



Witches Wheel of the Year: June – Elemental Magick

How have we already reached the midway point of the year? It seems like only yesterday we were gathered in the chill of January, the start of a new year, and we already halfway through it. This month I am excited to share with you one of the basic tenets of this work, which can be used year round, but I find most powerful in summer utilizing the outdoors – and that is elemental magick.

The four elements, combining into the mystical fifth, are something that exist in so much variety. Using earth, wind, fire, and water – and the culmination of those in spirit – is essential to our own balance. When we think of our own internal energy work, we embody all these elements at different times, regardless of gender, astrological sign, or otherwise. We all have the passion and rage of fire at times; we can be grounded, cool, and still as earth. We can hold the uplifting and variable nature of the wind, and we can change our form to fit our needs as water would. When we examine where our energy sits in these profiles, we can work with it, as well as activate its opposing energy if needed to rebalance if we are a bit too activated in one area.

This month, we will also explore Litha, or the summer solstice. Starting Monday, June 21st, the summer solstice, also known as Midsummer, marks the time of year when the days are the longest and the nights are the shortest, giving away to the fire elements and the warmth of summer. Litha is often celebrated using bonfires to celebrate this heat – jumping over one is considered good luck – and bringing forth our inner light and power.

This week we also happened to be blessed with the energy of a solar eclipse - talk about amazing! The message of a solar eclipse is the strength of light over dark, but the beauty in both. Watching the two dance together, cover each other, in a beautiful duet, reminds us of the dance among ourselves and our shadow and light work. Embrace both!

To celebrate this Midsummer, we will explore two very special rituals – binding spells, and cutting cords. Both are immense celebrations in our own inner power and light, and harness the power of the elements – especially fire – to bring our work to life.



Elements and Their Associations:

To the ancient civilizations, the universe was divided into four principles of energies/elements: these being Earth, Water, Fire, and Air. With advances in chemistry, we now know that there are more than these four elements; however, these are the four basic principles that are most used in magickal practices. The Elements are the original base elements of all corporeal things, of which all other things are made, by transmutation and union.

Contrary Elements

Fire - Water
Earth - Air

The two heaviest elements are Earth and Water, and are considered “Passives”. The two lightest elements are Air and Fire, and are considered “Actives”. In breaking this down, the “passives” get this label as they live in stillness – with all other elements removed, motion is not necessarily equated to these two elements – both water and earth need an added element, change in direction or elevation, etc to produce movement. In their pure uninhibited form, both will take on stillness. Likewise, the “actives” get their label for their innate nature of movement – fire is always moving and ever changing from second to second, and wind/air itself does not exist without movement (not to be confused with oxygen).

Plato famously ascribed the following qualities to the Elements:

- Fire as Brightness, Thinness, Motion
- Earth as Darkness, Thickness, Quietness

These two are thus contrary in his definition. The other two Elements acquire properties from the other two as their “foundation”. Air receives two qualities from Fire - Thinness and Motion - and one from Earth, which is Darkness. Water receives two qualities from Earth - Darkness and Thickness - and one from Fire, which is Motion. Many see fire and earth as the “base” elements, and they do tend to be the basis of most spiritual work.

Another way to categorize elements is by their power stance - they can be either projective, such as fire and air, or receptive, such as water and earth. The idea here is that the energies being used or harnessed with fire and air would be projected out into the universe via burning, blowing away, carried away on wind, and moved

away from us. The elements of water and earth are receptive, pulling in and absorbing receiving, and serving as receptacles.

In thinking of the above, this is where the interplay of the elements becomes interesting, as well as the ways in which we think about how they support each other, or can work against each other. For example - if your work is asking to call in passion, fury, power, going to a still and cool lake may not be the right setting. However, water in a different setting - a stormy beach, for example - may be a great way to utilize it. Likewise, using fire as the element to calm a bad situation or heal wounds may not be the best idea, but utilizing it briefly, such as burning something to extinguish to cold ashes, would be an accurate representation.

This also leads to personal connection. Innately, based on the cosmos, personality, experience, astrological sign, etc, you may feel called to a certain element. Maybe you were the child who collected rocks and was barefoot in the dirt, or the water baby that your parents could not keep out of puddles and rain. Maybe you have been a fire bug since forever and always have a candle going in your house, and maybe you can't ride in a car without the wind throwing your hair around.

Examining what speaks to you can say a lot about the energy you naturally sit in, or the energy you actively CHOOSE to sit in. Likewise, balancing out the complementary elements with your primary energy can be a simple practice to bring yourself clarity and focus.

What is Your Primary Element?

