

## 1 INTRODUCTION TO HOODOO + SPELLS



### WHAT IS HOODOO?

Hoodoo is an African American type of folk magic with its roots in African, Native American, and European traditions. Also called *conjure* or *conjunction*, hoodoo developed in the American Southeast and spread mostly through word of mouth. Though there are experts in hoodoo, there is no hierarchy, and the practice of hoodoo is open to anyone. Traditionally, experts in hoodoo, known as hoodoo doctors, traveled to practice their craft and took on apprentices.

Hoodoo is often confused in the popular imagination with *Voodoo*, a religion originating in West Africa. The concept that most people have of Voodoo is actually closer to hoodoo. Hoodoo practices include folk remedies, magic spells, necromancy, and fortune telling, and practitioners are predominantly Christian rather than followers of Voodoo. Though there are spiritual elements in hoodoo, it is not a religion.

Many hoodoo spells and remedies make use of physical objects believed to have spiritual or supernatural powers. As in other magical traditions, plants, minerals, animal products, and bodily fluids are common spell ingredients. A person's hair, nails, or possessions may be used to make him or her the subject of a spell.

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The Christian Bible, especially the Old Testament, is considered a powerful artifact in hoodoo. The psalms and other passages are often read aloud as a part of spells, and the Bible itself can be a powerful talisman, particularly for protection. In the hoodoo worldview, the Bible and biblical figures are reconceived according to supernatural and magical ideas; God is the greatest conjurer of all, using magic to create the world in six days. European and European-American *grimoires*, or books of spells, also had an influence on the development of hoodoo.

A common practice in hoodoo is the use of a talisman known as a *mojo* or *gris-gris*. A small bag, often of red flannel, is filled with certain items chosen for the effect the charm is to have and worn by the subject of the spell. Both the choice of items within the mojo and the way in which the bag is tied are important to the spell. The charm is typically worn under the clothes and must regularly be "fed," for example with a drop of perfume, in order to retain its strength.

### Hoodoo and its Spell Rituals and Practices

Hoodoo is similar to Voodoo in several aspects. First, both terms are coined in the West. Second, both concepts originated from Africa. Third, both systems are folkloric practices associated with magical spells and rituals.

Nevertheless, one should never interchange Hoodoo from Voodoo or vice versa. They are different because Voodoo (originally, Vodun) is a religion in West Africa, whereas, Hoodoo is a system of magical beliefs and practices from Central Africa. Indeed, Hoodoo is neither a religion nor a denomination of religion.

Hoodoo is common to black community particularly the African Americans, who, they say, started the system of Hoodoo. White Americans practice Hoodoo system too. The African Americans call such system in many terms such as conjuration, conjure, witchcraft, rootwork, and tricking. Worth noting is that conjuration, conjure, tricking, and witchcraft are colloquial words in classifying Hoodoo Rootwork, on one hand, signifies a different meaning. Rootwork is used to recognize the significance of dried roots in making charms and casting spells.

Hoodoo is used in referring to both the system of magical beliefs and the practitioner. However, a practitioner who practices on behalf of clients is called a Hoodoo doctor. Not only there are African-American Hoodoo doctors, there are Latinos and Americans too.

The African American communities refer to Hoodoo differently from African in Europe. Since witchcraft is usually synonymous to Hoodoo, the former refers to Hoodoo as both alternative healing remedy and a harmful activity, whereas, the Europeans refer to it mainly as harmful activity.

Hoodoo allows its believers to access supernatural forces to improve their living by gaining luck, money, love, health, as well as employing revenge and bad luck onto other people. Fundamental to a Hoodoo tradition is communication with the spirits of the dead and the focus on magical powers on individuals. Such belief actually made non-believers think Hoodoo practices are done mainly because of human desires and inclinations.

Some areas consider Hoodoo as harmful magic or spiritual work and things that include spells and protection spells. Hoodoo spells may increase luck in love, money, good health, and happiness.

Its practices and traditions involve magical components of herbs, roots, minerals, animal parts,

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personal possessions, and bodily fluids such as menstrual blood, semen, and urine. A ritual also involves the use of ritual candles, conjure oils, incense, and sachet powders. The latter was an addition because of the African emphasis on footprint magic and spiritual cleansing, floor washing and bathing.

Notable aspects of African Hoodoo are foot track magic, crossroads magic, laying down tricks, ritual sweeping and floor washing, and ritual bathing.

