

Talisman

Talisman ... A Unique New-Age Shop

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December 5, 2013

Merry Yuletide Greetings!

People new to Paganism/Wicca often ask how to choose a pantheon/deity to work with -- especially in terms of setting up their first home altar. For many, it is simple ... WE are chosen, not the other way around! Pagans/Wiccans (for the most part) hold that The God and The Goddess comprise the masculine and feminine aspects of "The One" and view this polarity as integral to balance in worship of The Divine. But for some, Divinity remains a faceless nameless energetic "source" devoid of personality. In this instance, then using a quartz crystal sphere to represent the feminine and a quartz crystal point to represent the masculine may work just fine. However, there seems to be an aspect of the human condition which wishes to put a face and name on that which is essentially faceless and nameless - or, conversely, that has taken on myriad names and aspects since the onset of time.

One place to begin is with one's own ancestral heritage - hence, a person of Italian descent may find the Roman gods/goddesses are comfortable and familiar; likewise those of Irish descent, the Celtic pantheon; eastern Europeans, the Norse traditions etc. Past life memories may beckon you to an altogether different culture - such as Egyptian, Greek, African, Hindu. One thing is certain: If you work with the Gods, then know the Gods! Study the ancient texts and rituals. Know what is expected of you in their eyes. If the Gods choose to honor you then you will know and feel their presence. They, in their own words, will tell you what they wish and require of you. They are not dead, they are not forgotten, they certainly are not psychological aspects of yourself or humanity, instead they are real. Their words and voice flowing through your ears and body. Their love can be overwhelming, and their presence can bring you to your knees.

Sometimes where you are in your own life will aspect heavily into the God/Goddess you work with - as you age, one of the Cronos (Hecate, Cerridwen, Kali-Ma) may call to you. Again, you will NOT mistake the call of one of these powerhouse feminine aspects! In their warrior form (including Durga, Freya, The Morrigan, Scathach) any one of them may appear to help you through a divorce or situation in which you are being abused - they do not tolerate women in the role of victim and will ensure you maintain your dignity

even as you fighting back. If you are studying the healing arts then it may be Artemis, Brigid or Isis who beckon to you. But bear in mind that even goddesses with a loving nature (Aphrodite/Venus, Persephone, White Buffalo Woman, Yemaya) will not tolerate disrespect or being challenged. In setting up an altar know that YOU are responsible for ensuring the cleanliness and offerings made - if someone in your home is being disrespectful then YOU need to require they step away from this sacred space. If you allow it to continue, you will be held just as accountable (if not more so) as the other person may be ignorant ... but you certainly are not.

I think that about half of Talisman's patrons would probably identify themselves as "Mystic Christians" that is, they follow the path of The Christ but are open to energy work (Reiki, etc), divination, past life recall, etc. And while I have reverence for The Christ and see him as a Master Teacher and one of the Ascended Masters - I do not wear a cross as I am not Christian. BUT to make things more confusing, some Pagans/Witches DO use Catholic/Christian symbols and items such as rosary beads, holy water, Archangels, and the Saints on their altars and in their worship - these include Stregheria and practitioners of Santeria. One very controversial question is "Can Mary (mother of Jesus) represent the Goddess on my altar?" and my answer is yes because so many of her attributes are pagan. Aspects of both Kwan Yin (Mother of Mercy, Mother of Tears) and Aphrodite (her blue/white robes, the Easter lily, even the seashell she is often standing in!) have been appropriated to Mary - who in all honesty would have been a dark haired, dark skinned Jewish girl - and not the blue eyed blonde she is often portrayed! If you are using a statue of Mary as representational of the collective "mother goddess" fine - but if you choose to pair her with her own son or another Christian Saint (St. Joseph her husband, for example) that is NOT pagan and you are setting up a Christian shrine. If you are committed to a pagan path then you may want to work with Kwan Yin as her loving maternal nature most closely approximates that of Mary.

