

What does magic do?

Many people get interested in magic for all sorts of reasons, but in truth, very few novices have any real idea what magic does and more importantly, what it doesn't do.

The popular image of the magician for people who do not do magic, is of an individual who can curse, kill, bless, get money, power, the ultimate girlfriend, and so forth. This is perceived as happening as a result of 'spells' and rituals where the magician commands spirits and powers to give them what they want, and the goods fall at their feet.

This is a fantasy which has been perpetrated by movies, stories, and shysters who write bullshit books, run very expensive courses and even more expensive consultations. And these days it is a fantasy that is touted on internet forums where inadequate fools hide behind anonymity and present an all-knowing all-powerful front – in truth they are often isolated depressed and powerless folks who hate their life and their job. Or they are just nuts.

Magic is far more complicated and interesting than Friday night spells in your basement in order to get laid over the weekend. If I was to define magic, which is a tough job in itself, I would say that *magic is the power to influence things by working with natural forces*. It is not as sexy as the 'Dragon ritual drawn from the Dark Grimoire of Asdamodeus (a pun on the name of a UK supermarket owned by a predatory US company, for those who are confused), used to summon untold riches' - the fantasy of the pubescent online gamer.

To explain to a beginner what magic is and what it can do, and to be as clear and truthful as possible, instead of 'easy speak' it is better to zoom right out and look at it from a different perspective to our everyday mundane lives. Let's look at not what it can do and give us, but what it looks like in action. There are two ways to look at magic in action, one is to look at what the magician does, i.e. is he or she doing a ritual, drawing a sigil, or doing a vision? Or we can jump outside of the physical universe and look at what is happening 'beyond the veil' of the known world.

The complex web of fate and time

Imagine this: if you draw back the veil on life, and look at it as a magician, what you may see is akin to a complex multidimensional pattern or web that is alive, conscious, and constantly adapting and changing. Imagine it as a series of interconnecting multi-dimensional expressways that cross over, briefly merge, or interconnect/bridge at bright points. The bright/hot spots are like focal points of condensed power/energy under pressure. The expressways in the pattern are paths of fate, of life/lives lived, no matter it be a human, a tree, or whatever.

In a mundane life, we travel along those expressways, and we change paths/routes, hit dead ends or blockages, or get burned/obliterated or energised by a bright spot. Our lives are a limited measure of physical existence, and how we navigate through that life on the expressway of fate depends upon our actions, intent, choices, or/and the actions, intent and choices of others. It also depends on nature, on where we live, and the complex interweave of various fates interacting, be it individual fates, or the fate of nations.

In a magical life, a trained or self-developed magician essentially has learned how to not be a passive passenger. Many magicians also learn how to first be aware that there are many non-physical beings/spirits/whatever that also interact with this 'web' and they have a very different

skill set to humans: we can do things they cannot, and most importantly they can do things and see things we cannot. Working with beings in magic can at times be like having an inner ‘SatNav’ onboard.

Building a mutually beneficial relationship with these non-physical beings, enables the magician to access into ‘sight ahead of what is hidden from the magician’, to be warned of danger, and to work on changing something that would be impossible or at least very difficult for a human: what a human cannot do, there are beings that can. The magician in turn does things to help the non-physical (inner) beings when asked and when it is within the ethos of the magician. The key to such relationships, to making them safe, stable and productive, is in the introduction phase of the relationship: the magician does not ask for something, rather the magician asks, *what do you need?* By giving first, you open the door with true intent and without ulterior motives, and magician begins to forge a relationship with a being or beings that can mature into a mutually productive and helpful union.

Together, the magician and their fellow non-physical beings travel along the web of fate (life) and times, and interact with each other to affect change. The magician also learns how to ‘look ahead’ on the road they are travelling on this web by developing their own inner sight and divination skills, and learns how to avoid unnecessary calamity, and how to survive necessary calamity.

In the process of the magical navigation of the highway of fate, the first most important driving force being survival, the magician also learns a great deal about the hidden world around them, and they learn about how fate works in its complexity. This in turn teaches the magician the complexity of real magic, of cause and effect, of power contraction and expansion, and the necessity for destruction as well as creation. That all sounds very highbrow, but it is what is beneath the lid in magic: it appears very different ‘under the hood’ to how it appears in our lives and practice.

Magic and fate in action

Magic is using skill, knowledge, tools, foresight, and methods to navigate this complex highway safely, efficiently, and to have what you need (not want) when you need it in order to achieve what you are trying to achieve.

Often a magicians’ work is doing something for someone or something else other than their own interests, as by doing so it also helps the magician on their own path. That is not about being selfless but about being smart – once you realise that we are all interconnected on this vast highway, you find that many times your actions for others has an effective knock on effect on your own journey. That is of course if your magic for the ‘other’ was compatible: if you get it badly wrong, the knock-on effect for yourself can often be very difficult. Think of it like harmonics of sound and vibration – if the ‘vibration’ is right, anything close by will start to vibrate at the same frequency – everything connected and interconnected with that part of the pattern will come into harmony. This is how a magician can affect everything around them by their magical actions.

