

Yule 2005
Raven's Cry Grove, ADF
Don (Modig) Hopkins

Thrice three chimes announce the rite.

PD: "We will now treat with the Outdwellers"

Outdwellers

"Mighty Thor, protector of the Gods,
Wielder of the mighty hammer Mjolnir.
We come together in this place
To worship in the old ways.
We would ask you to protect this space.
To dispatch all etins, trolls, and enemies of Asgard.
Until our rite is finished.
We offer you Mead so you may not thirst.
And light this flame to help you keep your vigil."

Så må det bli

Procession

PD: "Brothers and Sisters, you may enter the Vi."

Chant: "We approach the sacred grove
 With hearts and mind and flesh and bone
 Join us now in ways of old
 We have come home"

Introduction

PD: "We come together tonight to honor the Svartalfar, the dark elves, (or for you Tolkiens, the Dwarves) those workers of stone and gem and ore. As the Svartalfar could not come forth into the light of day without being turned to stone, this is their time of year. With the days being short, and the nights long, they are able to spend more time among us, to inspire and encourage us. Let us honor them this night."

Call for Inspiration

PD: "We will now make a call for poetic inspiration."

"Odin, All father,
You who hung on the tree for 9 days
For prophesy.
You who gave an eye to the well
For wisdom.
You who drank of Kvasir's mead

For inspiration.
Lend us your powers this night
That we may speak well and true.”

Så må det bli

Three Hallows

PD: “We now consecrate the Hallows by which we make offering.”

Well

“Great Mimir’s well, fountain of all wit and wisdom.
You from which we receive inspiration and eloquence.
You to which Odin gave an eye for one draught.

We make this sacrifice to you,
That you may carry our sacrifice to those to whom we send.
To those of this world and the worlds below.”

Så må det bli

Fire

“Great flame which warms and protects us.
You which combines with the air and water
To create Bifrost the rainbow bridge.

We make this sacrifice to you,
That you may carry our sacrifice to those to whom we send.
To those of this world and the worlds above.”

Så må det bli

Tree

“Great Yggdrasil, World tree.
You whose roots reach down below the lowest world.
You whose crown reaches above the highest world.
You who touches all the worlds.

We make this sacrifice to you,
That you may carry our sacrifice to those to whom we send.
To those of all the 9 worlds.”

Så må det bli

Sanctifying the participants

PD: "Let us make ourselves ready for the rite by cleansing with the heat of the fire and the purity of the waters."

Cense and asperse all present.
Chant sung at this time.

Opening the Gates

PD: "Let us now call upon our Gatekeeper to open the gates by which we make offering."

"Heimdall, Gatekeeper, Son of 9 mothers.
You who stands guard at the mid point,
Where Bifrost, Mimir's well, and Yggdrasil meet.
We call upon you to open the gates so that our word and actions may be heard and felt.

Heimdall, we call on you to make this well Mimir's.
Heimdall, we call on you to make this fire Bifrost.
Heimdall, we call on you to make this tree Yggdrasil.

Heimdall, let the gates be open!" (3 times)

Så må det bli

Connecting

PD: "Now that the gates are open, we can be heard more clearly, but just because someone can hear you doesn't mean they're paying attention, so let us recognize each of the worlds to draw their attention that much more."

(In the North)
"Nifl-heim, land of the frost giants,
Land of the cauldron Hvergelmir,
From which the 12 streams flow.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you."

(In the East)
"Jotun-heim, land of the giants,
Land of Ymir,
Whose body was used to create the worlds.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you."

(In the South)

“Muspells-heim, land of the fire giants,
Land of the sparks,
That flew into the air to make the stars.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you.”

(In the West)

“Vana-heim, land of the elder godden,
Godden of wind and sea,
Godden of agriculture and fertility.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you.”

(Below)

“Svartalf-heim, land of the Dark Elves,
Cultivators of ores and gems,
Makers of the goddens gifts.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you.”

(Below)

“Hel-heim, deepest of the lands,
Resting place for those ancestors,
Who did not die in battle.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you.”

(Above)

“Alf-heim, land of the light elves.
Protectors of nature.
Makers of fairy rings.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you.”

(Above)

“Asgard, Highest of the lands.
Home of the Aesir,
And those who died in battle.
We honor you tonight,
That we may become one with you.”

(Middle)

“And here in Midgard,
By drawing the focus of the other worlds,
We become one.

Så må det bli

Three Kindred

PD: “Let us now honor the three kindred that they may honor us in return.”

Nature spirits

“As told in tales of long ago,
An enemy was trying to invade the land.
They tried to invade from the South,
But a great bull rushed down,
Followed by all the cloven hoofed animals of the land.
Next they tried to invade from the East,
But a hill giant rushed down,
Followed by all the creatures of bark and leaf, of soil and crystal.
Next they tried to invade from the North,
But a bellowing dragon rushed down,
Followed by all the reptiles and creatures of scale.
Next they tried to invade from the West,
But a giant eagle rushed down,
Followed by all the creatures of feather.
And the invasion never happened.
Landveattir, protectors of the land, we honor you,
And welcome you to join us at our rite.
Lanveattir, join us in our rite.”