I personally do not like to mix pantheons - so I would not feel comfortable with say pairing Isis (Egyptian) with Lugh (Celtic). On my own altars, Kali is paired with Shiva, Yemaya is paired with Chango. Can you have an altar with only the Goddess represented, and not the God? Yes, you can - this would be Dianic in nature and while some would argue it lacks balance of male/female polarity; others believe that so much attention has been paid for so long to the God via the patriarchal religions (the Big Three: Christianity, Judaism and Muslim faiths) that a type of Universal balance is restored through sole worship of the feminine Divine. If you want to explore the many aspects of the Goddess in general as part of your spiritual path, then instead of an altar you might create a shrine to the Feminine Divine including the theme of womanhood (as you view it) as part of the Divinity.

If a god/goddess presents themselves to you, it doesn't necessarily mean you have to worship that Deity but it would be good manners to know that god and how to work with him or her. Don't assume anything. Even though we live in a different civilization does not mean that they do so it is helpful to read up on the deity. Take the time and effort to do your research pertaining to anthropology and ancient written information - not

just what can be found in Google off some Wiccan website. Even if they come to you for reasons other than to be worshipped they still expect to be honored. I asked my friend China (you all know her from the shop!) to weigh in on this topic, and here is what she had to say:

I can't stress enough the feeling of being called home. Generally when a deity is showing him/herself, you'll get more than one sign ... there's only so many times you can see those three crows on the that same branch before you get the idea that maybe it's a message! There will be synchronicity - everything from songs on the radio, to random appearances of animals, to license plates - at some point so many little things that defy coincidence will happen, and you won't be able to ignore it. The trick is to not shut something out because you like the idea of a particular path. I know someone whose path was very Native American, but when she began to explore her dark side and deal with elements of her past Thor showed up, a deity who for her was much better suited for the task. When it comes to mixing pantheons it can depend on the circumstances - if you believe that all deities are manifestations of an ideal form, then what's in a name? You're choosing the deity you're working with based on a specific set of criteria. But if you believe that all deities are entities unto themselves and aren't forms of an ideal, then you could be dealing with deities who may not appreciate pantheon jumping. It should be noted that many pantheons as we understand them today weren't as cohesive back in the day. People brought their old gods with them, and often out of respect/fear worked with the gods of the land they moved into. In addition, sometimes who you worshiped depended on your station with conquering overlords praying to their own gods while the masses prayed to theirs, and travelers hedged their bets by not trying to offend anyone's deity. So what you're left with is a conglomeration of new and old gods, a few visiting gods, and eventual attempts to pull it all together in a nice tidy package! In short, your pantheon is probably already mixed and in some cases the package is anything but tidy. However, what IS tidy is the balances created by the various members of the pantheon. When you view your deities as entities unto themselves, then you are effectively saying they have a mind of their own, they're not a collection of properties ... they are real, mercurial, with definite likes and dislikes. And with that being the case, you carefully plan who you're inviting to the tea party and you don't break up couples and expect that everything will be fine!

NEW-AGE FAIRES HELD EVERY SATURDAY

12:00pm-6:00pm - (203) 261-0047 for appointments

Readers (\$30/30 minutes - please, cash only)

December 7

Mark Hoyt - Spirit Guided Tarot (Mediumship)

Pina - Angel Oracle (Mediumship)

Todd Pritz -Tarot

Tammie, Massage (\$1/minute)

**Note: No Faire on December 14
CWPN Yule Party (see details below)**

December 21

Gwen Lord, Whole-Life Tarot (past life recall)
Rachel - Tarot (Mediumship) & Pet Communicator (pets welcome, or photo)
Todd Pritz - Tarot
Tammie - Massage (\$1/minute)

December 28

Gwen Lord, Whole-Life Tarot (past life recall)
Rachel - Tarot (Mediumship) & Pet Communicator (Pets welcome or photo)
Randy - Tarot/Playing Cards

The designation of "mediumship" is NOT a guarantee that your loved one(s) will present themselves in the reading - it means the channel is open and a particular reader is skilled at recognizing and then relaying information when/if it comes through.

**Talisman's Regularly-Scheduled Readers
(203) 261-0047 for appointments - Cash payment requested**

Mark Hoyt: Spirit Guided Tarot - Fridays 2-8pm. \$30/30 minutes. Foot Reflexology treatments EVERY FRIDAY \$1/minute.

