

## **A friend in need**

I propose the idea of an amulet that wards against misleading or endangering decisions. There are a lot of connotations involved in this. For starters, what is a misleading decision? If we adopt the view that every decision we end up making is what guides us to our inevitable path, then there is no 'wrong' decision. Furthermore, perhaps a decision that is incorrect now may be helpful in the future? I will attempt to address all these questions as I elaborate on the specific function of the amulet, along with its construction, usage and impact.

First, I will discuss the primary motivation behind the amulet, as this will throw light on the nature of it's construction. Much like the ancient Egyptian Scarab amulet, this amulet holds different 'meanings and functions simultaneously, depending on the owner and manufacturer's intent'. In this case, the owner of the amulet must also manufacture it, and the amulet operates according to their intent. In this case, if the owner prepares the amulet keeping a specific goal in mind, the amulet guides the owner through decisions that will be ultimately fruitful for that goal. On the other hand, if the owner wishes for general well being, the amulet will guide them through decisions that will favor that.

The amulet is very single minded in that it only focuses on the specific intent of the maker - it does not take anybody's overall wellbeing into account.

I will now elaborate on construction of the amulet. For Egyptian amulets, the material and ingredients rubbed over the amulet could be a potential source for magic for directing the owner's actions, and as this amulet is very personal to the manufacturer, it requires their blood. The amulet's material itself can be any piece of clothing owned by the owner, but the power is

amplified if a thin clump of hair is used as the primary material. The amulet can be worn as a ring or bracelet.

In Greece and Rome, many of the amulets had precious metals and stones as part of their amulets. These are not helpful to the creation of this amulet, as one should be able to construct in any circumstance, especially when they're lost and in dire need of help. For situations where the resources are plentiful and the need is not urgent, brass can be used to tie the hair strands together in 9 even spacings (representing the 9 houses in Astrology). This is a way to communicate to the universe, your current standing and socio-economic status through the amulet, and thus the amulet's power can be modulated accordingly.

To elaborate on the 9 even spacings of ties on the amulet, this represents the amulet seeking power from every house in Astrology. At different points in time, the owner's astrological chart will place them in a different house, and the 9 spacings ensure that no matter which house their stars are aligned in, the owner reaps the benefits of the amulet.

I conceived of the idea of this amulet as I realized that everyday, I am faced with both minor and major concerns, and I wish to offload just one to another entity and trust their decisions. That is where this amulet comes in. If I used this amulet, I would ask it to keep me functional and healthy (eating all meals everyday, staying hydrated, exercising etc.,) and then I wouldn't have to make decisions about this.