

Saturnalia 2005

(Anyone who intends to make any praise offerings washes their hands before the rite begins.)
The folk gather in the ritual area and a musical signal is given for beginning the ritual.

All sing **We Create the Sacred Grove** (3x):

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

AT: *Ad hunc locum venimus uti sumus deos veneremus.*

(ahd hoonk loh'-cuhm wehn'-ih-moos oo'-tee soo'-moos day'-ohs wehn-ear-ee'-moos)

All: *We are here to honor the gods.*

DQ: *In the dead of winter and the dark of night, the Folk gather on Saturnalia to make offerings to the gods and seek blessings in return. For our ancestors it was a time to feast on the crops saved for this time of year and celebrate with fun and games to keep their moods bright through the season. For us, as for them, we gather to acknowledge the coldness of winter, to exchange gifts and renew social bonds, and to ask the Kindreds for help through the hard times ahead so we may see next year's planting and reaping.*

Honoring the Earth Mother

KB honors the Earth Mother:

*Ops Mater, Goddess of the Earth's bounty,
We give words of honor and praise to you,
You who are the wellspring of all the worlds,
O mystery of mysteries, source of all creation,
You who are a fountain of brightness,
forever flowing forth from the darkness below,
An ever-full cup of generosity, eternally gift-giving,
O great Earth Mother, Ops Mater, we thank you.*

(ahps mah'-tair)

All sing **Earth Mother Chant** (3x):

*Earth Mother, we sing to your body,
Earth Mother, we sing to your bones,
Earth Mother, we honor your spirit,
Earth Mother, we honor your stones.*

KB offers corn meal in the offering bowl and says: *Ops Mater, accept our offering.*

All: *Ops Mater, accept our offering!*

Grounding and Uniting in the Grove Meditation

(AT leads grove meditation.)

AT leads the folk in the **Unity Chant** (1x):

All: *We are one, in our grove,
upon the earth, within the sea, beneath the sky.
We are joined, to send our call,
to the honored dead, to the spirit folk, to the blessed gods.
We praise thee, in one voice, in our sacred grove.
We are one.*

Establishing the Sacred Grove: Fire, Well, and Tree

Fire

KB: *O sacred fire that consumes and transforms,
True and holy light of the Shining Ones,
Be blessed with our offering! O sacrificed and sacrificer,
Let holy flame warm our spirits and our lives.*

*Queen of the hearth, Vesta Mater, your household is here.
Let us pray with a good fire.*

The Fire Maiden (**KB**) lights the fire and makes an offering of incense.

KB: *I kindle the sacred fire in wisdom, love, and power.
Sacred fire, burn within us.*

All: *Sacred fire, burn with us.*

KB censes the site and the folk.

Well

BC: *O sacred waters that flow and swirl beneath all being,
Well of ancient wisdom, keeper of deep riches,
Be blessed with our offering! O great source of all,
Let us know the elder depths within ourselves.*

The Keeper of the Well (**BC**) pours waters from the Well to blessing cup, offers silver to Well.

BC: *In the depths flow the waters of wisdom.*

Sacred waters flow within us.

All: *Sacred waters, flow within us.*

BC asperges the site and the folk with a branch and water from the Well.

Tree

DQ: *O sacred pillar, boundary of all worlds,*

Stand at the center of the sky,

Stand at the center of the sea,

Stand at the center of the land on which we dwell.

Let us be deepened in your depths,

Raised to your heights,

And strengthened in your strength.

The Tender of the Tree (**DQ**) dresses & censes the world tree.

DQ: *From the depths to the heights spans the world tree.*

Sacred tree, grow within us.

All: *Sacred tree, grow within us.*

The consecration of the space is completed with:

AT: *The fire, the well, the sacred tree,*

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

AT: *In land, sea and sky,*

All: *Below and on high!*

AT: *Thus is the sacred grove claimed and hallowed.*

All: *Fiat!* (fee'-aht)

AT: *By the cleansing of water and fire, let all ill turn away from me and mine.*

All: *Fiat!*

Opening the Gates Between the Worlds

AT calls to Ianus, god of gates and doors, beginnings and endings:

AT: *Salve Ianus Pater!* (sal'-way; yah'-noos)

<i>Ianus Inceptio, God of beginnings;</i>	(ihn-kept'-ee-oh)
<i>Ianus Brifons, Two-faced Ianus;</i>	(brih'-fones)
<i>Ianus Patulcius, Opener of doors;</i>	(pah-tool'-kee-uhs)
<i>Ianus Domesticus, Protector of homes;</i>	(doh-mehst'-ick-uhs)
<i>Ianus Quirinus, God of the folk;</i>	(kweer'-ihn-uhs)
<i>O Great Ianus, lend your wings to our prayers,</i>	
<i>Conjure a portal between our world and the gods',</i>	
<i>And let our prayers and praise pass freely to the Kindreds.</i>	

AT makes an offering of wine to Ianus and says: *Ianus, accept our offering!*

All: *Ianus, accept our offering!*

All: *We invoke you Ianus, opener of every gate* (yah'-noos)

We invoke you Ianus, opener of every gate

You will reach us, you will teach us, and reveal our fate.

