

to envelope ourselves in the aesthetic. Now based on the trajectory of this essay, you may be expecting me to decry this rampant consumerism. Actually, aesthetics are powerful. You ever go out in a goth outfit? do you know first hand the unchecked, brooding, vampire confidence that going out with a popped collar, messy hair, and excessive eye shadow? (for maximum effect, go to a place you don't normally go, with a new group of people you don't already know, and a different name)

The infamous lion skin belt is developing the power of aesthetic for the renaissance magician; that's why it's a functional item. Imagine the power one feels wearing the belt made out of something exotic and as powerful as a lion. If you've been to a zoo, you've seen up close the size and grandeur of a particularly tame and sleepy lion. That king of the jungle has been slaughtered, skinned, tanned, and made into a belt. Whose going to command more respect from the demons: the teenager whose circle is printed at the library, or the magus with a lion skin belt?

Now if witchcraft teaches us anything, its that you don't need lion skin belts to be powerful. Power can come from anywhere. It can come from local plants and loose nails. It can