Nicole, Journeyboard and Cards - Sundays 12-4 \$30/30 minutes

Naima Provo, Intuitive readings, Spiritual Counseling, Reiki, and massage Therapy \$120/hr, \$230/2 hrs (saving \$10), \$340/3 hrs (saving \$20). Buy a package of 5 sessions and get one free saving \$120. Appointments Sunday, Monday & Tuesday.

We do things a bit differently at Talisman. You pay our readers AFTER the reading is finished, and if you are not happy you don't pay. NO READER can read EVERYONE successfully and everyone who works at Talisman is aware of this fact. Know that it is acceptable after the first 5 minutes of a reading to say something like, "I'm sorry, what you are saying just isn't resonating with me. I would like to stop the reading now, but thank you for your time". If you do not hear something amazing in the first five minutes, or if it just isn't right ... don't expect a reading to get better as it goes on. Readings go off track for a number of reasons - but the point is, you shouldn't pay if you are not happy. Please, just be courteous and respectful. Complaints are rare because every reader has had to pass the "ultimate interview" ... they must

sit and read ME (and I've been reading over 25 years myself) and tell me something about my past/personal life, my children, home, or business that they could not possibly have heard or learned someplace else. But every reader has their unique gift and their own style, it is NOT one size fits all. Personally, I don't think anyone should get a reading more than once every 6-8 weeks and prefer you allow at least 3 months between readings ... you don't want to become a psychoholic, right? I WILL discourage you from this behavior! My goal is to see people leave an "intuitive counseling session" (because that is really what we do) feeling validated, uplifted and hopeful regardless of the situation or challenges they may be facing. That is the true measure of a "good" reading!

Available by Appointment:

Talisman's readers are available for parties and events. You can pay by the hour or allow us to set up and have your guests/attendees pay individually. We do our best to be flexible and fairly priced. Our party rates are \$60 an hour, plus gas/mileage OR guests can pay if they choose to get readings at \$1/minute. Please make all scheduling arrangements through Laura at (203) 261-0047.

Reflexology Fridays with Mark: This ancient healing art uses hand/thumb pressure corresponding to the body systems. The practice stimulates/relaxes stress signals resulting in relaxation (who DOESN'T love having their feet rubbed?), pain reduction, and rejuvenation of tired feet -- helping you stand tall in the world! Come in after a hard week of work and treat yourself in Mark's chair (\$1 minute).

Numerology Reports: Many have been asking for books or information on Numerology. Numerology has been used for thousands of years to provide deep insights into one's personality, intimate relationships, and the important influences that affect one's daily life. Now, with the Numerology Report, you can examine your life in a unique way to take advantage of unexplored opportunities, confirm talents that in your heart you know are there, or simply to figure out where to go next. You'll see all the diverse parts of your personality and how they uniquely come together to make the person you are. Through this report, you'll be able to make the most of your life in a way that wasn't possible before. There are three different Numerology Reports available - each of these providing you even greater insights into your life as well as your *romantic* relationships. An explanation of all three reports can be emailed to you directly - just hit "reply" to this newsletter with a request. Cost per report: \$15 emailed; \$18.95 printed. Laura has her own numerology report as a sample, if you'd like to see it. :

Laura: I do special, in-depth readings by appointment. My 45+ minute private sessions include a chakra check up, a print out and review of your astrological natal chart, tarot and palm reading, and more! (\$45). Call the shop for an appointment, as I schedule these when the shop is closed or after-hours. Yes, I still do \$5 readings on Wednesday & Thursday but these are done in-between phone calls and waiting on patrons - you can't make an appointment, and I do get interrupted. As long as there are no other scheduled readers in the shop (they drive in from a distance and it's not fair to them) I am always happy to

peek at someone's palm or throw a few cards, so don't hesitate to ask!

Classes & Workshops at Talisman

RSVP at (203) 261-0047 or email lenhard@comcast.net

Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19: Come join Jot Nivas Singh for a **weekly Kundalini Yoga class** as taught by Yogi Bhajan. **Cost - \$11 / person.** Any non perishable food items will be donated to Spooner House. Please contact with any questions. - JKopac@me.com

- Open your mind to the infinite possibilities available to you
- Remove subconscious blockages obstructing your path
- Upgrade your electromagnetic field to handle the increased Aquarian energy shift

Week 1: Thursday December 5th - 5:30-7pm

Surya Kriya - The name itself means “sun” and helps to bring heat and vitality into the body, it’s perfect for those cold weather blues. Helps your mind stay sunny and gives you energy to focus on all those tasks you have coming up for the holidays.