You will reach us, you will teach us, and reveal our fate. (3x)

AT: *Now, Ianus of openings, join your magic with mine and let the Fire open as a gate, let the Well open as a gate, and let the Tree open as the crossroads of all the Worlds as we welcome the presence of the Kindreds among us. Portae Dicudantur!* (pohr'-tay die-koo-dan'-toor)

All: *Let the gates be opened!*

Outdwellers Appeasement

Outside of the ritual space, **DQ** gives soda to the **Outdwellers**, saying:

DQ: *You who come from the outer dark,*
You who stood against the gods and man,
You who are cold of heart and cruel of mind,
Take this and trouble not our work.

Bardic Inspiration

KB invokes **Apollo**, god of music, poetry, and healing:

KB: *Phoebus Apollo, bringer of light,* (fee'-buhs)

Son of Zeus the almighty and Leto the rich-haired,

You who were born on Delos, bringing bounty to the land,

A temple there to your glory, fine and fragrant offerings a-plenty.

O sweet-tongued Apollo, you who sing for the Gods,

May you guide our praises ever higher,

Bathing the gods in the sweetness of our love,

Only these boons we beg of you, O glorious one:

That our voices be pleasing to the Gods, Spirits, and Manes, (mah'-nays)
That the arrow of our devotion strike true and win the day,
That our blessings dance freely across the realms to the Kindreds,
And that our Diviners see well the blessings dancing back in return.

KB makes an offering of oil to Apollo and says: *Apollo, accept our offering.*

All: *Apollo, accept our offering!*

Honoring and Inviting the Three Kindreds

Ancestors

DQ: *Hear us, Old Ones, our ancestors and kin,*
You whose blood flows in our veins.
From you we spring and with you we will grow in health.
Ancestors, remember us as we remember you.

DQ makes an offering of bread to the ancestors and says: *Ancestors, accept our offering!*

All: *Ancestors, accept our offering!*

All sing **Mothers and Fathers of Old** (3x):

From far beyond this mortal plane, mothers and fathers of old
We pray that you return again, mothers and fathers of old
To share with us the mysteries and secrets long untold
Of the ancient ways we seek to reclaim, mothers and fathers of old

Nature Spirits

KB: *Hear us, Spirits of the Land,*
You of stone and stream, of beast and herb and tree.
From you we learn to live in harmony with our world, and ourselves.
Nature spirits, aid us as we aid you.

KB makes an offering of bird seed to nature spirits and says: *Nature spirits, accept our offering!*

All: *Nature spirits, accept our offering!*

All sing **Fur and Feather** (3x):

Fur and feather and scale and skin,
Different without but the same within.
Many of body but one of soul,
Through all creatures are the gods made whole.

Gods

BC: *Hear us, Shining Ones of eld, you who uphold the worlds.
You who guide us and protect us, O patrons and matrons,
In you we grow in wisdom, strength, and purity.
Honor us as we honor you.*

BC makes an offering of oil to the gods and says: *Gods and goddesses, accept our offering!*

All: *Gods and goddesses, accept our offering!*

All sing **Hail All the Gods** (3x):

*Hail all the gods,
Hail all the goddesses.
Hail all the holy ones,
We dwell together.*

*Powers of the sky,
Powers of the sacred earth,
Powers of the underworld,
We dwell together.*

*Hail all the Gods!
Hail all the Goddesses!
Hail all the Gods...and Goddesses.*

Meditation of Merging the Energies and Re-Centering

(**AT** leads meditation of merging and re-centering.)

