

## *Banishing and Blessing*

*Any items to be used for magical purposes should first be cleansed to remove any negative energies prior to being used in ritual, even the candles and incenses. Most items, if purchased new will have little psychic residue for you to contend with and can be cleansed with the ritual recommended here.*

*Remember that the focus and intent is the centerpiece of all magical workings. You must clearly see the outcome you desire in order for it to happen. Therefore, when blessing your altar tools, visualize them as becoming pure and clean as you perform your ceremony.*

*The following is a basic form of banishing and blessing which can be used on any items to be used in ritual.*

*Hold the object to be cleansed in the right hand.*

*Say, "I take this [name of object], and draw from it all inimical influences."*

*While doing this, draw a banishing pentagram over the object with the left hand. Then circling with the left hand as if gathering up a group of strings, draw the influences away and ground them by casting on the earth or into the container of salt. You need to change the salt on your altar at least monthly.*

*Then transfer the object to the left hand.*

*Say, "I bless and consecrate you."  
(Draw solar cross over object while saying this.)*

*"I breathe upon you with the breath of life."  
(Breathe across the object, putting your energy into it.)*

*"I name you [\_\_\_\_\_] of the art, clean and pure for my ritual purposes."  
(Draw blessing pentacle over it.)*

*The item is now ready for use. This ritual can be used by itself, or it can be used as part of setting up an altar. For an altar setup in preparation for ritual a slightly more involved ceremony is recommended. This is described as follows.*

*Begin your altar setup with the bowl of salt. When that is accomplished, move to the chalice and water. Using the above method, begin the banishing and blessing. However, between the Breath of Life and the blessing, add a pinch of salt to the water. Salt is a great cleanser and will add benefit to the purified water.]*

*One can then use the purified salt and water to cleanse and purify the candles. Draw your solar cross and blessing pentacle on the item using the purified salt water.*

*Then the candle (fire), water and salt can be used to purify your incense. Pass the incense close to the fire. As a suggestion, try purifying the entire packet of incense at one time. This saves time and works just as well as doing one stick at a time.*

*Now you have ritually purified symbolic representations of the four elements to use in banishing and blessing your other ritual items such as your athame, wand, etc.*

*When you have completed your ritual it is essential to properly dispose of items used in the ceremony. Ritually purified materials may be disposed of by burying them in the earth, immersing them in running water, or burning them. Pouring salt, water and the ashes of incense into a drain is considered the same as putting them in running water. Candles or other durable items should be buried.*