Magic Names

This is a two-part course about Magical Names.  This course contains the following items.

Part one

History of Names

What is a Magical Name

How to find a Magical Name

Part two

Working with Groups

Words of Advice

Closing Thoughts

Study Guide

A syllabus for: Magical Names.

     The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the concept of magical names. By the end of this course students should feel confident and inspired enough to find a new magical name in time. In taking this course students will learn some of the dos and don’ts on finding a new magical name for themselves, a temple and/or a study group.  This course has two parts.  Each should take at least a week or more if needed to complete. A test of 25 questions will follow each part of the course.

**History of Magical Names:**

Before written language, the ‘Cave Man Days’ if you will, we made sounds and art as a form of communication. From the first time we began to speak to each other with audible grunts and hand gestures, there was the need for names. Unfortunately we do not have a lengthy record of cave man names, but only faded drawings on cave walls that have been left behind for us to discover. Be assured we did call each other something back then. We just don’t know what it was.   The system of naming is called Nomenclature.

Names of Power, sometimes known as “Magical Names”, date back to ancient Egyptians, Greeks and even the Assyrians. They believed that awesome and often incredible power could be released by the sound of a secret magical name. Only the most powerful Gods would have a secret magical name and only a master of the art of magic could have this knowledge and wisdom at their disposal. The masters would be the only ones to wield this kind of power.

The most powerful ancient name is said to be YHWH.

Pagan names are easier to understand, but not without some trouble. Let’s use the name John.

As common as John is, we soon had a whole village of Johns. John from over the hill turned into John Hill. John the bread baker turned into John Baker and if you worked with a craft or a skill and where well known for that work, you would be known as John Shoemaker and so on. By doing this simple naming, we would know which John one was referring to.

Thus, our magical names work in much the same way. You are known to others by the work you do, even today. Without making this paper a long lesson in history, I have elected to stay within the magical world due to the vast amount of information on the naming system.  Please feel free to follow up with your studies and research on this topic. You might find this topic just as interesting as I did. By doing so, you might find the magical name you are looking for.

Come with me on this little journey of magical names. You might find the magic has been with us a very long time, and perhaps if I am lucky, you might find some things you may have not known thus far.

**What is a Magical Name?**

~ A magical name is a pseudonym or an alias we use for a person place or thing, in this case dealing with the magical realm.

~  A magical name can be used to shift consciousness to our higher self. The sound and vibration of a word can help to increase power. Certain names can invoke images, feelings and even strong emotion when they are said aloud. Simply put, a magical name is anything we want to give extra energy to.

~  A magical name is like a nickname. The names that people will come to know you by, which is not, in most cases, your given birth name.

~   A magical name is one, which we can choose for our selves that draws on our better qualities.

~  Our names can be shared at certain times of the year or only with particular people in your temple or circle of friends.

~  A magical name can work in the same way as a charm; to open or to close a thing, or to protect someone or something.

~  Our magical names are, to some degree, secret names and can be kept secret if one wishes it to be.

~   A magical name helps to protect your real identity from would-be bashers.

How to Find a Magical Name:

     There are many ways of finding a magical name. You will find endless possibilities. Also, many things will need to be named in your new magical world. You may even find your choices can be quite daunting and a bit overwhelming at first. But looking for a magical name is of great importance and should not be taken lightly nor should it be rushed in any way. The search for your magical name will be an exciting and fun time in your life, and one I know you will always remember.

     In creating this paper, I did not intend to make you an expert on magical names, but rather to help point you in the right direction to find your very own magical name.

     I would like to share some good ideas with you, but please keep in mind this is in no way a complete list, nor is it the only list you can use to find your magical name.     This is only a few good ideas and a way to get the ball rolling. Most of all, I hope to spark your imagination.

    Let’s talk about inspiration. Inspiration is everywhere and most certainly in an endless supply. Your magical name can come from just about anywhere. The sky is truly the limit. Your magical name can reflect what you wish to reflect about yourself. The name should fit you. It should ‘Ring True’ about you. Just let your inner voice be your guide. Your magical name will give you a great sense of pride, when you say it, write it, and when you hear it. It’s like magic!

     I believe in this world we live in. We all could use a bit more magic in our lives and choosing a magical name is a very good place to start.

