



The Gate of the Moon

Instructions and observations on traveling in the Power of Luna

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1 Introduction

As discussed previously, the Sphere of the Moon lies within the zone of spheres below the Sun, which the Golden Dawn puts below Paroketh, the veil separating the manifest world from the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Solomon. The lower three spheres, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon are the most material spheres, and in these spheres an Idea on its way towards manifestation here in the material realm picks up the last little bits of materialization that give it existence, the ability to express itself in the material realm, and its final shape.

The Moon holds a special place in the Chain of Manifestation. Being the last sphere before manifestation, all things must pass through the Moon. Not only that, but because she moves around the Earth every day, she goes through an astrological conjunction with all the other planets and fixed stars. She is absorbing and reflecting the forces of the other spheres every day. She's like a cup that goes to each planetary wellspring, and then pours out her contents upon the manifest world.

Or in other words, the Moon is sort of like a Wandering Womb, receiving the seed from all the other planets and then birthing the outcome into the manifest world. She is the intermediary to the rest of the spheres. She is the most important of all the spheres when we're either heading up through the heavens on a journey of Contemplation, or bringing the powers down to the Earth to manifest desired outcomes. The Moon is the Gate between the Macrocosm and the Microcosm. Getting in good with this sphere will expand your magical powers greatly.

Specifically, the sphere of the Moon provides the outermost shape of an idea as it passes into materialization. In the plant kingdom, the Moon rules over the leaves, the outermost extremities of the plant. Different planets rule the stems, the roots, and the bark, but the leaves are under the Moon.

This is why the Moon is the realm of Illusions. People see the outermost image of a thing and believe they are seeing the thing itself. The truth known to Hermetic practitioners aware of the chain of manifestation is that all things are manifestations of much more complex and intricately woven forces from each of the seven planetary spheres. We know there's more than meets the eye when we look at things.

However, we also know that all seven spheres were concentrated into the final sphere of the Moon prior to manifesting. As a result, the trained eye can see aspects of each of the planets in proportion in the final form. The trick is learning to translate what we see into the seven parts that have combined to form the final shape. Most of us don't start out with that level of

discernment, so we must be careful not to judge a book by its cover, as the saying goes.

The Moon waxes and wanes, grows and shrinks. Her sphere rules over the waxing and waning of all things in existence. Things don't generally just appear overnight. Situations in our kingdoms that require our attention build up slowly over time, and the sooner we become aware of a forming problem in our kingdom, the sooner we can address it.

Things we want in our life take a while to manifest too. Suppose you wanted to buy a diamond ring for your partner. You'd save up the money, go shopping, pick out the one you want, purchase it, and then present it to them. It's an incremental process of gathering information, specific details, and the resources to manifest the desire. The results of our magic manifest the same way, gradually, building up over time.

The Moon also wanes, decreasing. She rules over the fading away of things and situations in our life as well. Again, it's a process that doesn't take place all at once. The outer form of a material object erodes, oxidizes, or gets worn down over time, losing its mint-fresh newness, and gaining in character. Even when things disappear from our lives in an instant, like in a car crash, there is still a series of events leading up to the diminishment of the material object. When a tumor is removed, there is a period of recovery before full health returns. The negative impact of the tumor gradually fades from the patient's life.

Ok, so there's waxing and waning, a gradual manifestation, and a gradual return to the unmanifest that all things in the material realm go through. Passing through the Gate of the Moon puts you in harmony with this process of waxing and waning. At this moment in your life, there are things that are coming into being, and things that are passing away. Passing through the Gate of the Moon makes you more aware of these things, and increases your ability to see the things changing from manifest to unmanifest.

Now I mentioned illusion above, and that's another major part of the Sphere of the Moon. Because this is the sphere in the chain of manifestation that gives a thing its final form, we can see the forms of things here that have not yet, or for some reason cannot yet materialize in the physical realm. Dreams and visions are images, shapes, forms that appear in your mind's eye that are not necessarily physical, but take on a form that you can see. In this aspect, passing through the Gate of the Moon can improve your spiritual vision, enabling you to see spirits and interpret visions more accurately.

1.1 The Gate of the Moon

In this rite, we are specifically addressing passing through the Gate of the Moon to

receive initiation and insight into the ways the Lunar influence affects our Kingdom. The current that we tap into in Jupiter has passed through all the other spheres on the way here, and in the Moon it receives its final shape, the way it will appear here below, in the material realm.

Passing through the Gate of the Moon will help us rule our Kingdoms by granting us the vision to see the forces working to manifest things in our lives, to understand the process of manifestation and to time our manifestation rites appropriately, and the ability to see through illusions to the true nature of things below, while also granting the ability to hide the true nature of things when necessary.

