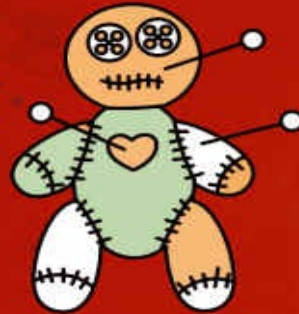




HOODOO *for* BEGINNERS



LEARN THE MOST EFFECTIVE HOODOO MAGIC SPELLS, HOODOO HERBS, AND ROOT MAGIC TO ATTRACT MONEY, LUCK, SUCCESS, AND LOVE

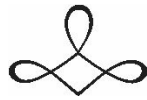


FIONA HARRIS



Hoodoo for Beginners

Learn the Most Effective Hoodoo Magic Spells, Hoodoo Herbs, and Root Magic to Attract Money , Luck, Success, and Love



FIONA HARRIS

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About the Author



My name is Fiona, and I am Leona's great-granddaughter; a ferocious root daughter of African descent, born in slavery and died freely. Her descendants migrated to many different regions (including California) and adapted to changes in history. The vitality of her ancestors made Hoodoo's tradition (also known as Conjure/Rootwork) alive in my heart. My work pays tribute to her life, her memory, the powerful firepower of justice, and her black magic hand. I am from Texas, born and bred. I am a fourth-generation magician. I am also the daughter of a Christian pastor. I have started to learn a few ATR. I also come from mixed ancestry, including some indigenous aspects. I hope to bring more information and knowledge about magic and Rootwork.

First of all, thank you for purchasing this book. I know you could have picked any number of books to read, but you picked this book and for that I am extremely grateful.

I hope that it will add value and quality to your everyday life.

If you will enjoy this book and find some benefit in reading this, I'd like to hear from you and hope that you could take some time to post a review on

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I wish you all the best in your future success!

Fiona Harris

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Introduction

Hoodoo is a form of popular magic developed among the African American population in the South of the United States. It has a strong syncretic character as it includes African, European and Native American elements.

Often practitioners of Hoodoo magic are called root workers or root doctors, although root working (magic work with herbs and roots) is only one aspect (however, important) of this magic system. Hoodoo is a form of conjure or Voodoo which focuses on an exchange of spiritual powers between a human and other realms for wealth, love and health.

Hoodoo magic has also influenced the Spiritualist, Manifestation and Wicca traditions, with which it has many similarities. Unlike most Western school forms of magic, Hoodoo magic has no tradition of summoning or negotiation with particular spirits.

According to California folklorist Sara Gary, Hoodoo was as a type of African American folk magic whose "traditional practitioners were the predecessors of modern-day spiritualists, supernatural gospel blues singers and by some definitions, even contemporary Wicca and neopagan witchcraft". Hoodoo is not a system but rather an entire complex of magical beliefs, practices and principles. The term Hoodoo is pluralized by the English language speakers of the Southern US where the majority of whom use only one spelling of Hoodoo (like many cities in the US), and rarely refers to it as Hoodoos elsewhere.

In the parlance of Hoodoo, a Hoodoo trail or water line is a route for witches or root doctors to travel between two specific locations by their spirit guides, both of which must be physically known to both parties in the trail. A Hoodoo line crosses water, land and otherwise, passes directly through a particular region or community. The two points of a Hoodoo line are known as the origin and the destination, and sometimes referred to as the crossing or the crossroads (also known as the named crossroads). These places cannot be named places but are understood and defined by their effectiveness as a

Hoodoo crossing (i.e., the Hoodoo trail is to the crossing as the water line is to the crossroads). Hoodoo lines can be repeated as often as needed, provided the destination and several additional landmarks are known and unchanged.

The Purpose of Hoodoo

In the mid-19th century, Hoodoo was influential in the development of African American religions, particularly in the Southern United States with its practitioners primarily in the southern states and various Caribbean islands. The culture has developed into a rich and extensive African American Protestant magical tradition. African and African American Hoodoo practitioners seemed to emerge at this time influenced by earlier traditions of Curanderismo and Candomblé, with strong elements of Christianity.

From a folklorist's perspective in 1940, Hoodoo rituals were mainly concerned with the protection of a property, a pursuit in which Hoodoo practitioners appear to have had little faith. They were concerned with ensuring the continued health of the family and success of businesses the husband or father in providing for the family. The well-being of the husband or father was generally associated with displeasure or even danger in some way, which led to the prescription of remedies for the victims of this danger. Although there is some reference to "making" a husband or father love, there is little reference to love spells.

The purpose of Hoodoo is usually to gain positive outcomes from everyday life to strengthen a link with the source of one's power and abilities. In the African American practice, this source is traditionally the spirit world or the force of the universe. Hoodoo practitioners are concerned with the line between physical reality and the spirit world, whereas the spiritual world influences events in the physical world, and the relationship between the spiritual world and the self.

Voodoo and Hoodoo: The Differences and Similarities

In popular culture, "Hoodoo" often refers to any form of magic that is a product of the Native American and African cultures, as opposed to the Euro-

centric concept of magic.

Voodoo is a religion, as well as a magical tradition. Voodoo and Hoodoo are different but related. Both are African-centered with elements coming from Europe and America. Voodoo has larger associations with Catholic Christianity than Hoodoo; Hoodoo has larger associations with Protestant Christianity than Voodoo. While all magic has a Christian orientation in this sense, a small proportion of the African-centered practitioners are not Christian and may or may not be associated with any religion at all. Some Hoodoo magic is Biblical, for example; God's protection of Gideon.

Usage of Voodoo and Hoodoo

"Voodoo" and "Hoodoo" are used interchangeably in the US, even if it's an error, but in the UK they are considered to be two different cultures and religions originating from the Americas. Thus, while there is much crossover between both, usage of these terms is not as common. The word "Hoodoo" is often confused with Haitian Voodoo, but this is unlikely.

Practitioners

While "non-African" Hoodoo borrows some of its elements from Voodoo, it is not considered by outsiders to be the same religion but simply some Christianized version of the more well-known and established Voodoo as practiced in Haiti.

Black Hoodoo (or Hoodoo Hoodoo) is practiced by practitioners who are of African origin or descent. In the U.S., this is more or less the same as "African Voodoo". Hoodoo practitioners in the U.S. are largely of African-American or other African origin. Caribbean immigrants may also participate in the form if they are Christianized. "White Hoodoo" is practiced by practitioners who are not of African origin but are non-white, and may also participate in the form of Hoodoo in a Christianized form. Virginia's Christian (and I mean actually Christian) Hoodoo practitioners typically practice white Hoodoo because they were not of African descent and were not enslaved by other Africans. They were usually of European descent and thus described as "white Hoodoo". In the UK, Hoodoo may have originated by the fusion of African and European roots which is sometimes referred to

as "Hoodoo Hoodoo".

History of Hoodoo

Hoodoo may hide in the shadows of American history as an aspect of traditional African American Christian and non-Christian conjure. Roots of Hoodoo go back more than 500 years to the West African Yoruba and Congo. Hoodoo draws connections to this history and is linked to the practices of the religious philosophies that came from West Africa, namely Santeria, Houma Voodoo and Candomblé. Hoodoo is present in the United States but it differs from the traditions practiced in Haiti, and is influenced by African traditions brought to the Americas by enslaved Africans. Prayer and fasting are common practices in Hoodoo.



CHAPTER ONE

The Hoodoo Spiritual World

The spiritual world influences the material world. The spirit world is of an unusual sort, very different than the material world. It is not temporal (a here and now). Instead, it is timeless, a place that is understood in a unified way. Spirits are beings who leave the spirit world and enters the material world. This happens immediately or at a later time. This transition is often referred to as "crossing over". Spirits inhabit plants, animals and objects... as well as humans.

The Spiritual Practices of Hoodoo

The Hoodoo spiritual practices are component with the spiritual beliefs of the Hoodoo faith. In teachings concerning the spiritual world, practitioners may or may not use such tools as rituals and prayer. Visualization of the outcome and will of the effect, as well as the magnetizing of the individual's or object's physical presence may be used. Prayers and offerings may be made with the help of ancestors or gods. Magic, rituals and spells, conjuring and curses conjured by the application of Hoodoo are believed to be ways of forcing change. Hoodoo is linked to sorcery and is therefore understood to promote a variety of spiritual practices and rituals. Indeed, some of these practices and rituals are found in Voodoo and other religious ritual and practices called "pagan" or "sorcery". Hoodoo is understood to be a form of Santeria practice which is an aspect of African origins. Only in North America and in the Caribbean is it called Hoodoo. Hoodoo is known to be a part of Egyptian traditions. Hoodoo might have been a part of Voodoo practice in the US. The practice of Hoodoo has roots in African American folklore and folk religion. It draws from African-American folk practices and perhaps its culture. It draws from the mysticism of the Caribbean, Native American and European magical beliefs. Hoodoo is a spiritual practice that blends root work, conjure and folk healing.

The Meaning of Loa

The Loa are spirits or ancestral spirits. There are many different kinds of Loa. The white Loa, similar to brothers are called saints or holy men. There are many black Loa. Each has a specific family or group. One example is the Ndengei or Ndengei Seta, a strong Loa who may live in the ground. He is assertive but respectful. Since he is a metal, he can be seen. He speaks for chiefs in dreams. He is also the founder and manager of the Ndengei Seta. His daughter who was kidnapped by the whites, is Nia.

Another example is Ndengei Bert. He is the ideal Phlebotomist or medical doctor. He is usually found in human form. He is also a great healer who cures diseases with a simple ritual for a child. Ndengei Marcus (called Ndengei) is a strong Loa who is found with Samayo. She is the mother and mistress Goddess of Monta. She is in the form of a goat.

The Loa are spirits who are called upon by the practitioners of Hoodoo.

Loa Manifestations

A given practitioner will interact with some Loa more than others. Some practitioners will visit the Loa but most will hear them in dreams. In such cases, the Loa will visit the dreams of the practitioner with guidance. Likewise, one can hear the Loa or spirits in dreams by spending time in prayer. The Loa speaks in the form of words. However, it is the purpose of a Hoodoo ritual to give guidance. This takes place in a dream, in a ceremony or elsewhere. The voice of the Loa can be male or female. One's dream or ritual can even be one's first interaction with a Loa. In this case, the voice heard may be quite real. The voice of the Loa may also be represented by the use of white powder and oil in a small container or even a symbol on a mirror. In this case, the Loa is a symbol or divine entity equivalent to the image of the Virgin Mary.

Danbhallah Family

The Danbhallah are the most common soul to the family Loa. They wish for the family to stay together no matter how many members die. It is also the

last faith or belief of humanity. The family includes ancestors, the living and decedents. It is the family's job to look after one another. It can even be an actual family. These individuals should be a nuclear family. It needs to be a group of people who care for each other. It should also include God and spirit guides. The family should be a group of people who work together. It should also include dead ancestors. A family is made of people who have the same goals and ideals, and includes one or more who can offer support or help in passing on the traditions so it also has to be more than one person.

How To Get In Touch With Spirits

How do you get in touch with spirits? When you are a worship leader, people are mainly looking to you for power or guidance. There are rituals, such as making a sacrifice from things such as food, water or something people value or make use of. In most cases, the transactions with the spirits are paid for in some type of currency. The leaders make the sacrifice and then give the blessings to the people. This is why they make the sacrifice.

Hoodoo is similar to other secret societies, especially the kind that have its history in the African diaspora. However, unlike most secret societies Hoodoo is open to the general public. With its origins being a secret African culture, Hoodoo keeps some of the rituals or its beliefs secret from prying eyes especially from those who have no honor or respect for its traditions. It is very similar to the secret societies of the 18th and 19th centuries like the Masonic orders, as well as Catholic and Anglican institutions. The only different is in what these secret societies believe in, which is their spiritual and religious philosophies. If something is revealed, they will either banish the one who reveals them and punish the one who committed the crime and broken the law.

Hoodoo rituals and traditions are similar to the West African traditions. The secret masters that are in the Hoodoo tradition have African origins. The origins of Hoodoo or the African magic scene comes from African countries in the context of the slave trade. Hoodoo, or African magic especially those rituals that are performed are based on African beliefs and philosophy. The Hoodoo tradition is a form of religion that is like other African traditional religions in which the adherents of the religion believe in spiritual beings, as

well as sacred ancestors.

The ancient African philosophical and religious beliefs do not require the belief in a God, or a theistic form of theology. However, many African philosophies and religions display some type of theistic theme. The prominent in African traditional religions is the presence of the Supreme Being which is assisted by lesser spiritual beings. Although In some, there is none. But in almost every African traditional religion, the concept of a Supreme Being exists, appearing in the form of a sky-god or a creator god. Not all the concepts of a Supreme Being is considered to be omnipotent.

How to Evoke Spirits in Hoodoo

In the Hoodoo tradition and African philosophy, the use of spiritual and magic spirituality is formed from the inter-relationship with the natural elements of the universe. It is not a Christian or a Judeo-Christian belief. The Hoodoo tradition believes that spiritual beings exist and that they are a part of the spirit world. In the African and Hoodoo tradition, there are many object-based rituals in which the purpose is to make contact with spirits in order to make transaction or a trade. An example of how that is related to Hoodoo tradition is by the burning of incense and other herbs used to aid in the invocation of a spirit. Another example would be the burning of oils or candles in a ritual, like using a candle as a focal point. Hoodoo is a pact between humans and unseen counterparts, or higher beings in the spirit world to establish a deal or a transaction between humans and spirits.

In Hoodoo, spiritual or magical work is the making of deals with one of these higher beings to exchange services. The service could be doing rituals like candles offered to the spirit in exchange for a wish.

Hoodoo is not just using spiritual work for rituals but also for love or even to talk to spirits for guidance and advice when you are having problems in your relationship or marriage. In Hoodoo, if you have problems with a partner or questions about love, you can talk to a spirit who will help and guide you to a solution for your problems. In Hoodoo, spirit guides are called an Orisha, Odu or Obayifo.



