

WITCHES'S RITES THAT OCCURRED IN TV SERIES: *CHILLING ADVENTURES OF SABRINA*

Yudha Nur Widiananta¹, Bunyamin Faisal Syarifudin ², Yoga Sudarisman³

English Literature, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung
yudhananta04@gmail.com, bunyaminfaisalsyarifudin@uinsgd.ac.id,
yogasudarisman@uinsgd.ac.id.

Abstract

Magic is a concept used to describe the power that comes from supernatural powers to make impossible things happen, make people disappear or even control natural events. As time goes by, magic has developed to be the theme in literature. One of theme is TV series: Chilling Adventures of Sabrina. The writer focuses the analysis on the rites that occur in this series. The writer used Marcell Mauss's theory that was written in his book *A General Theory of Magic*. From his book, it can be seen that they are several things that the witch must prepare when they want to do the rites such as time, place and many more. A descriptive qualitative by Creswell was used in this study. The result from this study is when the witchcraft wanted to do the rite, they must prepare the time, place, materials and incantation. The different rite has a different purpose and also different things that they must prepare.

Keywords: Magic, Rite, TV series

INTRODUCTION

Magic is a concept used to describe the power that comes from supernatural powers to make impossible things happen, make people disappear or even control natural events. The word "magic" comes from the Greek Magoi which refers to the Median tribe in Persia who are Zoroastrianism. According to Greco-Roman tradition, they acquired mysterious knowledge and powers which came from gods, spirits, or polytheistic ancestors of the ancient pantheon (Luck, 1985).

The phenomena of magic can be classified in several forms, namely mysticism, divination, astrology, incantations, alchemy, medicine, sorcery, spirit mediation, and necromancy (Luck, 1985). Magic can be distinguished based on its purpose including "The Black Magic" which is used for malicious purposes to hurt someone, deceiving, or

even killing. On the other hand, there is “The White Magic” which seems to be used for useful purposes such as wealth, power, love, medical, knowledge and even entertaining.

The magic began to develop into one of the elements that build literary works. The development of technology makes literature develop as well, literature that was previously only in the form of stories, writings, and plays has now developed into a digital form called film. According to (Arsyad, 2015) “film is a collection of several images that are in the frame, where frame by frame is projected through the projector lens mechanically so that the screen looks like the image comes alive.”

The journey of the development of the film world was quite long until it finally became what it is today where it developed into a TV Series that has characteristics same with films but have more than one episode on it. As widely known the world of film and TV series are getting bigger in direct proportion to the public's interest in films that is getting bigger as well. From this development, films and TV series with quite unique themes were born, one of which was Magic.

TV series that has magic theme is entitled *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*. *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* is a Netflix series developed by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa adapted from the comic series from Archie Comic in 1971 entitled *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* created by George Gladir and Dan DeCarlo. This series can be seen in Netflix. Netflix is a platform that offers online subscription service to watch TV shows and movies by streaming the media online

Chilling Adventures of Sabrina focus on a character named Sabrina Spellman, played by Kiernan Shipka. Sabrina is a teenage girl who was born to a mother who is a mortal and a father who is a witchcraft. That is what makes Sabrina a half-mortal, half-witch where she has to live on 2 world and fight for her double nature. In season 1, it can be seen that Sabrina has just become the first student at The Academy of Unseen Art and she must continue to live her life as a student at Baxter High. She always challenges the doctrines or teachings of witches at every opportunity, especially on the unfair treatment received by witches. The witches term using for the female witches and warlocks term using for the male witches (Aguirre-Sacasa, 2018).

Every story with the theme of magic must have a different magician, of course different from the depiction of the witch itself. In *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* if the

witchcraft wants to get full magic power, they must worship the Dark Lord. Furthermore, in this series, there are many interesting rites (rituals) which are not found in other works.

To analyze about the rites, the writer used A General Theory of Magic by Marcel Mauss. According to (Mauss, 2001) there are elements of magic that build magic itself, namely; magicians, actions and representations. Magician is a person who accomplishes magical actions, Actions are things done by a magician which people call magical rites. Meanwhile, magical representations are ideas and beliefs that are in accordance with magical acts.

In this paper, the writer only focuses on the actions (rites) in TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*. Actions performed by magicians can be called rites. In several collections of folklore, a rite is often presented in a simple and common form. If the folklorists do not tell us that it is actually a rite, it must tend to flirt as an everyday gesture, completely devoid of any special character. Their apparent simplicity, however, is the result of poor description or poor observation; or they are shadows of their former selves.