Ritual Purpose, and Honoring the Spirits of the Occasion

KB: *Today we celebrate the festival of Saturnalia, honoring Saturn for rewarding our hard work over the past year with bounteous blessings in return. As the ancient Romans did before us, so too do we exchange gifts and make merry, sharing food and mirth among the Folk and strengthening the bonds between us all. On this “best of days”, let us feast together and honor Saturn and all the Kindreds, for it is still dark and cold, and if we have nothing more, we still have each other. Io Saturnalia!*

All: *Io Saturnalia!*

(ee-yoh’)

(Optional, if time allows: **KB** tells a story of Saturn)

Honoring Saturn

AT: *Saturnus Pater, Father Saturn,
Husband of Ops and Father of so many great gods,
Friend of Janus and bringer of the Golden Age of peace.*

*O Great Saturn, with good prayers we offer to you this gold,
That its brilliance honor and please you,
Though it be but a pale reflection of your own glory.*

(Offering of gold is made)

*And as we honor you with gold, so too accept this offering of wine,
That its sweetness thank you for the abundance in our lives,
And its bitterness remind us of the work we did to gain it.*

(Offering of wine is made)

*And as we honor you with wine, accept this final offering of seed,
That its potential be given to you, O father of all prosperity,
In honor of your greatness as bringer of fruitfulness to the land.*

(Offering of seed is made)

*Saturnus Pater, may you look with favor upon your children who have honored you,
May you receive the fullness of our blessings and respond with the fullness of your own,
And may you know the depths of our love and devotion, as we begin the new year's work.*

AT: *Be welcome with us, Saturnus Pater; Father Saturn, accept our offering!*

All: *Father Saturn, accept our offering!*

Offerings to the Kindreds and Spirits

DA: *Have the Folk brought praise?*

All: *They have.*

DA: *Fiat!*

(fee'-aht)

DA conducts three rounds of praise offerings: Ancestors, Nature Spirits, and Gods.

Piacular Offering

KB: *Saturnus Pater,
Gods and goddesses,
Holy Ancestors,
And Spirits of this Place,*

*If anything we have done here has offended you,
If anything we have done here has been incomplete,
If anything we have done here has not been proper,
Accept this final offering in recompense.*

KB makes a piacular offering of oil.

All: *Let our voices arise on the Fire,
Let our voices resound in the Deep.
May the spirits accept what we offer,
As we honor the old ways we keep.*

AT: *Shining Ones, Noble Ones, and Mighty Ones, we have given you praise and honor! A gift calls for a gift, and we pray to you as we offer up these sacrifices. Accept them, open our hearts, and give to us of your blessings.*

An Omen for the Blessings is Taken and Shared

While **AT** takes the omen with the cards, **DQ** distributes individual blessing cups and the folk sing A Sacred Grove (as often as necessary):

All: *A sacred grove, and all is hallowed,
Gifts, given and received,
The seer's eye turns into shadow,
The will of the gods revealed.*

When the omen is taken and the cups are distributed, the Diviner reveals the omen to the folk.

Receiving the Blessings of the Gods and Spirits

DQ: *Children of earth, we call for the blessing of the Ancient Ones.
Together we cry...*

All: *Shining Ones, give us the waters!*

DQ: *We join our hearts, that each of us be blessed. Together we call...*

All: *Shining Ones, give us the waters!*

DQ: *And as we are blessed, let all the worlds be blessed.
Together we pray...*

All: *Shining Ones, give us the waters!*

DQ pours water from the Well into the blessing cup and says:
We draw water from the well of wisdom, pouring the ale of inspiration.

DQ holds the blessing cup aloft and says:

O Mighty, Noble and Shining Ones, we have given to you, and now we ask you to bless us in turn, as a gift calls for a gift. Hallow these waters, O holy powers. Grant us the blessing we seek. Let the wisdom, love and power of the Gods, Dead and Spirits flow in this cup of Blessing. Ecce aquae vivae! (et'-chay ahk'-wie wih'-wie)

All: *Behold, the Waters of Life!*

The waters are passed and drunk, and as this happens the folk sing (as often as necessary):

*Pour the waters, raise the cup,
Drink your share of wisdom deep.
Strength and love now fill us up,
As the elder ways we keep.*

Thanking the Kindreds and Spirits

KB: *We have called upon the Kindreds and they have answered us! With joy in our hearts let us carry the magic from our sacred grove into our lives and work. Each time we offer to the powers they become stronger and more aware of our needs and worship. So as we prepare to depart let us give thanks to those who have aided us.*

AT: *Saturn, Gratias tibi agamus!* (graht'-ee-ahs tih'-bee ah-gah'-moos)

All: *Saturn, we thank you!*

BC: *Dei, Gratias vobis agamus!* (day'-ee, graht-ee-ahs woh-bis ah-gah'-moos)