Ancestors

“Ancestors, Wise Mothers, Great Fathers.
Those recently passed, and those forgotten in time.
You who have shown us the right and the wrong.
We ask you to send your thoughts up from the depths of Hel-heim.
We ask you to send your thoughts down from the heights of Asgard.
We ask that you join us in our rite and lead us in the ways of old.
Ancestors, join us in our rite.”

Deities

“Aesir, Vanir, Godden of the nine worlds.
You who came from Ginnunga-gap,
The great abyss at the beginning of time.
You who will fight among the mighty dead at Ragnarok.
We honor you here.

Matrons, Patrons, Godden of all present,
Godden of this place known to us and unknown,
We would offer you like honor.
Aesir, Vanir, join us in our rite.”

Tale

PD: “As I tell the tale of the Svartalfar, we will construct an elfmill to receive their offerings. In times of old, in Norway, before electricity and industry, there wasn’t a lot to do during this time of year. After the weapons and tools had been fixed or repaired, new clothing had been made, and old mended, and practicing making babies had went on for long enough, they would turn to making gifts to exchange for Yule, the winter solstice, the turning of the year. Many of these gifts were made of stone or gem or ore, and who better to call upon for inspiration that the Svartalfar, those crafters of the Goddens own gifts;

Draupnir:

Odin’s magical ring which produces eight identical rings every ninth night.

Gungnir:

The head of Odin’s spear which when thrown would never miss its mark.

Gullin-bursti: Frey’s golden boar which flew across the sky radiating light.

Skidbladnir:

Frey’s ship which always had favorable winds, could sail through the sky as well as water, and even though it could hold all the Aesir and their steeds, it could be folded up and put in a pocket.

Sif’s hair:

Spun of the finest gold threads. As soon as it touched her head, it grew fast there and became as her own.

Mjolnir:

Thor’s hammer which hurled at his enemies with destructive power and always returned to his hand.

Gleipnir:

A slender silken rope used to bind Fenris made of, the sound of a cat’s footsteps, a woman’s beard, roots of a mountain, longings of a bear, voice of fishes, and spittle of birds.

Tyrfing:

A magical sword which could cut through iron and stone, fought of its own accord, and once drawn could not be sheathed without tasting blood.

Brisinga-men:

Freya’s necklace, emblem of the stars, and fruitfulness of the earth. It’s beauty so enhanced her charms that she wore it night and day. We won’t go into what she paid for it though.

Praise offerings

PD: “Let all who would offer praise come forth and do so now”

Main offering

PD: “Let us now make offering to the Svartalfar, any who have anything of metal or gem that they wish to have consecrated by them please place it on the elfmill at this time.”

An offering of honey and milk are then poured over the elfmill.

Omen

PD: “Svartalfar, we have offered our toil and love to you, now we ask how our offering has been received.

3 runes are drawn to see how our offering has been accepted.

Blessing Cup

“Now the tide turns.

Svartalfar, makers of the greatest meads, mead fit for the godden.

We have built a fine mill for you.

We have offered to you honey and milk, a rare treat in your home.

We have laid our jewelry upon your mill,

As testament to your skills.

Now as a gift calls for a gift, we would ask you to

bless this mead and make it mead fit for the godden.

Svartalfar bless this mead. (3 times)

Behold the blessings of the Svartalfar.”

PD: “As the horn is passed, feel free to toast or boast as you will.”

Thanks

PD: “We now thank those who have aided us in our rite.”

“Svartalfar, for all the gifts you have given us, and for attending our rite,

We say Vi takker dere

We thank you.”

“Aesir, Vanir, and all the godden who have attended our rite,

We say Vi takker dere

We thank you.”

“Ancestors, old, and new. For guiding us in our rite,

We say Vi takker dere

We thank you.”

“Landveattir, for protecting the land and attending our rite,

We say Vi takker dere

We thank you.”

“To all those of the 9 worlds who have attended our rite,

We say Vi takker dere

We thank you.”

“Odin, Allfather, for your gift of eloquence and inspiration,
We say Vi takker deg
We thank you.”

“Thor, mighty protector, for guarding us in our rite,
We say Vi takker deg
We thank you.”

Closing the gatesPD: “We call once more on our gatekeeper to close the gates.”

“Heimdall, for holding the gates open that our offerings may be received,
We say Vi takker deg
We thank you.”

“Now, let Mimir’s Well be no more than this dutch oven,
Let Bifrost be no more than this 99 cent store candle,
And let Yggdrasil be no more than this overpriced tree bought on a corner lot.
Heimdall, let the gates be closed!”

PD: “And as we began, so let us end.”

Thrice three chimes end the rite.