

# The Mage Staff

## In various traditions

### The Staff

The mage staff is made of hard wood, like cedar or oak, avoiding maple, pine, or other soft woods. It should be a 1 inch diameter, average. It can be purchased in a hardware store, or a branch can be used if it is long enough and straight enough.

Staff should be just a bit shorter than the height of the mage when standing. The position of the handle should be where the mage feels comfortable to put his right hand on the staff, leaving enough free space on the top part of the staff. If mage travels a lot, the staff can be shortened greatly, so that only a few inches are above his handle.

On the top of the staff, there will be a quartz crystal inserted. It can be a clear quartz point, or a white quartz sphere. The diameter of the quartz piece can be from  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch, to the full width of the staff. The top of the staff will be chiselled to insert  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the quartz point, or sphere, fixed with epoxy glue. Epoxy is organic, and is recommended for all gluing requirements in the fabrication of items used for magic rituals. The easiest way to chisel the top end of your staff, is to: 1) Mark the center of your staff with a carbon pen, 2) drill with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch bit, about the depth you wish, 3) use a construction cutting knife, point of the blade in the center of the whole, rotating your staff to open up the sides of the hole evenly until it can fit the rock or bead you will use. If you use a clear crystal point, you might need a drill bit as big as the point. Once you are done with the hole, use sandpaper on the outer edge of your staff, to round it down and make a smooth top. You could draw small flames with color, or just black ink, on the top of your staff, before you fix the stone with epoxy glue.



The bottom of the staff should be covered with copper, or glued with a flat earth style stone (jasper, agate, black obsidian, as long as it is flat). It is easy to find a perfect-fit 1 inch copper cap in the plumbing section of a hardware shop. If you use a stone, and not the copper ending, the bottom edge of your staff should also be sandpapered a bit, before you glue the stone on. Don't paint the copper, leave it untouched. To polish your copper cap, once in a while, use steel fibre or strong sandpaper.

## Symbols and stones

Symbols will be drawn on the staff. The symbol should be drawn with black ink, using a small brush. It is essential to practice drawing the symbols a few times on paper, before you actually draw them on the staff, because it is hard to correct mistakes on the staff. Any unevenness of symbols adds to the artistic value and personality of the staff, so it is perfectly acceptable to have symbols that are not too precise. We do not wish computer quality symbols, but hand-drawn symbols. A short prayer will be done on the ink and the brush, to bless it, just before you use it.

Identify the front of the staff, which will be the part always shown towards the altar or subject of your ritual. In the front, 1 inch away from the top of the staff, the mage will draw a universal symbol. The Kabbalist will draw an Aleph, and the Hindu/Buddhist will draw their symbol of OM.

In the back of the staff, behind the main symbol, will be drawn a sun. It can be the symbol of the sun in astrology (a circle with a dot in the middle) or a circle with apparent flames, if you are artistic enough.

At the bottom of the staff, 1 inch away from the bottom, in front, will be drawn the symbol of the world. The Kabbalist will draw a Tav. Both the Hindu and Buddhist will draw the active swastika (Hindu style).

At the bottom of the staff, behind, will be drawn the symbol of the moon, or a moon crescent, one third growing (top and bottom points towards the left, convex on the right).

At the top of the staff, a bit below the universal symbol, a flat stone representing the soul will be glued in a softly chiselled part. You can use a circle or triangle stone, but not a square one. It does not have to be an even shape. You can use a lapis lazuli for soul states, a tiger eye for perception, an amethyst for higher vibrations. It is to the choice of the mage.

## The handle

The handle should be delimited by leather or an organic fabric. Black or brown leather is easy to come by. A band of leather, 4 to 6 inches, can be glued on the staff so that the overlap would appear in the back. A lace of leather can be laced 2 to 4 times at the top and base of the handle, to give a good look. The laces are knotted and glued.

For artistic purposes, you can line a leather lace down the handle that would also give texture to your grip, or put an extra one in the center of your handle. It is important not to glue the laces until you are certain about the feeling it gives you.



If your handle is only delimited by drawings, then you should draw two black lines to delimit your handle area. Drawing patterns on the handle is acceptable.

## Other symbols

For the part of the staff between the handle and the top and bottom symbols, the mage may draw other symbols of his own choice, when he understands the art of magic, as long as there is a reasonable space (1-2 inches) between the main symbols and the other ones.

A kabbalist might draw a small tree of life above his handle, and draw the other 20 letters (beith to shin) below the handle. Names of god could be placed behind the staff, in small letters. Be creative, yet always respecting the rules of correspondence and balance.

Trinkets may also be placed on the staff. A set of 4 plated Kuan-Yin could be hanging on leather lace or cords, one in each direction (front, left, back, right). A Native American would like to have feathers near the top of his staff. Other rocks can be put on the staff, as long as they don't see more imposing than the main rocks.

In any case, the mage should draw symbols and add trinkets that he knows will work with universal magic laws. This should be a personalized aspect of the staff. Color may be added, but keep the main symbols black.

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