1.1.1 Vision

Many of my students have talked about how much trouble they have seeing spirits. Most of the magic I teach involves conjuring spirits, so not being able to see them can be problematic, especially for beginners who aren't entirely convinced that what they are doing is working. My assurances that they don't have to sense the spirit for it to be effective work to assuage their doubts until they have proven it to themselves in most cases, but it's still frustrating.

Everyone has different levels of natural ability to see the spiritual realm. Some of us block that off as we grow older, while others simply can't see anything. All things we experience in our kingdoms pass through this Gate before manifesting here below, and as a result, it is the sphere of the Moon that we can turn to in order to gain insight into the occult, hidden nature of things we are experiencing.

On the flip side, it is also the sphere of the Moon that allows us to hide things from the sight of others. As a practicing occultist, there are times when I need to cover my tracks, and leave no trace in the aethyrs of what I've done, or who it was that did it. Invisibility from detection is also a power of the moon.

This is also the realm of glamours. There are times when it behooves us to appear differently than we really are, to accentuate certain features over others. Interviews come to mind, where we need to appear to be exactly the right fit for the position we're applying for. When we've passed through the Lunar Gate, we can offer a quick word to Gabriel as we head into the meeting to present ourselves in a way that shows the value of adding us to the team.

1.1.2 Materialization

The Moon is the sphere that rules over the way a thing takes shape in the world. This includes the progression of its lifespan within existence. As the Moon increases, so also do

things come into being, a little at a time, a consistent predictable pattern of accretion until it is whole. Passing through this Gate brings insight into the manifestation process itself, the waxing of relationships, situations, plans, plots, as well as material things we are crafting, and building in our Kingdoms.

As things come into being, so they also pass away. As soon as a thing has materialized in this realm in its final form, it begins to fade away, returning piece by piece to the spheres it came from. Whether it's a new car that starts getting scratched and dented as you drive it through the world, or a relationship with a team of co-workers on a project, all things that come into being in this realm pass away.

As we gain insight and understanding of this sphere and its role in our Kingdoms, we learn to plan our rites in the timing of the Moon. In general, we try to plan our rites of manifestation during times of the waxing moon, bringing things down into the material realm as the light that the Moon reflects grows. When we want to make things go away, we time our rites to coincide with the waning of the Moon.

It's funny, there are a lot more rites to make things come into being than there are to make things go away. It's no dark mystery that things pass from the world of the seen to the world of the unseen, but we seem to be focused mostly on manifestation of things in our lives. Learning to understand the power of the Waning Moon is important. Half the time we're alive, the Moon is going to be ready to help make things go away.

I do a lot of wealth magic, or at least I used to. I got pretty good at it. Making money is remarkably easy once you get the hang of it. You do a rite, you follow up on the inspiration, and you sell the result. The hardest part is following up on a project that comes from Above to make you money, in my experience.

But I never really got into the waning side of things. Gaining wealth is also decreasing poverty. Income is increased by the decrease of out-go. Decrease your debt, and you've increased your net value. Removing bad situations at your employment can be more effective than trying to create a better situation in another job. Reducing risk increases your chances of success.

Knowing that the manifestation cycle of all things in existence is ruled by the Moon does not limit us in our magical approach, it simply guides us to taking a more effective course that is in harmony with the prevailing forces of the moment.

1.1.3 Follow the Light

In the previous section I talked about timing your rites to coincide with the Moon, materializing during waxing phases, dematerializing during waning phases, and that's important and good, solid, practical advice for ruling your Kingdom. But there's something else to consider about the Moon and where the Light goes when she's waxing and waning that can give us insight in our own personal growth as magicians.

The light of the Moon is a reflection of the light of the Sun. While it appears to grow and shrink to us here below, it's an illusion. The same amount of the Moon is always in the Light of the Sun, except when the Earth passes between the two during a lunar eclipse. The light is always there, the moon is always "full," it just happens to be pointing somewhere else when she's not Full.

When she's Full, all the Light of the Sun, a sphere above the Moon, is being reflected down to us here Below. The powers of the higher spheres are being focused in a downward direction towards the material realm. As she's increasing, it's a good time to do materialization magic, obviously. Farmers plant their seeds during waxing moon phases to get a bigger harvest.