    So let’s start with deity. Our lord and lady. The God and Goddess. There are lots of good names like Thor the God of thunder, or Gaia the earth Goddess. I have heard names like Zeus and Rhea as chosen magical names. Eros and Psyche can be really nice names too, but not all will agree with me here. To take a God or Goddess’s name might be considered disrespectful to some people. Some say you take on the history of that name, be it good or bad. Yet on the other hand, I feel it’s a great way to honor your chosen deity. You can be the judge of it. You may even want to get a book or two on the Gods and Goddesses and do some reading on this subject.

Another good place to look is Meditation and Divination. (I could write a book just on these subjects alone.) You can light a candle and incense, then kick back and relax.  You may or may not receive a magical name this way, but quiet time and relaxation is always good for you no matter what.  You can try the Tarot Cards, Crystal Ball, The Runes or a Pendulum to help guide you, and perhaps give you some excellent ideas.

Go with whatever seems to draw you. A name you can’t get out of your head might be there for a reason. It might be telling you something. Stop and listen to it. It could be the name you are in search of.

Take some time to think about yourself. Ask yourself some questions like this:

What are you into?

What do you like or dislike?

What are you concerned about?

What persona do you want in your new world?

What are you known for? (Like a special skill of some kind.)

What do you dream of?  (Something like the ability to fly.)

Basically get to know yourself. These questions can set the pace for you and help you find a name you’re comfortable with.  Some people can find their magical names very quickly, others are not as fortunate, and still other folks may not want a magical name at all. It is truly up to the individual. With a wide variety of places to choose from, you should not have a problem finding your magical name, at all. Just look! You can’t go wrong with you new name.  Do your homework and you’re bound to find your magical name within time.

Now let’s talk about dreams. You cannot pass up dreams when looking for your magical name. Many of us receive messages in our dreams. That is, if you’re lucky enough to remember your dreams.  Lots of people don’t remember their dreams. So please don’t stress out on this if you can’t remember yours. Frustration will not help you. Some dreams may seem a bit crazy and really far out there at first, but if  you work with the images from your dreams, you might come up with a good magical name.

If a name comes to you in a dream, that’s way cool! If not, I promise you will find other sources. Just give yourself some time.  You can look to Astrology for some help. We all have a birthday and zodiac sign to match.   I would like to use the First Elder of our tradition as an example of this, our beloved Lady Bitterwind, with her permission of course.

Our  Bitterwind was born on a cold and chilly day in February, hence the name bitter. Bitter is for the cold winds of February that chill us to the bone. Lady Bitterwind’s sign is Aquarius.  As we know, Aquarius is an air sign. Put it all together and we have Bitterwind. Now that’s magic!   You might want to consult the Chinese Horoscope to help, if the zodiac does not work for you. I found it hard to work with the name Libra. All I could come up with was Libra Heart. You might have better luck.   Other cultures and languages can help if you know them well.   If not, visit your local library and read up on them.    I have heard some really nice magical names inspired by the Sun, Moon and Stars. A name like: Miss Steller Cat, Mr. Sun Guy, Lady Moonshine or Star Shine temple. Names like this might put you on the right track.   I have always thought a name like Mars or Venus would make an awesome temple name… well, perhaps someday.

Nature and Animals will pull on almost any true Wiccan’s heart. If you feel strongly drawn toward animals and nature, then take advantage of it. Quite honestly, how can you not? It’s all around you.  A name like: Willow Wolf, Misty Ocean Maiden, The Wise Old Oak, The Green Glass Forest Realm or The Sweet Tiger Paw Temple, could work for you or your group. Nature could be the inspiration you’re looking for.   Take time to work with it by sitting outdoors and getting in touch with nature. You could even try the weather and the seasons. Look for some kind of sign, like after a rain storm or a rainbow in the sky, you might have seen at some point in your life.  Many things could prompt you to feel inspired. Or perhaps you have a favorite season? That could very well help you in your search, too. As in a name like: Autumn Eyes, Winter Witch, Summers Rain, Wind Storm Master or Spring Pixy Sparks.

Native American names can be a very good resource as well. Their names are so colorful, and fit almost all pagan beliefs and life styles. Something like Running Deer, Moon Glow, or Dream Walker might do the trick for you.  Native Americans believe the first thing the parent sees on a child’s birthday is linked to that child’s future, and they are often called by that name.    See, they had the magic all the while!

