

House of Kiya Series

Divination

by

Kevin Groves



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Also by Kevin Groves:

A Path Laid Bare, (2013) published by The Wolfenhowle Press

Details of Kevin Groves' events and classes can be found at:

www.houseofkiya.co.uk

Introduction

In this small booklet, I present the experiences and knowledge accumulated through my search for ways to understand and enhance my skills as a magical practitioner. It all began when the door of divination began to open for me during my mid teens. This is no surprise really as divination is probably the most accessible of all occult subjects, and has fascinated people for thousands of years. There are many forms, systems and methods that can be employed, ranging from those requiring no particular skill to ones where skill and knowledge have to be acquired over years of practice, learning and understanding.

Many of us first discover divination through films, TV or books, and these can lead us to experiment for ourselves, all the while looking for one (or more) method to suit our preferences. In my personal experience I've found it's not so much the method that is difficult but finding a way to interpret it, which I found is ultimately a clairvoyant skill. All methods are basically tools that eventually enable the symbolism to awaken our intuition.

The first truly occult-focused book on fortune telling that I owned, *The Complete Book of Fortune*, (Blaketon Hall Ltd, Exeter, 1988) has probably been the most influential of my entire magical career, rather like one's first true love, reserving a lifelong place in my heart.

Through this Aladdin's cave of knowledge it revealed in glorious detail methods I had only heard of in passing and still more I had never heard of at all. Even though some of the text was dated (as it was quite obviously compiled from older sources and there was no clear consistency in the style), it was still accessible enough for my young mind to grasp and use.

Welcome then, to the first door, the door to Divination, which I stepped through.

Dowsing with a Pendulum

At first sight, dowsing with a pendulum appears quite straightforward, with a yes or no answer, and we might think it must be pretty clear and easy to understand. In a way this is true, however it

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is framing the question that presents the biggest challenge because we need to ask something that can only be answered precisely, and without room for any ambiguity.

My first choice of tool at the time was very Heath Robinson, no posh crystal pendulum or anything like that! I used gum, metal bolts or washers, Lego bricks, blue-tack or a pen attached to a length of string. All gave me the same results, something I had not expected.

How this could happen perplexed me a great deal at first, though later I learned of the claims that aspects of our autonomic nervous system (functioning at a subconscious level) play a part in revealing subconscious recall of knowledge. This in turn causes subtle vibrations to affect the pendulum. However, this still does not explain the origins of these subconscious thoughts nor why they would surface at that point. *That* is where the magic occurs.

I've used dowsing mostly for finding things, using the home made pendulum and a map (again often home made, and usually of my bedroom or our house). At this time I should add that my goddess (or ghostly friend at this point in our relationship) seemed to take great pleasure in stealing my things and hiding them. Often they turned up again later, but sometimes I needed them pretty urgently and used dowsing to locate them.

My technique was simple: I would have a rough map of the rooms of the house and ask where the item was currently located. Then I would set the pendulum to swing back and forth with about a 1 - 2 inch wide swing. As it swung I would place my finger on the map and then begin a game of hot and cold until the pendulum formed circles instead of the straight back and forth. Then I would try other areas nearby until slowly I would home in on the location.

When I began dowsing, I was at a very early stage in my magical career, but I'd seen it on TV and in a book my parents had at home. What drew me to this method I can't honestly say with any certainty, and the only obvious reason of course is the simplicity in its construction. Once we have a need for divination, string and a weight are easily found, unlike say, a set of tarot cards or runes.

I've mentioned the physical characteristics of the pendulum with regard to the materials, but it's the swing that I found was critical to its success. Although I wasn't really clued up on the

methods for calculating angular momentum, I noticed quite quickly the effect of varying the length of string and the weight hanging from the end. Soon I found the most pleasing swing rate for any particular length of string, something I call the Goldilocks Point because it's 'just right' for it to change between the two swing configurations.

I-Ching

Not all divination methods end up working as intended for everyone. At the start of this booklet I commented on having to find a method that works and is suitable but it is equally important to understand that this can change. Methods we've discarded as unusable in the past may eventually become accessible due to further development, both magical and non magical. I had this happen to me with the I-Ching.

For those of you unfamiliar with this system, the I-Ching divination method consists of eight, three line patterns referred to as trigrams. The lines are a combination of solid or broken horizontal lines and form the basis of this system. These are then combined into pairs of stacked trigrams to form a hexagram which gives the resulting 64 combinations. Each individual trigram and resultant hexagram holds significant meaning on multiple levels of consciousness according to the teachings with the Tao as part of Eastern philosophy, and the result is no definite answer but revolves around the concepts of ying and yang, and the ceaseless flow of the universe.

At first sight the I-Ching should have appealed to my chaos mind when I began looking into it back in the early 1990's. Initially at least I found it confusing and not entirely accurate. This may have been down to my lack of understanding about the cosmology and underlying belief systems that this method uses.

Anyway, my interest then faded until I began looking into it again a few years ago as I developed a path with Reiki. By then I was also reading a fair bit about Taoism, which helped me understand more about how this system and method (i.e. the I-Ching) work. This time around I found I understood the techniques

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better due to both a better translation of the system and because I now understand its origins.

What has significantly changed for me is that I no longer try to use this method for divination, but for meditation work. I now understand that this was the original focus of I-Ching and that it was intended to create a form of meditation based on the question being asked. This is quite different from the usual western method of using it to provide answers to questions. It cannot do that unless or until we invest significant time into its understanding.

The most important lesson I learned from this is that it is never a great idea to pull something from a book without clearly understanding the context. Many subtexts will not become plainly obvious until further down the path.

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