1) Conditions of the rite

In analyzing rites in general, it has to count a number of observances which are sometimes exactly the same as religious rites. Every time they encounter a ritual, the exact calculation is not always included. An example is the time and place of the ritual which has been arranged in such a way when the witch want to perform the ritual as will be explained below:

a. The Time

Time is of the essence when performing ceremonies because it is said that there are special hours when the powers of witches are perfect. Most ceremonies are carried out at night which is specifically at midnight. Others are done at sunrise or sunset. There are also special calculations about the months that are favorable for them. Monthly date is the most frequently set date for celebration time. As we know in ancient India, a new moon or full moon is when the rite that magician do theoretically involve a sacrifice. It is appeared from older texts as well as from modern descriptions that the bright of the

half moon is reserved for auspicious rites, while the darker dates are devoted to bad omens. It is because of this that astrology has become an integral part of magic.

b. The Place

In carrying out rituals, they do not do it in any places, but in special places. These special places, such as cemeteries, forests, swamps, doorways, roads and other places that have specific uses, are places favored by ghosts and satans. In other cases, the magician can be seen draw a circle or square, a *templum*, around it and he works his magic within it. Hence, it is clear that magic, along with sacrifices, had provisions for determining the time and place of the ritual.

c. Tools and Materials

Apart from the time and place, there are also the tools and materials used by the magician in carrying out his rituals which have magical qualities of their own. The simplest tool used by magicians is a wand. Slightly different from that, Greco-Latin magicians had a veritable arsenal of bowls, rings, knives, ladders, discs, rattles, bobbins, keys, mirrors, etc.

2) The Nature of the Rites

There are many magic groups when they want to perform rituals, but between each group there is no significant difference. This ritual consists of verbal rites and non-verbal rites which will be explained below:

a. Verbal Rites

Verbal rites are usually called spells or incantations. Enchantments play an important role in the wizarding world. From many modern descriptions one can easily be led to believe that only non-verbal acts involve magic. Verbal rituals are mentioned only in passing and are neglected in favor of a lengthy enumeration of other aspects of the ritual. On the other hand, there are texts, such as *Lönnrot* on Finnish magic, which contain no incantations or incantations.

Rarely are magician given a fairly balanced idea of these two important features of ritual. W. W. Skeat did it for Malaysian magic and J. Mooney for the Cherokee. In the magician's manual, it is found that the rituals are usually interdependent. They are so closely related that to give a correct idea of magical ceremonies that must study both together. If any of these aspects tend to dominate, it's usually the spell. Although it is

doubtful whether there really were wordless rituals, there is evidence of a large number of exclusively oral rituals.

Spells are written in specialized languages, such as the language of gods and spirits or the language of magic. The Malaysian use of bhàshantu (spirit language) and the Eskimo Angekok language are two prominent instances of this type of ceremony. According to Jamblique, E' is the language of the gods in Greece. Magicians spoke in Sanskrit in Prakrit India, Egyptian and Hebrew in the Greek world, Greek in Latin-speaking regions, and Latin with us.

In this study, the method that the writer used is descriptive qualitative method in which data is collected from dialogues and scenes performed by Sabrina Spellman in an effort to equalize gender for witches. Qualitative methods rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis and use a variety of designs. In his book, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, Creswell (2014) explains that:

“Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant’s setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The final written report has a flexible structure. Those who engage in this form of inquiry support a way of looking at research that honors an inductive style, a focus on individual meaning, and the importance of rendering the complexity of a situation.”
(Creswell, 2014)

Similarly, (Sugiono, 2018) defined qualitative descriptive research as “research that provides descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from the person or actor being watched.” Additionally, according to (Wiratha, 2006) qualitative descriptive approach is to evaluate, describe, and summarize diverse circumstances, situations from various data collected in the form of interviews or observations of issues that occur in the field.

The reason writer uses the qualitative method is because in this research, the researcher relied on dialogue and action that represent the element of magic and Sabrina Spellman’s character to gain gender equality in TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* as the object of research and other supporting text data, such as books, journal

articles and theses. Hence, the qualitative design used in this research is a narrative design, which is a humanities inquiry design in which the researcher analyzes people's lives and asks one or more people to share tales about their lives.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In TV series: *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, the rites are the one of the activities that the witchcraft do. The witches have a sacred time and sacred place when they want to perform the magical powers that they have. Furthermore, some of the rites need the materials and tools used by the magician in carrying out their rituals which have magical qualities of their own. On the other hand, the witches also using a spell or incantation when they are performing the rite. The explanation about the time, condition and the nature of rite which is in this TV series can be seen below:

1. Resurrection



Figure 1
Sabrina, Nick, Prudence and Dorcas are doing the resurrection rite in the woods (*Chapter Eight: The Burial*, 00:39:01)

Resurrection, also known as anastasis, is the notion of rebirth after death. A dying-and-rising god is a deity who dies and is resurrected in a variety of faiths. The witches also perform resurrection. By using their magical powers, they can resurrect that already death and become alive again, but there are several things that must be fulfilled. One of them is the sacrifice of life. Resurrection is a very dark, so that the witches seldom do the resurrection.