But when she's waning, it's a good time to plant your seeds Above. You follow the Light. As the Moon turns her face upwards to the heavens above, the spheres beyond the Moon, we should also be tuning our spiritual magic, our Theurgical rites towards the heavens above. The power and wisdom to rule our Kingdoms well comes from Above, from our brothers and sisters, from our Source in the eternal divine. Waning moon phases are a good time to travel the aethyrs and recharge, receive new initiations, deeper understanding, and more power to apply here below.

2 Opening the Gate

The ritual that I use has three major phases. They are the Conjunction of the Archangel of the Moon, Gabriel, the Oration of the Orphic Hymn to the Moon, and a period of Meditational Contemplation of a Lunar Seal. Then there's the close out of the rite.

The Conjunction in this booklet is based on the Modern Angelic Grimoire. The only modifications to it that I'm making are to make it purely Moon-specific.

The Oration of the Hymn to the Moon serves as a Statement of Intent as well as a request for initiation into the sphere, and an empowerment of the magician.

The period of Meditational Contemplation of the seal of the Moon provides you with a chance to begin integrating the powers of the Sphere of the Moon into your own sphere of sensation and experience.

2.1 Conjunction

To prepare for the rite, make sure that you first know when you're supposed to do the rite. It should be on a Monday in the Planetary Hour of the Moon. If you don't know how to calculate it from your local sunrise/sunset times, use an online calculator. I use a widget on my iGoogle page that was made by Lunarium. Their web site is:

<http://www.lunarium.co.uk/planets/hours.jsp>

You get four "hours" during the day to pick from, beginning in the first hour after the sunrise. Pick a convenient one for your schedule, and start planning out your preparations so you can begin the rite within the planetary hour. Remember, it's the start time of the ritual that matters. I can go on into the next hour if it needs to, as long as it begins within the planetary hour. You can start it one minute before the hour of the Moon begins and still be doing it right. This gives you a lot of flexibility.

For the Lunar Gate, you should dress in something very comfortable, something that breathes well while you're wearing it. Your attire should be light, diaphanous, and flowing. There should be nothing tight or constrictive on you. Robes are good for Lunar rites, as long as they leave you feeling free to move around.

For the alcoholic beverage of the Moon, I suggest something like absinthe. Mead is also good, and the white wines that are delicious with a hint of apples or pears when you drink them.

Lunar cigars... well, there really aren't any that spring to mind. I stick with Montecristos, Reserva Negra for my Lunar rites.

For incenses, the traditional sources advise camphor, jasmine, willow, and copal. AI like jasmine best, and lavender works well too. Verbena is a good standby too, though it doesn't smell very good burning. Anything that reminds you of a dream when you smell it is good. Opium. Definitely opium.

When choosing a Lunar music, I like something with a nice slow rhythm, something smooth and dreamy. Anything by the Cowboy Junkies puts me in the right mood, and a lot of the more instrumental work by Pink Floyd, specifically the *Wish You were Here* album is good for me. You want something that is transcendent, that takes you up into a dreamy state of mind, but something that doesn't suck you into it to the point where you can't pay attention to what you're doing. And yet again, Holst's planetary music is always good.

2.1.1 Implements

You will need the following tools to contact the angels using this technique:

- A Scrying Crystal¹
- Wand²
- Incense – Camphor, opium, jasmine, lavender, or sandalwood.
- Table of Practice
- Lamens of Gabriel
- Conjurations/consecration texts – you might want to write these out on a 3X5 note card or two for ready reference during the ritual
- Orphic Hymn to the Moon – Same thing, and 3x5 cards are easier by far than printed letter paper.

2.1.1.1 Table of Practice

The Table of Practice is your magic circle of conjuration. You can copy the one below by hand onto a piece of blank sketch pad paper, or a blank white piece of letter paper. You can also print it and cut it out.

¹ It doesn't *have* to be a crystal ball. Anything with a reflective surface, including a mug of water can be used.

² The Wand can also be your index finger.



Figure 1 Table of Practice

2.1.1.2 The Lamens

The Lamens is worn around your neck during the conjuration. You again want to draw it out by hand. Did I mention this makes it more powerful? Something about Kinetic Meditation, when you draw out a seal, you are performing a conjuration. But again, printing it works. The spirits are eager to be with you. It's just how it works.

You can thread something through the paper to hang it around your neck. Purple or

indigo would be best, but use what you have.



Figure 2. The Lamen of Gabriel

2.1.2 The Rite

To begin, the magician puts on their lamen and says:

“Oh, God! Author of all good things, strengthen me that I may stand fast, without fear, through this dealing and work; enlighten me, oh Lord! so that my spiritual eye may be opened to see and know thy angelic spirits descending here in this crystal.”

