



Amulets & Talismans for Beginners: How to Choose, Make & Use Magical Objects (For Beginners (Llewellyn's))

By Richard Webster

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Saint Christopher medals, ankhs, birthstones, four-leaf clovers-all are examples of magical objects used for protection or to attract good luck. This introductory guidebook tells you everything you need to know to make or find talismans, amulets, and charms, and use them to improve your life.

Author Richard Webster shows you, in his famous step-by-step manner, how to create, charge, purify, and empower your own personal magical objects for a variety of purposes, from attracting love to attaining wealth. You'll learn about protective amulets from around the world, including previously unpublished information on yantras, a form of talisman that is popular in India. This book even offers a dictionary of lucky charms, from acorns to wishbones.

Easy-to-use and engaging, *Amulets & Talismans for Beginners* was designed so even absolute beginners can achieve success with their own magical objects.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Richard Webster was born and raised in New Zealand. He has been interested in the psychic world since he was nine years old. As a teenager, he became involved in hypnotism and later became a professional stage hypnotist. After school, he worked in the publishing business and purchased a bookstore. The concept of reincarnation played a significant role in his decision to become a past-life specialist. Richard has also taught psychic development classes, which are based on many of his books.

Richard's first book was published in 1972, fulfilling a childhood dream of becoming an author. Richard is now the author of over a hundred books, and is still writing today. His best-selling books include *Spirit Guides & Angel Guardians* and *Creative Visualization for Beginners*.

Richard has appeared on several radio and TV programs in the United States and abroad including guest spots on Hard Copy, WMAQ-TV (Chicago), KTLA-TV (Los Angeles), KSTW-TV (Seattle) and the Mike and Matty Show (ABC). He currently resides in New Zealand with his wife and three children. He regularly travels the world to give lectures, workshops and to continue his research.

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People frequently use the words “talisman,” “amulet,” and “lucky charm” interchangeably. This is not correct, but it is easy to see how the confusion arises, as the dividing line between them is frequently hard to define. This chapter will help you understand the subtle distinctions between the three.

what are they?

Talismans

Talismans are objects designed to give specific power, protection, encouragement, and energy to those who wear or own them. The important thing to note is that talismans always provide *specific benefits* to their owners and are usually made for specific purposes.

Talismans can be made from almost any material, though they are frequently made of metal, stone, or parchment and are inscribed with words or pictures. They are often made at spiritually and cosmically significant times to help provide power and energy that can be used by whoever owns them. The most powerful ones are actually made by their owners. Although they can be created for both positive and negative purposes, it would take an extremely brave and foolish person to make a negative talisman deliberately.

History is full of examples of talismans at work.

Catherine de Medici, for instance, wore a specially made

talisman that gave her power and the gift of clairvoyance. It was formed from several metals mixed together at auspicious astrological times. One side of this talisman depicted the god Jupiter, the eagle of Ganymede, and a demon with the head of Anubis, an Egyptian god. The other side contained a picture of Venus, flanked by demons. It is believed that the Venus is actually a portrait of Catherine de Medici, because many talismans are in the form of a disc, one side of which depicts the owner, while the other illustrates whatever it is that he or she desires. Catherine de Medici's talisman was destroyed when she died, but a copy can be found in the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris.

Talismans are common even today?even if their users don't acknowledge them as such. People engaged in competitive activities frequently use items of clothing as a talismans to improve their performances. Vida Blue is an excellent example. Blue was a famous baseball pitcher in the 1970s and 80s. He believed that his cap brought him luck and made him pitch better. Consequently, for several seasons, he never went to the mound without that exact cap. After a number of years, the hat finally became so filthy and faded that league officials told Blue that he would be suspended if he did not change hats. Blue agreed and held a pregame ceremony to burn his old hat before putting on the new one. (Blue probably didn't know it, but he was using an ancient rite to say goodbye to his talisman.)

In Hong Kong, I have seen people who keep photographs and drawings of books and computers in their wallets and purses to help them become more academic. I also know someone who keeps a photograph of Jesus in his wallet. He has frequent eye problems, and carries the picture, even though he is not a Christian, because Jesus was known to heal the blind.

Talismans have also come in various natural forms. The earliest talismans were natural. Primitive people frequently used objects made from parts of animals. An eagle's feather, a shark's tooth, or a leopard's claw provided power and prestige to the wearer. A necklace made from the teeth of a predatory animal is another good example. This was intended to provide not only protection, but also to give the wearer some of the qualities of the animal the teeth originally belonged to. Someone wearing a necklace made from a beaver's teeth would become industrious, while someone wearing a shark's tooth would become strong, fierce, and energetic, for example.

Amulets

Unlike talismans, amulets are intended for more general

purposes and usually provide protection from danger. They can also ward off illness and ill fortune. While talismans are active, amulets are passive, reacting to events in the wearer's life rather than specifically creating something. (We expect amulets to provide protection, but occasionally the opposite occurs, and the amulet actually makes life more dangerous. The most famous example of this is the Hope Diamond, which caused misery and grief to everyone who owned it.)

Originally, amulets consisted of natural objects. "Lucky" rabbits' feet and four-leaf clovers are examples of such amulets. It wasn't long, though, before manmade objects became amulets, especially in the forms of various body adornments. Jewelry is still frequently used as an amulet.

An amulet can also be a specially made object you carry with you for protection. For example, St. Jude is considered the patron saint of policemen, and in the early twentieth century, many police officers in New York carried St. Jude medals with them to provide protection.

Lucky Charms

Lucky charms combine the qualities of both amulets and talismans. They are active like talismans and generalized like amulets. Charms are intended to attract good luck and good fortune to whoever owns them.

Originally, charms consisted of words that were either spoken or sung. The word "charm" itself is derived from the French word *charme*, meaning "song." The blessing that a priest gives at the end of a church service is an excellent example of a traditional charm. When people began writing the words down rather than saying them, charms became associated with magical objects like amulets and talismans.

People have used lucky charms to provide protection and attract success for things other than themselves. In 1968, contractors working on the Vanguard rocket project for the United States Navy said a succession of failures was caused by the absence of St. Christopher medals on the rockets. St. Christopher is widely considered to be the patron saint of travelers, and medals imprinted with his image are thought to protect people as they travel. A medal was attached to the next rocket, and it performed perfectly.¹

John's horseshoe ring mentioned in the introduction is also a good example of what I mean by lucky charm. It protected him, but it also brought good luck to him. (Incidentally, though it is not easy to find a blacksmith these days, it is well worth the effort. When you find one, ask the blacksmith to make you a ring from a horseshoe nail.

You will then own an unusual object that will attract good luck and provide protection against evil. A ring of this sort is the most effective lucky charm I have ever come across.)

As you can see, it is sometimes difficult to say if a certain magical object is an amulet, lucky charm, or talisman. In fact, it is not at all unusual to find one object performing all three functions depending on the beliefs of its owner. Essentially, though, talismans provide active power; amulets provide passive protection; and charms attract good luck and provide protection from bad. It probably makes no difference, in the end, what you call them, just as long as you choose the correct object for your specific needs. What follows will help you do just that.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Kelly:

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