

Be*witched

Independent Witch Program

Module 6

Finding Your Sacred Voice
mini - class

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Finding Your Sacred Voice

Objectives

- Voice is sacred breath manifested
- How we use our voice in ritual
- Making ritual statements- projection
- Poetry and it's use in ritual
- Songs vs. chants- what's the difference?
- Holding space- what is that and how can we do that with chant?
- Raising energy with our voices

Lessons

Voice is sacred breath manifested

When we use our body to make sound, we are connecting with the element of air.

Not only does air actually move through our body to create sound, air is associated with thought and communication, so we connect on many levels.

We use our words in many ways: evoking the gods, calling for the elements, honoring one another in ritual, creating joyful songs, and making powerful statements in ritual.

The way we speak can affect the energy in ritual. The volume of our voices, our tone, the speed of our words can all affect the energy of a ritual.

How we use our voice in ritual

Most of ritual is done with our voices. We visualize certain things at certain times, but the cues to do this are usual vocal. We use our voice to establish our intent, to join our wills together when we execute certain parts of the ritual. We attune to one another with voice. We can create and hold energy, charge objects, personify the element of air, use words of power, and raise power, all with our voices. We can evoke different emotions. It is the keystone of ritual theatre.

Making ritual statements- projection

When we are making ritual statements, it's important that we do so with a strong voice.

Everyone should be able to hear you. When we are in our small circle, it's easy, but sometimes we host others who are not in the circle. Sometimes we have large events. It's important that each person can hear what you are saying.

Poetry and it's use in ritual

Sometimes we'll recite poetry in ritual. Poetry can lend beauty to a ritual, can act as an offering to a deity, and can change the feeling of ritual. We tend to do this more at sabbat circles. Our sabbat circles are usually celebratory, and as such we celebrate the changing of the seasons as well as the culture of the deities that we evoke in circle.

Songs vs. chants- what's the difference?

Chant rarely has a tune, and is very repetitive. When raising energy toward a goal, chants, rather than songs are usually utilized. Sometimes chants have a tune, and sometimes they are sung in rounds. Harmony can increase energy.

* Artists: Libana, Spiral Rhythm, Lindie Lila, Kellianna

Songs have a tune, and usually have several verses or a chorus. Sometimes we'll learn a song before ritual and we'll sing it in the circle.

* Artists: Damh the Bard, Lisa Theil, SJ Tucker, Wendy Rule

Holding space- what is that and how can we do that with chant?

In ritual, when someone else is doing something, and we're simply present, our energy is tuned to "hold space." Our focus is on whatever is happening in ritual, and we're asked to be mindfully present in the space.

Usually this is silent, but sometimes chants are used. Chants to hold space usually have four syllables.

A-O-O-A

Raising energy with our voices using chant

One easy way to raise energy is with our voice. We know how tone of voice affects one another. Arguments escalate or deescalate with volume or pitch change. In ritual, we can raise energy through chant. These chants tend to have five (or other odd #) syllables.

We are a circle,
We hold the key,
We call the power,
So mote it be.