

DAEMONS, WITCHES, & THE OCCULT

F o r W r i t e r s



SJREISNER.COM

Who Am I?

- Practicing and studying the occult for over 40 years.
- Author of over 50 books on magic and demonology.
- Full time author, speaker, and teacher.
- Award winning and bestselling author.
- Novelist with approximately 50 novels published.
- Published both traditionally and independently.



SJREISNER.COM



GENRES WHERE THIS INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL



Supernatural Fiction



Parnormal Fiction

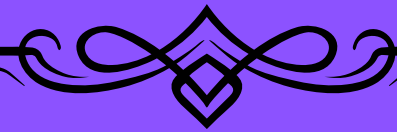


Horror

Or any story where you want to include occultists, witches, pagans, satanists, ceremonial magicians, chaos magicians, or any type of magic practitioner.

OCCULT means HIDDEN.

It often refers to magickal practices and even pagan (alternative) religions that include magick or ritual.



**MAGIC, MAGICK, MAJIC, MAJIK
?????**

Different, or weird spellings of magic are often used to distinguish a spiritual or supernatural practice from common stage magic. Magick is actually an archaic spelling of magic. The others are simply variations of the spelling.

What is the **occult**?

It is **NOT**:

- Metal Music
- The Horned Hand Sign
- Role Playing Games
- Eastern Religions
- Alternative Healing or Therapies
- Halloween Celebrations

Why does it matter in Fiction?



- To add depth and realism to a story.
- To balance that realism with creativity.
- Avoid offending real-world practitioners.
- To show respect for diverse beliefs and traditions.

Writing authentic witchy and magical characters.

- Research
- Incorporate research into magical systems if you're starting from scratch.
- Avoid stereotypes!
- Seek input from real practitioners.
- Do not de-humanize or vilify certain types of practitioners or lump them all into one group.
- The more you know, the more you can add tiny details that add to authenticity, making the novel more enjoyable for real practitioners.
- You will never please everyone, so don't try. Magical and witchy practices are wide and varied, and sometimes highly personal.

CONSIDERATIONS

If you make stuff up, mention that the character has their own unique way of practicing that may vary from others who may have the same label. For example, not all Satanists are Atheists, and not all Theistic Satanists are just angry Christians.

If you don't know what kind of details to add, ask a witchy friend or someone who understands the topic.

It's okay to add fantastical elements. If you stuck to realism 24/7, it could make the story boring. Just like some church services, watching some magickal rituals is like watching cement dry.

Character Motivations



EXAMPLES:

Remember that your characters are human (unless they're not) and that their motivations may be the same as any protagonist or antagonist. (Power, greed, compassion, lust, etc...)

For non-human characters, like Daemons, they may not have the same motivations as a human character. For many who work with Daemons, Daemon means "Divine Intelligence" rather than malevolent spirit (ala the Judeo-Christian definition of the word.) Or Daemons can be the dark parts of the self, manifesting into reality.

Not all witches are good, not all are bad. Just because someone adds "To harm none" doesn't mean it harms no one. It doesn't mean they mean it, either.

LABELS and DEFINITIONS



Types of Witches: Wiccan, Traditional Witch, Kitchen Witch, Green Witch, Eclectic Witch and many more.

Types of Satanists: Atheistic, Theistic, Spiritual

Types of Magicians: Ceremonial Magicians, Chaos Magicians, Christian Magicians, Alchemists, Hermetic, Enochian, Goetic or Solomonian, etc...

Other Magicks: Vodou (Haitian/Creol), Santeria (Afro-Caribbean), Folk Magick, Stregheria (Italian and Italian American)

Left Hand Path - Those who look to themselves and do self-work (shadow work) and believe they have a role in the outcome of magick. They believe they are part of the divine, and therefore also divine. This definition may vary among practitioners. The supernatural forces are considered helpers, teachers, and guides.

Right Hand Path - Those who look outside themselves to the supernatural world to fix their problems for them. They may believe they do not have power of their own to change things and view the spiritual forces as judges, and above humans.

Sympathetic Magick: primitive or magical ritual using objects or actions resembling or symbolically associated with the event or person over which influence is sought.

Apotropaic Magick: To create change through symbols or rituals.

Theurgy: Divine magick, working with angels, Daemons, or gods. Involves invocation or evocation. Often employed for inner work and often called High Magick.

Thaumaturgy: Practical magick to affect change in the real world world. Often called Low Magick.

Q & A



SJREISNER.COM