All: *Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!*

KB: *Numinae et indigites, Gratias vobis agamus!* (noo'-mihn-ay eht ihn-dih-gee'-tays;

All: *Nature Spirits, we thank you!* graht-ee-ahs woh-bis ah-gah'-moos)

DQ: *Majores et di manes, Gratias vobis agamus!* (mah-yoor'-ays eht dee mah'-nays;

All: *Ancestors, we thank you!* graht-ee-ahs woh-bis ah-gah'-moos)

AT: *Ianus, Gratias tibi agamus!* (yah'-noos graht'-ee-ahs tih'-bee ah-gah'-moos)

All: *Ianus, we thank you!*

KB: *Apollo, Gratias tibi agamus!* (graht'-ee-ahs tih'-bee ah-gah'-moos)

All: *Apollo, we thank you!*

KB: *Ops Mater, Gratias tibi agamus.* (graht'-ee-ahs tih'-bee ah-gah'-moos)
All: *Ops Mater, we thank you!*

Final Offering to Vesta

KB: *Vesta Mater, Queen of the Hearth,
You who are entitled to the last devotion,
Bless and guard all those who worship you,
Whether in their homes or without,
Whether alone or with others,
Whether in worship or in business,
Lady of Fire, receive this final offering.*

KB makes an offering of incense to the Fire and then extinguishes it.

Closing the Gates and Ending the Rite

BC: *Now by the keeper of the gates and by our magic we end what we began.
Let the Fire be flame, (gesture to Fire)
Let the Well be water, (gesture to Well)
Let all be as it was before.
Portae claudentur! (pohr'-tie klow-dain'-toor)*

All: *Let the gates be closed!*

AT: *We have done as our ancestors did and as our children will do and the Gods have answered!
Let us go out into the world secure in the knowledge that our offerings have pleased the gods and
that we go forth under their protection. The ritual is at a close. Fiat!*

All: *Fiat!* (fee'-aht)

The musical signal is given to signal the end of the rite. (grove waters recombined)

Materials List

Water bottles for the Well, for drinking, and putting out fire – All
Individual blessing cups (will also have paper cups) – Dan (put near blessing cup before ritual!)
Individual praise offerings – All (**Note: If we are running short on time, plan to keep it brief**)

Olive oil and attractive pouring container (**important**) – Dan
Branch for asperging, dressing the tree, etc. – Dan (get from home)
Pillar candle for “fire” – Dan
Bird or other seed for nature spirits – Dan (and/or Kristin)
Incense (stick & cone) – Dan
Outdweller appeasement (some form of soda) – Dan
Bread for ancestors – Dan
Blessing horn – Dan

Long matches – Anthony
“Tree” (pole-like object) – Anthony or Dan/Kristin
“Well” and grove waters – Anthony
Fire extinguisher (for safety) – Anthony
Cauldron to hold “fire” candles – Anthony
Musical signal maker – Anthony (chime)
Astrology cards for omen – Anthony
Corn meal for Earth Mother – Anthony
Silver-like object for well – Anthony (shiny quarters)
Bowl, pickle jar, etc. to hold offerings – Anthony
Ladles (2) – Anthony (one for the Well, one for offering oil)
Paper towels to wipe oil bowl down – Anthony
Bottle opener – Anthony
Wine for Ianus and others – Anthony
Highlighter (for people re: their ritual parts) – Anthony
Pamphlets for guests – Anthony
Tray for individual blessing cups – Dorinne

Gold, wine, and seed for Saturn – Anthony
Offering bowl(s) – Anthony
Extra X stands – Anthony

Pre-Ritual Setup

Set all cell phones to off/silent.

Set up offering bowl.

Set up the Fire (cauldron and candles), with incense and matches for lighting nearby.

Set up the Well and mix grove waters and new waters together in it.

Set up the Tree.

If using charcoal incense, pre-light the charcoal.

Blessing cup, ladle, branch, and “silver” object should all be near Well. Individual blessing cups should also be near the center, but don’t need to be near the Well (they’ll be redistributed in rite).

Offerings should be gathered centrally, folks should note location of their offerings:

- Earth Mother, Gatekeeper, Bardic Inspiration, Outdwellers
- Kindred offerings – ancestors, nature spirits, gods
- Key offerings – deity(ies) of the occasion
- Individual praise offerings

Pre-ritual briefing for new folks:

- Outline the rite, esp. individual praise offerings, “circles”, etc.
- Teach/review songs and chants
- Review foreign language bits’ pronunciation
- Review order of processional
- Answer any questions