

CORA BONITO

THE SECRET HISTORY OF MAGIC

Rituals, symbols, amulets, and knowledge that have accompanied humanity for thousands of years

EGYPT | AMULETS | GRIMOIRES | ALCHEMY | WITCHCRAFT | RITUALS

Long before colored candles and crystals,
humanity was already trying to speak with the invisible.

1. When Magic, Religion, and Medicine Shared a Border

In many ancient societies, categories we now separate as religion, medicine, astronomy, and magic were deeply intertwined. Mesopotamia had ritual specialists who interpreted omens and performed protective ceremonies. In Egypt, the idea of heka could describe an effective force present in rituals, words, and religious practices. We should not imagine one single ancient magic: many traditions existed, with different functions and meanings.

Before we called it magic, human beings were already seeking protection, meaning, and transformation.

2. Egypt: Words, Amulets, and Protection

Funerary texts, amulets, and ritual formulas show the symbolic importance of words, images, and objects in ancient Egypt. The Eye of Horus, the scarab, and other motifs had religious and protective uses. Centuries later, Western imagination turned Egypt into an almost endless source of esoteric mysteries, mixing documented history with later legends.

An object can be small and still carry centuries of meaning.

3. Greece and Rome: Gods, Oracles, and Formulas

In the Greco-Roman world, temples, oracles, amulets, written curses, astrology, and ritual practices coexisted. The Greek Magical Papyri preserve formulas and rituals from late antiquity, created in a cultural environment where Greek, Egyptian, and other traditions mixed.

When cultures meet, their gods and symbols also begin to speak to one another.

4. Magic, Witchcraft, Sorcery, Alchemy, or Occultism?

They do not mean exactly the same thing. Magic is an extremely broad term. Witchcraft has changed meaning across eras and cultures. Sorcery often refers to formulas or ritual actions. Alchemy was a complex historical tradition connected with matter, transformation, philosophy, and experimentation. Occultism is a much more modern term, especially linked to esoteric currents of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Popular culture often mixes these worlds, but historically their boundaries were more complex.

Naming the mystery is also part of its history.

5. Grimoires: Books That Promised Hidden Knowledge

During the Middle Ages and early modern period, manuscripts and later printed books circulated with prayers, symbols, ritual instructions, astrology, and ceremonial magic. Many eventually became known as grimoires. Some promised protection or knowledge; others described invocations and ritual systems. Their history mixes popular religion, scholarship, folklore, and esotericism.

A closed book always seems to hold more power than an open one.

6. Alchemy: Transforming Matter, Transforming the Alchemist

Alchemy developed in different cultural contexts, including Hellenistic, Islamic, European, Indian, and Chinese traditions. Europe remembers it for the philosopher's stone and the transmutation of metals, but its history was richer. Later esoteric readings also interpreted material transformation as a metaphor for inner transformation.

Turning lead into gold also became an image of turning ourselves into another version of who we are.



7. Witchcraft, Fear, and Persecution

Between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries, Europe and its colonies experienced witch persecutions that caused thousands of executions. Accusations were shaped by religion, social conflict, fear, gender, politics, and local beliefs. The modern image of the witch combines these painful histories with folklore, literature, and contemporary reinterpretations. The persecutions should not be romanticized: they were real and violent historical events.

Behind the symbol of the witch are also real lives that paid the price of collective fear.

8. The Renaissance and Ceremonial Magic

During the Renaissance, figures such as Marsilio Ficino, Agrippa, and John Dee explored worlds where astrology, philosophy, angelology, Christian Kabbalah, and natural magic could coexist. Correspondences between planets, metals, plants, colors, and moments became especially influential.

The universe could be imagined as a web: touching one symbol meant touching many others.

9. Initiatory Societies and Modern Occultism

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, esoteric orders and movements reorganized ancient and modern materials. The Golden Dawn, for example, linked Tarot, astrology, Kabbalah, elements, colors, and ceremonial magic inside an initiatory system. Much of today's Western magical aesthetic comes from this modern blending of traditions.

Cards, planets, letters, colors, and elements ended up sharing the same table.

10. Contemporary Magic

Today neopagan practices, reconstructed traditions, personal spiritualities, ceremonial magic, intention rituals, and a vast digital culture coexist. For some people they are religious or spiritual practices; for others they are symbols for reflection and creativity. Cora Bonito works through this second door: symbolic rituals for intention and self-discovery, without claiming that an object or ceremony can control outside events.

A ritual does not need to rule the universe to help you mark a beginning, an ending, or an intention.



THE SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE OF RITUALS

Many contemporary rituals combine objects and cycles that different traditions give meaning to. There is no universal dictionary; correspondences change across cultures and schools.

CANDLES AND COLORS

White: clarity. Pink: affection. Green: growth. Gold: symbolic success. Violet: introspection. These are frequent modern associations, not universal laws.

PLANTS AND AROMAS

Rosemary, lavender, cinnamon, and other plants appear in folklore, cooking, traditional medicine, and ritual practices. Meaning depends on the tradition.

STONES AND AMULETS

Stones, metals, eyes, hands, and other symbols have been used as ornaments and protective objects. Claimed energetic properties are not scientifically proven.

MOON AND CYCLES

Many modern practices use the new moon as a symbol of beginning and the full moon as culmination. This ritual association does not determine your decisions.

THE FOUR ELEMENTS

Earth, Water, Air, and Fire appear as philosophical and esoteric categories in Western traditions and are often used as symbolic language.

SYMBOLIC PROTECTION

Amulets such as the nazar and hamsa have their own cultural histories. Respectful use requires knowing their origin and not reducing them to decoration.

INTENTION | SYMBOL | ACTION | CLOSING

A ritual can work as a deliberate pause: you choose an intention, perform a symbolic action, and psychologically mark a moment. That structure is part of what makes it meaningful for many people.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TODAY?

We will not ask what you want to control. We will ask what you want to cultivate within yourself.

SELF-LOVE

Care | Boundaries | Self-worth

PROSPERITY

Order | Openness | Action

CLOSE A CYCLE

Release | Gratitude | Farewell

BEGIN

Intention | Clarity | First step

PROTECTION

Boundaries | Safety | Personal space

STRENGTH

Confidence | Decision | Movement

CALM

Pause | Breath | Presence

DISCOVER YOUR CORA RITUAL FOR FREE

WHAT DO YOU NEED TODAY?

Self-love | Prosperity | Close a cycle | Begin | Symbolic protection | Strength | Calm

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YOUR INTENTION | A COLOR | AN ELEMENT | A SMALL ACTION | A PHRASE

*A ritual can last five minutes.
An intention can stay with you much longer.*

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THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST RITUAL IN YOUR STORY

*A ritual can be a deliberate pause: a way to give
shape to an intention, a transition, or a new
beginning.*

CURIOSITY | REFLECTION | SELF-DISCOVERY

For entertainment and self-discovery. The rituals described are symbolic. They do not replace medical, psychological, financial, legal, or other professional advice, and they do not promise control over outside events.

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TAROT | ASTROLOGY | NUMEROLOGY | MAGIC & RITUAL | INTUITION & CONSCIOUSNESS