To take it down to very simple terms, let’s look at how a simple magical act can affect the fate journey of the magician and the person they have focused their magic on. These are things to seriously think about when getting into magic, not to put you off doing magic, but in order for you to understand that magic is far more complex in its reach than it appears on the surface,

and also that just like life, actions can have consequences, particularly if those actions are ill thought out or done in ignorance.

Possible consequences of magic

No magical act happens in a vacuum, nothing can be truly isolated – every magical act is going to potentially affect who or whatever is connected to the situation, and sometimes beyond.

Magical consequences can be good or bad, or a mix of both, depending upon how fast you learn from experience, and how much you think things through and pay attention. Here is a hypothetical scenario, a sort of event that is all too common in early magic when beginners fall for the bullshit put out that magic can give you anything you want. I have lost count of the amount of people who have contacted me when their first successful foray into magic went badly wrong, and this scenario is based very strongly on events that have happened to people.

Example of magic in action

A guy who has been dabbling in magic but is still in the early phase of understanding it, decides to do a ritual to get his girlfriend back. She walked out on him a couple of weeks ago and he was devastated, and then angry. He does a ritual, calls upon beings etc, to force her to ‘come back’. His first mistake is not understanding that magic for the most part will not force someone to love you. His second mistake was a poor choice in the wording of what he wanted. The ritual worked because, unknown to this guy, he is a ‘natural’ at magic – some folks are just like that, and it happens more often than folks realise.

So, she ‘comes back’. She appears at his door and he is elated.... It worked!! Except the dumbass only asked that she ‘come back’. Well here she is, banging on the door. However, when he opens the door and lets her in, she tells him she is only back to pick up a few things she left behind. Because magic was involved in forcing that action (she may not have decided to come back to pick things up if she had not been nudged by magic), there is a lot of ‘energy’ built up around the situation (a bright spot on the highway.... Remember the complex highway?). Both he and her have a weird sense of heightened emotion – she is fearful but not quite sure why, so she is ready for a fight, and he is filled with a sense of triumph, power and elation.

He lets her into the house and tells her he is so glad she is back. She turns around and tells him she is not ‘back’ but she has come to pick some items up she had forgotten about. They start arguing and it descends down into a fight. The magic that is around the situation (the bright spot) is unbalanced and unstable, and the beings he called on and commanded to force this situation were not the beings he thought they were – he did not have the knowledge or understanding of how to differentiate between certain types of beings. He simply trusted the grimoire/book that outlined the ritual.

The beings were simply inner parasites, beings that feed off emotion and energy, beings that will inflame a situation through emotion in order to get a good dinner. The beings sensed a good dinner in the emotional outbursts so they joined in the conflict, leaning on the heightened emotions of the two humans in order to amplify them. The fight became physical and the girlfriend got injured and knocked about. She called the police. He was horrified as he had never hit a woman before let alone injured one – and a rage burned within him that he knew was not him, or normal for him.

So of course, it ended badly – she had a restraining order on him, he was arrested and charged. She never spoke to him again, and he suffered from the fall out of the arrest and subsequent court appearance.

Sound dramatic? This happens all the time with magical dabbling... A difficult situation can become a disastrous one, and it happens on a regular basis. So what happened magically? Let's look at this from many different angles in depth, as it will give you a better understanding of magic both in its basics and also its more powerful hidden side.

The basic action

We will first look at this at 'ground level', and see what sort of actions led to such a sad result for two good people going through a difficult time.

Magical acts by beginners are usually actions they have taken out of a book or a grimoire. Most beginners who are new to magic are not able to differentiate between a book written by a true magician and a book written by a hack who is full of shit and wants to make money and/or a name for themselves, or a magician who has no ethics and is heavily parasite – they will sell dangerous stuff just to make money. Some magical writers are literally only a 'a page ahead of their readers' meaning they themselves are also more or less beginners and do not fully understand what magic is or what it can or cannot do. The only way to learn to differentiate is to 'do' and learn for yourself, which usually means making a lot of mistakes.

Grimoires are a different beast entirely. Some are real and have magic buried beneath trash – at a first glance you see X but when you look deeper with knowledge, you see Y emerging. And some were just babble that was handed down from generation to generation by people who did not know better. Bear in mind though that at the times most grimoires were collated, it was a time of religious control and a heavy-handed community that saw magic as the work of the devil. So a lot of real magic is hidden in layers beneath a surface presentation – that in itself can be a mine field for a beginner.