CHAPTER TWO

The Conjuror's Tools in Hoodoo

There is a scientific process involved in Hoodoo in which the practitioner uses certain types of objects and materials to perform certain types of activity to attract different natural elements. In Hoodoo work, there are certain set of tools that are used by musicians and other people that use music for other purposes as well. In the Hoodoo tradition, there is the conjuror's belt and a Hoodoo hand. There are other tools used in Hoodoo as well, such as oils, wax, candles, incense, pendants, amulets, charms, clothing that is used for magic purposes, along with tools used for divination such as cards for readings. In addition, traditional Hoodoo practitioners may use Hoodoo fashion used for ceremonies. The practitioner uses these clothing for rituals or Hoodoo work to see spirits, or to make sure the spirit can see you. Examples of Hoodoo fashion include the use of the Sango shirt, the Agbada, the Dashiki or other types of African traditional garments. Hoodoo fashion is something that one wears along with certain accessories which can be anything the conjuror puts on their body used in Hoodoo rituals.

The Incense

- **Ash-Catcher:** Alternative term for the incense holder. As the name suggests, the ashes of burning incense is collected on the ash-catcher to protect the surface on which the incense is burning.
- **Incense in bricks:** Incense obtained by pressing a mixture of coal powder and Saltpetre in small brick-like form and then scenting the resulting dried briquette with essential oils.
- **Incense Pendulum:** A pendulum in which the incense is placed and burned. It is often suspended from a chain so that it can be swung to distribute the smoke in a certain area.
- **Spiral Incense Sandalwood:** Incense pressed in a spiral shape. It is then left to dry and then scented with essential oils.

- Cone Incense: Incense produced by a process of combining sandalwood with other woods, rubber and pressing in a cone shaped mold. It is left to dry and then scented with oils.
- Fumigation: The exposure of something to smoke incense in order to purify.
- Incense: Refers to the covering of a person, place or object with incense smoke. In the practice of magic and spells this is often performed for the purpose of purification and enhancement. Also known as census or smoke.
- Incense powder: Incense made from a mixture of wood fiber, saltpetre and perfume; although dried herbs can be added to the mixture. It is usually burned by shaping it into cones. It is also known as loose or self-illuminating incense.
- Incense Rope: Incense is made by placing herbs and other plant materials on rice paper, thin fiber or bamboo and then twisting the rice paper to form a "rope".
- Incense in incense sticks: Incense produced by sticking wood powder, herbs, etc. ... to thin sticks that are left to dry and then scented with essential oils. Also known as Joss Incense.
- Suffumigation: The burning incense to produce fumes as part of some magical rituals.

Ritual Use of Incense

Incense has many uses in the practice of Hoodoo.

- To create a magical atmosphere.
- To purify the area of negativity.
- To release energy
- Bring prayers / wishes to the gods.
- As offerings

CREATE ATMOSPHERE - Similar to how colors affect our biology, some odors also arouse associations in our minds that can have profound effects on our mood. Our olfactory sense is the closest of our five senses related to our memories, using scents to recall pleasant or unpleasant memories we can recall the energy needed for rituals and spells. Imagine making a love spell and burning incense that reminds you of your first boyfriend / girlfriend. Now imagine making a love spell and burning incense that smells like burning gum. Which spell do you think has the best chance of success?

PURIFICATION - Incense burning has long been used by pagans as well as other religions to purify people, places and things. It is believed that the purity of the smoke, its pleasant scent and the ingredients that composes it (usually herbs and oils) drive out negativity and evil.

RELEASE OF ENERGY - As I said above, natural incense generally contain dried herbs and scented with essential oils that when burned, releases energy into the universe just like a prepared candle. This energy can be programmed by the specific intent of our ritual (spell, song, meditation, visualization, etc. ...) Incense makers now produce specific incense designed to realize specific desires for love, success, money, health, blessing, etc. ...

PRAYER - In ancient times, it was believed that heaven was the home of the gods. Prayers, songs, spells, etc. were performed accompanied by the burning of incense in the belief that when the smoke rose up to the heavens and moved through the upper floors it would bring our desires to God and the spirits who would grant them.

OFFER - Incense has long been used in popular magic practices as an offering / sacrifice to the gods. This has often been done at the behest of a deity (Exodus 30:1) or in an attempt to appease it in a way that would encourage the petition.

Hoodoo Dolls

When it comes to using Doll-Babies in magic, most people are familiar with the stereotypical image of a "Voodoo" doll stuck full of pins to cause suffering and pain to their enemies. Historically, various types of dolls were used to gain love, empower people, promote healing and prosperity, as well

as punishing one's enemies and driving rivals away.

It is believed that the process of manipulating images to make their physical counterparts originated in Paleolithic times. Although no dolls from this historical period have been recovered, it has been theorized that the rock paintings depicting successful hunts were actually a form of magic called sympathetic magic, which states that the like attracts the like. Sympathetic magic forms the basis for many spells and rituals.

Sympathetic magic is based on the principle that "invisible bonds connect all things". Sympathetic magic can be divided into two categories, homeopathic magic and contagious magic. The Scottish anthropologist Sir James G. Frazer first described these types in his book *The Golden Bough* (1890).

Homeopathic magic claims that "the like attracts the like". A classic example of this type of magic is by melting wax images of an enemy resulting in death. Visualization is a form of sympathetic magic, instead of creating a physical image of your target you create a mental one. Many taboos come from homeopathic magic. People avoid certain harmless things because they resemble various harmful things. Among the Inuit (Eskimos) for example, parents traditionally warn their children against playing a string game such as the cat's cradle, in which children wrap the string around their fingers. They feared that playing these games might get their children's fingers caught in the harpoon lines they will use as adults.

Contagious magic claims that "things once in contact with each other continue to influence each other after they have been separated". An example of Contagious Magic from a folk magic remedy to heal wounds would be to rub some medicine on the object that caused the wound in the first place. People who believe in contagious magic fear that an enemy may gain power over them by obtaining parts of their body. Therefore, they carefully dispose of nails, hair, teeth and even body waste.

There are different types of dolls that can be found in the practice of magic. By type, I am not referring to the materials used to make a doll-child, but rather to the purpose for which it was originally created. These are just a few.

1) Spirit-Dolls: these are dolls that serve as vessels for powerful spirit beings that can be required for a wide variety of purposes. These spirits can be

spirits of the dead, family spirits, divine beings, spirit of divination and even spiritual entities that have never had an earthly incarnation. These types of dolls are often found on altars where they are objects of devotion. They are often presented with offerings such as water, candies, cigarettes, coffee, etc., to invoke their power in the life of an individual.

2) Helper-Dolls: comparable to mojo bags, these types of dolls are personifications of concepts or energies that the individual wishes to attract into his or her life. They often have a specific purpose such as protection, money design, crossing, etc... They are often sewn in colour and filled with those herbs and curiosities that are directly associated with your intent. For example, a doll that draws love can be created in a red cloth and filled with coriander seeds, Queen Elizabeth's root, lavender buds, cumin seeds and a list of qualities you want in a lover. Such a doll would be worked on your altar of love and wrapped in a clean white cloth in a special box under or near your bed when not in use. It is wise to think of these dolls as working with you rather than for you.

3) Doll-Babies: these dolls are made to represent a specific person. For this reason, they are often made with clothes used by the individual (when possible), contain their personal concerns or at least their name written on a piece of paper. They can be made of plastic, wax, fabric, twigs, etc. and look like a generic human being, they can be made with a fabric colour associated with your intent and sometimes a worker takes a picture of the person's face and sews or glues it on the doll's face. In other cases, they resemble the individual they intend to represent as much as possible with hair of the same colour as the individual and buttons of the same colour as their eyes as far as possible they will have the same body type and will be dressed in a way associated with the individual. These types of dolls can be made of specific people whose identity is unknown to you.

3) Effigies: These are dolls made to represent you. Luisha Teish, the author of Jambalya, once stated that the doll becomes you and should be

treated in the way you want to be treated. It can be used for any purposes that concerns you, your health, your living conditions or your well-being. For example, if one wants to improve its sexual attractiveness, you may caress the doll and it will enhance one's sex appeal. When not in use, the doll should be wrapped in a clean white cloth and hidden in a safe place. Do not leave your doll unattended for too long. The doll should be given love and proper attention.

How To Make A Doll?

There are many different ways in which dolls are made. The most important element in making dolls is you. While making a doll, it is important that you focus mentally on the individual you want the doll to represent or the purpose that the doll should fulfill.

Three methods in making a doll

1) Ready to use: perhaps the easiest way to create a baby doll is to buy a store-bought doll as a generic doll or an action character. The doll should be cleaned with ammonia and incorporate the personal concerns of the individual you wish the doll to represent.

2) Wax Images: many spiritual practitioners are familiar with male and female candles which are often used in candle magic spells. However, these small images can easily be used in the same way as a wax image because that is exactly what they are. To prepare a candle, like a baby doll you can simply scratch the person's name on the doll's chest. If you have personal concerns or wish to incorporate herbs and roots into your doll, the candle will need to be loaded. To load the candle, make a hole in the bottom and fill it with your herbs, personal worries, etc., then fill the hole with wax to seal it.

3) Poppet: another option is to create a poppet. A poppet is composed of two pieces of cloth cut in the shape of a human body. This fabric can also be something that the individual has worn or simply a piece of colored fabric that fits your target. The pieces are sewn together, turned upside down and filled with cotton, herbs, straw, buds, etc. If you have a connection with the individual, add it to the inner padding. Finish by sewing the opening you used to fill it. Then, personalize the doll by giving it the characteristics of the

person it is intended to represent, hair and eye color for instance. When you are finished, wrap the doll in a clean cloth until the spell or ritual has been performed.

Baptize The Doll

By baptizing, you are ritually naming your doll. You are calling a part of that person's spirit into the doll. After baptism, the spiritual connection between the doll and the individual is established so then whatever happens to the doll, happens to the individual as well.

To baptize your newly created doll, sprinkle it with a little holy water and then make the sign of the cross on it three times saying:

"In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit who baptizes you as (the person's name). Everything I do to this doll, I do to him/her. Amen. "

Release the Spirit

When your doll has fulfilled its assigned task and you no longer need it, it is important to release the doll of that person's spirit before disposing it. To release the spirit, simply make the sign of the cross on the doll and say: "Let my words that bound you now release you so that you can go back to where you came from. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Spirit Houses

A spirit house serves as a dwelling place for disembodied entities and means through which the magician can communicate with them. They can take the form of a pot, a wooden box, a jar or even a doll.

Spirit houses are not entirely unique among magical practitioners as they are

found in many magical traditions where humans have contact with non-physical beings. Examples of spiritual houses include the European spirit box, the Govi of Voodoo, the Prenda / Nganga of Palo, the lamp of genius in Arabic tales, the brass vase associated with Solomonic rites, a mojo bag or even a spiritual doll. It would be difficult to compare and contrast each of these types of spiritual vessels so I will focus on those things they have in common.

Each object consists of a type of receptacle containing one or more additional objects. In some cases, some of these contained objects are not only traditional but also required. For example, a properly prepared and consecrated Nganga should always contain 21 sticks of various trees, among other things.

The operating methods for each of these types of spiritual houses vary from tradition to tradition. However, each of them follow a basic order.

An appropriate container is obtained and a house is prepared to welcome the spirit inside.

Some objects are placed inside the house that are believed:

(a) Attracts the spirit

(b) To establish it on the physical plane

(c) To provide him with the tools he will need to achieve his objectives as determined by you.

The spirit is ritually solicited to work with the magician in exchange for specific offers and/or the ability to evolve spiritually. The process of creating a spiritual home and obtaining a working spirit is arduous and can take a long time to achieve successfully.

Once again, the offers will vary from tradition to tradition and spirit to spirit. Ancestors are often given a portion of the family meal, while other spirits only require a simple candle to burn near their ship. Mojo bags and dolls are often offered with a few drops of oil or whisky.

How to build a vase of ancestors

The ancestors' vessel is a sacred tool that allows you to establish a physical connection with your ancestors on a deeply personal level. It consists of a pot in which a portion of earth has been collected from the tomb of your ancestors. In the modern era, when people die, they are often buried in steel vaults if they are not cremated. Before that, they could have been buried in pine boxes or simply in a wrapping sheet. Over time, their bodies decomposed and returned to earth. Therefore, when dirt was taken from a grave, it was believed that they were not simply taking the dirt but rather the essence of that person's body which had become part of the ground and not apart.

At another time, an individual's ancestor's vase may have included his or her ancestor's bones, however, many modern practitioners have taken to include a ceramic or crystal skull in their ancestor's vase as a substitute for their ancestor's bones. Small releases of water or whisky may be poured over the skull to "feed" the ancestor or may be greased with oil from time to time. In addition, some people also include dirt from an unused part of the cemetery to represent "unknown" ancestors, as well as samples of dirt from various places such as banks, post offices, prisons, hospitals, crossroads, etc. To enhance the dirt with the power of the energy of that place.

Using Your Ancestors' Jar

My ancestors' pot is the focal point of my ancestors' altar. Being the abode of the ancestors on the physical plane, it is the place where I focus my eyes and direct my words when I converse with them. In fact, I often receive ideas, inspiration and direction from them.

For example, at one point I had a mojo that worked very well for me. Things were going so well that I didn't think I would have to carry that mojo around anymore so I put it in a little box where it had been promptly forgotten. When my luck went sour, I pulled out the little mojo, tried to feed it and make it work again for me to no avail. In the end, I was conversing with my ancestors who instructed me to place the mojo in my ancestors' jar for three days. After three days, I removed the mojo-bag that takes money out of the pot and it worked stronger than ever. In fact, on the same day I received a remarkable boon.

Sometimes, when a spell is over and I think it needs a little more grit, I will accept the petition I created for the spell and put it into the ancestors' pot rather than remove it. The same can also be done with talismans, jewelry and other objects. In other cases, if I feel that someone or something is interfering with my work or needs more power, I will remove a candle from the altar where it is burning and place it directly on the Ancient. If I have an enemy working against me or someone is bothering me, I will take their photograph or name card and put it directly under the vase face down and ask the ancestors to keep them quiet.

