

# Baneful Magick

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## Introduction

How many times have we heard the terms “Psychic Attack” or “Baneful Magick” or even simply “Curse”? Many times to be sure, especially by phone around 3am if you are a third degree. Most times it is either the “victim’s” imagination making a not-so-silent plea for attention or inadvertent manifestations of negative energy from insufficiently trained individuals or groups.

True “Witch Wars” are uncommon and never waged without forethought and a damn good reason.

While baneful magick is specifically prohibited in the bylaws of most Wiccan traditions, many, including the Famtrad Coven I grew up in, require learning the mechanics of it in order to help the initiate with basic defenses against real attacks, and recognition of imaginary ones.

Baneful Magick usually falls in four categories:

1. Passive
2. Active
3. Binding
4. Construct

The scope of this paper loosely covers theory only and in no way advocates the use of baneful magick. Bear in mind the three fold law always. It is as immutable as the law of gravity, and there is no appeal. That being said, on to the first concept: Passive (a.k.a. Reflective) Spells.

## Passive (a.k.a. Reflective) Spells

Passive Spells reflect or block the energy of another. Since they do nothing to the person themselves, and only revisit what will and intent that person externalizes, these spells are not true Baneful magick. That being said, it’s really the intent that counts karmically, so be careful about when where, and to whom you use a passive spell on. One of my personal favorites is:

“May you be dealt with as fairly as you deal with others.”

If spoken to an individual who either deals fairly with others or to a person who makes a concerted effort to turn their attitudes around in a positive direction, it is a blessing. If otherwise, well, it may not be so positive. In either case, the choice is theirs.

In a passive spell, your words spoken with magickal will and intent neither bind nor do any harm, Rather it’s the person’s own action reflected upon themselves. Behave rightly by your own standards, treat others with the same care you would want to be treated with, and you have nothing to worry about from a reflective spell.

## Active spells

Active spells are also called Curses. In this case a direct curse is has to be spoken to the victim. They are unconditional and clear. As an example:

“As I am a witch, the tides will claim your castles of sand.  
A fortnight shall pass, your fortune shall turn and and your enemies will band.”

This, though necessarily vague due to the context, when spoken at a target, directly curses them with a dire prediction. In order to convey the will and intent, and focus the target's attention, it is usually delivered with rhyme or theatrical flourish.

Note that the victim's attention is needed for this curse. This is because the curse itself has no power, other than the energy supplied by the victim. Something will go wrong as things often do, but this time is different. This time the victim thinks about the curse and *blames it for a normal misfortune*. As the days and weeks wear on, the energy the person lends to the curse builds until it ends by the victim's death, completion of the course, or reconciliation between the victim and the source of the curse.

The best defense against this sort of thing is humor. People have known for years that if you can laugh at something, it can not harm you. This is because not only are you denying the person doing the cursing your energy to use against you, you may cause them to loose their own ability to effect the curse, literally taking the wind out of their sails.

## Binding Spells

Binding spells use something of the target's to tie the magical working to them. This is usually accomplished by rummaging through the target's garbage or outright theft. Items which bind well should be very specific to the person. It is said that menstrual blood for a female, or semen from a male victim is best, but a magickal tool from the victim works well too because of the energy they have imbued it with.

This type of magick is very powerful and directed. They do not require participation or belief by the victim, as these use sympathetic magick rather than direct. The best defense against this sort of thing is a good, well, defense. Guard those things could which bid you, and know where your tools are.

## Magickal Constructs

Magickal Constructs are fascinating things, and may be used for good or ill. In order to understand what they are, you must at least consider the fact that belief creates entity. If you believe in something, it will exist with all the energy will and intent you imbue it with. For these to have an effect on another, they too must believe, either from a cultural superstitious point of view, or through the words of the one creating the entity. These are best created and maintained by a group since the beliefs of many can overshadow the beliefs of a single target, though as with a curse, often the victim's own energy is used against them.

There are many ways to deal with a construct. Running screaming out of the house naked is not one I recommend, since it'll get you talked about, and lends energy to the construct's purpose. My personal favorite is to deal with it in the way you would the person who sent the thing to you. Offer it the same hospitality you would the person (be polite). This does two things. First, it subverts the thing's purpose and denies it more of your subconscious energy (id) other than the belief in it's existence. Second, as it weakens it will all seem ludicrous to you... having tea with a golem... Hahahah! The humor and mirth, coupled with the disbelief will make it all go away with much less energy than it took to bring it to bear.

Your belief, humor, and living in accordance to the rules of your faith are the best defense against the dark.