

Calling the Quarters

The Quarters or the Four Quarters is a term used to refer to the spirits which rule over the elements and directions on the planet: North (earth), East (air), South (fire) and West (water). They are also known as the Watchtowers and the Guardians. When you call upon them before a spell or ritual, you are calling upon the spirits behind the four elements to be present in your magick. They can be powerful allies and protectors for any serious spellcaster.

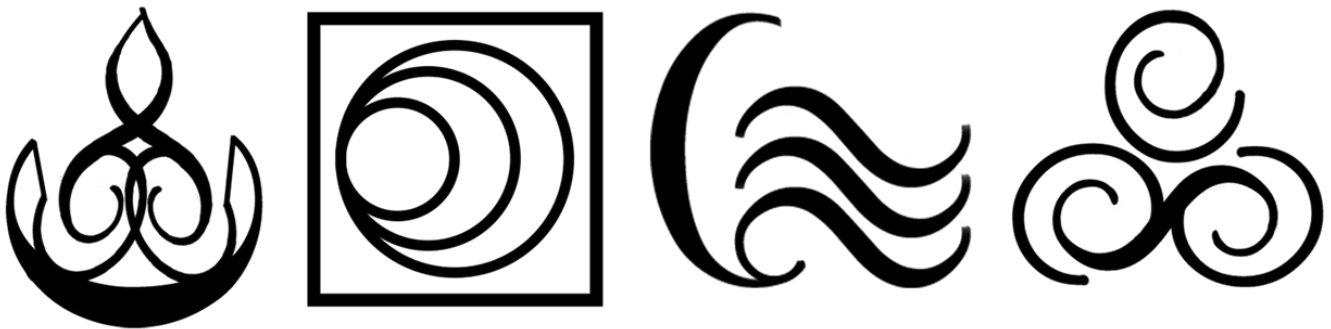
After you start your magick circle, you may choose to Call the Quarters. The circle will be your temple, a sacred place to practice magic, meditations and spells. Calling the Quarters is a way to purify the space and invite protection into your ritual.

As we've seen in the circle of protection exercise, you don't need any tools to cast a sacred circle, and it can be done anytime. However, for a more elaborate ritual, you may want to use tools to help your focus. Finding something that represents each element to place upon your altar is an effective way to do this.

Here are some suggested tools for calling in the Quarters:

- Wand, sword or athame or your finger (to draw the circle)
- Salt, clay or dirt (Earth)
- Candle, matches or a lighter (Fire)
- Glass, bowl or chalice of water (Water)
- Incense or feather (Air)

There are traditions of witches that use a wand to cast a circle, and others that use an athame or sword. For a solitary practice, you should choose the tool which feels right to you. If you have a specific spellwork in mind, choose an incense that matches your intention, and add extra candles if needed.



Calling the Quarters: Elemental Energies from the Four Corners

Recipe by Francisco Huanaco

How to call the Quarters into your circle with an easy Wiccan ritual. Call the elemental energies of the four corners, cast your spell and finally release the quarters.

INGREDIENTS

- Wand or athame
- Bowl of salt
- 1 white candle
- 1 glass of water or chalice
- Incense of any kind

CALLING THE QUARTERS

Set your tools on the floor or on your altar or work table. Each ingredient will be facing one of the directions:

- North, the Element Earth: A bowl of salt will represent this element.
 - South, the Element Fire: A white candle will symbolize Fire.
 - West, the Element Water: A glass of water will symbolize it.
 - East, the Element Air: Light some incense and place it facing East.
1. Take your athame or wand in your dominant hand. Stand up facing East. Take 3 deep breaths.
 2. Raise your tool towards the East. Say: "Guardians of the watchtower of the East, I do summon, stir, and call you up to protect me in my rite. Breathe into me the spirit of the pure joy of life."
 3. Turn clockwise to face South. Say: "Guardians of the watchtower of the South, I do summon, stir, and call you up to protect me in my rite. Kindle within me the flame of spiritual awakening."
 4. Turn to face West. Say: "Guardians of the watchtower of the West, I do summon, stir, and call you up to protect me in my rite. Water my deepest roots that I may find peace of mind."
 5. Turn to face North. Say: "Guardians of the watchtower of the North, I do summon, stir, and call you up to protect me in my rite. Nourish me so that my hopes may grow to fruition."
 6. Raise both arms above your head and say:
 7. "I conceive this Circle as a place of contemplation and protection. Blessed by the God and Goddess. So mote it be!"

After casting your circle and calling the quarters, you're ready to cast a spell, go into deep meditation, or perform any kind of ritual.

Once you're done with your ritual, follow these steps to release the quarters:

- "Guardians of the watchtower of the North. Take with you my blessings and thanks. Hail and farewell!"
"Guardians of the watchtower of the West. Take with you my blessings and thanks. Hail and farewell!"
"Guardians of the watchtower of the South. Take with you my blessings and thanks. Hail and farewell!"
"Guardians of the watchtower of the East. Take with you my blessings and thanks. Hail and farewell!"

To dismiss the circle, simply say: "I undo this Circle and leave this place as it was before." snuff out your candles, gather your tools and put them away.