Your ancestors are those spirits connected to you by blood and they are your most powerful allies in the spirit world. Working with the ancestors begins with the construction of an ancestral altar composed of white candles, flowers, a glass of water and memories of deceased relatives. This altar is the place where you periodically make offerings to your ancestors, as well as communicate with them daily explaining what is going on in your life, your needs and desires. If you wish, a vase of ancestors can become the focal point of your altar where you direct your attention and interest when communicating with them. By placing objects in or around the vase you can directly incorporate the energies of your ancestors into your magical works.



CHAPTER THREE

Voodoo Spells

One thing that you'll soon learn is that while preparations for spells may be complicated, the usual spells themselves will be quite easy to perform.

For this spell, what you will need to learn about first is the creation of your own Voodoo doll. Now, again through the mishandlings of pop culture, people assume Voodoo dolls to be tools for evil made to harm target(s). However, that couldn't be farther from the truth. In fact, many good practitioners use Voodoo dolls as a way of attaching positive herbs and cleansing agents to those who have requested aid in order to purge them of negative forces and protect them from evil when required. Again, the materials are attached to the dolls with pins. However, said pins don't hurt or harm the targets of the doll, but are instead used to join the effects of the attached objects and talismans to the essence of the represented person. A normal ritual, even using pins, on a Voodoo doll made to represent someone else cannot harm them in any way.

Dolls can either be used to denote a specific person or may be representative of a type of problem you yourself wish to banish. Therefore, if you're planning on conducting emotionally healing rituals or even just a protection spell, you can create a Voodoo doll for that specific purpose.

The first thing which you need to do is to gather the ingredients of the doll itself—most of which have to be made from natural material collected from nature, such as organic fabrics, wood, bark, grass, twigs, etc. However, that doesn't mean that you can't use beads, buttons, glue, etc. in its construction either—especially if you're making it to resemble someone. Once you've gathered the material, wrap it all in organic fabric, dig a hole in your backyard, and bury it for a few days to allow the earth to sap away all negative energies within the materials, whether organic or synthetic. Once you've done that, take it out, burn some sage, and make sure to lightly expose it to all the ingredients within the smoke of the sage plant to cleanse it thoroughly. Only handle these steps after you've completed your ritual

bathing.

Once the cleansing is over, it's time to make the doll. Within its creation, the phases of the moon sometimes make a difference in the efficacy of the doll's operations—the waxing moon being great for dolls which will be used to conjure benefits or protection, and the waning moon being better suited for dolls dealing with expulsion of negative energies and forces. Select some up-tempo instrumental music in the background, preferably with traditional drums, to allow yourself to meditate on the task at hand and enter a focused state. The importance of focus is that, while making the doll, the purpose of its creation should be foremost in your mind and it should stay that way till you're done making it. Use your imagination to visualize the outcome you seek with the doll and you'll imbue it with your power to make that image come true—thus turning it into an effective Voodoo tool.

After having created it, you need to cleanse it once more by passing it through the smoke of positive or protective herbs. After this is done, your Voodoo doll is complete but should be cleansed once more before use if you intend to store it away. Moreover, if you've made the doll to represent a specific person, anoint it in their name with water in order to grant the doll its “identity” and don't store it for too long. While doing so, invoke the name as identity of the doll with the image of the person at the forefront of your mind and speak clearly as to the purpose for which the spiritual connection between the doll and the human has been invoked. Moreover, whichever way you intend to use it, clearly and decisively welcome the doll as a treasured object which will bring you luck and success in your endeavors and will serve to protect/bring luck/bring love/heal its original or whatever other specific reason may exist behind its conjuration. Do not create dolls which represent others, unless you plan to use it for sure.

Once you have created your Voodoo doll, there are many ways in which you can use it. A doll can work as a focusing tool in meditation and ritual, simply by holding the doll in your hand while you concentrate on your intention or goal. Alternatively, you can put the doll onto your altar and keep your gaze on it while concentrating.

Another way in which to use a Voodoo doll is in candle rituals or spells. To use a Voodoo doll in this way, choose a candle that is appropriate for your

purpose and carry out the candle ritual as usual. Using the candle technique where you write your intention or goal on a piece of paper. Then hold your doll in your hands and focus with intensity on your goal or purpose. Once you feel that you have concentrated sufficiently, place the doll next to the candle and allow the candle to burn down completely. Once the candle has burned down, remove the petition and attach it to your doll. After nine days have passed, burn the petition and then scatter the ashes to the East.

You can also use a Voodoo doll with the seven pins, which is the method most commonly shown in pop culture. Alternatives for pins include needles, nails, or fish bones. The seven pins are each of different color and each color represents a different aspect. Yellow is success, white is positivity, red is power, purple is spirituality, green is money, blue is love, and black is for repelling negative energy.

To carry out the seven pins ritual, select the color of pin that best represents your intention or goal. Place a pin in the applicable portion of the doll, head for issues dealing with knowledge, heart for emotional concerns, and stomach for intuitive purposes. For example, if you wanted to improve the power of the person to whom you are aiming the ritual, then you would select a red pin and place it into the head of your doll.

You can also use your Voodoo doll to petition a particular Loa to assist you with your request. To do this, choose a candle in a color that is appropriate to the Loa whom you are petitioning and make an offering of the Loa's favorite things in the Loa's favorite number. Performing the ritual at your altar after properly preparing it – including purification and blessing – will give you the best results.

For example, if you wanted to petition Papa Legba, you would choose black or red candle (but not black and red) and greet him with the ritual greeting where you state his name, ask him to open the door then state that on the way back, you will return the favor. Then communicate what you would like and offer him three of one of his favorite things – candy, rum, or cigars.

You should be aware that when you use a doll to petition a Loa, you are essentially placing an order with that Loa, which then creates a contract between you and the Loa. Your part of that contract is to do whatever is

under your control, in your life, to help to achieve the goal. The Loa's part is to do whatever he, she, or it has control over, in order to assist you.

Basic Healing Charm

For this basic spell, the stuffing of the doll needs to be plain white fabric. Along with it you'll also need an amber colored semi-precious stone, which is often used for healing. Also, collect and keep eucalyptus, rosemary, and basil to burn at the altar. Take a few strands of your own hair, wrap them around the stone and sew them both into the head of the doll. Moreover, sew some of the healing herbs in the space of your doll correspondent to the area which needs healing, possibly around the heart and lungs if you have a regular infection. Once the preparation is done, simply light the herbs, leave them and the charm doll at the altar till you feel better. However, once you're done and feel healthier, purify the doll with burning sage smoke, thank it for its help and preferably let it flow away in a body of clean running water if there is one around. If not, bury it in soft earth but far away from your own property after having your hair removed including the stones from the inside.

Money Spell

For this spell, you will require the following items:

- Your Voodoo doll
- A piece of green flannel cloth
- Three of each of the coin denominations of your country – in the United States, for example, you would need three pennies, three dimes, and three-quarters
- Three cloves
- Three cinnamon sticks
- One whole nutmeg
- Three whole allspice
- A gold bell

- A straight pin that has a green head
- Three pieces of candy

Take all of the items other than your doll, bell and pin and wrap them in the green flannel cloth then attach the cloth to your doll. This has the effect of ‘sealing’ the items. Use the straight pin to attach the gold bell to your Voodoo doll. Shake the doll with your non-dominant hand for nine minutes, while reciting an incantation to Papa Legba.

The exact words of the incantation do not matter – you need to ensure that you ask him to open the door and clear a path for you. To bring you money and the opportunity to make money and to remove obstacles to wealth. You must also state that in return for his assistance, you will pay him with the candy then thank him for his help.

Banishing Your Enemies

If you have someone who has been threatening or bothering you, you can use your Voodoo doll to carry out a ritual to banish that person. This involves petitioning one of the Loa for assistance – usually Ogun or Chango or Erzulie Dantor for women who are victims of domestic violence. The items used in the ritual will depend on which Loa you are petitioning because they each have different favorite items which should be offered.

Chango is the deity of thunder, fire, wars, power and lightning and he also represents sensual pleasure. He can assist you with defeating your enemies, gaining power over others, and generally being victorious in your pursuits.

To create an altar for Chango, it is best to use your business desk or a fireplace mantel – power or fire are elements that Chango relates to. Use one or more of each of the following:

- Patron saint – St. Jerome or St. Barbara
- Items associated with places – sky, trees, Trinidad
- Colors for cloth and/or beads – white and red
- Animals and objects – rams, horses, pheasants, turtles, wood,

machete, double axe

- Food – yams, apples, peppers, corn
- Planet – Sun or Mars
- Ritual greeting – Kabiosile or Kagu

Chango's favorite number and day are 6 and Friday, respectively so it is best to use 6 of items from each category and to carry out the ritual on a Friday when possible.

Once you have gathered all of the items and prepared the altar, light a white candle. Then hold the doll in your hand as a focusing tool as discussed above. Concentrate on what you wish to achieve and ask Chango to help you with your goal. Make an offering of his favorite items to Chango at the altar for the three days following your initial ritual.

Chakra Spell

This spell can be used to direct positive or negative energy at someone, depending on what you wish to do. We will discuss the positive approach in this book – using the pins in a slightly different manner than discussed above, to positively influence the Chakras of someone.

To carry out this spell, prepare a Voodoo doll as above, making sure to anoint it so that it is connected to the person whom you are hoping to affect. Once you have the doll, get into a comfortable position – usually one where you are sitting at or near your altar.

State your intention and why you are doing it out loud using your clearest voice. You can state the intention in your regular everyday language or use a spell or rhyme format – the choice is yours. Use whichever makes you feel most comfortable.

Once you have stated your intention, take the white pin and place it into the top of the doll's head. At the same time, explain what the pin is supposed to do – increase spiritual enlightenment and enable the person to expel negative energies. Proceed through the ritual by placing the rest of the pins into the doll in the following order. Each time explaining what the pin is intended to

do:

- Purple – forehead, to assist with psychic awareness
- Blue – throat – make the person’s goals a reality
- Green – heart – increase a person’s health or emotional power
- Yellow – solar plexus increase the person’s knowledge and ability to understand
- Orange – stomach – allows the person to deal with whatever comes their way
- Red – base of spine – increases the person’s ability to survive the obstacles that they face.

You can use variations on each of the above themes as long as they generally relate to the overall purpose of each location.

Once you have placed all of the pins, put the doll onto your altar. Starting the next day, remove the red pin. Each following day remove one more pin in the reversed order that they were placed. After you have removed the last pin, the spell is finished.

If there is one specific goal or intention or only a few that you wish to focus on, you can carry out the spell by just placing the relevant pins. Although always in the same order as stated above – simply skip any colors that you will not be using.

Passion Spell

Not exactly a love spell (those will be dealt with later in the book). The Passion spell is meant to be used to increase the already-existing passion between you and your lover.

To conduct the Passion spell, you will need the following ingredients:

- Three drops of lavender oil
- Three drops of hot pepper sauce
- Orris root pieces
- Whole peppercorns

- Three cups of rainwater

For this spell, the exact amount of the herbs (Orris root, peppercorns, and rosemary) is not important as long as they are in relatively equal proportions to each other.

Pour all of the ingredients into a bowl and stir. While stirring, concentrate on the heat of the hot pepper sauce and the passion that you are seeking to magnify.

Once the concoction is well-stirred, sprinkle it around your front doorstep or entrance using your fingers. Make sure to cover the entrance well – steps and walkway should also be covered. You should be aware that this spell will probably be less effective if you live in an apartment because the front entrance to your home is shared with others.

Happiness Spell

This ritual involves petitioning Papa Legba to open the gateway to the spirit world so that you can ask Oshun for her assistance. Oshun is an African goddess or spirit of love, dance, and art. She has the ability to help provide your emotional strength with a solid foundation so that it is able to grow and prosper.

Start at your altar with candles in Oshun's favorite colors (green, yellow, or pink) and cinnamon (Oshun's favorite smell) incense burning. First you must ask Papa Legba to help you to open the gateway to the spirit world. In order to do this, make a recitation to Papa Legba to open the door and remind him that his children are waiting. Say the recitation three times in total – Papa Legba's favorite number is three.

Once you have completed the recitation to Papa Legba, hold your Voodoo doll in your hands to be used as a focusing tool. Focus intensely on your desired goal and say the appropriate ritual greeting for Oshun: "Ori Ye Ye O". Then state out loud your desired goal. This can be accompanied by a written petition as well but it must be stated out loud in order to be effective.

After the initial ritual, continue to make offerings to Oshun for the next three

days. Oshun's favorite items include honey, cinnamon, pumpkins, oranges, mirrors, gold and French pastries. Her favorite number is five so it will help to make offerings in the amount of five of any item being offered. Finally, her favorite day is Thursday so this ritual will be most effective if it is done on a Thursday.

When the ritual has been completed and the additional three days have passed, take the doll and place it in your bedroom or your kitchen as these are Oshun's favorite rooms of the house.

Stand Tall Spell

This spell will give you a little push during the day when you are feeling insecure or unsure of yourself. All you need are a few ingredients that are easy to find:

- Three sticks (six to eight inches long)
- Rough string or heavy twine
- Sturdy nail
- One dried chili pepper

This spell is most effective if you use branches or twigs but you can also use Popsicle sticks or dowels if that is what you can find.

Using the twine, tie the three sticks together so that they roughly form the shape of the letter 'A'. The cross-piece should be attached near the top so that the shape also resembles a person.

Tie the nail to one leg and the chili pepper to the other – it does not matter which. Wrap the doll's head and limbs with the twine. Then place the doll somewhere in your home that is important to you and where you will see it on a daily basis. Make sure that the doll is placed well so that it is standing upright.

