

Yule, 2005

Preparation

Nerthis - Norse Earth Mother	Wheat
Fire/well/tree	Various incense
Heimdall - Norse guardian god – guards the bifrost bridge	Vodka
Outdwellers – Those that would do harm, interfere, etc. Including Loki, Jotun (Giants), etc.	Vodka
Bragi - Norse god of Poetry/Saga - Norse Goddess of History	Lavender oil
Ancestors – My grandfather in specific this year	Battenburg Cake
Nature spirits – elves, dwarves, etc.	Grains of Paradise
Gods – The Aesir and Vanir (Norse gods)	Vodka
Deity(ies) of the occasion – Frigg	Pomegranate Seeds

The participant also fills the Well with fresh water and places the blessing cup and branch next to it. He/she then performs a brief pre-ritual meditation to quiet the mind, clothing in her/his usual ritual garb.

Gathering

Participant gathers at the ritual area and sounds a musical signal three times, then says:

Honoring the Earth Mother

I am here to honor the gods.

Participant:

*Nerthus, Earth Mother, We honor you this night
As we stand upon your ground, and perform our rite
Accept our offering, in the spirit in which we give
And know that we honor you, with every moment we live*

P makes an offering and says: *Earth Mother, accept my sacrifice.*

Inspiration

*Oh Saga!
So dark it has become, these long months
Light passes so quickly by
Help remind us of your song
And how the sun will soon be sky high*

*Oh Bragi!
Poet of Poets
Your words inspire
Allow our words to glow
Like the flame of the fire*

P makes an offering and says: *Saga, Bragi, accept my sacrifice.*

Opening the Gates

*I kindle the sacred fire in wisdom, love, and power. Sacred fire, burn within me.
In the depths flow the waters of wisdom. Sacred waters, flow within me.
From the depths to the heights spans the world tree. Sacred tree, grow within me.
Heimdall, guardian of the gates, walk beside me
Guide me across the Bifrost bridge
Heimdall, allow me across the other side
And open the gates to me.*

P: *Let the fire open as a gate, let the well open as a gate, let the tree open as a gate between the worlds, and let Heimdall walk with me in all ways. Let the gates be open!*

P makes an offering

The Outdwellers

*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 my work.*

P makes an offering

Honoring the Ancestors

P: *Ancestors of old
Blood of my veins,
Grandmothers, Disir
Grandfathers, Alfar,
Wise men and women,
Great heroes
O Ancestors of blood and heart and soul
I call you forth!*

P makes an offering

Honoring the Nature Spirits

P: *Land spirits
Guardians true,
Forest-homed
Boulder-homed,
Water-homed,
Ancient as earth,
Your knowledge runs deep
Honor to you,
I bring this night.
I offer you welcome.*

P makes an offering

Honoring the Deities

P: *Aesir, Vanir
Shining Ones all,
I call upon you,
On this longest night
O Shining Ones of magic and might, I call you forth!*

P makes an offering

Honoring the Occasion

Yule, darkest night, lightest day. The birth of the sun.

It is the time of the mother, as she gives birth to her new boy, the SUN.

We call upon Frigg, The mother, she of winter, Frau Holda. WE call upon her to guide us in these winter nights, as the days grow longer, but the cold grows colder. She gives us hope of the coming of her Sun.

Hail Frigg! Hail Frigg! Hail Frigg!

P: *I have called the Kindreds here today and it is right to give them praise: A round for the ancestors, a round for the nature spirits, and a round for the gods.*

P: *Shining Ones, Noble Ones, and Mighty Ones, I have given you praise and honor! A gift calls for a gift, and I pray to you as I offer up these sacrifices. Accept them, open my heart, and give to me of your blessings.*

Receiving the Blessings of the Gods and Spirits

P raises the blessing cup high and says:

*I pour the waters, raise the cup,
Drink my share of wisdom deep.
Strength and love now fill me up,
As the elder ways I keep.*

P: Drink

May I never thirst

Shining Ones, Noble Ones, and Mighty Ones, I have praised you and received your blessings. Hallow these waters and give to me your power and inspiration and vitality. Behold the waters of life!

P: *I have called upon the Kindreds and they have answered! With joy in my heart I carry their magic into my life and work. Each time I offer to the powers they be come stronger and more aware of my needs and worship. So as I prepare to depart let me give thanks to those who have aided me.*

Frigg, I thank you

Saga, Bragi, I thank you

Heimdall, I thank you

Aesir, Vanir, I thank you

Nature Spirits, I thank you

Ancestors, I thank you

Nerthus, I thank you

P: *Now by the keeper of the gates and by my magic I end what I began.
Let the fire be flame,
Let the well be water,
Let all be as it was before.
Let the gates be closed!*

I go now, a child of the Earth, in peace and blessings. The ritual is at a close.