

# Artemis Gathering 2014

## Scrying

### ***Divination***

What is divination? My experiences have led me to consider it to be partly a clairvoyant skill aided with symbolism to direct or reinforce the imagery. Sometimes it can be literal as in the case with 'by sortes', or **abstract symbolism** such as tea leaves. They all have common objectives though:

- **to either answer a specific question or a general what's coming.**
- **be those questions from the caster or a third party.**

Any elaboration of divination? Egyptian methods tended to focus on dream interpretation and oracles through animals (no entrails mind – that was Greek), and they were the most well known for it. Not until later times during the later external occupation forces were other forms introduced such as oil on water and astrology.

### ***How does scrying differ?***

So how does divination differ from scrying? I find scrying is **primarily a clairvoyant skill**, which I came to in a natural way as clairvoyancy is deeply embedded in many aspects of my path - visualisation and projection, communication with my goddess.

Scrying I have found has many uses apart from the aspect of divination, and this is backed up with various texts, one that comes to mind is by Konstantin in his book on thought forms (spirit evocation ????) where he points out that good scrying skills help with evocation - **essentially scrying is Dreaming with eyes open.**

~~As it is initiation based (good or bad), any medium can be used, the point is to create a soft focus and remove distraction so that the mind and visual cortex can be stimulated by internal and external influences.~~

How is this **dreaming with eyes open** achieved? To me the **medium of choice is really secondary** to the practice, it is only there to provide a means of soft focus and limit distraction from

random environmental effects. A soft **self hypnosis effect** if you will. However, the medium of choice can also be largely dependant on what you feel comfortable with, for example I've **never really got on with ink in a bowl of water, or a solid dark mirrored surface**. Perhaps that may be due to the inability for me to maintain a focus or undisturbed moment of thought for long enough, so I favour mediums where subtle or non-overly rapid change will maintain my attention while still inducing a relaxed meditative state. e.g. cloud, fire, moving water.

although we've moved to digital TV there may still be a use for those old analogue tuners I remember using them once - watching the static of a detuned TV picture.

Anyway, I will continue with this line as it will illustrate a point.

**I've long heard that over the last few decades the TV has become the focal point to many homes replacing the fireplace.** Many remark that the flickering lights of the TV emulate the flicker of the fire. Now whether this alludes to the fact that my preference in fire skrying has actually been practices 'unofficially' for centuries even by those not in the craft is interesting. There is certainly some comfort to be found there which may unwittingly lead to these scrying visions by those not consciously seeking them. Hence the flicker of the TV whether it be a program you have on in the background or even just static can be an interesting experiment.

You could quite easily slightly there is an element of self hypnosis. Fine. I'm not an expert in that area and to me, being the practical kind, once I've found tool that works then I will use it and perhaps at some point dig into why it works. But it gets the job done.

These as with divination systems there is interpretation through the use of symbolism, scrying for me can, still provide the symbolism but also instances of direct vision of an event, place, whatever or communication with spirit that is willing to help (most often my goddess in recent years).

## ***Benefits of scrying***

Apart from the divination use of scrying to which I will return to shortly, lets return to the other indirect benefits of scrying. As scrying is essentially visualisation with eyes open, there are a

number of aspects to **one's craft that could be impacted by this skill** - seeing auras, sensitivity to spirits, all areas of clairvoyance, evocation, energy work in general, or times where you would draw with energy, raising a circle, can be enhanced with regular focused scrying sessions.

On a deeper level the **dialogue you would have with yourself** during the scrying sessions will also aid you in understanding your inner self, and interpreting reoccurring imaginary, and that can benefit dream interpretation. Think of it as a bit of self psychological therapy session. Those on a spiritual journey are usually tasked with **know thy self**, and as scrying is a form of active meditation, and what I mean by this is that unlike meditation where you may relax and passively allow imagery in, with scrying you combine meditation, a guided working and often specific questions where you are intending to purposely see something. You may come to the conclusion like I have that there is a **significant blurring of lines between scrying and many other tools** - most of which I use, the lack of physical items (cards, runes etc) take one away from a system of divination and require complete freedom to truly disassemble imagery. the downside being that much like dream interpretation there is much confusion and ambiguity that needs to be explored - but in a fun way. most of the time.

Connection with self. Communication with spirit. More so than answering specific questions unless of course you use the medium for questioning of spirit.

## ***Methods and Mediums***

Now I will go through a number of scrying methods and mediums I have used over time with **varying degrees of success and failure**, I hope to illustrate that adaptations in methods can be made to veer towards scrying i.e. purely clairvoyance but without having to ditch methods you are already familiar with.