These spells are just some of the spells available to you if you learn how to properly use a Voodoo doll. It is extremely important that you are careful to prepare your doll properly so that you will achieve the effects that you are seeking. An improperly made doll will not only not allow the spell to work, it

could potentially backfire and cause effects that you were not looking for and do not wish to see. But if you do make your doll properly, your spell will be powerful and effective and you will see the results that you desire.



CHAPTER FOUR

The Dark Side of Voodoo

For a religion that was so instrumental in forming an identity for the African slaves in Haiti and which has been so instrumental in winning the first African slave revolution, why has Voodoo since then been sensationalized and imprinted upon the public mind as something dark, sinister and dangerous?

It cannot be denied, however, that Voodoo does have a dark side. Though perhaps not so different from the dark side of Christianity and Catholicism in their depictions of hell, demons and the devil. It may be said that the dark side of any religion only serves to emphasize the good in the world, much as darkness helps to emphasize the light. It can help us to remember, however, in our study of this religion, that Voodoo came into the world consciousness only with the emergence of African slavery.

A person who cannot take up arms against his better-equipped oppressors for fear of violent retaliation must take some form of comfort in a manner of secret attack - even if it were through curses or hexes. In the same way, an enslaved man treated no better than an animal resists in his own way during a Voodoo ritual when he is possessed by a spirit and thus becomes, even for that short duration, divine.

Any discussion about Voodoo is not complete without a look at the more sensational - though according to some traditional practitioners, considerably rare in actual practice - aspects of Voodoo. In this chapter, we will take a look at the elements of Voodoo that have certainly imprinted themselves upon the public mind as well as popular culture.

Curses, Poisons and Hexes

Curses and hexes are an essential part of Voodoo, just as the Voodoo doctors who recognize those curses and hexes and prescribe certain spells or counter-curses to safeguard them from the evil of the spiritual curse or spiritual

poison.

When the curse or the hex manifests itself, the signs usually perplex doctors or other medical practitioners and only a Voodoo doctor can recognize it as a spiritual poison infecting a person due to a hex or a curse that has been placed upon them.

Whether or not these things are true or factual reality cannot be said - it really depends on the point of view of a person and their spiritual beliefs. Though perhaps what cannot be denied is that there are those who do believe in these things and they do cast curses or hexes against their enemies, just as there are those who also believe and seek spiritual help from Voodoo practitioners.

Voodoo Dolls

Voodoo dolls are effigies of real persons and the theory is that with the use of tangible personal items from the real person being represented, a link is formed between doll and person so that anything done to the doll also happens to the person.

But the use of dolls is not exclusive to Voodoo and neither are they prominent in traditional Voodoo practice. Perhaps it was mostly due to the influence of film and media that the use of dolls in black magic or dark sorcery have been popularly referred to as Voodoo dolls. Thus, reinforcing public perceptions of Voodoo as something evil.

These days, however, the sinister little Voodoo doll with the pins sticking out of them has certainly evolved - they are now made available commercially and are used as much for positive magical workings as for nefarious intentions. Those versed in alternative spiritual systems will be quick to say that in magic and sorcery, intent is always the determining factor in everything and it is perhaps true that even in Voodoo magic, positive intentions can be just as true as negative ones. The Voodoo doll then is not evil per se - what it is, is merely a tool for intent.

Zombies

The ironic thing is that zombies or the belief in zombies actually do not play

a part in Voodoo religious practices or rituals nor in Voodoo spiritual beliefs. In Voodoo, the dead are revered and honored and those who have passed on are considered spirits or Loas with whom the living interact and ask for guidance, help or protection. This contrasts with the natural terror or fear that will certainly be inspired by the sight of a dead corpse walking the earth as though it were still alive.

Perhaps the closest connection that zombies can have to Voodoo religious practice is the essential spirit possession that characterizes much of Voodoo rituals. When a spirit or a Loa possesses a practitioner, they are, if only for a brief moment, walking the earth. The belief is that the dead and the living coexist on this earth but while the extraordinary powers of the dead are respected (it is believed that touching a person possessed by a dead ancestor or spirit is enough to cause a person's death), neither are they feared in the same way as the zombies of popular culture.

On the other hand, there seem to be some obscure traditional Voodoo accounts for zombies. It is said that people who die an unnatural death - due to murder or the like - are unable to rest and so they will linger near their graves. Sometimes, the dead person himself might prefer to work rather than to just lie underground, waiting and the assistance of a zombie can be beneficial in magical works of healing. Although there are also unsavory Bokors who will target the living to make a zombie whom they can thereafter enslave.

Allegedly, there are different ways by which a zombie might be restored. The death of the Bokor will release their hold on the zombie. Feeding salt to a zombie will reverse the effects of their death-like trance or through the divine intervention of a Voodoo god called Le Grand Maitre.

It is interesting to note, however, that some traditional South African beliefs do recognize zombies - as dead corpses brought back to life through witchcraft and who are then enslaved by the witch to do her bidding. Other accounts claim that the witch "zombifies" a living person, thereby taking over their will completely until they are enslaved by the witch. Remarkably, a Harvard ethnobiologist named Wade Davis presented a pharmacological explanation for the zombies in Haiti.

Re-animation takes place after burial in which instance the zombie realizes

their identity as someone who was already dead. Writer and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston is of the opinion that much of Voodoo sorcery might actually be traceable to a unique and penetrating knowledge of the properties of herbs, plants and other natural substances - making Voodoo knowledge of medicine and in contrast, poisons - certainly formidable.

These days, zombies have evolved in popular culture to the extent that their links to Voodoo practice has all but been forgotten - and they grace various media as cartoons, games and post-apocalyptic films as walking dead hungering for living flesh. But while tales of monsters all over the world includes one form of another of walking dead, what does seem to be certain is that in Haiti, there have been long-ago accounts of relatives who have died and been buried and were thereafter seen by their living family walking about as though they were still alive, trains manned by zombies or plantations whose work was being carried out by subject zombies.

Without further investigation, widespread accounts of zombies in Haiti can only remain nothing more than speculation and superstition. Many modern Voodoo practitioners elsewhere certainly do not recognize zombies as part of their religion.

Juju and Hoodoo

Juju is essentially a magical concept and is often used to refer to magical talismans, charms, or fetishes employed in many indigenous African religions, including Voodoo. The word derives from West African origin, akin to Hausa djudju, which are used to refer to fetishes.

Over the years, popular usage has more often than not used the term juju to refer to anything magical, whether a charm or talisman, to the powers of the one casting the spell or the luck of a person who has fallen afoul of magical workings. Thus, "It's bad juju" or "The person can look at you and give you bad juju." Interestingly, the term is no longer exclusive to dark or evil workings. Some usages also include positive magical workings or "good juju." Once again, it seems apparent that - similar to many neopagan and alternative spiritualities, intent is a determining factor in whether magic or a magical instrument is considered good or evil. But with the increasing

commercialization of the religion of Voodoo these days, there are magical workers called marabouts who are ply their trade by the crafting and selling of juju items.

On the other hand, Hoodoo is an offshoot of Voodoo and other indigenous African Religions - mainly Central African traditional beliefs but many Voodoo practitioners take pains to point out that despite common origins and a seemingly similarity in word usage, Hoodoo is not the same as Voodoo. Despite the seeming interchangeability of the two words. It is probably more appropriate to view Hoodoo as akin to traditional notions of witchcraft, especially since the word itself only came into use after Voodoo and other African religions began to evolve in the America. Integrating native American and even European myths, folklore and superstitions.

Otherwise also associated with conjuring, witchcraft, root work, candle burning or tricking, Hoodoo is witchcraft and sorcery essentially, though the elements used and its associations are African in origin. These days, Hoodoo can be used to refer to an entire system of magical practices and rituals where curses, bad luck and ghosts are only a small portion of the whole and can either be healing or harmful in its practice. In a sense, the term can be used interchangeable with "witchcraft" or "bewitching," (i.e., "I've been Hoodooed" or "I've been bewitched.") and Hoodoo practices as conjuring or spell casting where the practitioner is usually referred to as a "root-worker" or a Hoodoo doctor or Hoodoo woman.

But, as in most spiritual systems where what people know are based more on imaginative conjectures rather than actual knowledge, Hoodoo has been touched with negative connotations and some people inevitably associated it with harmful curses or spells, jinxes and curses, though in some instances, it also includes curative magic to counter these spells, jinxes and curses. In a way, this does touch on the essential difference between Hoodoo and Voodoo: Voodoo is a religion that works with venerated spirits who can intervene in human life and bestow wisdom or protection. Hoodoo, on the other hand, emphasizes magical powers and their practical use or application in life.

But aside from the seeming similarity of the two terms Hoodoo and Voodoo, another commonality that these two spiritual systems also share is a history

of syncretization with Catholicism which the slaves were forced to adopt as well as being a subtle outlet for the transplanted African slaves to fight back in some of the only ways they can, given their horrendous conditions. Thus, Hoodoo spells were employed to give a person healing and protection and to cast harm upon their enemies. As with many other spiritual systems that integrate magic into their belief systems, intent is always considered decisive and Hoodoo elements essentially neutral without the active intent of the caster.



CHAPTER FIVE

Hoodoo Magic Spells

Voodoo is a religion. Hoodoo is Magic, the shadow that stretches at the feet of Voodoo. Voodoo is a religious cult coming from Africa with a propensity for magic ritual. It has a pantheon of deities, the Loah, it has ceremonies, hierarchies, symbols of power, temples and initiations.

All this, is not found in Hoodoo. It is a set of magical practices that rarely has a well-defined religious connotation and on the contrary it can draw from numerous cults, including of course also Voodoo.

The essence of Hoodoo is in the search for earthly advantages through magic.

In Hoodoo, in fact the end always justifies the means. The rituals have a personal imprint and therefore there are no group ceremonies. The practitioner works alone and his relationship with the spirits is intimate and personal, except when he wants to transmit his knowledge or when the ritual requires other participants.

Hoodoo has an African origin and has spread mainly in America, particularly in the New Orleans area. Marie Laveau is certainly its most famous exponent.

This form of magic was born in Africa, although it developed more after the slave trade in America, around the end of 1600 AD. The practitioners are called "Conjure men" or "Root Doctors".

The most used book is the Bible, the Psalms in particular are often used to strengthen a spell. This is because the egregious power contained in these ancient prayers, repeated for millennia, has given them an uncommon magical power. Very valid are also the Sixth and Seventh Book of Moses, two grimoires from the Renaissance period especially for the seals.

Compared to the Western magician, the Conjure Man can easily perform his rituals with a kitchen equipped with spices, a piece of cloth, a bit of earth, an oil made by infusion, some candles and a Bible.

The Hoodoo works with herbs, prayers, powders, bags, stones, cloth dolls,

animal remains, various objects.

Often the ingredients can be replaced with others, even the doses and quantities can be decided by the practitioner. The same oils, potions, compounds, may vary depending on the places and traditions from which they come.

White Spells

Simple and powerful spells to attract money

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A green candle
- A pointed object for engraving the candle
- A bowl
- Water
- Seven-star anise seeds

Let the candle consume itself.

Leave the seeds in the water for seven days then collect them and store them in your wallet indefinitely.

Saint Lucia ritual to win at the game

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Sea Water
- A green silk ribbons
- A new terracotta vase
- Seven white candles
- Seven-star anise seeds

The Magic Ritual:

Pour sea water into the new terracotta vase.

Place the seven white candles around the terracotta vase then light them one by one, saying:

“O glorious Saint Lucia, who by the light has your name, hear me.”

Let the candles be consumed and let the green silk ribbon dry in the sun.
Take the green silk ribbon with you as an amulet for luck at the game.

Brazilian spell to increase your personal power

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Sea Water
- A white candle
- A glass of coconut milk
- Two tablespoons of saffron
- A new sponge
- A clove of garlic
- Parsley
- Halls
- Incense ashes
- A little white silk bag

The Magic Ritual:

Insert the garlic clove, parsley, salt and incense ashes in the white silk bag.
Then go to seven churches and dip the bag into the stoup of each of them.

After dipping the bag, sit down and recite this prayer:

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, lead us not into temptation and deliver us from our enemies who want us evil, and deliver me from my enemies who want me evil. Amen.”

Keep the little bag always with you as an amulet that brings protective luck.

Simple Spell to Find Serenity Again

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Twelve white candles

The Magic Ritual:

One full moon night you place the white candles in a circle around you.

The Potion Of Happiness

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A small ampoule with the cap
- A "dandelion" (dandelion flower) dried and pulverized
- A tablespoon of oregano powder
- One tablespoon of cinnamon powder
- One tablespoon of thyme powder
- Seven pine needles

The Magic Ritual:

Insert all the powdered herbs into the vial and close it. Kneel to the east and hold the vial in your hands and recite psalm no. 7, seven times:

“Lord, my God. In you I have found refuge. Save me from those who persecute me and set me free so that you do not tear me apart like a lion, tearing me apart without anyone freeing me. Lord, my God, if I have acted in this way, if there is injustice in my hands, if I have repaid my friend with evil, if I have stripped my adversaries for no reason, let the enemy pursue me and join me. Trample my life on the ground and cast my honor into dust. Arise, O Lord, in your wrath, rise up against the wrath of my adversaries, be unshaken, my God, make a judgment. The assembly of people surrounds you. Return from above to dominate it. The Lord judges the people. Judge me Lord, according to my justice, according to the innocence that is in me. Cease the wickedness of the wicked. Make the righteous firm, you who scrutinize mind and heart, O righteous God. My shield is in God. He saves the righteous of heart. God is a righteous judge; God is outraged every day. Does he not return to sharpen his sword, to tend, to point his bow? He prepares instruments of death, rekindles his arrows. Behold, the evil one conceives injustice is pregnant with wickedness, gives birth to lies. He digs a deep well and falls into the pit he has made, his wickedness falls on his head, his violence falls on his head. I will give thanks to the Lord for his righteousness and sing the name of God, the Most High.”

Keep the ampoule always with you as an amulet for good luck.

