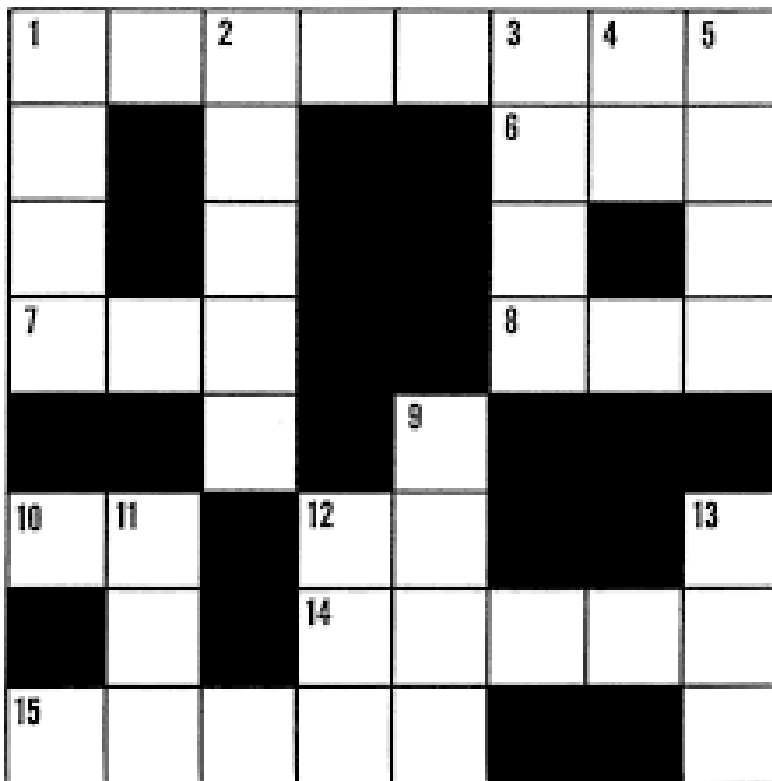
### The Occult Shop

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## Ostara Crossword

<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/ostara-crossword>

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Looking to find out whats going on in your local temple? Perhaps you have questions regarding classes and rituals. Maybe you're a new seeker, or a solitaire looking for company or to share favourite seasonal fare; all are welcome. Our online communities are rich with diverse experience, skills and pagan knowledge. WCC Facebook groups strive to be safe spaces to discuss the Wiccan Craft and explore ideas of paganism in general without politics or proselytizing. Come see what we get up to between the sabbats!



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