

## Bealtane 2006

A musical signal is given for beginning the ritual, and the folk process to the ritual area singing:

All: *Come ye merrily, join us join us, on this hallowed ground.  
Come ye merrily, join us join us, on this hallowed ground.  
To gather strength from ways of old, join us in the sacred Grove,  
Come ye merrily, join us join us, on this hallowed ground.*

**AT:** *Tá muid anseo leis na Déithe a adhradh.* (Tah mweed un-show lesh nah Day-hi uh ow-ruh)

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

**BO:** *This is the time of year when new life quickens in the earth and air around us. Trees that have slept through the dark, cold winter are now blossoming green and vibrant, and even the birds have returned.*

*New plants poke through the ground, the first signs that the seeds we planted at Imbolc are beginning to bear fruit in the earth and our lives. Let us recognize these new fruits and tend to our gardens well, for it is the work we do now which leads us to bountiful harvests at Lughnasadh and Samhain.*

## Honoring the Earth Mother

**EM** honors the Earth Mother: *O Earth Mother, our lives are nursed from your bounty. You are the food that nourishes us, the wealth that enriches us, even the very ground we walk on. O great mother, all joy and prosperity comes from you, and it is you who sustains us. Earth Mother, we honor you now to thank you for the bounty you bestow upon us.*

All sing **Earth Mother Chant** (1x):

*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.*

**EM** offers corn meal in the offering bowl and says: *Earth Mother, accept our offering.*

All: *Earth Mother, accept our offering!*

## Grove Attunement

(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.*

The Fire Maiden (**KB**) adds wood to 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:** *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (“bee shay ow-lee”)  
**AT:** *By the cleansing of water and fire, let all ill turn away from me and mine.*  
**All:** *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*

## ***Opening the Gates Between the Worlds***

**AT** calls to Manannan, god of the sea and the misty ways leading to the Otherworld:

**AT:** *Oh Manannan, powerful son of the sea, holder of the magics of the crane bag, we ask you to hear our call. Oh Lord of the Otherworld, bearer of the silvered apple branch, join with us this day so that you may guide us safely in our workings. Mist-shrouded rider of the maned waves, accept our offering and open the gates between our realm and yours.*

**AT** makes an offering of apple to Manannan and says: *Manannan, accept our offering!*

**All:** *Manannan, accept our offering!*

**All:** *We invoke Manannan, opener of every gate  
We invoke Manannan, 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. (1x)*

**AT:** *Let the Fire open as a gate, let the Well open as a gate, and let the Tree connect all the worlds as Manannan walks with us in all ways. Osclaítear na geataí! (os-kluh-TEER na GA-thay)*

All: *Let the gates be opened!*

## *Outdwellers Appeasement*

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

**BO:** *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*

**DA** invokes **Brighid**, goddess of bards, healers, and smiths:

**DA:** *Bright Brighid, Daughter of the Daghdha, Flame of Inspiration,  
Maker of metal, Maker of good health, Maker of song,  
With you as our mother we need fear no sickness,  
With you as our mother we need fear no dull swords,  
With you as our mother we need fear no empty words.  
Our tribe is triple-blessed, O shining light of the hearth,  
and we your children ask you to alight in our hearts,  
Alight in our heads, and alight in our voices,  
That we may give praise to the gods with good skill.*

All sing (1x):

*Birghita, Birghita, goddess of the flame* (BUR-gee-ta)  
*Birghita, Birghita, call her by name*  
*Awaken the flame within our beings*  
*Awaken the sacred song within our beings.*

**DA** makes an offering of oil in the Fire to Brighid and says: *Brighid, accept our offering.*

All: *Brighid, 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** (1x):

*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 ol*

### ***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** (1x):

*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** (1x):

*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: Re-centering and Merging*

(AT leads meditation.)

### *Ritual Purpose, Key Offerings*

*DA: Today we welcome in the first days of summer, feeling the quickening of vibrant life in ourselves and the natural world around us. In ancient times bright fires were lit at Beltane, festival fires which purified the cattle and the Folk, celebrating the light days of summer to come. As we bless this Maypole we share in the joy and laughter that is the heart of the Maypole tradition, reveling in the warmth of summer and the enjoyment of the senses. It is now that the Nature Spirits truly come alive, and as we honor them we also give thanks to the Land Spirits that support us, to the Kindreds that guide us, and to our Ancestors who walk with us. Let the Days of Summer begin!*

The folk perform the Maypole Dance, singing **Hal an Tow** as many times as necessary:

*Chorus: Hal an tow, jolly rumble oh,  
We were up, long before the day oh,  
To welcome in the summer,  
To welcome in the May oh,  
The summer is a-comin' in,  
And winter's gone away oh.*

*Take no scorn to wear the horn,  
It was a crest when you were born,  
Your father's father wore it,  
And your father wore it too. (chorus)  
Robin Hood and Little John,  
Have both gone to the fair oh,  
And we will to the merry green wood,  
To hunt the buck and hare oh. (chorus)  
What happened to the Spaniards,  
Who made so great a boast oh,  
Well they shall eat the feathered goose,  
And we shall eat the roast oh. (chorus)  
May Bel and Danu bless you,  
With all their power and might oh,  
And bring peace to our sacred grove,*

*Bring peace by day and night oh. (chorus)*

### ***Honoring Bel***

**AT:** *Great god Bel, Lord of Light and Fire,  
Guardian of sheep and cattle,  
You whose bright gaze lights the sky,  
Join us today in this rite.  
Let us light fires in your honor,  
Give praise to your glory,  
And honor to your name.  
Great King of Summer, Strong Shining One,  
Powerful force of life and creativity,  
Shine your brightness upon us,  
Bring blessings to our Rite and our Folk,  
And bring the light of Summer into our lives.  
Great Belenus, Be Welcome!*