The Quarters can be a good resource. Air, Fire, Water, Earth, and don’t forget the fifth element, Spirit. A name like: Fire Walker, Sister Gentle Air, Running Waters, Earth Mother or even Spirit Dancer. Names like this might give you a nice persona.    How about trying flowers, plants, trees and herbs. A name like: Lavender lady, Brother Ash Winds, Elder Moss or Old Sage Witch. They seem to have a nice earthy feel to them.  You may even like the Fairy realm or Pixies. There are lots of potential magical names that can enchant you there. Like  Puck, Asrai or even Tinker Bell, just to name a few.    You might even want to try some color with your magical name. They can add a brand-new dimension to your name. A name like: Pink Fairy Lady, Redcap Crow, Master Blue Wizard, Gray Mist or Black Haired Ghost.  This color just might add some well-needed zip to your magical name.      You may want to honor your ancestors by using a name from your own history, from your personal family tree, like a Great Grandmother or a Great Grandfather’s name. Wow! What a nice way to show respect to the people in your past.   Also by looking at your past, you could remember an old nickname that captured a nice quality about you, which you had even at a young age.  The inspiration might even be an old toy that you enjoyed very much, although you may have forgotten it today. Take some time to think back and see.   It might come to you again.

Yet another fine place to look is a Baby Book of Names. You can find the origins of a name and the meaning behind that name. One can find the magic in almost any name, if you look for it, and if you truly know what it is you are looking for.  You can even play with the spelling of your name to give your magical name an unusual twist. This could work for you and it might fit who you are today.

If you are the creative type, you can combine names for a whole new name. Yes, you can make your very own unique magical name! Why not?  But do try to be original with your name. Use a name you have never heard before or one that no one else has. Anyway, give it a try! See what you come up with, and don’t forget to write it down. You might lose or forget it if you don’t.

You can and may want to use Music, Art or Movies as a resource, but do try to be creative with this. Use your imagination and always be original with your work and your magical names. You don’t want anyone to think of the movie or a song first, then think of you or your temple. What a bummer that would be.    My personal favorite is and will always be the Gems, Crystals and Semiprecious Stones. I love the enormous energy I feel from them and the fancy names of Crystals can set off my inspiration, (not to mention the way they sparkle and shine.) I could go on and on for hours about them. If you are drawn to the Gems like I am, a name like Diamond or Ruby could work for you.   Try something like: The Diamond Witch, Onyx Man Star,  Miss Dazzling Amber, Ruby Crone Stone, Mr. Obsidian Eyes or even Mother Moonstone. Some stones might catch your ear so, listen well. You can even look up your birth stone. I did and found out a lot about the Opal I did not know. I came up with Opal Air Fire for a magical name. The only trouble I found with the stones and gems is, how do I pick just one?.

Hey, you can even check out the World Wide Web for some inspirational help.  I believe that we are modern witches anyway, don’t you? The name that you use for your e-mail or a screen name can work too. Perhaps you’ve seen someone with a nice screen name. Work with that and see what you come up with.   As I said before, go with what seems to draw you.

When it comes to you and your magical name, you are in the driver’s seat. Have fun with it, and let the magic happen. Remember magic is everywhere and is found in everything. Yes, it’s even in everyone. It’s afoot and in the very air we breathe. All one has to do is look for it!

Working With Groups:

           It is well known in the science community that sound is vibration, which in turn is a wave. With that being so, then why not have the whole band of waves with all different ideas in one setting, like in a group.  I think of it this way: It’s kind of like a radio with all its variety. So thus, you have a group.

         Collaboration can help you if your own inspiration has come up dry. You could find some fresh ideas with a group of pagans. But, it’s always good to work with any kind of group, as much as you possibly can.

         I have found on my path that if you are working with a group of people, when you have like-minded people such as Pagans let’s say,  let them be in on the creative process.  It can be great fun and a good bonding experience for the group as a whole. Who knows, you might even get an awesome new magical name out of the process.

         You might like to start with an Oracle circle. Invite some or all of  your Temple members or your study group to a ritual. During which you can light some candles, close your eyes and see what you all come up with.  You might want to give someone in your group the job of taking notes. This is so that you can all see the results of the Oracle circle. You may get a message or even a good idea for a name, or perhaps just a place to start from.