Then laying a hand on the crystal, the magician says:

“And you, oh inanimate creature of God, be sanctified and consecrated, and blessed to this purpose, that no evil fantasy may appear in you; or, if they do, that they may be constrained

to speak intelligibly, and truly, and without the least ambiguity, for Christ's³ sake. Amen.”

The magician continues:

“Grant me the power of conjuring those celestial spirits or intelligences that may appear in this crystal, and grant the wisdom to use the gifts they bring to the honor of your holy name. Grant this for thy son Christ's sake. Amen.”

Take your wand and trace out a circle on the ground around you while you say:

"In the name of the blessed Trinity, I consecrate this piece of ground for our defense; so that no evil spirit may have power to break these bounds prescribed here, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*”

Then place the incense burner next to your Table of Practice and light the charcoal and sprinkle incense on it, or light the incense stick and say:

"I conjure thee, oh thou creature of fire! by him who created all things both in heaven and earth, and in the sea, and in every other place whatsoever, that you cast away every phantasm from you, that no hurt whatsoever shall be done in any thing. Bless, oh Lord, this creature of fire, and sanctify it that it may be blessed, and that you may fill me up with the power and virtue of their odors; so neither the enemy, nor any false imagination may enter into this space; through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*"

Next, you conjure Gabriel.

“In the name of the blessed and holy Trinity, I conjure you, you strong mighty angel Gabriel, that if it is the divine will of Tetragrammaton, the Holy God, the Father, that you take the shape that best reflects your celestial nature, and appear here in this crystal, to the glory and honor of his divine Majesty, who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.

"Lord, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; -- make clean my heart within me, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

"O Lord, by your name I have called him, suffer him to minister unto me. And that all things may work together for your honor and glory, to whom, with you, the Son and blessed Spirit are ascribed all might, majesty and dominion. Amen"

"Oh, Lord! thank you for the hearing of my prayer, and thank you for allowing your spirit to appear unto me. Amen."

³ If you're not a Christian, you're screwed. Just kidding. Use "Logos" instead.

The spirit should be present. You'll know the spirit's there when you feel a change in the atmosphere, smell something really sweet, or see an image superimposed from your mind's eye in the crystal that doesn't flit away the way your imagination normally does.

Now you speak to the spirit, making sure it is who it's supposed to be, and thank it for coming. Ask that it bless and consecrate this rite, and reveal to you the power of the Sphere of the Moon. Ask it whatever you will, if you have something specific to mention, and then move on to the Orphic Hymn.

2.2 The Orphic Hymn to the Moon

Recite the following Hymn to the Moon:

*Hear, Goddess queen, diffusing silver light,
Bull-horned and wandering thro the gloom of Night.
With stars surrounded, and with circuit wide
Nights torch extending, thro the heavens you ride:
Female and Male with borrowed rays you shine,
And now full-orbed, now tending to decline.
Mother of ages, fruit-producing Moon,
Whose amber orb makes Nights reflected noon:
Lover of horses, splendid, queen of Night,
All-seeing power bedecked with starry light.
Lover of vigilance, the foe of strife,
In peace rejoicing, and a prudent life:
Fair lamp of Night, its ornament and friend,
Who gives to Natures works their destined end.
Queen of the stars, all-wife Diana hail!
Decked with a graceful robe and shining veil;
Come, blessed Goddess, prudent, starry, bright,
Come moony-lamp with chaste and splendid light,
Shine on these sacred rites with prosperous rays,
And pleased accept thy suplicants mystic praise.*

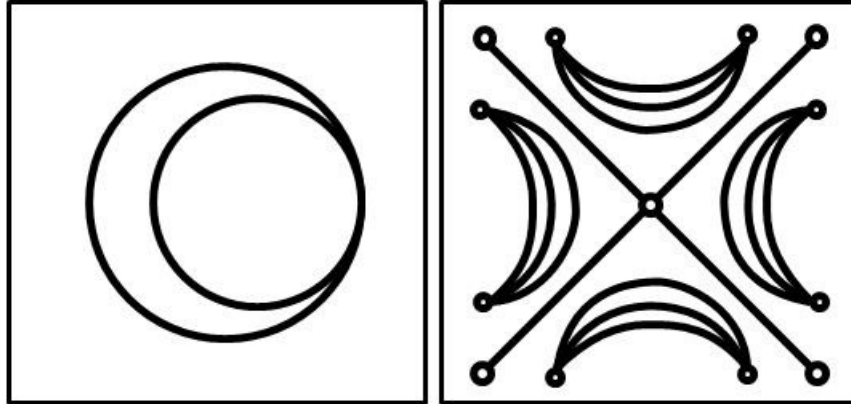
2.3 Meditational Contemplation

At this point you will begin meditation on the Seal of the Moon.