A Hoodoo spell called foot track magic puts magical essence to footprints. A practitioner may bury the footprint dirt of his enemy in a bottle spell with other magical items. When the enemy walks over the buried bottle spell, the result will be poisoning, unnatural illness, or bad luck. The acquisition of power at two intersecting roads is called the crossroad magic. This belief evolved in both African-American Hoodoo system and European folk magic.

### Hoodoo Still Practiced After 100 Years

Witch doctors and their mojo spells aren't just products of Hollywood imagination—for over a century, the practice of Hoodoo has been an integral part of the culture in countries all around the world, including the United States.

By Mark Hoerrner

Stemming from African tribal magic, Hoodoo is currently practiced primarily in the Southern U.S., Haiti and West Africa. Brought to America during the African Diaspora fueled by American slave trade, the "white magic" of Hoodoo was a welcome counter to the Voodoo practitioners who also originated from Africa and spilled onto Haiti and other Southern Atlantic islands. Much like Voodoo, the quasi-religion was a mix of nature magic and spirit calling that would eventually mingle with the predominantly Catholic religions of the busy city of New Orleans and subsequent Catholic expatriates have propagated the mixture of Hoodoo and Christianity in Haiti as well.

It should be noted that practitioners will quickly tell you that the practice of Hoodoo is spiritual in nature but it is not a religion. There is no established formal practice other than spells and incantations passed down in written form and no clergy to speak of. Nor does there exist a hierarchy among practitioners. Each Hoodoo "witch" or "witch doctor" is completely autonomous, as is common among many of the botano-spiritual offshoots from Africa.

Common terms like "mojo," "mojo bag" and similar terms are often used interchangeably with Voodoo practitioners and refer to material goods supposedly ensorcelled to give the user a specific benefit. Hoodoo, in fact, is meant to empower the individual, granting fiscal and physical prosperity, luck in love and gambling and similar self-interests.

Hoodoo derives, however, from a complex system of magic, according to spiritualist Mama Zgobe.

"For example, in the West African & Diaspora Mami Wata Vodoun tradition," she says in a web interview on Hoodoo, "the forest spirits, known as 'Azzizas,' were the most evolved guardians of the forest, who first presented themselves to the African hunters, and planters. They taught them the esoteric, medicinal (ahame) use and alchemical properties inherent in the abundance of herbs, trees, roots, minerals and life forms thriving in their mists.

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"It was the Azzizas who also taught the African how to make poisons, potions, medicines, and Gbo, 'ebo' and 'boicho/bo.' Joined with the Azzizas, was the divinity later to be identified as "Legba," the great messenger of the gods, who also taught the Africans the use of Gbo and transported their prepared requests to the respective divinities.

"The first practical and most extensive use of herbs, amulets and talismans in the forest was for protection from accidents & tropical disease, dangerous animals, repairing injuries, as well as to assure success in their hunt. However, their esoteric use was mainly for protection from jealousy, envy, and death by other hunters, as well as protection from the angry spirits of those animals which were killed for food, or by accident during the course of the hunt. From these primary ancestors, eventually evolved a group of specialized priests and priestess known in Dahomey as Bokonons, (geomancers), Azondoto, Zokas, Garbara, Akpases (socerers), and Botonons."

Other practitioners come from less of an African influence but still promote the strength of the practice. Martha White – yes, like the baked goods – says that she was indoctrinated into the world of Hoodoo by her great grandmother and subsequently by her grandmother.

"At first, it was something to tell friends about," she says, a rolling creole accent carrying every word. "But later, I began to notice that other people had faith in what my grandmother was doing. They altered their lives based on her charms and spells. It was not long after that the spirits came to me."

Spirits, she says, of wild areas, of deceased persons, of wild animals, all assisting her in her practice of magic. Through her enchanting, she claims to have made couples fall in love, to have made cheating spouses fidelity and children do better in school.

"Some people call me a witch," she says, fitting the part in a long flowing green gown. "But I'm not a witch. I'm not sure what you'd call me, but I'm not a witch. My broom is just for sweeping."

## BLESSING A NEW HOME, HOME CLEANSING

Here is a simple procedure for blessing a new home and ridding a house of any unwanted spiritual influences.

1) Wash down the wood work and floors with Chinese Wash (or Van Van Oil in water) from back to front and out the front door and throw the remaining wash water out the front door or in the front yard. If there is no front yard, carry some of the wash water to the nearest street intersection or crossroads and throw it to the East.