Looking at the element that speaks to us can be helpful in finding our own inner alignment. There is also a thought in literature that follows the adage that earth and water are feminine, as they tend to be more nurturing and sensual. Fire and air are thought to be more masculine, as they prefer to communicate and take action. Therefore, if we can find a balance among these elements, we can harmonize our masculine and feminine energies.

Fire: Aries, Leo, And Sagittarius

Fire is a symbol of creation, energy, and passion. Fire is considered to be the first element that was born when the universe was created. It rules Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius; hence their passionate nature and over-the-top enthusiasm.

A birth chart with prominent fire most likely belongs to a person who is active, competitive, and highly passionate. On the flip side of that, someone with fire in their chart can be impatient and quick-tempered, and burn too hotly in deeply emotional situations. They love deeply and can hold grudges the same way. They are also complex children, romantic partners, and friends, and need the balance of others elements to keep them on an even path/level. Channeling this element can help you tap into your inner child and creative muse. It can also help you feel confident.

Earth: Taurus, Virgo, And Capricorn

Earth is a symbol of abundance, stability, and solidity. The season most related to earth is winter. It rules Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn, which helps explain their innate persistence and practical mind.

A birth chart with prominent earth most likely belongs to a person who is pragmatic, dependable, and realistic. On the dark side, however, someone with earth in their chart can be inflexible and ruthlessly stubborn, as well as cold and calculated (which can be an asset as well as detrimental to their relationships). Their no-nonsense pragmatism can get them in trouble, however underneath their exterior can lie a very broad sense of imagination and romanticism they are afraid to unleash. Channeling this element can help you find stability and consistency in your routine, as well as grounding.

Air: Gemini, Libra, And Aquarius

Air is a symbol of communication, intelligence, and versatility. Air represents the breath of life and is attributed with cleansing power. It rules Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius, so that explains their charming social skills.

A birth chart with prominent air most likely belongs to a person who prefers thinking logically rather than emotionally, but can have a very difficult time deciphering between the two. They can be incredibly indecisive and fickle by nature, however this gives way to a flexibility you may not see in the other elements. Channeling this element can promote mental clarity and enhance your communication style.

Water: Cancer, Scorpio, And Pisces

Water is a symbol of emotion, dreams, healing, intuition, and the universal realm. It also represents death and rebirth. It rules Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces; hence the highly intuitive nature and mysterious demeanor of these signs.

A birth chart with prominent water most likely belongs to a person who is naturally perceptive of their surroundings. On the opposite end of the spectrum, however, these signs can be moody and hypersensitive, with their watery nature making it difficult to hold on to moods and emotions, at the same time as they take on the moods and emotions of those around them. They wear their heart on their sleeve, and become easily frustrated at times when others don't. Channeling this element can help you tap into your emotions, and bring you closer to the spirit world.

Air Correspondences

DIRECTION: East - the place of sunrise.

TYPE OF ENERGY: Projective - this is energies, desires, etc flowing away and being released or set in motion into the universe..

BASIC NATURE: Flying, moving, fresh, intelligent, suspending. Sound is a manifestation of this element.

COLOR: Yellows, purples, even light pinks - the yellow of the sun, the sky at dawn.

PLACES: Mountaintops, wind-swept plains, cloudy skies, high towers, any area of elevation. Air is also highly associated with sacred spaces such as chapels, churches, and temples.

RITUALS: Travel, instruction, study, freedom, knowledge, recovering lost items, releasing internal energies, giving over something to the universe to set it free to grow and manifest.

RITUAL FORMS: Tossing objects into the air, blowing items into a breeze/wind, suspending tools in high places, fanning light objects, visualization, positive thinking, incense, smoke.

HERBS: Fragrant, flowers; pungent, as in culinary herbs such as dill; airy, finely-veined, or wind-swept; generally leaves.

STONES: Light stones in blues, light greens, yellows, oranges, and pastels; transparent stones, such as mica and selenite.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT: All wind instruments, and music heavily containing these.

CREATURES: Spider, most birds, winged insects, any manner of mythical creature that flies.

SEASON: Spring - the time of freshness.

TIME: Dawn.

MAGICKAL TOOLS: Wands, feathers, incense, suspended crystals, dreamcatchers

SENSE: Hearing, smell.

NATURAL SYMBOLS: A feather, incense smoke, fragrant flowers.

TYPES OF MAGICK RULES: Divination, concentration, visualization, wind magic, release, banishing.

GODDESSES: Aradia, Arianrhod, Cardea, Nuit, Urania.

GODS: Enlil, Kheohera, Mercurym, Shu, Thoth.

Fire Correspondences

DIRECTION: South - the place of heat.

TYPE OF ENERGY: Projective; this is energies, desires, etc are released/move away from the body by burning/igniting, destruction.