         When working with such a group, I suggest that you have a few ideas on the table to get the ball rolling. This is also a good time to set the direction you want to move toward. Have a plan in place, if you will.   Without a sense of direction, your group could get a bit wild and woolly and even totally out of control. Not good!  So it’s best to keep your group focused, yet fun; light-hearted and a bit on the intense side.  Yes, all at the same time. This is really not as hard as it might seem. It’s not a hard thing to do, not at all, if you have a plan in place at the start and you stick to it.

        It’s good to keep your group moving with new thoughts and new ideas. All I can say is, try to think outside of the box and stick to your plan.

         When dealing with a group, always remember to have fun, no matter what you do with your group or what kind of group it is. Try to make it a comfortable, party- like setting.  As you know by now, you should take pictures, so you will have a nice keepsake of the event. A good thing is to take notes or make a scrapbook with your helpers from your group. Now that’s big fun.

         Some witches have a book of shadows. This would be a good place to keep your plans and ideas from your group. If you like the book of shadows concept and want one, why not make one from construction paper.  The group will love to help out with this project. You can start with a small one, something simple, and then move up to a bigger one as time goes by.  Everyone will want to look at the book from time to time, so you might want to have it relatively available for them to flip through.

        It can be big fun working with groups. But it’s best to think ahead of time. Why not serve some light food like cookies and soft drinks and/or coffee.  With good friends and good eats and the gentle glow of candles, you should have a fine time. Oh yes, and don’t forget the gentle background music. Well, all I can say is wow! You are having a real old fashion pagan party now!

       If you have found more names then your group needs, then try to come up with a nice way to make a choice. You could vote or even pull names from a Witches Hat.  Whichever way you pick, you still win and you will have a really nice magical name when you are all done.   If and when you find your magical name, you might want to have a ritual to bless, dedicate and celebrate your new magical name.  This is also a good time to have your Temple or Study Group join in this joyous celebration with you. Once again, you can make a party of it.

  Also, I wanted to take the time to mention that a magical name might be used in a public or community program, like a fund-raising project, or something along those lines.  A name like:   ‘The Dark Sister Moon Coven’  may not work as well as another choice might. A more socially acceptable version of the same name would be something like this:

   ‘The Temple of Luna Sisters’

See, this way it has a softer feel to it, yet still Wiccan.  But if you are looking for the shock value, and believe me some are, that just might work for you or your group. It’s up to you and your group.  I do trust you are on a much kinder path.. “Please, don’t scare the babies”  Wink!

        Once again, remember, It’s all about the magic in our lives and the other lives we choose to share it with...

The magic is truly everywhere..  So, do have fun with it.

Words of Advice:

      Choosing a magical name can be a liberating experience. Freedom by nature usually is. We live in a time that allows us great freedom, unseen in the past be fore.  In this our pagan world we live, we still have a very long way to go, too feel totally free. We should use what freedom we do have wisely. With that being said...

         For some people just having a magical name is a toe out of the broom closet and yes, by all means for some people it is a really big deal. This may or may not be you.  You may want to stop and think, do you want to be out of the broom closet with your magical name or not?

         You can try keeping your magical name secret if you want to. But do know this: secrets have a funny way of leaking out, if you know what I mean.   It is best to keep a notebook, a journal or a book of shadows of your ideas; so that you will not forget any really good magical names you might come up with.  And who knows, you might find it is fun to look back and see how you have grown with time.  Try to avoid descriptive terms like little or young. They can and often do change in time, and may no longer fit you or the path you are on today.

A name like: Young Star, Dream Child, Little Ones or Baby Dove, is a very good example of this.

         You can have as many magical names as you wish but remember to keep them to a minimum, too many names can be a mouth full and even harder for someone to recall.  You won’t seem too wise if you or anyone else for that matter can’t remember your magical name. You can have more then one name at any given time.  Most pagans do. It’s like a first name and a last name.

