

# Sphere + Sundry

## The Ancestral Series

The Ancestral Series offers materia magica for the purposes of working with the Dead, especially one's Ancestors. These can be Ancestors by Blood, Adoption, Marriage, or even Arte and Kinship, for we all share common ancestry if we trace back far enough.

There are four sub-sets within the series, in addition to the standalone items listed below. Each sub-set has its own info sheet and possesses distinct characteristics used to facilitate desired dynamics, and hopefully outcomes. When possible, use the right tool for the job!

**Ritual Use:** It is most powerful to open the way and issue the call to the Ancestors of your choosing via items from The Ancestors sub-set or the Hermanubis series (or however else you typically call upon them). Ideally they will be fully present before applying other items for specialized aims, such as Comfort, Empowerment, Channel, or Ancestral Honey.

**Resources:** There is a long article and guide to Ancestral work, altar design, offerings, and free ritual outline available at [sphereandsundry.com/ancestors](http://sphereandsundry.com/ancestors). I highly recommend it for anyone new to the realm of working with their Ancestors or the Dead as a class of spirits. There is also a simplified ritual outline on the back of this page. If you have questions or would like to share your experiences, please turn to the Sphere + Sundry client group.

**Timing:** Ancestral devotions are best done on a routine basis. There are many timely opportunities to contact them, such as Satur(n)days or Mo(o)ndays, Tuesday or Thursday nights after sunset (the eves of Saturn and the Moon respectively), New Moons, birthdays, and dedicated holidays in the dark half of the year (Samhain, All Souls Day, etc).

**Grief + Ancestral Healing Bath Salts:** These can be used as a primer before Ancestral ritual, or standalone to aid in mourning or help process grief, clearing blockages around Ancestral engagement. Add small amounts to many baths or take 2-3 deeper soaks.

**Ancestral Honey:** Keep on your Ancestral Altar to ingratiate your Dead and promote their affection. Can be mixed with cremains or grave dirt of certain Ancestors you're interested in targeting, or applied to photographs. Of magical aid in inheritance disputes.

**Perfumes:** Wear on your person before ritual, to funerals, or use to anoint tools + mementos.

**Aftercare + Side-Effects:** Working with the Dead can be draining and cause nausea. They may also linger in your space if they aren't dismissed and the area isn't cleared. You may want to shower and change clothes post-ritual. Items from the Asclepius and Sol series can help banish and restore personal vitality. Pay attention to dreams following Ancestral devotions.

## Simple Ancestral Ritual Outline

Offerings of candlelight and fresh water should always be provided. Other common offerings include wine, tobacco, flowers, coffee, cakes, and candy. You can also offer things particular Ancestors enjoyed in life. Have them on the altar or ready to present.

Begin burning incense before speaking, ideally either The Ancestors or Hermanubis self-igniting incense, or anything appropriate for calling the Dead, such as myrrh. You can also anoint candles, tools, statues, or the self with The Ancestors or Hermanubis oil, or use Dead-Drawing Elixir from the Hermanubis series to prime the area and attune to the Deadrealms.

If you are using Hermanubis or any other psychopompic intermediary, call and make dedicated offerings to them before inviting your Ancestors. For example:

*Hermanubis, Hermanubis, Hermanubis, I call! I make these offerings of smoke, olive oil, and pennies for your service. May they be accepted and take the form that most please you! See to it that the Way is Open, that my words find the Dead I intend, and that they be well understood! Ensure that Their words find their way to me, so I know clearly and truly what they wish to convey. Great and eternal psychopomp, deliver to me those I ask! Bridge the veil between myself and my Ancestors, and see that they answer my calls! [knock on the altar or ring bell three times]*

Issue the Ancestral invitation. You can use your own words or something along these lines:

*Ancestors of mine, those well intended who love and care for me with purest sincerity and devotion! I invite you to this table and make offerings of water, food, and flame [etc.]. I invite you to sate your thirst and hunger, and to warm yourselves at the hearth we share. Commune with me, for even if I did now know you in life, so long as your intentions for myself and my loved ones are heartfelt and good, you are welcome HERE and NOW, and beloved as kin. I call thee forth with happy greeting! [perform a welcoming/ ushering gesture and sit until feeling their presence]*

Now is the best time to use offerings from Ancestral Series sub-sets with additional prayers for familial healing, empowerment, petitions for protection, requests for guidance, and the like. Or you can simply make the offerings, tell your Dead of your problems and triumphs, listen to music, make art, and just generally spend a little time together.

You may choose to leave the altar up and running for a while or immediately close. After such heavy invitations and powerful materia has been employed, it is best practice to give the Dead license to depart:

*Sincerest thanks for our time together this night. I wish you well and to be on your way. Until I call again, Hermanubis! See to it that the Way is closed and the Dead are delivered to where they ought be. [clap or ring bell three times, blow out candles, proceed with post-ritual self-restoring protocols]*