BASIC NATURE: Purifying, destructive, cleansing, energetic, sexual, forceful. Heat is a manifestation of this element.

COLOR: Red, orange - from the color of flames.

PLACES: Deserts, hot springs, volcanoes, ovens, fireplaces, bedrooms, athletic settings

RITUALS: Protection, courage, sex, energy, strength, authority, banishing negativity.

RITUAL FORMS: Burning or smouldering; heating.

HERBS: Stinging, thorny or hot, as thistles, chilli peppers; desert-dwelling, as cacti; stimulating, as coffee beans; generally seeds.

STONES: Red or fiery, as in jasper; volcanic, as in lava; heat holding stones, such as tourmaline and jet.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT: Guitar, all stringed instruments.

CREATURES: Snake, cricket, lizard, praying mantis, ladybug, bee, scorpion, shark.

SEASON: Summer - the time of heat.

TIME: Noon.

MAGICKAL TOOL: Knife/Athame, flames, candles.

SENSE: Sight.

NATURAL SYMBOLS: Flame, lava, a heated object.

TYPES OF MAGICK RULES: Time, hexing/banishing, destruction, transformation, protection

GODDESSES: Brigit, Pele, Vesta.

GODS: Agni, Hepaetus, Horus, Promtheus, Vulcan.

Water Correspondences

DIRECTION: West - the place of the setting sun.

TYPE OF ENERGY: Receptive; water takes on the shape of the receptacle it is held within, and is excellent for receiving energy (absorbing energies and properties from herbs, stones, and other additives).

BASIC NATURE: Flowing, purifying, healing, soothing, loving.

COLOR: Blues - from the hue of deep water

PLACES: Lakes, springs, streams, rivers, beaches, oceans, wells, swimming pools, bathtubs, showers, fountains, rainy settings.

RITUALS: Purification, love, psychic awareness, dreams, sleep, peace, marriage, friendships.

RITUAL FORMS: Dilution, placing into water, creating tinctures/beverages, washing away, bathing, absorbing additives.

HERBS: Aquatic, such as water lilies and seaweed; fleshy, as in succulents and lettuce; loving, as in rose and gardenia; generally flowers.

STONES: Transparent or translucent, as in amethyst, fluorites, and aquamarine; blue, as in blue tourmaline. Seashells and river stones are also prominent.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT: Cymbal, bell, all resonant metals.

CREATURES: Cat, frog, turtle, dolphin, whale, otter, seal, dugong; most fish and shellfish.

SEASON: Autumn - the time of harvest.

TIME: Dusk.

MAGICKAL TOOL: Cup, the cauldron, shells.

SENSE: Taste.

NATURAL SYMBOLS: Shells, a cup of water, receptacles full of water.

TYPES OF MAGICK RULES: Weather, clarification, purification, banishing, healing

GODDESSES: Aphrodite, Isis, Mariamne, Mari, Tiamat, Yemaya.

GODS: Dylan, Ea, Manannan, Osiris, Neptune, Poseidon.

Earth Correspondences

DIRECTION: North – the place of the greatest darkness.

TYPE OF ENERGY: Receptive; the earth is from which all things grow, the womb of life and giver of home. It is the place where we are recycled into as things die as well, honoring the circle of life, and receiving energies in this cycle.

BASIC NATURE: Fertile, moist, nurturing, stabilizing, grounding. Gravity is a manifestation of this element.

COLOR: Greens, browns, earth tones - from the color of living plants.

PLACES: Caves, canyons, forests, groves, valleys, fields, farms, gardens, parks, plant nurseries, graveyards/cemeteries, hikes

RITUALS: Money, prosperity, fertility, stability, grounding, employment, ambition, new beginnings..

RITUAL FORMS: Burying, planting, making images in soil or sand.

HERBS: Earth-smelling plants, such as patchouli and vetiver; mosses and lichens; nuts; dry and stiff plants; heavy, low-growing plants; generally roots.

STONES: Heavy or opaque, as in hematite; green, as in emerald and peridot.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT: Drum, all percussion instruments.

CREATURES: Dogs, horse, earthworm, gopher, ant, cow, burrowing animals.

SEASON: Winter - the time of darkness.

TIME: Night.

MAGICKAL TOOL: Pentacle, plants, herbs.

SENSE: Touch.

NATURAL SYMBOLS: Salt, clay dish of fresh soil, rocks, sheaves of wheat, acorns, plants.

TYPES OF MAGICK RULES: Gardening, binding, grounding, messages from the divine

GODDESSES: Ceres, Demeter, Gaea, Mah, Nephthys, Persephone, Prithivi, Rhea, Rhiannon.

GODS: Adonis, Athos, Arawn, Cernunnos, Dionysus, Marduk, Pan, Tammuz.