        You might even grow out of one magical name and grow into a brand-new one. You can change your magical name as you grow, but do ponder this:   some people might find it very hard or next too impossible to see you in any other light. You might be stuck with your first magical name. Ouch!  Due to this, you may only get one chance with your magical name.  One shot, if you will. Your name just might be with you for a very, very long time, even if you don’t like it or want it any longer and in some rare cases maybe longer then you even thought it possible.   Double ouch!!  So, it’s best to take your time. Think first and choose well.

         Another thing is, try to check around and see if someone else has the name you have chosen. It would be quite confusing if two of you have the same name, at the same time and even in the same place.  What a mess that could be. Most of all you would not want to hurt anyone’s feelings by taking their name without asking. You got to know by now.  This is so much about respect for each other.   In summary, this could be a whole lot of trouble for you that you can and should avoid. With care and respect, I trust you will select your name.

         You may want to have your magical name as your legal name. I know of a friend that did this very thing. It can be done by contacting a good attorney in your city or area.  The only downfall to this process is, it can be quite costly and will take some time to do.  But yes, it can be done. The most important thing I can say to you is don’t try too hard.  You’ll know the right magical name the very first time you hear it. I know lots of people that did, the very first time they heard their magical name. As a matter of a fact, I did. So, you are in good company.

         We do not, in any way, use our magical names as a mask for mischievous behavior or to bash anyone. This is just not a good thing. No matter how you look at it, you should play carefully when kidding around with others. Some people are very sensitive. Remember respect?

        Consider the consequences of doing such an act. What it would mean to you. How would you feel?  The law of Karma applies here. “All that you do will come back to you in this very life time.”

        Oh! And let’s not forget about the Wiccan Rede. Yes, this would apply here as well.                                            “Do as you will, but harm none.”

         This is a quote from a very wise Lady so dear to my heart. One cold day over a cup of hot tea, she told me this and I thought I would share it with you.

           “Magic is in the words we use to communicate with each other. One little word can give us so many images and feelings.  It is really hard not to see the magic that is in the words we use every single day.”

      This is so very true. And it holds the test of time...

           ~Think about it..

Closing Thoughts:

        I trust in time you will find a name that is just right for you, or your temple, or your study group.   Yet, it may come to pass that you will not feel the need for a magical name. This is totally acceptable. It’s fine, if you don’t have nor want a magical name at all. Yep, it’s that respect thing again!

        Let’s go a bit deeper on this subject. As I said, your given name can work as your magical name as well. Think of it like this: your given name was a gift to you by the people that love you. You can keep it, if you like. You don’t have to have a magical name at all to be a pagan or to feel the magic in your life. Again, magic is everywhere... I know lots of pagans that do not have or want a magical name. And it’s Ok! It’s totally up to you!  It’s all a part of freedom. It’s good to have a choice!

        For some people, this might be the first time you’ve thought about a magical name. Know that, just by taking this small step, it is a step in the right magical direction.  I do welcome you.  For others this might be a well-worn path you know deeply. Yet, you’ve not picked a name. Perhaps it’s time for your magical name too. I wish you the very same.

        With this in mind, you should be off in pursuit of your magical name. I wish you to have a fun and a really good time in finding your new magical name.

        I would like to thank you so much for taking this course. I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I did.  ( It was a labor of love for me.)

        Please do more research and study on this topic. If you want to know more about it, just reach out and you will find it. The magic is everywhere. Just Look for It!

        Most of all, I hope you found the material here useful on your new or old magical path. If you have any questions on this course, please feel free to contact me at.  reannamarie888@yahoo.com

        Once again, Thank You and May the Blessing be upon you and yours, always and forever.  Take care, with light and love.

        Merry Part!

           Reanna Marie

Study Guide:

This is a study guide of books from my personal library. I found them to be most useful and thought you could reference for more inspirational help, if needed..

        I did not in anyway quote these authors. This course  is created by me and all of the material is in my own words.

   \* The Gods, encyclopedia of

        By: Michael Jordan

   \* The Birthdays, hidden world of

        By: Judith Turner

   \* The Runes, book of

        By: Ralph Blum

   \* Herbs & Things

        By: Jeanne Rose’s Herbal

   \* The Chinese Astrology, secrets of

        By: Derek Walters

   \* Animal Speaks

        By: Ted Andrews

   \* The Crystal Zodiac

        By: Judy Hall

   \* The Instant Tarot Reader

        By: Farber & Zerner