

NECROMANCY:

THE MODERN-DAY NECROMANCER, PART II

BY ZEHARA NACHASH

When it comes to Necromancy, most people think of grave robbers or sinister magicians reviving the dead to do their bidding, of controlling spirits and sending out corpses for revenge. Well, that's just the murky occult past.

Modern-day necromancy is a bit different—and a lot cleaner! Amongst necromancers, there is something called the death current, the residual energy of the deceased. Tuning into this current, one can literally work with the dead. Most people who are sensitive and/or have psychic abilities, like mediums, are more tuned in to this channel of divination (remember, necromancy means “dead divination”).

Modern-day necromancy has a lot to do with ancestor worship and honoring the dead. Any desecration of a tomb or grave in no way reflects the beliefs of today's necromancers. Modern-day necromancers work with those who have crossed over to create a fluid kinship to seek information on the future or to request guidance from family or friends who live on the other side. Most necromancers work with specific spirits, whether ancestral spirits; psychopomps like Anubis, Santa Muerta, Baron Samedi, etc.; or the spirits of a place. It is all about making a connection of mutual friendship. I work specifically with the Voodoo Guédé spirits, and my relationship with them is unlike any other! Modern-day necromancy is about generating a rapport and bond with specific spirits, not like channeling any spirit like in a Ouija session.

When in cemeteries, we will often meditate or perform a small ritual that will tune us in to the death current. We do often collect graveyard dirt if we are in need of special assistance from a spirit's energy. There are several reasons for collecting graveyard dirt.

Need protection? Collect graveyard dirt from soldiers, firefighters, or police officers. Need help with writer's block? Collect dirt from a poet or writer. Need help in school? Collect graveyard dirt from a teacher. Need help with a court case? Collect dirt from a lawyer. You get the idea. Yes, a lot of investigation is involved to find the correct grave and spirit to ask for assistance, but it's worth it. And always leave an offering of three coins after you have taken the dirt. You cannot receive unless you give! Also, collecting graveyard dirt from various graves can be fun! I have some from Tombstone!

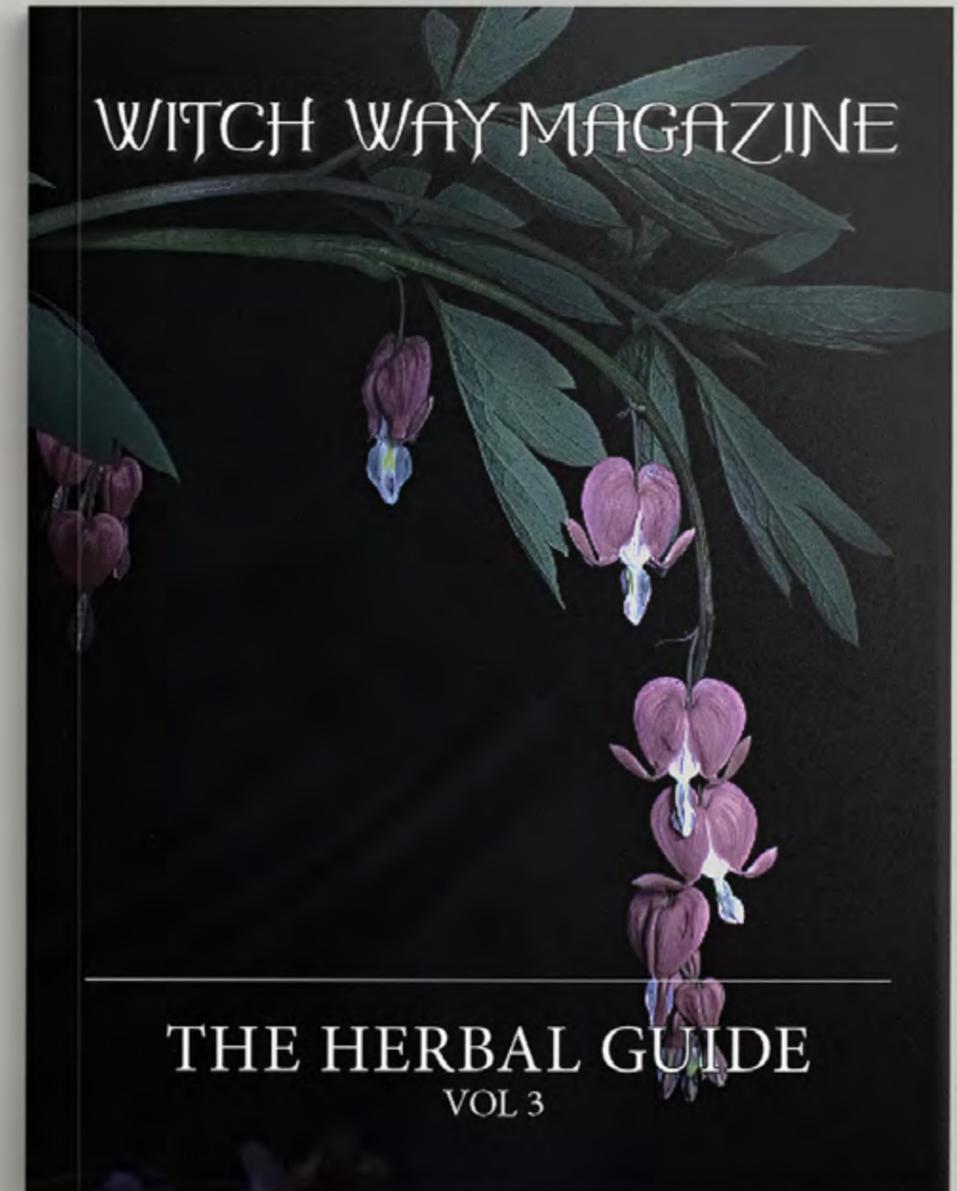
Some of today's necromancers

incorporate bones into our workings—yes, human bones. These can be worn as ritual jewelry when communicating with the spirits, for divination (such as with the kapala, or skull cap), or as musical instruments (that can be made with the tibia or fibula). No worries! You can legally purchase human bones online, and I promise you, once you get past the creepy factor, you will make a connection unlike any other.

Modern-day necromancy is about understanding, loving, and working with death and the dead. Tuning into the death current will open new doors and new connections. It's like having your own spiritual entourage that is there to help and instruct you!

Here is a spell to help you connect and find your spirit, or spirits, to work with. Remember, it takes time, so this can be repeated as many times as needed. You will need the following dried herbs, about a tablespoon of each: mugwort, bay leaves, patchouli, cinnamon and lotus flower. You will also need a black candle, a white candle, and a black scrying mirror (you can easily make one). This spell should be done

- Take the herbs and brew them into a tea. Fill your bath tub and light the white candle. Pour the brewed tea into the tub (you can either use a cheesecloth or let the herbs just float in the tub). Before you enter the bath, say, "I open myself to the benevolent spirits of the ether. I ask that those who wish to guide me and walk with me make themselves known to me." Take a step into the bath and, while laying down, allow the warmth of the heat and the smell of the herbs to put you into a relaxed, meditative state. After the bath, collect some of the bath water.
- Take the black candle, light it, and place the scrying mirror in a comfortable position. Relax your body, then say, "I ask that the benevolent spirit, or spirits, who wish to work with me please make yourself known." Allow yourself a good 30 minutes of scrying for any indication of a name or place. If it doesn't happen the first time, repeat it the next night.
- When you are done, blow out the candle and dump the saved bath water on the ground outside as an offering to the spirits.



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