If you have sigilized an intent that you want Gabriel to manifest for you, you would use

that image instead of Lunar Seal, but for the first time you do the rite, I strongly suggest you use it as an integration time, and simply focus on the Seal of the Moon.

Depending on your tradition, you may have a specific symbol for the Moon that works best for you. I suggest either the astrological symbol or the Seal of the Moon from the Tables of the Planets in Agrippa's *Three Books of Occult Philosophy*.



Sit and contemplate the Seal of the Moon you have chosen. Close your eyes halfway and look at it from that point of view.

It can last as long or as short as you like, it's entirely up to you.

2.4 Closeout

When you're finished with the contemplation of the Seal of the Moon, it's time to say goodbye to the Archangel Gabriel.

"You great and mighty spirit, as you came in peace and in the name of the ever blessed and righteous Trinity, you may now depart in this same name, and return when I call you in his name to whom every knee bows down. Fare well, Haniel; peace be between us, through our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

Then the spirit will then leave. Say:

"To God the Father, eternal Spirit, fountain of Light, the Son, and Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen."

After you've given the license to depart, take your favorite drink outside and dig a little hole in the dirt. Pour out your drink into the Earth while saying, "To the Moon I dedicate this and to the Lunar Spirits in the Elemental World. Empower them, that they make work to accomplish my goals." If it's alcoholic, ignite it. (Safely, yo, don't start a wildfire in Texas or California doing Lunar Magic. BAD FORM. If you can't be safe, don't do it, it's optional.)

3 Talisman

When you're ready to make a Lunar Talisman, here's what you need to do:

Gather the ingredients that are of a Lunar nature. These can be found in Agrippa's chapters on the things under the Moon, or in *The Complete Magician's Tables* by Skinner. Or you could select from the list that I got from these resources⁴:

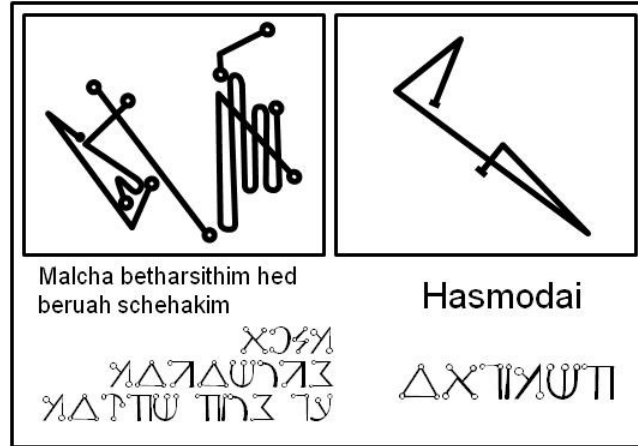
- Crab apple, hay, camphor, cucumber, poppy, pumpkin, gourd, lettuce, melon, rampion, tamarind
- Moonstone, chalcedony
- Pearl
- Crystal Point
- Almond, Hazel, Mistletoe, lime leaves
- Tobacco from your Cigar

Begin with a consecration for each of the items. You can do this by conjuring Haniel as outlined above, and when he's present, lift each item in his direction and ask him to consecrate, bless, dedicate, and empower the item in the manifestation of Mercury's powers.

When they are all consecrated, combine them together in a small cloth bag. On one side, draw the Astrological symbol of Mercury and the Seal of Mercury as shown above.

On the other side, draw the Seal of Malcha betharsithim hed beruah schehakim (easy for you to say), the Intelligency of the Intelligence of the Moon, and Hasmodai, the Spirit of the Moon. Write their names underneath if you like. It's not necessary.

⁴ Pick the things you have available. You don't have to stuff the whole bag with herbs and such. I try to have at least a crystal point, one stone, and a couple herbs that are of the appropriate planetary nature.



Ask Gabriel to bring you in contact with Malcha betharsithim hed beruah schehakim, the Intelligency of the Intelligence of the Moon. When he is present, ask him to also bring Hasmodai, Spirit of the Table of the Moon. (Note: if you don't sense them, don't worry, just keep going. Trust me, they're totally present.)

Ask the Intelligence to consecrate the talisman that it may radiate the forces of the Moon directly into your sphere. Ask the Spirit to work under the guidance of the Intelligency to manifest the powers of the Moon in your sphere, and to aid in the leadership of your Kingdom.

When you have done this, let the spirits go using the closeout portion from the rite above. And then follow the Talisman Maintenance and Operations Manual to keep your talisman in good shape.