Week 2: Thursday December 12th - 5:30-7pm

Disease Resistance Kriya - To avoid persistent colds and illness, it is essential to keep digestion and elimination functioning well. Add to this a strong metabolic balance and you will have heartiness.

Week 3: Thursday December 19th - 5:30-7pm

Kriya to Become Intuitive - These exercises gently work on the pituitary. They recharge and enrich your energy and counteract frustration, depression, and computer sicknesses.

What is Kundalini Yoga? Kundalini is known as the yoga of awareness and the mother of all yogas. It's the whole pie, not one of the 22 pieces like other yoga systems. Kundalini combines postures (asana), breath work, (pranayama), and chanting (mantra). It accelerates the energy of the body / mind to create an elevated state which causes deep relaxation with clarity and alertness. Even if you can't join in the exercises, come sit down in the room and soak up the energy. Classes are 60-90 minutes long.

What do I bring? Wear loose or exercise clothing. (white or light colored cotton preferred); Bring a yoga mat, & or pillows to sit on and/or a blanket if you want to cover yourself during deep relaxation; White / light head covering recommended. (beanies, scarfs, turbans, bandana, etc); and a bottle of water.

THE CIRCLE OF THE SACRED WELL PRESENTS

Event: Circle Open House

Date: December 13th - Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: The Undercroft at Talisman

Stop by and visit with Circle members and other pagans of like mind. If you have questions about Wicca, paganism or the Circle, this is the place to come! Refreshments will be served.

Event: Wiccan/Pagan Study Group - Topic: Alternative and Complimentary Healing Modalities . . . and Magick

Date: December 17th - Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Undercroft at Talisman

Join us for this monthly study group that covers various pagan and New Age topics. The Study

Group is held on the third Tuesday of each month. This month, we have a special guest presenter, Daniel, who is a popular workshop presenter. Daniel will be speaking about alternative and healing modalities and how they can be integrated with or compliment magickal energy and works. \$5 suggested donation

Community Events

The Connecticut Wiccan Pagan Network (CWPN) Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational and networking organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the greater Wiccan and Pagan community in Connecticut and surrounding areas. The goal is to help provide a forum for Wiccans and Pagans to meet others of "like mind" and to come together and worship in a safe environment. Our hope has been to construct a sense of "community" in which we can all share with and learn from one another. Membership is open to all Wiccans, Pagans, and those with a serious interest in learning more about our religion. If you are under 18 years of age you may join with written parental consent. We reserve the right to refuse or terminate membership of anyone who we feel may be harmful to our organization or to the Wiccan/Pagan Community. Learn more at our website: <http://www.cwpn.org>.

The CWPN hosts monthly networking meetings throughout the state, open Sabbat circles, coven and study group referral service, classes/work-shops, various social events and lectures with well-known members of the Pagan community. Some of our past guests have been: Janet and Stewart Farrar, Gavin Bone, Margot Adler, Ted Andrews, Dr. Leo Louis Martello, Tzipora Klein, Laurie Cabot, Raven Grimassi, Donald Michael Kraig, Phyllis Curott, Lori Bruno, Jane Sibley and Ellen Evert Hopman.

December 14: A FREE CWPN EVENT! You and your family are invited to celebrate YULE with Odin and his family! Talisman - 150 Main Street, Monroe, CT 4:00pm to 8:00pm - Please arrive promptly at 4pm so as to be a part of the complete event which will include:

- Visit with Odin Clause and Presents for the Children
- Potluck Festival Dinner
- Norse Trivia Game with Prizes
- Brag and Boast
- Raffle Items
- Pagan Caroling

All children should bring a boot with raw vegetables for Odin's horse Sleipnir.

Please feel free to come dressed in period garb.

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner.

Please check the FB page and let us know that you are coming.

https://www.facebook.com/events/682354945108919/?ref_dashboard_filter=calendar

Thank you and hope to see you there! Blessings!

