

The  
*Witching Hour*  
O R A C L E

SAMPLE

By Cherie Gerhardt

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*I would like to thank my amazing  
husband, Todd, for always  
supporting me on my crazy and  
creative adventures.*

*My child, Alana, for always  
encouraging and believing in my  
artistic escapades.*

*And my best friend, Tamera, for  
always fixing my grammar and her  
faithful support in my garbage art.*

*Without the three of you  
I would be lost.*

— Cherie Gerhardt

# INTRODUCTION

## The Witching Hour and Its Magick

Magick, spelled with a “k”, is not a supernatural force as it is often depicted in movies and fantasy novels. Magick is used by pagan and neopagans (witches) alike and is akin to prayer in mainstream religions. You don’t need to be a pagan or a witch to tap into your magickal power. Magick lies within us all.

Magick occurs when an individual uses their thoughts, words, intentions and their actions to project positive energy into the universe in order to impact their world with affirmative change. Magick is also living in balance with the flow of life and recognizing that you are a vital force within that flow.

The Witching Hour is the time, most commonly thought to be somewhere between the hours of 2 AM and 4 AM, when the energy of the universe is strongest. It is a time when the positive energy of magick is at its apex, allowing for the

most potent outcomes. It is also a time when the veil between the spirit realm and the mortal world is at its sheerest, allowing us to tap into this otherworldly, infinite energy and use it in our magickal workings. Each *Witching Hour Oracle* card features an illustrated background that emphasizes the infinite power of the universe and the unique atmosphere of this hallowed hour.

## **Maiden, Mother and Crone: The Three Faces of the Goddess**

For those of us who walk the neopagan path, a modern religious movement that seeks to incorporate beliefs or ritual practices from traditions outside the main world religions and worship the gods of old, we are no strangers to the indoctrinating teachings and symbolization of the Triple Goddess. The Goddess is viewed as the triune of the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone, which symbolizes separate stages in the female life cycle, and which align with the phases of the lunar moon cycle. It is these three separate earthly

stages that we worship as one feminine divine being, the Goddess.

The Maiden aspect of the Goddess aligns with the beginning of the lunar moon cycle during the crescent to the Waxing Moon. The Goddess in this form represents the continuation of life and the repeating of endless cycles of birth and rebirth of the body and soul. The Maiden is associated with the qualities of adolescence, innocence, and self-confidence. With the Maiden's intelligence and independence, she guides us to explore the worlds around and within ourselves, allowing for the birth of self-discovery, self-expression, and creativity. Even though the Maiden is associated with adolescence, anyone at any time in their life can experience her and her attributes. She is the part of the Goddess that leads us to the dawn of new beginnings.

As the Moon continues in its lunar cycle, the Mother aspect of the Goddess emerges with the Full Moon. Just as mortal mothers are closer with their young, so are we with this aspect of the Goddess. The Mother is more accessible to us on the

earthly realm, as the essence of her tends to lie within the forests and fields of the Earth. The Mother's essence is also rooted deep within all the creatures on this Earth that grow and mature into the fullness of their life.

The Goddess in this form represents the recreation of life and abundance within the world. The Mother aspect is associated with such qualities as responsibility, manifestation and creation. With the Mother's spirited yet nurturing attributes, she guides us through our lives, allowing us to make mature, responsible decisions. These decisions will enable us to manifest into the wondrous creations within ourselves and without. As with the Maiden aspect of the Goddess, you do not need to be a mother to appreciate the mature guidance of the Mother aspect. She is the part of the Goddess that helps us grow and become what we are meant to be in our lives.

As the Moon begins to wane in its lunar cycle, darkness begins to grow as the Crone aspect of the Goddess advances into her power. The Crone is one of the least understood aspects of the Goddess as she is often

referred to as the Hag or the Dark Mother because she is the aspect that relates to death and the end of life. But don't avoid the Crone, for she holds many significant aspects of the Goddess as well.

The Goddess in this form represents wisdom and counsel as she transforms us with her visions, her prophecy and her guidance. The Crone aspect guides us through our life and the gateway to death and reincarnation. She reminds us that death is part of the life cycle, just as the Waning Moon falls into the darkness of the New Moon and proceeds to be reborn with light again in the Waxing Moon. She makes us examine our lives with wise perspective, which makes us discern what is most important to our soul and then guides our choices to fulfill our greatest potential.

## **The Moon Cycle through the Lunar Year**

In today's neopaganism paths such as Wicca or Witchcraft, we are cognizant of the lunar cycle. This is not only for our practices and rituals but also how the phases of the Moon relate to the Goddess.



A lunar month is a month measured between successive New Moons. Since the lunar month cycle does not match our 365-day, 12-month calendar, the number of lunar month cycles varies from year to year. On average, there are 13 lunar month cycles (also known as Full Moon cycles) in a lunar year.

The 13 Moon calendar is comprised of elegantly simple cycles: the seven-day week and 28-day moon. The lunar days and the days of the week line up perfectly, week-to-week, and moon-to-moon. This makes the 13 moon/28-day calendar a perpetual calendar.

These monthly cycles of the Moon each hold their own traits, identity, and powers to those on the neopaganism path. Within *The Witching Hour Oracle*, I have included all 13 months to guide you.

Ever mind the rule of three.

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