When we connect with another on a deeper level, regardless if this is family, friend, a lover, or in business, microconnections form energetically where we are bound to others on various planes. This can vary widely and manifest itself in a number of ways, from intense feelings, to intuitions about each other, to sexual energy and even in anger/rage.

Make no mistake; even the most skilled practitioner can fall victim to a heart/head imbalance, and find themselves bound to another - this does not necessarily mean romantically either. This can be an overbearing parent, or a sibling who is toxic. This can be an ex boyfriend or girlfriend, or a friendship that never became anything more. This could be a toxic friendship that destroys personal boundaries, and it can even be a place (such as a toxic work environment).

When we open ourselves up to deeper connections, this enriches life - it makes it beautiful, and deep, and meaningful, and more than superficial. The trade off, however, is the risk of this connection being abused, misused, or neglected. We know we need to walk away, and give ourselves the gift of time, space, and distance, but we are unable to do so. Why? Why is this?

The answer may be in the energy cords we have given to another.

In making a foundation, relationship, and partial home of ourselves in another, knowingly or unknowingly, you create a "bridge" between your energies - depending on the strength of this pathway, this enables an ebb and flow between you both. When in harmony and healthy, this is a soul connection, and beautiful. When in disharmony and toxic, it can be one sided, not received at all, or simply painful.

When the hard (or sometimes easy) decision is made to disconnect the cord between you and another, you are not building a roadblock to their connection - you will be severing this connection. It is important to understand the following when making this decision (and why this should never be performed hastily):

- Before you sever an energetic cord, think about what steps you may want to try first; would a simple energy block work better, and can you maintain that mental space? How about removing the barriers that prevent a healthy relationship first? There may be other options before a full sever.
- The connection cannot be mended. Should you change your mind or time passes and you wish to reconnect, it will be an entirely new relationship and new cord - it will not be a duplicate. If you are trying to restore the old relationship you had with a person, there are better ways to go about it.
- Once severed, you need to do the homework: remove phone numbers, connections on social media, change pathways if you cross each other's lives often in real life, etc. It is pointless to attempt to sever a cord if you are not ready to stop calls, texts, seeing one another, stalking their online presence, etc.
- **DO NOT DO THIS WORK IN A BAD/UNSTABLE EMOTIONAL STATE!** This is not the time to step up to your sacred space sobbing, crying, raging, seeing red, throw the items together, and tell this person to leave forever. Not only can it backfire immensely, but it simply won't work, and can leave you worse off than you once were.
- The energy of this work is with love for self, protection for self, and peace for another - we do not do this in anger or as a punishment to another. We wish them well, we are releasing a person that no longer serves us, and we move on.

Energetic Cord Cutting

Ingredients:

Large bowl filled with base element (sand, dirt, or salt work well with this)

Two candles to represent those being disconnected

String that is safe to burn

Rosemary and lavender, if desired

Black salt, if desired

A large knife or pair of scissors, or a selenite wand alternative

Create your sacred space. Think of including stones, herbs, elements, and colors that represent your intentional work. Cleanse and consecrate all items in the space, including your hands for the work. For this ceremony, wash your hands with water infused with herbs, as well as incense. This will combine all elements to bless your work.

Take each candle, and carve the initials of the two individuals into them - one on each. Place them a few inches apart in the receptacle filled with the item of your choice (sand, dirt, and salt are great for this one). Tie a loose loop of string around the two candles, enough so they are suspended, but not so tight as the candles are touching or being pulled to fall over.



Speak your intentions over the candles; you can choose to say the persons name allowed or not, but speak directly to them. List the reasons you can no longer allow the connection between the two of you; be direct, and take as long as you need to.

Sprinkle protection herbs around the base of the candles - rosemary, basil, and lavender work well for this. A small sprinkle of black salt is helpful as well to banish ill intentions.

Light each candle, starting with your own first, and then the other. Let the candles burn down, and watch the flame sever the string connecting them. It is not unusual to see one candle light up or melt much faster - this is symbolically said to show who has the harder time letting go of the connection. Let the candles burn down and extinguish themselves; while this is occurring, hold something symbolic of the disconnection, such as a ceremonial knife or scissors. Once the string has disconnected, close your eyes and picture the same - picture using the item in your hands to sever or disconnect the other person from you, on all levels. You can symbolically do this by hovering the time and sweeping it over your limbs as well.

(This is also excellent work to do as a group; have others “sweep” your body as you disconnect and concentrate).

As you do this, keep the image of them fresh in your mind, and let it slowly fade away - if this is too difficult, replace the image of them in your mind with something positive, till their true image is no longer present. When finished, bury the wax and string remnants, and step on the spot to seal it. When walking away, do not look back.