2) Then use a brand new broom to sweep the house from back to front and out the front door. Some folks also like to sprinkle Van Van Powder at the front threshold and sweep that away from the house.

3) After cleaning as above, put down pinches of salt in the

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corners of each room or, if you are in a hurry, four pinches of salt at the four outside corners of the house.

### Hoodoo Candle Magic

*Guest Author - Elizabeth Bisette*

A Few Kinds of Candles and Their Uses

Figure Candles

1. Skull: Meditation on death, luck gambling
2. Nude Male/Female: White = attract someone, pink or red = love spells
3. Black Cat: luck gambling
4. 7 Knob Wishing Candle: A wish a day for seven days or to make a wish 7x as strong. White = healing, Green = money, Black = malevolence, red = love

You can make one by taking 7 pins and sticking them through a large candle to make 7 sections. Write your wish(es) on a piece of paper then turn it 90 degrees sideways. Write your full name over the wish(es) or wishes 7x, writing each over the other cross-wise.

Put the paper under the candle after anointing it with an appropriate oil. Burn it for 7 nights, pinching it out each time a needle falls. Save the needles. When the last one falls, stick them in the paper in 2 X's around a double-cross (2 lines crossing one upright line).

Bury the paper and leftover wax under your doorstep if you want to attract something or someone to you. Throw the paper and wax away at a crossroads, in running water, or in a graveyard if you want to get rid of something or someone.

If you buy a 7 knob candle, carve your wish into each knob or the same wish 7x. Anoint with appropriate oil, pinch out after each knob burns.

Colors in candle magic

White: healing, rest

Blue: peace, harmony, joy

Green: money, luck gambling, business

Yellow: devotion, happiness, attraction

Red: love, passion, strength

Pink: attraction, romance

Purple: power, control

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Orange: taking things in a different direction, precognitive dreams

Brown: court, neutrality

Black: to repel things, particularly evil

Double Action candles:

Red and black: to remove a love-jinx

White and black: to return evil

Green and black: to remove a money-jinx

Burning Double Action candles:

Cut off the tip and cut a new tip on the black half so that it will burn off first. Carve the name of your enemy backwards on the black half and your name forwards on the other half. Anoint with appropriate oil to repel what you don't want on the black end, rubbing it away from yourself. Anoint the other end with an appropriate oil to attract what you want and rub it towards yourself. To strengthen the spell, burn the candle on a flat mirror.

Reversing candles are similar, but have a red inner layer and black outer layer. They reverse ill will and uncross crossed situations. Do the same things when burning them as with the above, but all inscriptions on them should be done backwards.

Novena Candles

These candles, decorated with figures of saints, are burned for 9 days. The choice of candle/Saint depends on the result desired (see Saint list).

More about Hoodoo candle magic:

1. Candles are not only anointed with oil, but are sometimes rolled in herbs or sprinkled with powders.
2. To attract light the candle when both clock hands are rising, in the second half of the between six and twelve; to repel light the candle when both hands on the clock are falling, in the first half of the hours from twelve to six.
3. Fortunes are often told from the patterns the wax makes on glass encased candles.

### **Lover call me( HOODOO spell)**

Ingredients

matches, glass cup, water, bible turned to Psalm 40, a washcloth with a circle cut in the middle. Spell is to be done ONLY between the hours of 4 am and 5 am.

Pour the water in the glass. Put the cloth over the glass making sure that the middle of it is in the middle of the glass. Have your Bible turned to Psalm 40. Say (name of lover) I bid you come to me in the name of the father, the son, and the holy spirit. Repeat several times and light one match while still saying. Then say In the name of the father, (name of lover) I bid you come to me. Quickly drop the match into the water. Then concentrate on the lover. Light another

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match, now say, "In the name of the son, (name of lover) I bid you come to me. Drop the match in the water. Concentrate. Lastly, "In the name of the Holy spirit, (name of lover) I bid you come to me. Drop match.

Read the psalm 40 in a whisper and envision your lover. Ask St. Expedite for speedier results for this spell. Do this each morning at 4 am. Your lover should speak to you before the 27th day. St. Expedite likes to be paid with a pound cake and some flowers, but do not pay him until your wish has come true.

A verse in the Bible says, "do not delay." St Expedite is known for quick action and is the patron of fast work and no procrastination.

