

Magic On The Move

In his “Dresden Files” series of novels, author Jim Butcher has his main character, a wizard called Harry Dresden, explain to readers that a wizard can be incredibly powerful with careful preparation. Fiction meets reality here.

Genuine magic benefits from careful consideration of outcomes and situations to gain the best advantage and avoid potential pitfalls.

Yet life has a habit of taking us all by surprise, no matter how careful you may be. You need what stage magicians call “impromptu magic” on hand to deal with them. So, how to go about this?

One way is to look at the situations you commonly find yourself in and prepare for them. Often surprise events are things that could have been anticipated with a little thought. For example, I have seen at least three methods in magical books for dealing with a mugger, and if you regularly travel in dangerous areas, something more likely to happen and be prepared for. All need a bit of practice up front which is no bad thing when you are developing as a magician. Muggers may be rare, yet there are many circumstances where preparing a “just in case” spell, and casting it several times in advance can help. Just use the normal process and link the activation of the spell to a gesture or word trigger. You can then channel all

the effect of several spell castings into one urgent challenge. Outcomes such as “Back Off”, “Back Down”, or “Flee”, spring to mind as ways to counter conflict or serious argument, and may benefit from this approach.

Even so, there will still be times when you will encounter situations you need to influence yet couldn't anticipate or prepare for. Any magical effort is better than none here, so feel free to try this one – use it whenever the need arises on minor matters at first if you can, as this will build confidence for its use in a crisis.

Let's look at an example to see how it may work. Imagine you are confronted in a social situation by someone you need to get away from but they don't seem prepared to disengage. If you have practised you can slip into a light magical trance (so the method works a lot better). Imagine what you want to happen. Perhaps they move on and bother someone else, or decide to leave. Picture it as vividly as you can, then pick a word that captures what you want. “Leave”, perhaps. Start chanting this word in your mind, and keep this up until they do. The trick with this is to focus on what is in your mind, not what is happening around you, and to chant the word as a command.

This method works best to produce an immediate effect, to change something that needs changing right now. You can use it for longer term outcomes, as a form of creative visualisation, where you would quickly recreate your image,

then chant (mentally or aloud), each time you think of the problem.

This may sound simple, yet it can be incredibly effective in all sorts of situations. I've even seen accounts of it used to change weather, or move a traffic jam out of the way.

The author and publisher of this work have over 40 years experience in magic and have made every effort to produce an accurate and useful guide to magical practice. It is quite likely that the authorities where you live do not believe in magic (for example - recent amendments to UK law mean that this product is offered for entertainment value only and no magical results can be guaranteed) and therefore it is necessary to state: This guide is produced to the best of the ability of the author. Magical practice is necessarily experimental, so results cannot be guaranteed. You must satisfy yourself as to the legality and safety, and utility of any practical work you undertake.

As much spell casting uses candles, incense, and other hot materials, please make sure you take adequate fire precautions. We want you to have a good life, not lie in a hospital bed with severe burns. Magicians are often portrayed with cowled robes and flowing sleeves etc. Whilst this can look really impressive and help you get into the mood, remember FIRE will destroy any cool you have if you wave those sleeves too near the candles or joss sticks.

You know what I'm trying to say here. Modern legislation practically requires me to remind you to keep breathing whilst performing magic Be careful. Be safe.