First lets start with traditional divination forms, as this is where I started out on my path and from there using traditional forms – crystal ball, tea leaves, cards, runes, → more

I **struggled with crystal ball**, perhaps I couldn't find one I was comfortable with, at the time there weren't many around as shops holding this sort of thing were few in my area. so the balls tended to be small and I just couldn't use it. also at the time my meditation skills were severely lacking in any actual technique so focal points I didn't know much about.

**Cards were 50/50 with me**, of course no tarot but normal playing cards and this area is possibly where I first discovered the clairvoyant side to my divination as quite quickly I picked up on the

patterns the cards were making and this seemed to trigger more than just a literal reading of the card meanings. From there I decided to **explore randomness** recalling the **cloud watching** I used to do while out playing in the fields (at the time I was also exploring visualisation in a more structured way and I was becoming aware of the value to symbolic imaginary), then exploring tea leaves and their randomness, yes I did make use of some of the defined symbolic patterns but they did not really ring true for me so I started to interpret my own, runes likewise was hard learning (like cards) but quickly the randomness of the patterns began to mean something.

Moving on I then discovered the word scrying and this area opened up new lines to explore.

Like the crystal ball I had the same **problem with magic mirrors, inky water though** not tried oil on the water. Just could not maintain the correct focus.

The **best success I have is with fire and that's not a candle, its OK**, but I need lots of flames, so a fireplace or bonfire is perfect and fills with me with much joy. as previously mentioned it is the constant flicker of moving flames that keeps my attention and allows me to sink in with my mind. OK sometimes its good sometimes completely pointless but always relaxing so in a way I do receive some good from it.

Cloud is my next best, its slower (depending on the wind).

**Moving water is my new challenge as its my primary** element, with its light reflective surface almost self hypnotic. Tried using waves on the beach but not quite found the connection yet.

Other odd forms – chaos magic using **ice cream**.

## ***Entering A Scrying Session***

To enter the scrying session much dependent on personal approach. I tend towards a method that I use for all of my mind related work, and that is **first entering a slight meditative state**, the usual pushing aside of daily issues, time of day can play a big part in this, need to be relaxed but not too sleep. I will have my selected medium at hand, usually fire. I may or may not have formed a question ready to silently ask myself, or pose to my goddess. Intent is the important bit here. I must feel a strong need to know, and not idle curiosity.

I will then look into the fire and let my **eyes wander until some particular flame shape grabs my attention** and then allow the images to unfold. The images will do whatever they need to do and once I feel they can no longer provide value I will repeat this search for something interesting. This can continue for as long as I want. Its not a complex process I have to say, but as previously stated, it can take practice to string it all together and maintain the correct level of focus.

## ***Understanding The Images***

I tend not to use divination any more mainly because of the **difficulties of getting time span right**, even more so with a purely visual form such as scrying where don't have any other symbolism to give you any kind of clues.

Some systems I've used have given some idea of time span. And that can also be influenced by the the question you may have given, usually I don't use questions with scrying and so the imagery is pretty random. For example at Artemis last year is saw rabbits and squirrels with no idea what that was for in relation to my current position in life. They year before I had some pretty cool dragons, boars and skulls. Still no idea what they were in relation to. Nothing came to rise up and indicate a connection however last year while sitting round the fire I had some sequential allegorical imagery that was quite startling with a sense of immediacy about them, and became more startling as within an hour the events unfolded.

Much like dream interpretation where there is great cross over in how dream interpretation, scrying and visualisation, some times can be hit or miss. And the sense between an organic dream and symbolic dream where there is a definite difference in quality and focus.

Although I define a clear difference between **organic and symbolic I don't think** its that clear cut, its a spectrum. In organic i.e. just the mind clearing clutter, usually being an observer, some pretty random things occurring. No real clarity of image, consistency in story line, i.e. jumping around, that kind of thing. Where as symbolic imagery is high locked in focus, onto a few particular aspects of the image, almost everything else becomes barely noticeable. An example being the spider and book dream I had many years ago..

Certainly there is an element of feeling significance in the image and the image tends to last longer from waking unlike organic dreams that tend to fade in a short space of time.

Card use the imagery would clarify with repeated use, not so with scrying. Cards would lead to consistency mainly due I feel to the consistency in my question and the wide ranging means of interpretation helps to piece things together. With skrying its more instinctive.

**Reference chaos magic book on divination as a reason from personal experience as a reason to no use divination.**

**PysberMagick - Advanced Ideas in Chaos Magick by Peter J Carroll**

**Chapter 6**

**Enchant long and divine short.**

**Wand or Cup?**

**If only one fifth of your spells work you have real power**

**If only one fifth of your divinations work you have a serious disability**

**Spells cast well in advance can take advantage of the copious chaos in the interim, but that same chaos will tend to reduce divination to a shambles.**