The Vase of Prosperity

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A terracotta jar
- Three green candles
- Three golden candles
- Seven leaves of rosemary
- Seven bay leaves
- Seven basil leaves
- Seven leaves of thyme
- Seven lavender leaves
- Seven Cloves
- Oil
- Three silver coins
- A wooden stick

The Magic Ritual:

Put all the herbs together with the three silver coins in the terracotta jar, then cover everything with oil.

Arrange the three green candles and the three golden candles around the jar, alternating them by color: one green, one golden, one green, one golden, and so on.

Light the candles.

With the wooden stick, mix the contents of the jar clockwise by reciting this magic formula seven times:

“Paisa. Panam. Pecunia. Penz. Para. Dirua.”

Then, mix again the contents of the jar, but counterclockwise, reciting this

magic formula seven times:

“Aurid. Arap. Znep. Manap. Asiap.”

Break the wooden stick in two and insert it into the jar. Let the candles wear out and store the jar in a place in your house near a door or window indefinitely.

Simple and Effective Spell to Free a Person from The Evil Eye

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A mirror of garlic
- Halls cough drops
- Oil
- Water
- A copper pot
- Three white candles
- A photograph of the person you want to free from the evil eye

The Magic Ritual:

Place the three white candles around the copper pot and light them one by one, reciting this:

“Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, now and always, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Add water to the copper pot.

Rub the garlic on the photograph of the person you want to free from the evil eye.

Chop the garlic and throw it in the pot with a little salt and a little oil.

Then burn the photograph reciting this magic formula:

“Garlic, salt and oil. Go away evil eye that I don't want you. Burn the evil eye. Broken is the enchantment. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Once again throw a little salt and a little oil into the pot.

The next morning, throw the water from the pot into a stream, reciting three Our Father and three Hail Mary.

Prevention to Protect Yourself

Needed for the Magic Ritual: None

The Magic Ritual:

“Pater noster dei sanctorum. Maria bella angelorum. Beautiful Mary sleeping. And the baby Jesus appeared to her in a dream. Dear, I dreamt that at the ordeal they brought you. Golden crowns have lifted you up and thorns have planted you. What you are saying is truth, the Christ answered to your mother. And whoever says this three times in a field, is not afraid. water, thunder and lightning.”

Ancient Spell to Attract Money

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A white candle
- A fresh chestnut leaf
- A silver coin

The Magic Ritual:

One Monday night, with the new moon, light the white candle and recite five Our Father and five Hail Mary. Then wrap the silver coin inside the chestnut leaf and recite this magic formula ten times:

“Today is the moon, tomorrow is Mars. My fate, my beautiful one doesn’t leave me alone. Come meet me, do not frighten me, let me discover the wealth.”

Let the candle wear out and keep the silver coin wrapped in chestnut leaf in

your wallet.

Red Magic

Spell to Be Thought Intensely by a Person

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A new mirror
- Your photograph
- A photograph of the other person
- Adhesive tape
- A white candle

The Magic Ritual:

Place the photograph of the person you want to think about you over the mirror with the image facing the reflective surface and your photograph on the back of the mirror. Using adhesive tape, tie the two photos so that they are positioned on the mirror so that they do not come off.

Light the white candle.

Holding the mirror in your hands and holding it at your heart, recite this magic formula 49 times:

“Every time you see your reflection you will think of me. Thame. Skefteis.”

Let the candle wear out and keep the mirror under your bed indefinitely.

Potion to Attract Love, Friendship and Luck

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Rose Water
- Three strawberries
- Three vanilla pods
- Three tablespoons of cocoa
- Three tablespoons of salt
- A saucepan
- A glass bottle
- A sheet of paper
- A red marker

The Magic Ritual:

Pour all the ingredients into the pot and boil everything for half an hour over low heat.

Use the red marker to write these magic words on the sheet of paper:

“Pure love. Strong love. Open all the doors to me. Pure love. Strong friendship. Luck be favorable to me.”

Roll up the sheet of paper and put it inside the glass bottle. Then filter the contents of the pot and pour the potion into the bottle and close it.

Hold the bottle in your hands and shake it, repeating the magic formula you wrote seven times.

Keep the bottle in a dark place indefinitely.

Easy and Effective Love Spell with Hair

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Five hair of the person you want to make fall in love
- Five of your hair
- A red woolen thread
- A red candle
- A green candle
- A yellow candle

The Magic Ritual:

Place the three candles on the ground forming a triangle.

With the red woolen thread tie the five hair of the person whom you want to fall in love with you then place the hair in the middle of the three candles.

Light one candle at a time, starting with the red one (then the green one and finally the yellow one), and recite this magic formula for each candle lit:

“Ure, sanctus spiritus, renes nostros et cor nostrum, domine.”

Let the candles wear out and bury the hair tied together near the house of that person.

Powerful Ritual to Make A Person Fall in Love with You

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Halls cough drops
- A lock of hair of the person you want to fall in love with
- Nine red candles
- Nine green candles
- Nine yellow candles

The Magic Ritual:

With the salt create a large circle on the floor and place along its circumference all the candles, alternating them by color: one red, one green, one yellow, one red, one green, one yellow, and so on.

Enter inside the circle and light all the candles clockwise, starting with the one facing east.

Hold in your right hand the lock of hair of the person you want to fall in love you, close your eyes and invoke his name 99 times, visualizing the person mentally.

Let the candles wear out and keep the lock of hair in the pillowcase of your pillowcase indefinitely.

Ishtar's Love Ligament

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A red silk ribbon one meter long

The Magic Ritual:

Every night, for 48 consecutive evenings, tie a knot in your silk knot reciting this magic formula:

“In the name of Ishtar, the one who makes everything fruitful, I tie you to me, and your love for me day by day as ivy on the wall will grow. So be it. So it will be.”

On the forty-ninth day, at dawn, go to a country crossroads and burn the ribbon and scatter the ashes in the wind.

Love ligament of Venus with apple

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A healthy apple
- Two squares of paper
- A hair of the person you want to make fall in love
- Your hair
- Needle and red thread
- A wooden box
- Bay leaves

The Magic Ritual:

With your blood you write your name on a small square of paper and on the other, the name of the person you want to fall in love with you.

Cut the apple in two, removing the seeds, insert the two squares of paper and the two hair tied together.

Using a needle and red thread, sew the two parts of the apple together so that they do not separate.

Insert the apple into the wooden box and cover it with bay leaves.

Then close the box and place the red candle on top of it.

Light the candle and recite this magic formula seven times:

“Venus mother, immortal Venus, daughter of Jupiter. To you who alone dominate nature and without you nothing is born. I invoke you and I beg you. Let (name) quickly come to me. Make him fall madly in love with me. That he can no longer eat, drink or sleep except with me. O Venus, glorious goddess, to you whom I said "if he does not love you already, he will soon do so" I address my humble begging. Make him fall in love with me, even against his will! So be it and so it will be!”

Let the candle wear out and keep the box under your bed indefinitely.

Wine Ritual to Bring Back the Lover

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A glass jar
- Red wine
- A red candle
- Seven sheets of red paper
- A black felt-tip pen
- Scissors

The Magic Ritual:

1. Once your lover is missing and you want him/her back with you, then follow these instructions to do this ritual.
2. Chant the following spell, “A lover you were, a lover you will be. Come back to me, do.” Then cut the red paper into a heart shape and place it on the table.
3. Write your lover’s name on it seven times while you chant the spell seven times again. Every time you are done writing the paper, say “hurt me no more” and then put the paper under the glass jar.
4. After you are done, say the spell seven times again and light the candle. Put the jar in front of the candle.
5. Invite your lover to come back to you by saying, “Come back to me, come!”
6. Leave the jar and candle on your kitchen stove for a whole week. Every day you must chant the spell seven times while looking at it and blow out the candles while you do so.
7. Once the week is up, throw the jar away, but keep everything else.
8. Slice the felt-tip pen in half with the scissors and put one half under your pillow while you sleep. The other half must go in your shoe, so that when you walk you will feel it and remember that you want

your lover back.

9. Do this every day for a month, after which you will see results.

Black Magic

Macumbero

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A black envelope
- Cemetery land
- A photograph of the person to curse
- Eleven old and rusty nails
- A black candle

The Magic Ritual:

One Friday evening, during a waning moon, insert in the black envelope the photograph of the person you want to curse together with the cemetery land and the eleven old and rusty nails. Then seal the envelope and go to a country crossing.

Just after midnight bury the envelope in the incronym and light the black candle.

Hold the black candle in your left hand and recite this magic formula eleven times:

“Adja gbe o. Kutu adja gbe o.”

After reciting the formula, blow out the candle by sticking it upside down in the place where you buried the envelope. Then go home without looking back.

Dust to cause discord

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Nine dried nettle leaves
- A whole dried chili pepper
- Cemetery land
- A mortar

The Magic Ritual:

Pound nettle leaves, chili pepper and graveyard earth in a mortar, reciting this magic formula nineteen times:

“Pore bael pore. Separates. Divide. Tear. Tear. And one runs away from the other.”

Spread the "cursed dust" in the place where the two people usually meet.

Brazilian Spell for a Man to Reject His Wife

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A handkerchief impregnated with the seed of the desired man
- A glass bottle with a stopper
- White rum

The Magic Ritual:

Insert the handkerchief on which the seed of the desired man is impregnated inside the glass bottle and seal it tightly.

Bury the bottle upside down near a cemetery or near the man's home.

Pour around the point where you buried the bottle some white rum forming a cross, then leave the place without looking back.

Curse Tarragon

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A potato

- Nine pins
- Nine black candles
- A piece of red fabric
- Nine dried nettle leaves
- Olive oil

The Magic Ritual:

Place the nine black candles around the potato and light them one by one reciting this magic formula:

“For Tarragon I invoke you, for Tarragon I wake you, hellish spirits, I beg you, make my drawing.”

Stick one pin at a time in the potato, intensely visualizing the image of the person you want to curse and recite these words for each pin:

“For Tarragon that (name of the person you want to curse) be cursed!”

Wrap the potato in the piece of black cloth and greasing the fingers of your left hand then draw a cross on the bundle three times.

Bury the potato near a cemetery.

Curse of fire

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A tuft of hair of the person you want to curse
- Wax
- A black candle

The Magic Ritual:

Use wax to mold a figurine and insert the tuft of hair of the person you want to curse into it.

Light the black candle and recite this magic formula:

“Spirits of the shadow, allow me to exercise your power against (name of the person you want to curse).”

Slowly burn the wax figurine with the flame of the candle and recite this magic formula nine times:

“It is not the wax that I am burning but the body and soul of (name of the person you want to curse). May the fire consume you. May you be cursed. With all my poison. With all my poison. With all my poison.”

Once the figurine has dissolved, collect the wax residues and bury them near a cemetery.

Spell to subdue a man

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- Seven red candles
- Jasmine incense
- A photograph of the man you want to submit to you

The Magic Ritual:

Strip down completely.

Arrange the seven red candles in a circle and light them one by one reciting this magic formula:

“In the name of Aletto, Megera and Tisiphon. Let my will be done. Let your will be done. For a soul and a body. For a body and a soul. Let my will be done. Let your will be done.”

Light the jasmine incense and hold the photograph of the man and recite these magic words thirty times:

“For Aletto, you obey me. By Megera, you perish to me. By Tisyphon, you obey me.”

Every time you repeat the magic words try to increase the intensity of your voice and intensely visualize the image of the man in question completely

submitted to you.

Let the candles wear out and keep the photograph under your bed indefinitely.

Red Apple Curse

Needed for the Magic Ritual:

- A red apple
- A tuft of hair of the person to curse
- Eleven old and rusty nails
- Eleven black candles

The Magic Ritual:

Make a hole in the apple (without cutting it) and insert the tuft of hair of the person to curse into it.

Then light a black candle, heat a nail with its flame and stick it into the apple reciting this magic formula:

“I curse your flesh with fire. I curse your soul with iron.”

Repeat the operation with the remaining ten candles and the remaining ten nails.

Bury the red apple near the house of the man or woman you want to curse.

The spirituality

As a person with a spiritual mentality, I have had many labels in my life. At one point or another I identified myself as Wiccan, Pagan, Root Worker, Two-Headed Doctor, or some variant. Among the most common questions I often receive are some:

- What do you believe in?
- Who do you worship?

When I was a child, I believed that God was an old man with white hair and a long beard, who lived in heaven and saw everything everyone did. We were told that his grace fell on a virgin who had given birth to Jesus, his "only begotten son", who was also God himself. I was taught that he loved us but only if we were afraid of him and obeyed his commandments.

When my spiritual journey took me away from Christianity and I found Wicca, I was taught that "God" was our Mother and Father. Through the cycle of the seasons the Goddess gives birth to the God who grows, matures and becomes her lover. That he made her pregnant and dies only to be born again. We did not worship them because we honored them and we had the power to take total responsibility for our thoughts, our words and our actions.

When I rediscovered the practices of folk magic in the South and began to know more about Hoodoo and the Gospel where Jesus came back, I had to re-evaluate my vision and perception of him. While some magical practitioners seemed to treat Jesus as a kind of genius or saw him as a mythological figure, I see Jesus as the ultimate example of what man's relationship with God can be.

I was recently reminded by a friend that no matter how spiritual you are, people will still question your beliefs. I was a little shocked to discover that someone quite close to me sincerely believed that I was a devil worshipper, and so it seems that for several people the question remains.

- What do you believe in?
- Who do you worship?

And that was my answer.

"What has been called God and will be called Spirit here is neither male nor female but is both androgynous and asexual and exists as pure love. Because we humans have difficulty identifying with someone or something that is simultaneously male, female and neutral, we try to understand the Spirit by associating it with one or more archetypes among many, including male, female and sometimes even animal forms like in ancient Egyptian and Native American belief system.

For example, a woman who has been abused by men can find strength and comfort in a divine being who is a Warrior Goddess, or a gay man who wants to get closer to God can see him as a beautiful man who loves him and accepts him.

