

Imbolc, 2006

Preparation

Nerthis - Norse Earth Mother	Wheat
Bragi - Norse god of Poetry/Saga - Norse Goddess of History	Lavender oil
Outdwellers – Those that would do harm, interfere, etc.	Black Vodka
Fire/well/tree	Various incense
Heimdall - Norse guardian god – guards the bifrost bridge	Vodka
Ancestors – Those that have come before	Slice of bread
Nature spirits – elves, dwarves, etc.	Grains of Paradise
Gods – The Aesir and Vanir (Norse gods)	Vodka
Deity(ies) of the occasion – Freya and Frey	A tiny broom made of branches, and sunflower 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!
The bleak times are almost over
And renewal is upon us
Another page begins
In your words we trust*

*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.

The Outdwellers

*Those that would come here
Those that would interfere
Those that would bring harm
Or just plain jeer
We ask that you take this
And not impede
You have your place
Just over there.*

P makes an offering

Opening the Gates

*Heimdall, guardian of the gates, I call to you
Walk beside me, Protect me, Guide me
With sacred flame, I light the fire
Gate of flame and wisdom
Heimdall, guardian of the gates, I call to you
Walk beside me, Protect me, Guide me
With sacred water, I fill the well
Gate of water and peace
Heimdall, guardian of the gates, I call to you
Walk beside me, Protect me, Guide me*

*With reverence, I climb the tree
Gate of the world tree
Heimdall, guardian of the gates, I call to you
Walk beside me, Protect me, Guide 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*

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:**
Spirits of the Land
Of the Forest, Earth and Sea
Ancient as time itself
Before you, I stand

Guardians true
Come before me
And accept my gift
As I honor you*

***P** makes an offering*

Honoring the Deities

P: *Gods and Goddesses
Aesir and Vanir alike
We call to you
We call to you*

*Gods and Goddesses
Your presence honors us
We call to you
We call to you*

*Gods and Goddesses
Join us tonight
We call to you
We call to you*

P makes an offering

Honoring the Occasion

Today is a day of purification. The coming of spring, or soon to be. It is a day that Freya and Frey are honored. We honor them as fertility gods, for the fertility they will bring us in the coming year. We ask that they bring us bounty in all that we do!

We ask that they purify us, cleanse us, hold us, and keep us. Freya and Frey, wash us of our past, and allow us to start new for this year.

We praise you! Hail Freya! Hail Frey! Hail Freya! Hail Frey! Hail Freya! Hail Frey!

Prayer of Sacrifice

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.*

Pours some of the wine out at the beginning of each round

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.*

The Omen

P: Kindred, I ask of you, what is to come of this spring?

Pulls three runes.

Receiving the Blessings of the Gods and Spirits

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 raises the blessing cup high and says:

Water of life

Water of wisdom

Drink of it deep

Blessed as it is

Blessed is the water

In which we drink

Water of wisdom

Water of life

P: Drink

May I never thirst

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 become 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.*

Freya and Frey, 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.