In *Chapter Eight: The Burial*, Sabrina, Prudence, Dorcas and Nick are doing a resurrection rite. When they want to perform the resurrection, they will choose the time from 00:00 – 01:00 or it is known as Witching Hour. In this time, the power that the witches have is on the highest level and they rarely failed do the rites when it takes on witching hour. They also performing this rite in the woods to prevent the distraction and the woods is known as the place where the spirit are lived in.

In carrying this rite, they must prepare the materials that they need such as pentagram, candles, target's effigy and living person for sacrifice. They wanted to resurrect Thomas Kinkle so that they used Thomas Kinkle's clothes and his mine hat. The living person who will be the sacrifice in this rite is Agatha who became the mastermind behind what happened to Thomas Kinkle. Beside prepared the materials and tools, they also need a spell for doing the rites. The spell is in the *Book of the Dead*. Sabrina borrowed it from Ms. Wardwell, her teacher. The incantation or spell that they used will be explained below:

In three stage of resurrection rite, they are three stages that they must do. The first stage, they invoke the Hounds.

Sabrina: "Hounds of Heaven, Hounds of Hell, Hounds of Earth, Guardians of the Door, we summon thee to help us resurrect the fallen son."

All: "No si vocare te. No si vocare te. No si vocare te. No si vocare te"

(Chapter Eight: The Burial, 2018, pp. 49)

The second stage, they open the gate between the world of living and the world of death.

Sabrina: "We bow before the Door that divides the World of the Living from the World of the Dead. With humble gratitude, we ask that it be opened."

All: "Aperi ianuam. Aperi ianuam. Aperi ianuam. Aperi ianuam"

(Chapter Eight: The Burial, 2018, pp. 50)

The third and the final stage, the sacrifice

Sabrina: "Unholiest of Spirits, we offer thee a life for a life! O mighty Dark Lord..."
All: "Vita est vita"
Sabrina: "...By whom all is set afire, thy power be thy path, thy will my desire."
All: "Vita est vita"
Sabrina: "The Hounds invoked. The Door opened. The price paid in blood. Thomas Kinkle, we entreat thee."
All: "Rise. Rise. Rise!"
(Chapter Eight: The Burial, 2018, pp. 52)

2. Moon Bath

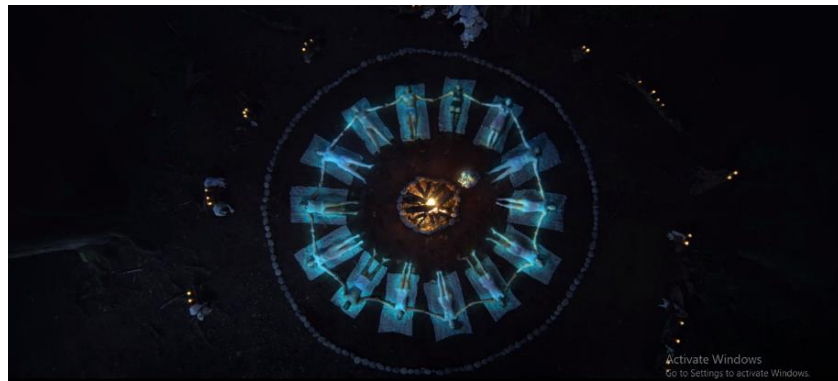


Figure 2
The coven are doing the Moon Bath in the woods (Chapter Twenty-four: The Hare Moon, 00:49:20)

It can be seen in *Chapter Twenty-four: The Hare Moon* at 00:49:50, Sabrina and her coven are doing the moon bath. The moon bath is the ceremony that witches always do to celebrate the Hare Moon. The Hare Moon is the nexus point of all the magical calendars where witches celebrate renewal. Hilda is leading this rite. She recounts that they would spread oils on their bodies and bathe in the moonlight as a sign of rebirth. Moonlight was supposed to rejuvenate them. She believes that if they take the blood of the angel Gideon, combine it with particular oils, and massage it on their bodies while bathing in the light of the Hare Moon, the symbolic may become actual. Ambrose further argues that it is occult scientific law that heavenly bodies activate celestial substances.

The moonlight would stimulate the angels' blood, allowing their skin to really absorb the moon's energy.

The moon bath ritual to celebrate the Hare Moon also used woods as the place for the rite. It can be seen in this chapter, the coven are covering their body with the oil and asked mother moon to bless them as a renewal (to make them whole again in power).