Many individuals find it extremely difficult to accept forgiveness and unconditional love as represented by the Spirit. Therefore, rather than taking responsibility for their own failures, men have often painted their concept of God as having traits that we find undesirable within ourselves, giving rise to mythologies that paint God as jealous, petty and cruel as well as loving, kind and generous. Those who are in pain, who blame "God" for their fate in life or who feel disinherited or driven out of society may need to see "God" as Satan because they have never experienced true love, or friendship.

All living beings, from humans to animals to plants to the "lowest" forms of life, carry within themselves the divine spark which is that part of themselves is the Spirit. Which is connected to all living beings and tries to reunite with the original source of this light (cosmic consciousness).

The Spirit experiences what it means to be alive through the divine spark within all life. The Spirit shares the full range of human and non-human experiences such as falling in love, fear, loneliness, hunger, happiness, health, etc. Through the divine spark in plants and animals, the Spirit knows what it means to be sacrificed as food so that the other life continues. What it means to be planted on the earth as seed to grow, sprout and join the natural order.

Therefore, the Spirit has the highest compassion for every living being with the desire that "all will reach their maximum potential in harmony with each other".



CHAPTER SIX

Hoodoo and racism

It is in fact where a mix of spirituality and magical practices are used as a tool of empowerment and self-determination, a force of liberation and a salve to the many ailments that plague the minds and hearts of black communities.

But when one truly looks into the deeper and true meanings of Hoodoo, one can see that its mythology is like the front lines of the African American struggle. Hoodoo was literally used by the early enslaved Africans in America as a means to find a way of expressing themselves, their struggle of self-determination and one way of fighting for their liberation and self-determination.

In Hoodoo culture, there is a belief that every soul who comes to this world is pure but when it is attached to mortal flesh, the spiritual essence is tainted. A person doesn't have to be born in a black skin to have a black soul but simply needs to be recognized as an individual.

And one's spiritual essence becomes lost and strays from its pure nature when it is bound to the mortal flesh. And that in turn, leaves a black person with a part of himself that is lost, buried and forgotten.

Catholic and Christian Prejudices

Where the religion of Hoodoo literally became an avenue for blacks to retrace their spiritual steps back to their pure nature, it still held the thematic elements of many of the African American myths and beliefs from their cultural roots.

Hoodoo and Voodoo have been strongly associated with witchcraft and magic. Hoodoo is strongly linked with the practices of Conjunction, that is, the spells and magical rituals. It is linked with the Conjurers who worked in secret for the African American community to solve their problems. The Conjurer would be requested to perform a spell, and such an act was viewed as a political resistance for the African Americans. The secret nature of

Hoodoo and Voodoo fought against the doctrine of Christianity and its understanding of witchcraft.

Hoodoo and Voodoo also fought against the cultural and religious prejudices of the oppression of the white people.

With the establishment of the slave society, the slaves were not regarded as human beings by the slave owners. The slaves were considered less important creatures, simply as an animal. Christian and Catholic priests actively told white people that having a bunch of black people around was a violation of God's orders. A direct reason why the slaves were subjected to the hardships, they were treated like second-class citizens of this world.

Ignorance, Fear, and Racism

The rise of the American society and the enslavement of the African Americans created various challenges and stigma to these African Americans in the form of ignorance, fear, and racism. These forces kept on shaping the African American community and made it impossible for them to feel a sense of oneness with the rest of the society.

Hoodoo culture was a manifestation of how African culture could be preserved despite the many challenges and stigma. The Hoodoos and the Conjurers were the essence of the African American culture. Hoodoo and the Conjurers were the only means for the African Americans to fight against the ignorance, fear and racism.

Many Africans embraced the conjuration and Hoodoo practices which led to strengthening the African American identity. A supposed service to the white world, most African Americans would reject the spiritual practices which they believed to be conjuring. It is basically a deep-rooted belief that Hoodoo was immoral. The religion of Hoodoo and Voodoo was neither given respect by the authorities nor the majority of society.

Hoodoo was a means to deal with many of the issues faced by the African-American community like poverty, lack of resources, discrimination and exploitation. An expression marked by the systematic discrimination, poverty and lack of resources. Poverty for the African Americans was often a painful

reality. This reality was further accentuated by the invisibility of black people ignored by those in power, treated as insignificant human beings in society.

Racism has been a major moral problem during the slavery era. The slaves were regarded as inferior human beings even in the eyes of the Africans. The slaves were mistreated, and denied the dignity to which every human being is due. Racism is the most visible form of discrimination and it was deeply rooted and demonstrated a lack of respect for each of their human rights. The African Americans worked hard to overcome the racism which led to some of the practices of Hoodoo and Voodoo.

Hoodoo rituals were rooted in the traditional religion of Africa with a combination of Western influences. The Hoodoo rituals were often rooted in African spiritual practices and it was more than just a traditional religion. Hoodoo is mainly of African with the influence of European culture. Embraced from Africa, Hoodoo was once under the control of the black culture. Embraced from America, Hoodoo was an orientation to the black culture with the power to resist the oppression of the society. Realizing the otherness of the conjuration practices, the African-American community tried to position Hoodoo as a combination of the Christian and the African religious practices while rejecting the African cultural elements.

Ignorance towards Hoodoo and Voodoo by the European Americans was what urged the African-American community to embrace and develop Hoodoo as early as the eighteenth century. The period of 1839 to 1865 was the period it rose to respectability when it was targeted by the white society. During this period when the African American communities were being oppressed, Hoodoo was being put down in response to oppression and exploitation by the powers. This transformation of Hoodoo is what enabled the African American culture to come back strongly and oppose the oppression of the white culture. This situation caused people from various African communities to embrace Hoodoo and Voodoo.



CHAPTER SEVEN

Powerful Hoodoo Spells

The “Negra Cinta”

- 1 black candlez
- 1 sheet of cigarette paper
- alacrán oil (scorpion)
- snake fat
- 1 black pin
- black ink
- 1 parrot feather
- 1 black ribbon (=black belt)
- black/dark salt
- cemetery land

How to Proceed:

1. Engrave on the candle the name and data of the person to whom the ritual is addressed by using a knife. Anoint it with Alacrán oil and then sprinkle it with black salt.
2. Let it rest for a few hours and then light it up. Put the map next to the candle with the data of the person to be hit and any wishes/requests and curses against her/ him with black ink and a parrot feather.
3. Cover the map with snake grease and leave it be while the candle is consumed in its totality. Then fold the map and close it with the black ribbon making 7 knots. Close the knots in the center with the black pin, and at each knot recite:

"Forces of evil, that since the times of times you rule the destinies of men, I invoke you to subdue with all your immense strength, every thought, word and work of NN, that all go wrong to him, that no one

listen to his cry and that all the evil that has caused me return back to him/her and his/her family multiplied by 1000. and so be it".

4. Collect the remains of the candle and together with the map, wrap it with the ribbon and pin stuck, buried in a place far from everything covering it with earth at the cemetery.

5.

Ritual to Make Someone Sweeter

It is a ritual of the Hoodoo tradition, Afro-American, it is not a ritual imposed but only helps to make people sweeter towards us. I adopted it by committing my positive energy towards this girl but then not relying entirely on chance. I can say that over the months, not only has she softened but with patience and firmness, I obtained her trust until she approached me more often always helping me. A beautiful friendship was born and even now that I no longer work with her, she is still a person who really loves me. Her affection was what led me to use the ritual for the small discords of life and I must say, I got good results.

It goes like this: You need a glass jar with a metal capsule, a sweetener to your taste, honey, sugar, maple syrup, etc. I use things as raw and natural as possible like raw cane sugar or honey produced by hand.

Then you need a sheet of paper and the origins of the ritual provided that the color of the paper corresponded to the color of the skin of the person. Given its origins, the operators often used paper bags. I choose to use these because it is raw paper and not too processed. You need a red pen for love or neutral for other issues, in this case I used a common pencil.

You can then combine herbs propitious to our ritual, three rose petals if it is to pacify a love in dispute, or verbena. For my colleague I used some lavender picked by me. Then you will need a candle, the color suitable for the matter and an oil to dress it appropriately.

Proceed as follows:

Cut the sheet by hand, do not use scissors, in an approximate square. Write in the center the name and surname of the person. Then turn the sheet of paper 90 degrees and write on it so that you can cross the name and surname like a grid. Now the most difficult part: around the writing, in a circular way, you have to write your wish without ever detaching the pen from the sheet. Use a simple command such as, for example, forgive me, or re-approach me, etc.

At this point insert the witnesses and herbs in the center of the sheet and make a packet with the paper folding it towards you as many times as possible, repeating your wish and focusing on it carefully.

Now, fill the jar with honey or sugar and to make room for the leaflet, take three teaspoons of your choice of sweetener and as you put it in your mouth each time, say the words "like this honey / sugar, etc., is sweet for me, (her/his name) will be sweet to me as well and...".

Dip the packet for hours in honey or sugar, and close it with a cap. Now, on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday you will light a candle of the right color on the lid, after having duly "dressed" it with its auspicious oil. You must proceed from the extractions towards the center, to attract, and on the contrary to move away.

I used the white candle for serenity and positive vibrations, and I continued until I obtained what I wanted. The times of realization are not immediate, the jar will be flooded with wax but it does not matter as long as the result is obtained. I buried my jar on the countryside under a beautiful oak tree.

As for the oil, I created my own prepared with herbs picked on the night of St. John's day and between the 23 and 24 of June, I infused in pure oil herbs (St. John's wort, lavender, roses, verbena) which I always use to dress my candles. This is my personal recipe and you can of course use the oils indicated.

I have experienced it, and with good intent, I have removed all negative vibrations from that colleague, and I have a friend today, who was certainly just a distrustful and closed person before, and I am very happy because she too has changed and became open to others... and anyway, we have a sincere friendship.

Home Protection Spell

A glass jar with an airtight cap and the following items to fill it:

- Broken glass
- One's nails or animal nails
- Plugs

- Glass wool
- Absinthe
- Thistle

How to Proceed:

1. Fill the jar with the above listed things and seal it hermetically. On the top of the lid, place a pentacle (pentacle for banishing) by cutting out red felt. Place the consecrated black candle dressed with banishing oil on the lid of the jar over the red pentacle and light it. Then recite the following:
 “Black candle and old curses, release your powers, reverse the flow of spells cast, leave pain and sorrow in the past.”
2. Let the candle burn out completely by itself. Take the jar and bury it in the earth near your house. It will protect you and your family from danger. In most cases it will form a protective shield for about six months. When the spell starts to weaken, make a new bottle of protection.

Spell to Banish Anyone

This is a spell designed to banish, that is to say, drive someone away or make them disappear from our lives. It includes punishment for the victim if they do not satisfy your desire to leave your life. Obviously there has to be a right motive, not a purer spell.

Needed:

- A black candle
- Crossing or hexing oil
- Small bottle of vinegar
- A lemon
- A glass jar
- Pins
- Photo of the person

How to Proceed:

1. First step, purify everything with fumigations of sage or rosemary.
2. Then proceed by engraving the person's name on the candle and then greasing it. As you anoint the candle, say "(name) that all the evil you have done to me now may come back to you!". Being a spell to banish the

- candle, pay attention.
3. Put the candle in a holder and light it with a fire returned. Write the person's name three times in small letters on the picture, then cross it and cover it with the words "AGRO E AMARO" in large letters and bold. Fold the photo three times, turning it counterclockwise between each fold, saying "the presence and influence of X (name) in my life that is forever away from me!
 4. Cut a slice in the lemon, insert the photo and close it. Stick the lemon with the pins and pronounce "(name)" while inserting each pin "shut your mouth or shut up or leave".
 5. Put the lemon in the jar and fill the jar with vinegar. Screw the lid on tightly, shake the jar and say "(name)":

"Sir, while you were showing the blind, show (name) that you didn't put it in my life! How did the lame man walk, let (name) walk away from my life forever! As you cast the demons out of the possessed, cast them out of my life forever! Lord, may your life become as bitter as this lemon and as bitter as this vinegar with each passing day until you leave my life forever! As this lemon rots, so will its health and vitality rot until it leaves my life forever! In the name of Jesus. Amen."
 6. Leave the jar next to the candle until it is consumed, then when you have finished, bury the jar in a cemetery or throw it in a body of water. As long as the person stays out of your life and business, nothing will happen to them. But they continue to creep into your life, the curse will take hold. The choice is up to them.

The Mirror Box

The spell of the mirror box is a very outdated magical work of reference typical of the South of the States, it is used in folk magic traditions to send evil back to its source. The source is usually another individual who is trying to do evil on a victim.

There are several methods to build a mirror box. The most traditional method I know of is to buy or otherwise find a new mirror. Hot warning, the mirror in question must not and I stress must never reflect its own image because our reflection would put ourselves under the spell. However, it can be very

difficult (almost impossible) not to allow this to happen unless you are invisible, which is why I suggest you buy a covered mirror or cover it in some way.

The mirror should be covered with a cloth and broken with a hammer, a rock or any blunt instrument at your discretion. Finally, the individual pieces/pieces should be glued inside a box. The box can be made of any material, such as a cheap chipboard box like those found in craft shops, a shoe box, a small jewellery box, etc.... I have also known clever practitioners who build their own boxes to look like little coffins in which they place dolls.

Other methods of creating a mirror box includes, but not limited to, gluing a small mirror on the inner bottom and inner lid of a tin box, thus building a box with 6 mirrors glued on each side (four walls, ceiling and floor) with the mirrors side facing inwards.

Alternatively, if you are in a hurry you can simply put a picture of a person, their witnesses like hair or hairs, a piece of paper with their name written on it or other small personal concerns between two shards of mirror. The shards must be tied with a string, twine or even tape (yes, adhesive tape has its uses in the magical world too).

From this point on, the spell usually consists of placing an already prepared doll, a photograph or another representation of the individual inside a mirror box. The ritual may also include lighting candles in reverse and should be accompanied by a sincere prayer that any evil that the culprit is sending against you will be redirected to him. In my personal practice, I burn a reversing candle prepared over the box itself saying something along the lines of "All the evil you are sending me now will always be coming back to you!" The candle is then allowed to burn over the box, sealing the person inside and setting the spell.

