

Rules of the Road

Simply put, the Rules of the Road are the ethics of magical practice. They are in effect whether you know them, believe in them or agree with them.

The difference between morals, values, and Rules of the Road

Morals: What everyone accepts as lawfulness. Morals are cultural values that everyone agrees upon as right and wrong.

Ethics: Individual values, what you specifically accept as right and wrong.

Rules of the Road: Non-changing Operational Laws of the Universe. From the Universe's point of view, morals and ethics don't mean anything because they change all the time.

Two Major Rules:

1. Whatever is done to the environment or to other beings in the environment brings similar effects upon the doer.

This is often called the Law of Karma. The Universe doesn't care why some action was taken, or whether the doer is trained in magic or aware of the Rules of the Road. Although many different teachers have stated this law in many different ways, including the Golden Rule, it is especially important for magicians. A magician's acts are consciously and willfully directed, and are therefore more powerful than the acts of untrained or unfocused people. So the effect of this law in relation to a magician's acts becomes much more powerful. This applies to both constructive and destructive acts.

Note: While many religious and other practices consider that Karma can carry from lifetime to lifetime, it is our experience that the Universe operates under a system of "pay as you go." In other words, the effect of any act upon the environment (or upon beings in the environment) comes back to you within a relatively short period of time – within hours to days.

2. The magician judges the "goodness" or "badness" of his or her own acts, whether they are conscious or unconscious acts, on the basis of what the Universe reflects back on him or her. The same is true of judging others, entire communities, states or nations.

On a practical level, one can judge one's compliance with the Universe's standards of right and wrong, or good and bad, in terms of one's level of health, soundness of social relationships, luck with appliances, and sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter. If your "luck" seems consistently bad, then you're probably acting contrary in some way to the Rules of the Road, regardless of what your intentions are. Read the next section on the specific Ethical Laws of the Rules of the Road.

Ethical Laws of the Rules of the Road

These ethical laws will give you a more detailed standard by which to measure your acts, or the acts of others, to determine whether they are in accordance with Rules of the Road. Judge any act of magic by these laws before doing it.

1. Do nothing that will harm another being unless you are willing to suffer like or greater harm. Note that what the Universe considers harm may be different from what our culture teaches as harm.
2. Don't bind another being unless you are willing to be likewise bound. This applies to many love spells and some kinds of healing rituals.

This law is like the Prime Directive in Star Trek, which is a policy of non-interference unless one is asked to participate. For any magical act you perform on another being, you must get permission. You don't need permission for any specific act, just permission to help. Remember, though, that the Universe will judge your act of magic by its results, whatever your intentions. So when applying healing or any magical techniques to others, make sure you understand the effect it will have before you do it. Even if you really meant to help but the result is poor, you will be judged on the result. So learn the appropriate methods for applying the techniques taught in this course.

3. Never use magic for show, pride, or vainglory. Using magic to show off, to prove a point, or from a place of injured pride usually results in side-bands (undesirable side effects) to the operation that will bring very undesirable backlash from the Universe.

Never let yourself be tested because most testing comes from the scientific model, which tends to deny anything until it's proven. In the Bible, Jesus would not allow his abilities to be tested. Also, in being tested you could lose your own capability because tested allows questions or doubts to creep into your consciousness.

4. Never set an extremely high price for the use of magic (especially divination, healing, or spells) based on your having special knowledge. In other words, never charge a very high price because you feel you are better than everyone as a result of your special training. However, with some operations that take significant man hours, such as divination, it appears by our observation to be appropriate to charge the same fee as any other professional might charge per hour in your local area. In other words, if you are in a town where lawyers are charging a high fee and can afford to pay you a high fee, then you can charge it. Use your own intuition for each situation.
5. Don't use any special word, symbol, incantation, or spell unless you understand thoroughly and completely its mechanics, content, and intent! Be very wary of using other people's operations if you wish to avoid "frying" yourself, either figuratively or literally!
6. Never do a spell without first doing a divination to determine a) if you should do it, and b) exactly what needs to be dealt with. Modern American social values and overt appearances of a situation are not trustworthy guides for a magician wishing to avoid bad karma. In other words, there may be hidden factors in the situation, which cause the doing of a spell to be against Rules of the Road.

7. TAKE YOUR TIME, THINK IT THROUGH, AND DO IT RIGHT!