*All: Great Belenus, be welcome!*

**AT** offers oil, incense, and wool to Bel and says: *Belenus, accept our offering!*

*All: Belenus, accept our offering!*

### ***Honoring Danu***

**BC:** *Great goddess Danu, Lady of the Flowing Waters,  
Mother of the gods and consort of Bel,  
You who were born at the separation of the elements,  
Join us today in this rite.  
Let us pour waters in your honor,  
Give praise to your glory,  
And honor to your name.  
Great River Goddess, O Nourishing Source,  
Mother of things yet to be,  
Pour your bounty down upon us,  
Bring blessings to our Rite and our Folk,  
And bring the love of the River into our tribe.  
Great Danu, Be Welcome!*

*All: Great Danu, be welcome!*

**BC** offers milk, ale, and a river stone to Danu and says: *Danu, accept our offering!*

*All: Danu, accept our offering!*

## Praise Offerings

**DA:** *Have the Folk brought praise?*

All: *They have.*

**DA:** *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!* (“bee shay ow-lee”)

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

**DA:** *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.*

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. (1x)*

## An Omen for the Blessings is Taken and Shared

**AT:** *Now with the Kindreds duly praised let us seek an omen for the blessings of return.*

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.*

- 1. Begin song**
- 2. Omen/cups**
- 3. End song**

While **AT** takes the omen, **DQ** distributes individual blessing cups. **AT** then reveals the omen.

**AT:** *These are the blessings of the gods. Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*

All: *Bíodh sé amhlaidh!*

## Induction, Receiving the Blessings

**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!*

**1. Induction**

**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.*

## 2. Pour

**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 Nature Spirits flow in this cup of Blessing. Seo iad uisci na beatha! (“shee ahd ishka nah bah-hah”)*

All: *Behold, the Waters of Life!*

## 3. Blessing

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.*

## 4. Sharing

### Magical Working: Protection

**AT:** *Now with the blessings of the gods flowing in us, let us turn to the Work at hand. Is there one present who would soon walk into the world as a soldier?*

**BC:** *There is.*

**AT:** *And do you seek the protection of the gods as you walk on this path?*

**BC:** *I do. (walks to center, where the Folk surround her)*

**AT:** *Then let the Folk ask this of the gods as one with a work of warding, saying with me...*

*Let Bonnie be girded with the Two Powers,  
The Depths of the World’s Chaos,  
The Height of the World’s Order,  
With Bonnie between them, as the World Tree.*

*Let Bonnie be girded with the power  
of the Magic Cauldron,  
With the inspiration of the Fire of Magic,  
With love to draw all good to her.*

*Let Bonnie be girded with the power of the Spirits,  
The might of the Shining Ones,  
The wisdom of the Ancestors,*

*The joy of the Elder Tribes,  
All meeting in her soul.*

*Today Bonnie is girded  
with the elements of the World.  
The stars behind her eyes,  
Her thoughts the clouds,  
The sun her face,  
Cool moonlight her mind,  
Her breath the wind,  
The sea her blood,  
Her hair the green bounty,  
Her flesh the warm soil,  
Eternal stone her bones,  
All the world in Bonnie,  
and she is in all the world.*

*Let Bonnie be girded  
With the Goddesses' power to direct her,  
With the Gods' wisdom to bear her up,  
Their eyes to watch over her,  
Their ears to hear her,  
Their voices to speak to her,  
Their hands to open her ways,  
From the snares of spirits,  
From peril by Land,  
From peril by Sea,  
From peril by Sky,  
From all who wish her harm,  
Far or near.*

*Let these Powers be upon her and within her,  
To make her equal to any challenge,  
To come between her and all that threatens her body or spirit,  
That she may have the wisdom of the Wise,  
The love of the Loving,  
The power of the Powerful,  
That she be known, and with honor, in the Inner Realms.  
Know her, O Mighty, Noble, and Shining Ones, for her name is Bonnie Cyr.*

*Power above her,  
Power below her,  
Power on her right hand,  
Power on her left hand,  
Power before her and behind.*

*In every eye,  
In every ear,  
In every mouth,  
In every heart,  
This magic is established.*

*Bonnie is girded with ninefold magic,  
The Fire, the Well, the Tree,  
The Land, the Sky, the Sea,  
The Gods, the Dead, the Sidhe.  
Dwell with her and in her, forever.*

***So Be It!***

### *Thanking the Kindreds*

**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.*

**KB:** *Dagda, Go raibh maith agait!* (“gor-uh mah-agit”, singular)

All: *Dagda, we thank you!*

**KB:** *Brighid, Go raibh maith agait!* (“gor-uh mah-agit”, singular)

All: *Brighid, we thank you!*

**KB:** *Gods and Goddesses, Go raibh maith agaibh* (“gor-uh mah-ageev”, plural)

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

**KB:** *Nature Spirits, Go raibh maith agaibh!*

All: *Nature Spirits, we thank you!*

**KB:** *Ancestors, Go raibh maith agaibh!*

All: *Ancestors, we thank you!*

**KB:** *Manannan mac Lir, Go raibh maith agait!*

All: *Manannan mac Lir, we thank you!*

**KB:** *Earth Mother, go raibh maith agait.*

All: *Earth Mother, we thank you!*

### *Closing the Gates*

**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.*

*Dúntar na geataí!* (DUN-tar na GAH-thay)

All: *Let the gates be closed!*

### *Affirmation of Continuity, Ending the Rite*

**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. Biodh sé amhlaidh!*

All: *Biodh sé amhlaidh!* (“bee shay ow-lee”)

### *Recessional*

The musical signal is given to signal the end of the rite.

All sing while recessing away from the ritual area:

*Walk with 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.*

(grove waters recombined)