Some practitioners choose to keep the person inside the box until they feel the danger has passed or until the individual learns their lesson. In this case, the doll is removed from the box and the box is burnt. Other practitioners go one step further and take the mirror box to a cemetery where they ask a spirit to guard the individual locked in the box and keep him or her calm and peaceful. Once a spirit has accepted these terms, the box is buried along with

an offering.

As in the case of many spells in the Hoodoo tradition, it is very important to consult one's instrument of divination, spiritual guides, etc... to determine whether this method is justified in one's situation before deciding to invoke the mirror box spell.

Now, I cannot share the mirror box spell without also explaining the reverse mirror box spell. The reverse mirror box spell is similar to the curse above but it is a box that has been decorated with mirrors on the outside instead of on the inside. Some individuals create such a box by taking 6 shards of mirror and gluing them together to create a box with the mirrored side facing outwards. Inside the box you have to place a doll, a photograph, a piece of paper or a written petition representing yourself rather than another person. The purpose of this outer mirror box is to protect the individual from any negativity that may be directed towards them regardless of where it originated. But some people would argue that this type of box might also prevent them from receiving blessings. It is up to the individual to decide whether this type of protection spell is appropriate for their situation.



CHAPTER EIGHT

Traditional Bone Reading

The reading of bones is a form of divination that uses animal bones, nuts, shells and curiosities like dice or beads... collectively known as "bones"... for divine information.

Each individual bone or piece has a specific meaning assigned to it, usually by virtue of the characteristics of the animal from which the bone originated or the body part represented by the bone. For example, since water buffaloes were known to be migratory animals, the water buffalo tooth is often associated with travel. In addition, the penis bone of a raccoon is associated with sex and sexuality for obvious reasons. Other objects such as keys, horseshoe pendants, coins, roots, pyrite, etc... can also be added for their symbolic value.

In the past, bones were often thrown in a circle drawn on the ground; however, readers of modern bones are more inclined to throw them on a specially marked cloth. Sometimes this cloth can also be the skin of an animal, and this aspect of bone reading will be discussed in detail later.

All bone readers argue that bone reading requires a relationship with the Ancestors and many readers maintain, at least, an Altar of the Ancestors where their bone sets are stored in a basket, a large abalone shell or a leather bag (aka Bone Bag) when not in use.

A good relationship with one's ancestors is of fundamental importance because it is not the soothsayer who does the reading, but his ancestors, spirits and guides who speak through the bones. Therefore, each reading should begin with a prayer to the Ancestors for guidance and wisdom.

Acquiring Bones

The easiest and fastest way to buy bones for divination purposes is to buy a set online from a reputable company. Such bone sets are generally considered ready to go as they are, however, are also largely regarded as a "starting set"

and many people often add new items to their set as they go. In this way, no two sets are the same for reading bones.

Some people prefer to collect their pieces and assemble their bone sets over time. These people often find the bones during nature walks, respectfully collect them from the street, or save the bones of the animals they have consumed. These people feel that the process of searching, drying and ritual preparation of their bones impregnates them with their energy and makes them a much more personal tool. Suffice it to say that animals are NEVER killed with the precise purpose of taking their bones for use in a bone reading set. Objects such as dice, beads, pendants, etc... can easily be obtained from ten-cent shops, but sometimes some curiosities can be added to your bone set from old jewelry, unused keys and other things you already have at home.

In my possession, I have three sets for reading bones. The first was a starting set bought online that eventually grew to include new bones that I have added over time, as well as having removed or lost other bones. The second bone reading set I have was also purchased online and has been advertised as a "travel set". It features small pieces that fit easily into a small jar.

The third bone reading set I have is of my own design (see below). I have not created this set without much study and practice with bone reading and other forms of divination such as Tarot, Lenormand and Astrology. Furthermore, my bone set was inspired by the spirits of my ancestors who communicated with me through dreams, signs and while I was working with other bone sets. When it came time to create this set, I knew I wanted to use individual pieces that were more or less the same size and shape as each other. I decided to use chicken bones because they were easily accessible, and because the chickens are steeped in myths and traditions and have long been associated with ritual sacrifice and cleanliness.

Some bone readers may choose to read their bones upright or inverted, similar to tarot cards. Those bones that fall in an upright position are designed to be expected positively, and mean that an energy or condition is present and growing; and those that are reversed represent that the energy of the bone is weakened or shrinking.

To determine whether a bone is upright or inverted, one can choose a bone

that has two distinct sides when evoking bones. For example, the bones on the left are taken from two separate sets of Conjure bones and represent the concept of luck. The bone on the left is made from the wing of a chicken and has both a large end (head) and a smaller end (tail).

The second bone depicted comes from the thigh of a chicken and both ends are fairly uniform. In this case you might wish to designate one colour as head and the other as tail. Alternatively, you can mark the bones in some way to indicate which side is the head and which side is the tail. I would suggest a plus sign (+) to represent heads and a minus sign (-) to represent tails, or simply paint or draw a dot on one end of the bone to represent heads.

When the bone falls head-up, it represents luck; and when it falls tail-up, it represents bad luck. As a reader, you will have to decide for yourself whether you want to consider reversals in your readings and how to determine whether a bone is straight or upside down.

Blessing and Using Bones

Before use, your bones should be blessed and consecrated. Each bone should be cleansed in cool running water, laid out to dry, dabbed with a little Florida Water and smoked in incense.

Finally, each bone should be presented to your Ancestors and told what the bone means. This is done to establish a common "language" between you and your Ancestors / Spirit Guides. When not in use, your bones should be stored at your Ancestor Altar in your bone-bag or bone-basket.

As mentioned earlier, bones were once thrown on a circle drawn on the ground. However, modern bone readers are more inclined to throw them on a specially marked cloth. A common pattern is a circle divided into four equal quadrants. Sometimes this cloth can be the skin of an animal. If desired, you can still throw the bones on a circle drawn in dirt.

Just like other forms of divination, many bone readers develop their own style and reading methods, while remaining within certain generally accepted parameters regarding the divination system used. For this reason, there are no two bone readers that read bones in the same way, especially when one

considers that there is no standard set of reading bones. Suffice it to say that there is no right way to read bones, there are no rules, and even the bone reader can change the way it reads bones every time they are melted.

When you are learning to throw the bones on your casting cloth for the first time, you will have to experiment with them a bit to determine the best far to keep the bones on top of the cloth before releasing them. If you are too close to the cloth, they may not spread enough; if you are too far away, they may spread too much and the fall may damage the bones in some cases. With practice you will find a healthy balance.

There are several ways in which bones can be read when they are melted. Choices include, but are not limited to, the following:

Left to right orientation

The bones can be considered as a timeline read from left to right. Those bones that fall to the left represent the past; those in the centre, the present; and those on the right represent the future or the result. It should be noted that bones falling outside the circle or outside the reading surface are considered "out of play" and are not usually read.

Distance from the reader

In this case, the bones are thrown and those closer to the reader represent the past and those that fall a little further away represent the present; finally, those that are further away represent future possibilities.

Non-linear orientation

If interpreted from a non-linear perspective, the bones are thrown as before; however, they are read without considering any notion of time line (i.e. the bones on the left are the past, the bones on the right are the future, etc.). The bones are simply read both as a whole and individually and the reader is guided by the spirit with respect to the message, the time, etc...

Reading Surface & How to Read

Some readers may designate each sector of the circle as representing a different area of life. For example, the circled cross divided into four

quadrants may represent love, money, health or the unknown.

These reading surfaces can vary greatly. In some cases, they may be painted on mats or embroidered. In addition, the way the surface is marked can also vary greatly. A popular and common method uses a large Astrological Wheel (a circle divided into 12 sections representing the signs/houses of the zodiac which, in turn, represent various areas of life). As you can see from the photo on the left, the reading cloth is not limited to a circle. Nor is it limited to using an astrological wheel, you can designate each section of the reading cloth as you prefer, as long as it was decided before the bones were cast.

Some bone readers choose to read their bones on the tanned and preserved skin of an animal. Sometimes the skin may be from the same animal, or the same species of animal, as the bones the reader uses for his or her bone reading sessions, but this is not necessary. In fact, many bone reading sets today incorporate bones from different animal species.

In some cases, it may be that the animal in question is the one with which the bone reader has a connection or affinity to, for example, it represents personal or family totemic energies, but even this is not always the case. The decision whether or not to use the skin of an animal to throw one's own bones on it, as well as the type of animal to use, is a personal choice that the bone reader must make.

The position of the bones

When bones are cast on an animal skin, the area of the body on which the bones settle can be considered, as they can determine the area of life to which the message of the bones refers. For example:

- The head - Bones falling on this area will give an idea or an indication of the current mood of the seeker, or his thoughts surrounding the question he poses to the bones.
- The Neck - The head is the crown of the body, but the neck can turn its head in any direction it wishes, so the bones falling here represent external factors that influence the individual or the situation.

- The Chest - The chest area covers the heart and therefore the bones falling here represent the person's feelings about their situation, which may or may not be different from their thoughts. This area also covers the heart's desire and often the real motivation.
- The left front paw - The word "left" comes from the Latin word meaning "left", and the bones falling here represent the force of opposition, if any, working against the seeker.
- The left hind leg - This area covers the past and the factors and influences that are going down in history.
- The right front paw - The bones that fall here indicate what is necessary or required to address their situation or problem in order to stay on the "right path". This area also indicates their allies and helpers.
- The right hind leg - This area represents the future or outcome of the situation.
- Groin area - This area is about sex and sexuality. It also represents those patterns of thought and behavior that continue.... these patterns can be of a positive or negative nature.
- The tail - The tail covers the anus, which is where the waste leaves the body, and so the bones that fall here give an indication of the lesson(s) that can be drawn from this situation.

Bone Friction

Bone friction is an aspect of bone reading that not all bone reader's practice. It involves the interpretation of patterns in which bones fall despite the individual meaning of the bone itself.

In cases where a bone reader observes such patterns, it is one of the first things the reader will look at before interpreting the individual bones and their relationships to each other. The scanning of bones is very intuitive and it is said that in this one is guided by the spirit of the bones themselves. Some common models are as follows:

- Vertical triangle - When bones form a vertical triangle it is indicative of the growth and manifestation of something. The bones that form the triangle give an indication of what is growing or manifesting.
- Inverted triangle - An inverted or inverted triangle means that some influence or condition is diminishing.
- T-Shape - This pattern indicates blocks. The energy of one bone is blocking another.
- Parallel Lines - Bones forming parallel lines (like an equal sign) indicate a balance between the energies represented by the bones.
- X - Shape- The bones that form an X indicate a strong desire; the bones that form this pattern can work with each other or against each other depending on what they are.
- Vertical lines - Vertical lines are masculine and dynamic. They represent an affirmative answer.
- Horizontal lines - These lines are feminine and receptive. They represent a negative answer.
- Diagonal lines - Diagonal lines represent separation. Look at the bones on both sides to see what is separating.
- Horseshoe - When the bones form a U-shape, or horseshoe, they represent luck; but when the U is upside down it represents loss of luck.

In some cases, with a little imagination, the bones may suggest specific symbols such as a desk, a car or a tree. In these cases such symbols are read according to your understanding. For example, a car may suggest movement (in which direction the car is going); or a tree may represent slow growth, etc...

The Ritual

The practice of divination in and of itself includes a ritual and/or contains ritual elements. The basic procedure includes:

Ask a question.

Randomize the oracle, such as shaking the bone bag or the bone basket.

Melt the Oracle (throwing the bones or pulling the bones out of the bone bag).

Interpret the results.

Beyond this, the reader can customize his or her ritual as little or as much as he or she wants. Rituals are important because they have meaning and power for those who perform them. If performed correctly, over time they act as stimuli to open intuition and put the reader's mind into a receptive state that favours the success and accuracy of divination.

The bones are stored in a leather bag, and kept on the Altar of the Ancestors when they are not in use. Between applications they can be stored in a large abalone shell used for this purpose. As part of my bone reading ritual, I light a candle on my Altar of the Ancestors and put a transparent glass of water on it, as well as light some incense. I pray to my ancestors for wisdom and guidance. Then I remove the bag of bones and the casting cloth from the altar and bring them to a table where they are read. In some cases, however, I can put the casting cloth on the floor in front of the altar and throw them there.

If I am reading the bones for another person, I make them sit in front of me with the casting cloth between us. I give them the bone that corresponds to their kind to hold in their hand which serves as a signifier. That is, if they are men, I make them hold the Adam's bone; if they identify themselves as women, I make them hold the Eve's bone. I tell them to close their eyes and to concentrate on their questions or issues that they would like to know more about. I explain that when they are ready, they must place the bone in the center of the cloth.

While they are thinking about their question or problem, I collect the twelve remaining bones in my hands and silently ask my ancestors to communicate with the seeking ancestors and bring us the necessary answers to address their problem or question. When the client places the bone on the cloth and tells them that it is ready, I hold the remaining 12 bones in my hands and order them to breathe on the bones (essentially by breathing their question into the bones). Then I throw the bones onto the cloth.

When I have finished, the bones are collected in the bone bag and repositioned on the Altar of the Ancestors. The candle, together with the water, remains on the altar as an offering of thanks to the Ancestors for their assistance.

Relationship with the bones

When they are thrown, the bones are not only read in relation to where they fall within the circle, but also in relation to each other. In this way, the meaning of a bone in a reading may expand, diminish, or otherwise be altered depending on its relationship to the other bones.

For example, the man's bone next to the abundance bone on the right side of the cloth may foreshadow an encounter with a man who will offer you a job. The love bone next to the evil eye bone on the lower left side of the cloth may be an indication of a past injury from a lost relationship that has an effect on the client's current situation.

