

# 1st Phase

## Starting the Rite and Preparing the Sacred Space

### Beginning

#### 1. Musical Signal

*Ritual Leader blows the hunting horn, 3x3*

#### 2. Opening Prayer

**Ritual Leader:** Ye Æsir! Ye Vanir! We gather this day, children of the gods and goddesses, to give thanks and honor for the blessings we have been given this year.

Hail to you, mighty ones of old,  
From ancient times till now your splendor endures  
We, your children, call out to you again;  
As in the childhood of our race, we acknowledge our debts.  
Deities of light and deities of darkness,  
Both gods and goddesses: we praise you.  
Not forgetting one, not leaving any out,  
We send our prayers to you.  
Listen to our words, you will find them sweet.  
Your children pray to you here.

Hail ye Æsir and Vanir!

**All:** Hail ye Æsir and Vanir!

**Ritual Leader:** The ritual is begun!

### Defining the sacred space

#### 3. The Processional

*Bard leads the processional chant*

**All:** We approach the sacred grove  
With hearts and minds and flesh and bone  
Join us now in ways of old  
We have come home

### Cleansing the sacred space

#### 4. Purification of Participants

**Waterkeeper:** With water from our mother Earth, I cleanse thee for this day's work.

#### 5. Purification of Site

**Firekeeper:** With smoke from the sacred fire, I cleanse the Nemeton for this day's work.

#### 6. Banishing the Outwellers

**Ritual Leader:** Outwellers! You who strive against man and god, take this offering and trouble not our work this day!

*Ritual Leader makes offering of ale to the outwellers.*

### Filling the sacred space with positive energy

7.Honoring the Earth-Mother

**Ritual Leader:** Earth mother  
**All:**Source of life

**Ritual Leader:** Earth mother  
**All:** Great nurturer

**Ritual Leader:** Earth mother  
**All:** To whom life returns

**Ritual Leader:** We honor you, Earth Mother, and thank you.  
Flesh and blood to strengthen you.

Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!  
**All:** Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

8.Unity Chant/Song

**All:** Earth, Sky, and Sea

Fire, water, and tree

Ancestors, land spirits, gods and goddesses all.  
We are here as one to worship as we will.

9.Specification of Ritual Purpose & Historical Precedent

**Ritual Leader:** As our ancestors did before us, so do we now, and so will our children in their time.  
**All:** May it ever be so!

**Ritual Leader:** We gather to celebrate the Autumn Equinox, the in-between time when the day is split evenly between light and dark. For our ancestors, this was a time to celebrate the harvest and the hunt and to give thanks to the gods and goddesses. With the coming winter, the survival of the tribe was dependent upon what had been gathered.

## 2nd Phase

### Connecting to and Inviting The Kindreds

#### Creating the Sacred Center

10.Fire/Water/Tree

11.Lighting the sacred fire

**Firekeeper:** Fire is the embodiment of transformation. Sacred fire burn in me!

**All:** Sacred fire burn in me!

12.Pouring the sacred waters

**Waterkeeper:** Water holds the wisdom of the ages. Sacred fire burn in me!

**All:** Sacred fire burn in me!

### 13.Planting the sacred tree

**Ritual Leader:** The tree of life is our connection to all the worlds. Sacred tree burn in me!

**All:** Sacred tree, burn in me!

**Ritual Leader:** Fire, water, sacred tree...

**All:** Flame and flow and grow in me.

### 14.Evoking the Gate Keeper

**Ritual Leader:** Sharp of eye and keen of hearing, Heimdall will blow the horn that calls the Æsir and Vanir to Ragnarok. Guardian of the great bridge Bifrost, Heimdall watches.

Heimdall, we ask that you guard the way as the gods and goddesses join us.

Heimdall, we offer to you a gift of thanks.

Heimdall, accept our gift and open the ways!

Hail Heimdall!

**All:** Hail Heimdall!

### 15.Invoking the Bardic Deity(ies) or Spirit

**Bard:** Saga... all hear the ancient one come

Saga... help us see the harvest

Saga... guide us to the table

Saga... sing us tales of wonder

Remind us that we are able

To drain the cup yet drink again

Golden seer of eternal light

Fire us with your beloved presence

Your song is our own... Saga

Bragi, Odinson,

Best of the wordsmiths

And first of the skalds.

You with the tongue of gold

Whose words are like the finest mead,

We ask you best of bards

To bless us and make our words mix well.

Bragi, let your inspiration flow!

