

YOUR BENTEN CHARMS

Benten's watery nature means her moods can change with the tides, but most often she looks upon people with kindness and generosity.

BENTEN SPELL

If public speaking is hard for you, Benten is the goddess to ask for help. She will grant you eloquence, preciseness of a musician and grace of a dancer. Charge a symbol of Benten and wear it to give you the confidence to speak.

Make an effort with how you look before you call upon Benten. Arrange your hair and clothing well, and approach your altar with an item of beauty.

Your appearance is important to this spell.



JEALOUS STREAK

Like most goddesses of love and beauty, Benten had a jealous streak and her watery nature meant that her moods changed frequently.

a symbol of envy and temptation. According to legend, it is white snakes that inhabit the goddess's shrines.

The white snake is one of Benten's symbols to signify her jealousy.

Benten was not always benevolent. It was believed that if a husband and wife entered her shrine the jealous goddess would curse their marriage so it ended in divorce.

Another one of Benten's symbols is the white snake –



DRAGON SLAYER

You may wonder why a goddess of love, beauty and eloquence would be depicted holding weapons – the bow and arrow, and sword. In ancient art she was also shown riding a dragon. These all hint at her role as dragon slayer.

When young men were pursued by dragons it is said that Benten would take pity on them and intervene.

Benten's aspect as a water goddess and her marriage to the serpent king may explain this association.

Many stories describe how Benten would descend to Earth if children were being devoured by a dragon and stop the monster's evil.

Benten was able to vanquish dragons.



SEVEN GODS

The Shichifukujin were the seven Shinto gods of fortune, who journeyed on a magic ship of treasures called the Takara-Bune. Benten was patron to the rich and the only goddess among them. The six gods were:

protected the integrity of the soil; Ebisu – god of the treasures of the sea and patron of fishermen, he was also a deity of labour.

Fukurokuju – god of wisdom, luck and longevity; Hotei – the god of happiness and of wise contentment; Jurojin – the god of happy old age.

Bishamon – god of war, distributor of wealth and protector against demons and disease; Daikoku – god of wealth and patron of farmers, he

Use a symbol of Ebisu if you want your labours to be successful.