Other examples include:

- Spirit Bone + Eve Bone = A spiritual woman possessing great wisdom and intuition.
- Bone of the Evil Eye + Bone of Adam = A jealous man.
- Earth Bone + Eve Bone = Pregnancy
- Bone of Fire + Bone of Eve = A woman with a fiery temperament, a red head
- Heart bone + Adam's bone = a loving man.
- Bone of the Evil Eye + Bone of the Pyramid = financial loss, job loss, unemployment.
- Bone of the Evil Eye + Bone of the Earth = physical illness, illness, bad health
- Evil-eye bone + Horseshoe bone = Bad luck, difficulty
- Air Bone + Eve Bone = A woman with an air head. A blonde woman

- Pyramid Bone + Evil Eye Bone = A deal is late.
- Heart Bone + Water Bone = A "cool" ratio.
- Spirit Bone + Cross Bone = Spirits are with you. Your wish will be granted.

Again, if we consider time as a linear force moving forward, from left to right, then we must consider the order in which the bones fall when they are next to each other. For example, let's say that the Adam's Bone falls to the left of the Spirit's bone, then man seeks the spirits, asking them for help. He seeks his own spirituality and the things of the spirit. Now, if we change this and the Spirit's Bone falls to the left of Adam's bone, then it is the spirits who follow man, communicate with him, send him signs, etc...

Some people may find the interpretation of bones a little intimidating at first and therefore may want to start with some easy methods and move on to more difficult means of throwing bones as they progress.

Bone reading is an art that requires practice to be mastered. It is a process that takes a lot of time developing depending on how much time and effort you invest in the art and your "dowry" in divination. When you begin, it would be best to start with some basic techniques to develop the divinatory skills on which you can build.

Daily Drawing

A good way to incorporate bone reading into your daily routine is to draw a bone from your bag or bowl of bones at random and read it as a theme for your day. During the day, look for signs, message or energy from the bone in the people you meet and the events that transpire. Record your daily extractions in a bone diary so that you can review them later.

As you become more adept at this practice, you may wish to reach blindly into your bag/bone bowl, grab a few bones at random and throw them onto the reading surface. Study the configuration of the bones before you, look for a model that speaks to you and record your prediction(s) in your bone diary to determine your accuracy or inaccuracy. When you get used to this technique, you can expand your bone reading practice by throwing all the bones at once. Again, it may be useful to divide the configuration into

separate groups and read them separately.

Divination of a Yes / No Answer

Remove all bones from the bag in which they are stored, with the exception of Adam and Eve's bones. Thinking about your question, reach into the bag without looking and remove one bone. If you choose the bone of Adam (White), the answer is yes; if you choose the bone of Eve (Black), the answer is no.

Another method requires choosing a bone that represents the object of your question. This bone is held in your non-dominant hand (left hand for right-handed people and right hand for left-handed people) while you think about your question. When you are ready, the bone is thrown at random onto your casting fabric. If the bone falls more vertically, the answer is yes; if the bone falls horizontally, the answer is no.

Three bone extractions to solve a problem or a dilemma

Think about your question and, one at a time, take three bones out of the bone bag and place them in front of you in a straight line.

The first bone represents your problem or problem.

The second bone represents what is necessary or required to address the problem or problem.

The third bone gives an indication of the most likely outcome to follow the advice of the bones.

Intermediate to advanced techniques

Combining methods of divination

The bones of Conjure represent a complete oracular system of divination. However, some readers choose to combine bones with other forms of divination to add a new dimension to their readings. We have already seen above how some readers throw their bones on an astrology wheel, in this section we will explore how bones can be combined with other forms of divination.

The Tarot

The Tarot is another system of divination. It is a system based on a card composed of 78 cards divided into 22 major arcana and 56 minor arcana. The Major Arcana typically refer to matters of high meaning or profound purposes, while the Minor Arcana deal with worldly matters, with everyday life. Simply put, the cards are operated by shuffling and distributing them in a card game. Each position in a spread has its own designation (i.e. the past, the future, your hopes, your fears, etc.) and the card that falls in each position is read in relation to that designation.

When you combine reading bones with reading tarot, you have two choices. They are:

Take the bone bag or the bone basket and pull a bone at random and place it over the tarot card in a tarot spread. The meanings of both the tarot card as well as the bone are considered and an interpretation is given.

Once again, reach into your bone basket and grab a few random bones and throw them over the spread. The bones are read, along with the tarot cards, in relation to where they fall on or about the tarot cards.

The same method(s) can also be used with other card-based divination systems, such as Lenormand and Playing Cards.



CHAPTER NINE

Prayers, Psalms, Novenas and the Magic Powers of Candles

It shouldn't surprise the reader that psalms, novenas and prayers are mentioned in this chapter. In fact, a lot of popular Catholic prayers are central to Voodoo rituals and practice. Like I have mentioned earlier in this book, writing extensively on all this will take up a lot of space hence I won't. I have however, written briefly about some of the important ones below, and the readers can get a copy of Ray Malbrough's "Hoodoo Mysteries: Folk Magic, Mysticism and Rituals" or "The Magical power of the saints: Evocation and candle rituals" to understand a lot more on this issue.

The Lord's Prayer

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. The kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespass as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Prayer of the Seven African Powers

Oh, seven African power, who are so close to our Devine savior, with great humility I kneel before thee and implore your intercession before the Great Spirit. Hear my petition and grant me peace and prosperity. Please remove all of the obstacles that cause me to stray from the beauty way. Oh Olofi, I trust in the words "ask and you shall receive". Let it be so! Amen.

Other important prayers include: The Hail Mary, Home blessing, Prayer for the Home, Prayer to the St. Joseph (This is for protection) etc. Consulting books that are written specifically on this topic will give you a better insight to the prayers, the reasons and time to pray them, and how to pray them.

Novenas

Novenas are prayers done specially together with seven candles in an encased glass that will burn for seven days consecutively. The prayers for each Novenas are usually engraved or printed on these containers, and it is best to pray the Novenas at the same time of all the days dedicated for it. When praying, the prayers should be done in front of the candles while mentioning your intentions.

It is general practice to make the sign of the cross (†) done by touching the forehead first, the chest, and then each of both shoulders. After this, say the words “In the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit. Amen” before saying the special novenas.

Some of the most common novenas are: The St. Barbara Novena, the St. Expedito, St. Jude, and St. Lazarus etc.

Magical Powers of Candles

It is said that light will always overcome darkness. In times past, before the invention of candle sticks and oil lamps, large fire was used in some special Voodoo rites. However, after the increase in technology, candle sticks were invented and they are a crucial part of prayers in Voodoo.

Candles come in several colors, shape, sizes and some can be scented or otherwise. They are important part of the Novena prayers as mentioned earlier, and their use cut across a lot of traditions and religious beliefs.

In Voodoo, depending on the ritual or prayer to be performed, a candle is selected varying in size, shape or color according to the desired effect to be produced. They may be anointed with special oils to achieve the desired effect and are lit while saying the required spell or psalms.

I have made a list below in no particular order, of the use of some candles and their colors.

BLACK - For the removal of negativity and also for protection

GOLD - It is a royal color symbolizing the God force, and also to get confidence in matters of life

WHITE - This is lit for clarity, insight, vision and guidance

PURPLE - This type of candle is used for healing purpose

PINK - For attaining love and affection, miracles

ORANGE - This is used for success in legal battles, to attain joy etc.

YELLOW - It is to regain energy (mental or physical) and vibrancy

BROWN - This is used in animal magic or solving of problems

BLUE - It is used when invoking the spirits of the ancestors, consulting with great spirits and to gain calmness

Please note that there are lots of candles with shapes, colors and sizes, and the use of each of these candles are varying and numerous. More knowledge about candles; their types and uses, can be found in some of Ray Malbrough's book.

“Working the Rainbow” like it is popularly referred to among practitioners of Voodoo, refers to the understanding of colors and how they affect the choosing of candles, creating the required altars. Understanding colors are also important in pleasing the Laos as each of these spirits and Orishas have colors that are particular to each of them.



CHAPTER TEN

Voodoo Myths and Facts

In this book, we have learned a lot about Voodoo as a spiritual system, its history and its dissemination throughout the world, and how it has evolved through contact with other religious systems. Perhaps one of the most important things we have learned is how little people actually know of this religion. In this final chapter, we take a brief look at some of the more salient points regarding Voodoo, under the opposing headings of Myths and Facts.

Voodoo Myths

- That Voodoo dolls are evil. Many Voodoo dolls are actually used for benevolent purposes. Historically, they were used by African priests and spiritual leaders to communicate with the spirits of their deceased ancestors for wisdom and guidance. It all depends on the intentions of the person using it. But overall, the use of Voodoo dolls is not prominent or central to Voodoo religious beliefs.
- That Voodoo is used to harm or cause injury and mischief. While there are certain darker facets of Voodoo practices, it all depends on the practitioner. These days, many of the faithful use Voodoo more for healing, for seeking guidance and wisdom in their daily lives, and have openly disavowed the more nefarious uses of Voodoo spiritual practice.
- That Voodoo is about black magic, curses, hexes, poisons, Voodoo dolls and zombies. This view of Voodoo is essentially a Western creation - and feeds largely into the public's interest into the strange, the frightening, the dark and the unnatural. Given that this perception is essentially created by people outside of Voodoo, those who have no true understanding of the essential spiritual beliefs that the Voodoo faithful adhere to, and are largely promulgated to cater either to commercial interests in "selling Voodoo," this really should not be taken seriously. While there is a "dark side" to Voodoo, this is hardly central to their practices and beliefs - which are more about the

celebration of life and our connection with the spirits and the divine, of healing, of communal relationships, and spiritual transformation.

- That the Haitian Earthquake was caused by its Voodoo heritage and is a punishment by God. There is no truth to an earthquake being caused by one's religious beliefs, or as punishment for them - earthquakes happen in many countries all over the world, and their effects devastate everybody, regardless of class or culture. Voodoo, on the other hand, is a long legacy of philosophies, ancient wisdom, cosmology, language, medical therapies, rites of passage, codes of conduct, artistic conventions, and aesthetic norms that provide entire communities with a shared sense of identity. There is nothing in Voodoo that deserves punishment.

Voodoo Facts

- The precise origins or the founders of Voodoo are unknown, but Voodoo is considered to be an ancient spiritual system that is perhaps as old as humanity itself. The word Voodoo actually stands for "spirit" or "Great Spirit" - which is a central concept in Voodoo beliefs and cosmology.
- In the Americas, the West African slaves were required to adopt Christianity and Catholicism as a religion, so the practice of Voodoo evolved into a syncretized form of Catholicism, indigenous African religious practices, and even native American traditional practices. In a very real sense, Voodoo is an inclusive religion, adaptable and capable of evolving with the times.
- The snake has a prominent place in Voodoo lore, as the serpent god Damballa, the creator of the world and the protector of the young and helpless. He transports the souls of the dead to the afterlife, and is commonly venerated as one of the oldest among the Voodoo pantheon.
- Voodoo honors and venerates the spirits of their ancestors and the spirits in nature, especially the snake who is considered one of the oldest of the Loas or spirits that watch over humanity,
- The use of animal sacrifice in many Voodoo rituals and ceremonies is

rooted in the belief of a life force that reportedly runs through the offering of blood, a worthy offering that can rejuvenate the life force of the spirit invoked.

- Marie Laveau was a prominent and iconic Voodoo queen in Louisiana, and she was instrumental in spreading the power and influence of Voodoo beliefs, practices and rituals among the population, both among the slaves and the European masters. To this day, her name and influence holds particular sway among the Louisiana population, and her wisdom, guidance and blessings are still invoked by many.
- The Catholic Church recognizes the legitimacy of Voodoo, and in 1993, even Pope John Paul II has spoken of the fundamental goodness inherent in the practices, teachings and beliefs of Voodoo.
- While there is a dark side to Voodoo - it is not very prominent among the actual practitioners. Voodoo itself, in essence is not a "dark" religion - it honors nature, life, and the connections between the visible and the invisible world.
- Voodoo is what the people make it. It is largely an oral tradition passed down through generations through songs, ceremonies, folklore, stories, music and dance. It is not a dogmatic form of worship that derives its ethics from a standard set of codified rules. Neither is it good or bad. It is what the people make it - and over the years, the people have made it, and proven, that Voodoo is adaptable, resilient, empowering, rich and colorful, and inclusive of those who believe something different, and of those who are the lowly or the downtrodden in society. Everyone is essentially equal. Voodoo is also about harmony with nature and the spirits, a belief in one Supreme Being, honor for one's ancestors, and the importance of a functional and responsive community and communal relations. It is about the way we treat our family, friends, neighbors, enemies, our past, and the environment around us. In essence, Voodoo is a way of life more than simply a form of religion.

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Conclusion

The purpose of Hoodoo is to give access to supernatural forces in order to improve the various aspects of everyday life such as luck, money, love, work, health or revenge. Hoodoo is practiced with the extensive use of herbs and stones and traditional ingredients of spells, fragments of animal bones, personal items and body fluids (menstrual blood, urine and semen). Very common practices in the Hoodoo magic system are contact with the spirits of the dead (including those of the ancestors) and the magical use of roots. The goal of Hoodoo is therefore to improve everyday life with almost for medical purposes through the action of supernatural forces acting for example on love, health, in everyday life or work. Hoodoo uses the parts of animals, body parts of people such as blood, nails, hair, urine, then there are objects such as candles, incense, oil, powders used in potions.

While some people try to contact the dead to strengthen and build bonds, others try to contact the dead to sever them. Many people who feel that their homes are haunted by ghosts often try to send the ghost peacefully into the afterlife by communicating with the ghost and convincing him to move on. In addition, rituals and practices have been developed to honor the dead and request their assistance, or to protect themselves, their home and family from any evil influence associated with the dead.

Whatever the reason is for your interest in Hoodoo, you must use the practice with extreme care and respect. Never underestimate the power of the practices contained in this book. Thank you for reading and good practice.

If you enjoyed this book and found some benefit in reading this, I'd like to hear from you and hope that you could take some time to post a review on Amazon. Your feedback and support will help this author to greatly improve his writing craft for future projects and make this book even better.

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I wish you all the best in your future success!