Hunter Healing Hands: Located in Black Rock, Jessica and Jim Hunter's events include Reiki Share; monthly drum circle; classes and so much more! Join Jessica and Deana Paqua on the energy of 12/12 for a special evening shamanic retreat - there will be a variety of shamanic healing journeys, drumming, and crystal healing in store for the evening. **Contact Jessica Hunter at 203-916-8381**

or hunterhealinghands@hotmail.com to register for an event! For details, cost, etc. please see <http://www.hunterhealinghands.com>

Finding Feathers – A Spiritual Center located at 395 Commerce Drive, Fairfield. (203) 916-7887 or email shaktidas@findingfeathersfairfield.com. December Calendar: <http://findingfeathersfairfield.com/event-calendar/>

Astrology Corner

By Alethea Hunt, Astrologer

Yuletide greetings to one and all! Some astrological sugar and spice this month, but hopefully this head's up will help you get "over the river & through the woods" during the holiday season! December begins with a Sagittarius New Moon energized by Uranus, and I would encourage everybody to think outside the box when it comes to how to celebrate the season – don't be afraid to deviate from the norm by doing something different. Step out of your comfort zone to create happy new traditions and memories. If there has been any pain connected with your family of origin, this is doubly so as this is a time where you may be able to heal and transcend those wounds by focusing on what makes you feel "filled up" inside. Joy can come from unexpected sources, so focus on being open to new social invitations or create your own impromptu festivities with friends, as they are truly our "family of choice". Our social networks fill us up now, so if you want to broaden yours by all means hit up some holiday parties or community events with a spirit of openness and generosity and see what happens. If you're the religious type, I would also encourage you to seek connection with others through this route as well as Sagittarius has dominion over organized faiths of all stripes. Speaking of faith, this is a good time to say a little prayer or set an intention for something new you want to bring into your life. New Moons are always powerful kickstarters in this respect and Sagittarius

is the sign of growth that has us thinking big. So plant your “seed” with the intention that it yields you a whopper, OK?

I’m rather sorry to say that I do think the ladies may be having a rougher go of it overall this month with Venusian and Lunar energy both taking some heat. And it makes sense, as usually it’s the ladies who form the backbone of family traditions and have to orchestrate/implement plans. Black Moon Lilith is also hanging very close to Jupiter in Cancer and it seems the matriarchs among us aren’t in the mood for shenanigans when it comes to family. We should all resolve to do our best when it comes to managing and taking responsibility for our own...erm, stuff....and have safeguards in place ahead of time as well to prevent emotions from becoming overblown & running wild. Also: do be aware of the moods around you and definitely do not diminish the importance of feelings, especially if somebody complains about not being valued or appreciated - downplaying or invalidating emotions does not tend to go over well **at all** this month! Try to respect and acknowledge when someone is under pressure and understand how this affects their mood, and at all costs, avoid using the word “hysterical” if there’s an emotional outburst. If you really want to be a hero – particularly early in the month – leap in and ask how you can help plan/organize/execute to help keep the pressure off those who may be trying to shoulder a heavy load on their own with Mars in Virgo nodding to Venus in Capricorn. Being helpful is never out of vogue and it can head a lot of these potential problems off at the pass.

After this point, Mars starts cruising Libra for an 8 month stay in this sign which has the potential to do one of two main things: 1) motivate people to identify very strongly with a desire for companionship and easy company, prompting them to be cooperative and considerate in their actions, or, **more likely** 2) cause friction in relationships, usually via passive aggression masked by surface pleasantries so that on the surface it looks like one is being “the nice guy” or “the fair one”. This may create a “frenemy” type of dynamic, where there’s competitiveness covered by friendliness and social niceties. The latter scenario is the more probable of the two because Mars is not well placed in Libra, as this is the sign of its **detriment** – a place where the natural “default” expression of this energy tends to manifest more problematically as a general rule-of-thumb. Additionally, he butts up against shakeup duo supreme Pluto & Uranus while here, which is hardly a recipe for peace and love. Mars hanging out in Libra is spice wrapped in sugar (think Fireballs candy!) and hotter-than-hot Mars is very uncomfortable with all this syrupy sweetness threatening to soften the potency of his burn, which he would prefer be left unadulterated. The major issue with Mars in this sign is that he flip-flops between “sweet” and “heat”. On one hand, he may actively try to keep the peace through a sort of forced politesse and lack the ability to stand up for himself due a desire to be “likeable” or “popular” (although he will certainly throw to the mat for a partner!). On the other hand, he gets intermittently irritated by all this faux, saccharine-like diplomacy, feeling as if he is somehow sissified by it. He then turns this on its head and does **NOT** consider how his actions affect others, pushing to get his own way or run the show in situations where he should be more cooperative instead. Remember, Mars is The Warrior archetype – when he’s forced to behave as member of the gentry and “make nice” – as he is in Libra - it’s a rather odd paring as the words “militant” and “manners” typically do not mix very well. One positive takeaway