### **FREE SPELL TO MAKE A LOVED ONE RETURN**

Go to the place where the lost lover is staying, and bury a black cat bone under his or her window, so it will be able to work its influence over them. Return home, and make a small paper with your lover's name written 9 times in red ink. Burn a red candle on the paper, 3 times a day at 6 AM, 12 noon, and 6 PM until the person returns.

### **FREE SPELL FOR A GAMBLING MOJO HAND**

Reputed to be "The Best Gambling Hand" in the work attributed to Marie Laveau -- it is made by taking a 3.5 x 3.5 inch piece of chamois and fashioning it into a bag. Inside, you must place a small lodestone, a black cat bone, a swallow's heart, a pinch of five finger grass, a small John the Conqueror root, and some devil's shoestring root. Then on top of all this you must place a prepared nutmeg, which is made by hollowing out a large whole nutmeg and filling it with liquid mercury, then sealing it in place with wax. (Be careful if you actually try this -- mercury is poisonous.) With the bag filled, sew it all shut. To activate the mojo hand, apply 3 drops of Jockey Club perfume, and dress it with another 3 drops every week thereafter.

### **FREE SPELL TO KEEP AWAY THE LAW**

Plant pennies on the four corners of your home. Or nail nine pennies over the top of your front door.

### **FREE SPELL TO RECEIVE FAVORS AND WISHES**

Read aloud the 27th chapter of the Book of Job in the Bible, and copy it down. Fix a mojo hand by filling a red flannel bag with John the Conqueror Powder, magnetic sand, a silver dime and a black cat bone, and include the transcribed chapter. Sew the bag shut with white thread, and dress it with 3 drops of Japanese Honeysuckle perfume each morning. Carry the bag in your back left pocket. Whenever you need a favor granted, take the bag and draw it over your mouth in the shape of an X while you declare your wish.

### **FREE RECIPE FOR HOLY OIL** from the book Voodoo Conjure

Combine oils of myrrh, calamus, cinnamon and cassia. Used as a general purpose blessing and magical oil to enhance any kind of work.

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### Some Hoodoo Spells

*Guest Author - Elizabeth Bisette*

If you want someone to leave you alone:

1. Take some water from the persons sink. Then, at sunrise, throw the water as far away from you as you can, then break an egg on the ground. In 3 days, you won't be bothered by them any more.

2. Write the name of the person you want to stay away from you 3 times on black candle, starting at the bottom and writing away from you. Anoint the candle with sugar water, honey or almond oil. Burn it for 30 minutes each morning for 3 days in a row.

3. Burn a black candle in front of an image of St. Michael & pray to him for the person to leave you alone.

4. If the person comes to your house, sprinkle a teaspoon of salt behind them as they leave, then, while sweeping the salt out of the house call their name quietly, wishing that they wouldn't come back all the while.

5. If you live with the person, keep a broom by the door and every time they leave, stand it in the path they just took out and let it fall the same direction they left in.

To keep people you don't want to see away from you, make sure everyone who lives with you/that you want there is inside, then put patchouli oil on the outside doorknobs and on the thresholds.

For peace and joy, mix powdered dragon's blood with sugar and salt in a bottle or box, don't tell anyone about it and hide it where no one can see it & it will ensure happiness and well being.

To defeat your enemies take 13 different sized nails and put them in a black bottle of well water. Write the names of your enemy 13 times on different pieces of paper. Put them in the bottle. Bury it upside down by the person's steps.

To attract friendship, write the name of the person you want to be kind to you on a piece of paper and put it in a small jar filled with honey @ the full moon. Seal the lid with wax. Every month for 6 months, put it in the sun for a day. After 6 months, bury the jar and re-do the spell if desired.

To prevent someone from hexing or harming you:

1. Walk backward six steps after running into them or hearing from them, spit to your right and left and say 'John over John' and 'John the Conqueror' and they won't be able to do anything to you.

2. Take a handful of salt and call the person's name while throwing it over your right shoulder.

3. Put salt and black pepper in your shoes, (some say just red pepper), or a silver dime in the heel of your shoe.

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To keep harm away from your home:

1. Onions and red pepper, or salt and black pepper on the floor then swept away & burned all keep enemies away.
2. Fill a bag with salt, put a cross on it and put it under your doorstep.
3. Sleep with a pair of scissors under your pillow, with the points pointing towards the head of the bed.