Our hapless beginner got hold of a ritual that was said to 'bring to you what you want' or it may have been a specific one on how to 'get someone back'. Such rituals usually have instructions to 'use something belonging to the person', and may involve invocations of angels or demons: what actually turns up (if anything does) tends to be a parasite dressing up as what you wanted to call. The being does not physically appear to the magician, contrary to popular belief (and moron bullshit), rather the being comes into the energetic space of the magician and talks or interacts with the magician through their mind. The being, if it does connect, will affect/alter the fate web of the people the ritual is meant to affect by amplifying emotional thought and reaction. Intelligent parasites can nudge situations, plant ideas into weak minds, and inflate an ego in someone so that they end up overstepping their capabilities. These beings usually want something in return: an energetic dinner that can be anything from masturbation, killing something to feed off the energy of the event, or an emotionally charged ritual that feeds them.

When such a magical act is done in the heat of emotions, that draws more power/energy to the ritual, and some magicians work with that energy to transform it into fuel to power the ritual. However, if you really don't know what you are doing, the energy/power that gathers when magic and emotion are brought together can quickly get feral and out of control, and again, it also attracts spirits that feed from emotion. All of these things when they come together in a

magical act can potentially affect or alter the fate web/complexity of fate of the magician and whoever is connected to the ritual. So you can imagine how it can get messy pretty quickly.

So how does it work?

When most beginners dabble in magic, thankfully little or nothing happens. They either give up and move onto something else, or they become more determined and set out on a quest to learn more. But the occasions when beginner actions do work are down to a few variables. If the ritual intent is aligned with the actual current active fate of the beginner, i.e. the pathways or strands of fate the person is currently within that will manifest as events, the ritual can trigger those strands of fate to become stronger, more condensed, and more active.

So for example, if the man had instead of asking for her to ‘come back’ had asked for help to repair the relationship by helping him see what went wrong, and how to fix it, and the fate path was aligned to such an intent, then the magic would likely have been very successful: it would create enough of a nudge for necessary change to occur. What would likely have happened was, after the ritual, he would have had dreams, his outer every day attention would be drawn strongly to look at others in relationships to see how his problem is mirrored in others, his fate would have been strengthened so that he bumped into key people at a key time who could have given him excellent advice, or he may have bumped into his ex-girlfriend and had the opportunity to talk to her. Through talking/interaction, with a strengthened fate path, it could be enough to nudge the ex-girlfriend into giving him a second chance. After that it would be up to him to recognise his side of what went wrong (there are always two sides) and to try and be a better partner.

The key with magic, be it for personal help, or for help in something beyond the individual, is to think very carefully before you act magically, and then work with the process, putting your own effort in too. In Ancient Egypt, which was rich with magic, two key components were considered paramount for success: Heka and Sia. One without the other was worthless: Heka is magic, and Sia is *perception* (a literal translation). Perception in this case means using intelligence, paying attention, and thinking carefully before engaging the magic.

When most people first get into magic, they have no reference points upon which to draw wisdom or judgement, beyond the usually touted, ‘harm none’, and then they often go on to harm someone in order to get what they want. So here is a check list to think about when you first start dipping into magic.

- 1- If it isn't broken, don't fix it
- 2- Free Will – your magic should not go against the free will or destiny of a person, place or thing.
- 3- Don't use a hammer to crack a nut - exhaust all mundane options before using magic. If you jump to magic straight away to solve an issue, particularly if it is personal to you, you will end up weakening yourself. Use your time to develop magically, and then use it when necessary, when mundane options have run out.
- 4- When in doubt, when you come across something you don't understand or an action you are not sure of, think about it in mundane terms.... If it is something you would not do physically in life (like kill or attack someone), don't do it magically.
- 5- Trust your instincts
- 6- If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- 7- Tend to your own business and boundaries: defend but do not attack – this goes against modern thinking but it is an ancient wisdom that still holds true. Defend your shit, mind

your own shit, and ignore everyone else's shit. In time, you will learn to develop strong boundaries that are worked with in cooperation with other beings that make attack an obsolete option.

Things to think about

Catalyst

Magic triggers changes, and no matter how experienced the magician, you cannot possibly understand or see all the potential variables that can trigger as a result of magical action. That should not stop you from working with magic, but it should give you pause for thought: you will make mistakes, everyone does, the key is to learn from them and not make the same mistake repeatedly, or repeat other people's mistakes.

Small Steps

In order to develop strength, perception, skills and knowledge, training or learning in magic is the same as training or learning a major sport or classical art. Small steps taken regularly and carefully help you develop the 'magical muscle' slowly. That gives you a good strong foundation and helps your body and mind adapt to power of magic.

Action/reaction magic

Most magic in the early days of a person's magical life is about reaction. Action is where magic is used to trigger something new or wake something up, and reaction magic is a response to something. Understanding the difference between the two can be very helpful for beginners, as it gives you a better awareness of cause and effect, and how magic can fill a situation in a good way or a bad way.

Another way to put this is that action magic is where the magic starts a new cycle. Reaction magic is where the magic intervenes in an already ongoing situation. Being able to clearly identify which is which is of paramount importance to the magician, as the outcomes will be very different for all involved.

Above all, magic is the most fascinating, infuriating, beautiful and complex path a human can walk in life.

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