that **CAN** be had, however, is that Mars in Libra would have us moderate our anger and figure out how to hit a balancing point so that it's neither over-the-top nor ineffectual. Also, if we're never sure when it's appropriate to be self-assertive vs. when we need to acquiesce to another's desires, the next 8 months are going to serve as a proving ground where we can hash this all out to hopefully reach some sort of equilibrium between the two. There may be fights; there may be faux-pas. But if you're motivated to get along (or to BE partnered!), the occasional skirmish may be necessary to sort out where each person stands and where the common ground is. There **IS** a middle – this I promise you!

The Full Gemini Moon on the 17th highlights communication - communication with siblings, kin, and neighbors in particular. Juno in Aquarius contacts this lunation, suggesting a need to share ideas and treat one another as equals, but also emphasizing making a commitment to leave each other plenty of space and breathing room as there must be the recognition that each party has a life apart from the relationship. Everybody does their own thang, and although there is a certain amount of friendly detachment in this respect, the hailing frequencies do seem to be open. Perhaps an exchange of ideas and dialog is needed but the parties involved also need to function independently as individuals in their own rights for some reason – keep it breezy and check to see how these themes play out with your own brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and next-door neighbors near this Moon. It could be a good thing heading into Christmas because the cerebral nature of this Moon allows us to de-personalize things and not be *too* close, where familiarity can breed contempt. It's important to remember this because the end of the month is highly pressurized from an astrological standpoint when Mars tangles with Pluto & Uranus. All of that forced politeness and not knowing whether to assert or make nice? It comes home to roost around this time, particularly when the Moon butts up to Mars on the 25th and then Pluto on the 31st. For best results avoid the booze (or other substances) on the 25th as Mars is easily inflamed by an inconjunct to Chiron in Pisces. Alcohol - while it may seem like it could help you escape the tension - is only likely to set it off, so sneak off to meditate instead to help maintain serenity or, at the very least, allow for some "alone time". Also realize when feelings are blowing up out of proportion and do your best to 1) check your baggage and manage your own "shit" 2) control how much power you allow your feelings to have over you.

Particularly at New Year's Eve, it might not be a bad idea to voluntarily exile yourself to the safety and comfort of your own home because the Capricorn New Moon in the wee hours of the morn on New Year's Day is fraught. No sense starting 2014 off with the wrong kind of "bang", so playing the recluse with a low-key midnight toast at home looks to be a pretty decent option. There are abundant astrological "fireworks" in the sky on this night, and certainly the bold among us will be tempted to throw caution to the wind since the social scene does seem hopin'. That's fine to do, provided you are up for a challenge and resolve not take foolish risks. Capricorn is the most occupied sign on this date so we're talking about considering **the consequences**, while the Mars-Uranus involvement can increase the propensity for accidents. Please do pause with a sober head and think of how your actions impact others, especially if it pertains to drinking and driving. Mercury in Capricorn is linked to Chiron in Pisces, so don't risk getting behind the wheel and making a decision that could haunt you for the rest of your life – be smart and safe! Besides, Mercury in

Capricorn will see the traffic cops out in full force this night and you can bet your butt the smooth connection to Chiron in Pisces will have them easily nabbing more than a few drunks and getting them off the road before they can hurt themselves or somebody else. Do you *really* want to risk starting the New Year off in a jail cell? Probably not!

***** A note to readers: If you would like to receive my FREE monthly newsletter via email which is packed full of information and astrological insights, simply click [HERE](#) or send an email to AHunt617@aol.com and I'll be happy to add your name to my list of recipients!**

**Namaste, my friends -
"The Divinity within me perceives and adores
the Divinity within you"**

Laura Lenhard