## Inviting the Kindreds

### 16.Inviting the Ancestors

**Firekeeper:** Honored ancestors, your kin call to you! Your deeds give us a future! Honored ancestors, join us!

**All:** Honored ancestors, join us!

### 17.Inviting the Nature Spirits

**Waterkeeper:** Honored landvaettir, your allies call to you! Your deeds give us a home! Honored landvaettir, join us!

**All:** Honored landvaettir, join us!

18. Inviting the Deities

**Ritual Leader:** Honored gods and goddesses, your children call to you! Your dees give us inspiration. Honored gods and goddesses, join us!

**All:** Honored gods and goddesses, join us!

19. Descriptive Invocation of Deity(ies) of the Occasion

We call upon you gods and goddesses of bounty: Frey, prince of the world; Freya, maiden of all that is wild; Idunna, keeper of the golden apples; Sif, mother of the corn. We ask that you bless us by attending this feast that you so graciously provided.

### 3rd Phase Offerings

20. Praise Offerings, Dance, Libations, etc.

**Ritual Leader:** Are there any praise offerings to be made this day? If so, please come forward and make them.

21. The Sacrifice

**Ritual Leader:** Frey, in your honor, we give you this fine mead, nectar of the gods

**All:** Honor to Frey!

**Firekeeper:** Freyja, in your honor, we give you this fine mead, nectar of the gods

**All:** Honor to Freyja!

**Waterkeeper:** Idunna, in your honor, we give you this fine mead, nectar of the gods

**All:** Honor to Idunna!

**Bard:** Sif, in your honor, we give you this fine mead, nectar of the gods

**All:** Honor to Sif!

### 4th Phase The Gifts From the Gods

22. The Omen

*Seer takes the omen*

23. Blessing the Waters of Life

**Ritual Leader:** A gift calls for a gift!

O ye Æsir and Vanir, touch the waters in these cups, give to us your blessings that our works prove mighty.

24. Acceptance of the Blessings

**Ritual Leader:** Accept now the blessings of the Æsir and Vanir!

25.Optional: Rite of Passage

## 5th Phase Unwinding and Ending the Ceremony

26.Thanking of Entities Invited, in Reverse Order

**Ritual Leader:** Frey, Freyja, Idunna, and Sif! We thank you for your presence this day. Leave if you must but stay if you will.

Hail Frey!

**All:** Hail Frey!

**Ritual Leader:** Hail Freyja!

**All:** Hail Freyja!

**Ritual Leader:** Hail Idunna!

**All:** Hail Idunna!

**Ritual Leader:** Hail Sif!

**All:** Hail Sif!

**Ritual Leader:** O ye Æsir and Vanir! We thank you for your presence this day! Leave if you must but stay if you will.

Hail ye Æsir!

**All:** Hail ye Æsir!

**Ritual Leader:**Hail ye Vanir!

**All:**Hail ye Vanir!

**Waterkeeper:** O ye landvaettir! We thank you for your presence this day! Leave if you must but stay if you will.

Hail ye landvaettir!

**All:** Hail ye landvaettir!

**Firekeeper:** O ye ancestors! We thank you for your presence this day! Leave if you must but stay if you will.

Hail ye ancestors!

**All:** Hail ye ancestors!

27.Thanking the Gatekeeper & Closing the Gates

**Ritual Leader:** Heimdall, fair one, keen of sight and hearing, watchman for the Æsir and Vanir, guardian of the great bridge Bifrost, we thank you. The guests have left and only the kindred remain.

And so, we close but do not bar the way.

Hail Heimdall!

**All:** Hail Heimdall!

## The Ending

28.Preparation for the end

**Ritual Leader:** As we approach the end of the ritual, let us prepare to return to the mundane world.

29. Final Benediction

**Ritual Leader:**

Go now with the fire of transformation burning in you  
Go now with the waters of wisdom flowing in you  
Go now with the tree of life growing in you  
Go now in peace.

30. Dissolving the Sigil

Recessional:

**All:** Walk in wisdom, from this hallowed place  
Walk not in sorrow, our roots shall ere embrace  
May strength be your brother and honor be your friend  
And luck be your lover until we meet again.

31. Musical Signal (horn 3x3)

32. Closing prayer

**Ritual Leader:** We set our face to the dark  
We will travel with the sun through the dark  
We will go with confidence in the deepest dark  
Though about me the dark may grow,  
The gods are always at my side  
Guiding me to light.

The ritual is ended. Go in peace.