**Traditional Methods of Creating SAFE Magickal Space**

**Wicca** frequently uses casting a ritual Circle used to create “sacred space” that is considered “between the worlds.” This usually includes invoking / summoning the Four Elements / directions / Watchtowers, which evolved from Western Esoteric Traditions of magick. While in the Circle, deities and other entities are invoked / evoked / summoned. Magick is performed and energy is raised and released in a “cone of power”.

Many of these techniques come from Eastern England, the New Forest Area, the Midlands and Kent, and were told to Gerald B. Gardner. He also used other sources.

**British Traditional Witchcraft** uses different techniques for creating a “sacred space” or a safe place to work magick within. The area is usually called a “Compass” and the ceremony is called “Hallowing the Compass”. The compass is usually drawn outdoors. Note: All places in Nature are considered sacred or holy, but the compass is special as a meeting place between human witches and magickal beings. The major purpose of the compass is to keep baneful influences out while performing magick, and to welcome entities.

**Doth and Rig**: A doth is a wooden peg, which is driven into the ground. A rig is a nine-foot long rope or cord attached to the peg, with a little room to spare for a knot, which makes a perfect nine-foot Compass. The rope is carried around the circumference – clockwise, sunwise, or deosil (pronounced jesh-ill) for invoking or creating; anti-clockwise, wraingaits, or widdershins for banishing or removing.

**Scythe and Besom**: A scythe and besom (hay-cutting sickle and broom) are placed at the East. These represent farm labor and housework. Participants must swear an oath and step over the tools to enter the Compass area. These guardians protect participants from harmful influences.

**Stang**: Also called a staff, moonrake, gwellan, or ermula, the Stang represents the Bucca / Buca / Horned Lord / Stag King. There are antlers on top to capture sky / lunar / solar energies, and the bottom is placed against the earth or buried like a flagpole to draw earth / clthonic energies. Objects are tied to it to represent certain things, such as fertility, imagination, safety, etc. The person carrying the stang becomes an avatar (is possessed by) the entity. Placed in the North, the Stang draws power from sky and land, which courses upward and opens like an umbrella over the ceremony and participants. Some stangs have a nail in the bottom for grounding.

The Compass can also be a ditch dug around a permanent ceremonial space, filled with water or oil; a chalk outline, an outline of red thread, and /or can be a “treading the mill” location.

Many of these techniques come from Cornwall and Western England as told to Robert Cochrane.

(See Reverse)

**Traditional Methods of Creating SAFE Magickal Space** (2)

**British Isles Folkloric Traditions** do not usually use either a ritual Circle or Compass, and do not summon / invoke the Elements / Directions.

Smaller individual Rituals are done at home, in the workplace, in the garden & fields, or in Nature, and thus are in space that has already been ritually protected by talismans / apotropaic sigils. Individuals are kept safe by amulets and personal protection chants and sigils. They may also choose to shield themselves against harmful influences.

Larger group Rituals usually take the form of a folkplay, folk dance, or a ritual procession or parade. Individuals wear protective amulets and engage in shielding, grounding, and centering prior to the rite. Further, if a person is performing as an avatar (engaging with an entity, being “possessed”, evoking, taking on the form of a being) the ritualist will compartmentalize or separate their own psyche from that of the entity. The person portraying a magickal being will then resume their own identity after the rite is completed.

Energy or power is raised and held during the course of the rite, directed into objects / talismans, or sent remotely for a purpose, such as healing. Usually, an individual is designated to purposefully direct the power into the desired object or send the energy to a recipient. The person doing so is often an elder, or a person with a disability who cannot march in a parade, or dance; thus they are empowered to gather and send the magickal energy to its outcome.

**Shielding**, **Grounding**, Centering: **Why** – Preventing feelings of anxiety, feelings of depression (not those clinical diseases), “hyperactivity” or conversely, feeling sluggish, fatigued, low-energy.

Walk-thru shielding techniques. Test shields if desired.

Folkplays and ritual processions are performed throughout the British Isles and some locales where immigrants from these areas settled. The technique of shielding, avataring, and sending remote energy comes from Southeastern Wales and the Marches (borderlands with England) as told to A.C. Fisher Aldag.

You’ll get a chance to learn about this traditional technique tonight at the folkplay!