They also using a spell for do the Moon Bath. This ritual was led by Hilda Spellman who knows a lot about the rite. Below is the spell or incantation that she used:

Hilda: "Mother moon, in the fullest of your form, we ask that you bless us with your gifts, your energies. As you ripen like a babe in the belly, make us whole again, make our magicks multiply in the spirit of the hare. We offer you our bodies, anointed in celestial essence, that we may become vessels of your energies."

(Chapter Twenty-four: The Hare Moon, 2020, pp. 64-65)

3. Siphoning Rite

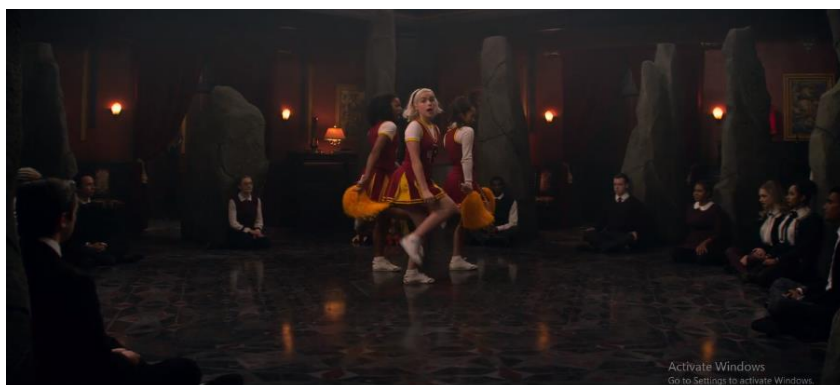


Figure 3
The coven and Ravenettes are doing the Siphoning rite (*Chapter Twenty-seven: The Judas Kiss*, 00:17:58)

In *Chapter Twenty-seven: The Judas Kiss*, the coven and Ravenettes are doing a dancing rite for Goddess Terpsichore, Mother of Dance. Ambrose had an idea after seeing the hedge witches fill Sabrina with power, and he discovered a siphoning spell. He said that if they could bring them into the middle of their stone circle (Stonehenge), they would be able to take their energy and restore the coven, as well as, most crucially, their aunts. Yet, because the hedge witches are older and fewer in number, the spell

would most certainly kill them. Prudence wishes to prolong the spell, but Sabrina dislikes the idea. When performing the rite, they need a sacred place like that surrounded by a stone like Stonehenge. The witches need a young, energetic, sexy dancer when they want to the dancing rite. So that Sabrina ask the Ravenettes to show at the hall of the Academy of Unseen Art.

The spell was cast by Ambrose and the other witches, restoring part of their magic and siphoning energy into effigies for Hilda and Zelda. The spell or incantation that they used can be seen in below:

4. Séance

The coven: "Det nobis potestatem. Det nobis potestatem. Goddess Terpsichore, Mother of Dance. We offer you muses, enchant them with trance. Let body and movement and spirit romance. Your powers to our coven, dark magicks enhance. Det nobis potestatem."

(Chapter Twenty-seven: The Judas Kiss, 2020, pp. 24-25)



Figure 4
Sabrina and the Weird Sister are doing Séance (Chapter Eleven: A Midwinter's Tale, 00:17:07)

Séance is a ritual that the witches do when they want to have a contact with a spirit. In this episode, at the solstice Sabrina tried to contact her mother, Diana Spellman. The witches performed their rites in special place, but sometimes they do it

anywhere. One of them is in Sabrina's room. They are doing the Séance at the Witching Hour.

Things that they must prepare is a place surrounded by candles and the object that belonged to the specified spirit. In performing séance, Sabrina used her mother wedding dress as the object. Sabrina and the Weird Sisters performed a séance to contact Diana so that Sabrina would be able talk to her mom. Agatha particularly wanted to help as she had been practicing her skills as a spiritualist. They are doing it at

Agatha: "Spirits below and above, spirits in between, caught in the fabric betwixt worlds, we ask that the veil be lifted and that you send forth the spirit of Diana Regina Sawyer-Spellman. Diana, you're welcome to this house, to this circle. If you're here, we ask that you make your presence known."

(Chapter Eleven: A Midwinter's Tale, 2018, pp. 25)

Sabrina's house that surrounded by candles at witching hour. This rite was led by Agatha. The spell or incantation that she used in leading Séance can be seen in the following quotation.

CONCLUSION

For the conclusion, the writer conclude that the magic is the interesting theme that built literature. When talking about the magic, there must be a person who do the magical things that known as a witch. One of the interesting things that the witches do is a rite. Rite is a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, actions, or objects, performed according to a set sequence. When doing the rite, the witches must prepare several things such as time, place, materials and also the incantation that they used in doing it. They believed that there are a sacred time and sacred place to do the rites. Furthermore, the different rite also has a different purpose and steps that they have to prepare.

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