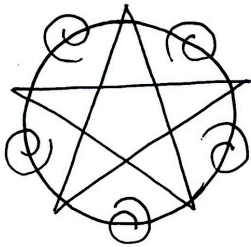


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BY
BRIDGET OWENS
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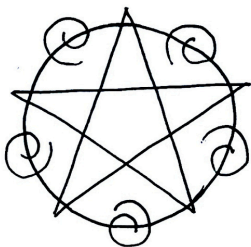


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We've all heard it.



THE BEST ADVICE I HAVE TO GIVE ON MAGICAL PROTECTION IS THIS:



1. Resilience is Power!

Magic is the ability to proactively shape what happens around you. The more we fear something, the more power we relinquish to it. When we know we can figure out how to bend situations to our favor and clean up messes, why be scared of what might happen? We're witches! Our thing is handling the metaphysical.

2. Every challenge is an opportunity

Don't run or hide from them. Facing them head on is how you become truly skilled and powerful.

3. Do stupid magic,

Manifest stupid things

If you aren't good at staying out of mundane trouble, magic won't be any different. Don't blame others (human or otherwise) for your own messes.

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SO DO WE NEED
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Not nearly as much
as the advice on social
media would have you
believe, that's for sure.

First off, protection magic
tends to be pretty simple. You
don't need to devote a large
chunk of time to master what
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Second, the better approach to
safety in your practice is to
focus on skills like discernment
(trusting your own judgment),
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Ultimately, not every "bad"
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Does danger lurk
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Are entities
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WHAT, EXACTLY, ARE WE PROTECTING?

AND WHAT ARE WE PROTECTING IT AGAINST?



My biggest problem with all the warnings about the importance of protection is that there's tons of info out there on HOW, but almost nothing about WHY.

You might occasionally hear a first-hand story from someone about their wards working or having to banish something, maybe the impact of a presumed hex or curse.

But if you want specifics or detailed information on threats and what is being threatened, you're mostly out of luck.

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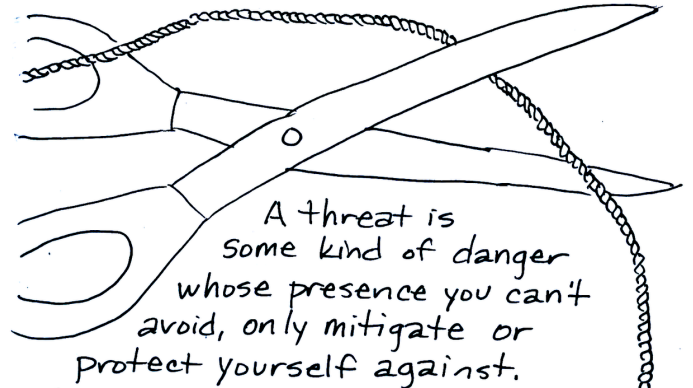


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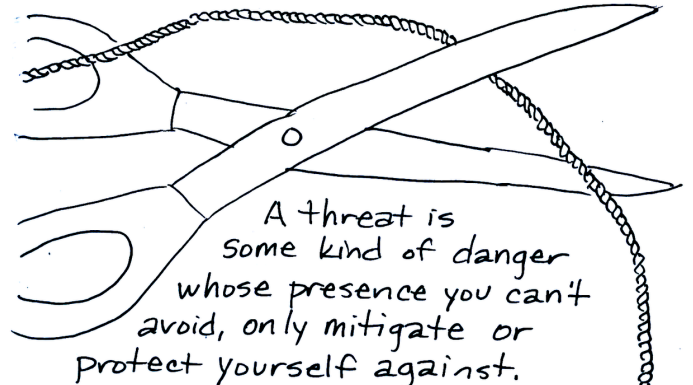
SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



A threat is some kind of danger whose presence you can't avoid, only mitigate or protect yourself against. There's a chance it can happen, but it's not a straight cause to effect relationship.

A consequence is directly caused by actions you choose to take. You can't protect yourself from consequences, you can only avoid them by not causing them in the first place or try to evade them in some way after the fact.

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HOW VULNERABLE ARE WE, REALLY?



That depends.

If we're talking about metaphysical dangers, what do you believe is out there?

What are you summoning? What kinds of spells are you doing?

Even if you believe in the existence of malicious entities (not all of us do), they aren't usually believed to attack unprovoked.



If we're talking about other humans as a threat, that's even more situation dependant.

And if we're talking about magic itself and the risks of spells backfiring or cosmic retribution, there is a difference between threats and consequences.



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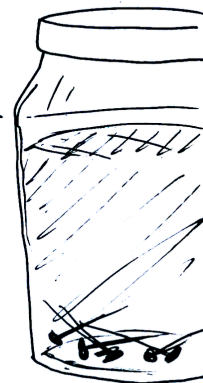


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SO... ARE THERE REAL THREATS?



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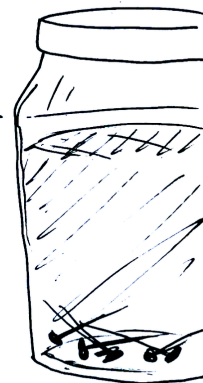
Your belief system may include some entities or forces which exist around us and should be treated with extreme caution. Or maybe you have human enemies who wish you harm.

But to be totally honest, the biggest threat within your practice is you.

AND NO AMOUNT OF PROTECTION MAGIC WILL SAVE YOU FROM YOUR OWN BAD DECISIONS.

It is exponentially more common for practitioners to harm themselves by doing magic for ill-advised outcomes than it is for the bad outcomes to be the result of an otherworldly danger or baneful working sent their way.

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WHAT KIND OF PROTECTION
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Protection isn't a
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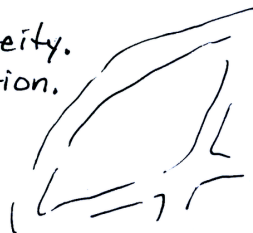
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SO THEN HOW DO
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Once you know the
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Compare the
situation to mundane
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Need a metaphysical equivalent
to an alarm system? Set a ward.
A bouncer? Do a banishing.
A guard dog? Make a servitor.
Pepper spray? Carry an amulet.
A secure room? Cast a circle.
A weapon? Do a hex.
A lawyer? Petition a deity.
A vaccine? Make a potion.
Etc...



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