

Whispering Lake Grove, ADF

Samhain 2006

PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT

Closing your eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths.

Breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth.

In through your nose and out through your mouth.

As you breathe, lay aside the worries, troubles and woes of the mundane world. *(pause 4 count)*

We now stand between Earth and Sky

Feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below us flows the primal waters

Cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life.

Allow the primal waters to enter your being.

Feel the coolness of the waters as they pool within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. *(pause 8 count)*

Reaching high into the sky above

Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens

Know that above us burns the primal fires

Warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life.

Allow the primal fire to enter your being.

Feel the warmth of the fires as they illuminate your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 8 count)*

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through you, lending strength and energy to your being. *(pause 8 count)* As we open our eyes, know that we assemble as one folk to worship with a common purpose.

All:

May our worship be true.

May our actions be just.

May our love be pure.

Blessings, honor and worship to the Holy Ones.

Honoring Our Grove Patron

For our Ancestors the Sea was a place of danger and mystery. For those, who dared to travel upon the waves, they knew that each journey may be their last, as fierce storms and unforgiving waves swept over them. But, born from the Sea was Manannan Mac Lir to calm the waves and quiet the storms.

As our Ancestors once did, we call this eve upon the Son of the Sea and Patron of Whispering Lake Grove that he may continue to guide and protect us as we navigate the storms of our lives.

We now call forth one among us in his honor...

A member of Whispering Lake Grove will prepare a special offering for the Grove Patron and give the offering at this time.

PROCESSION

In song

It's The Blood of the Ancients

That Runs Through Our Veins

And The Forms Pass

But The Circle of Life Remains

by Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy

Repeat until all participants have entered the ritual space.

1ST PHASE

STARTING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUP MIND

CLEAR-CUT BEGINNING

OPENING PRAYERS

Musical Signal- *A drum beats 9 times.*

Clear-cut Beginning

Once more the sun's power wanes upon the Middle Realm, as we reflect upon the passing year, while remembering the life that comes to an end all around us. A cold wind blows across the dying land, as the dark hand of chaos tightens its icy grip.

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother *kneeling at the well*

Ancient One of ever changing beauty

Primal Mother of the Mighty Tuatha

And Great Goddess of Sovereignty

We are renewed in your waters

Cradled within your mantel of green

And sustained by your abundance

Danu, Earth Mother, we call upon the life-giving magic of the Earth!

Sky Father *standing at the sacred fire arms outstretched to the sky.*

Flashing One of the Sun's healing warmth

Brilliant Father of the Adventurous Gael

And Great God of the creative spark

We are purified between your flames

Strengthened through your radiant light
And prosper from your fertility
Bile, Sky Father, we call upon the illuminating power of the Sky!

Earth Mother & Sky Father

Great Earth Mother and Sky Father,
Through your sacred union springs forth all life.
Mother and Father of all that was, of all that is and all that will be.
We come before you in love and respect and we ask that you uphold and bless our gathering!
An offering of white bread (1 whole round loaf) and clarified butter is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!
All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, be welcome among us!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

Goddess of Inspiration & Poetry
Great Mother of Song & Music
May our words echo in the sacred well
May our hearts and minds burn with your eternal flame
May our songs resonate upon the wind
May you grant us the gift of inspiration and insight
An offering of cream & honey is placed in the offering bowl for Brighid.
Lady Brighid, accept our offering!
All: Brighid, be welcome among us!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Purpose of the Ritual

Tonight we gather between the Earth and Sky.
To worship and honor the Kindred as one people.
To sing their praise and make our sacrifice.
As we seek their blessings in return.

We gather this night in celebration of the turning wheel.
Enjoying the final fruits of the harvest.
Tonight we celebrate life, death and rebirth,
As we remember those who have walked before us.

We gather this night at the crossroads.
In celebration of the Feast of Samhain.
Enjoying the company of friends and family.
As we remembering the ways of old.
While we welcome the new year before us.

Historical Precedent

“Donn’s Pride” One officiate tells a mythological based tale of the season.

May all who gather this eve be welcome among us!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Outdwellers *(at the Southern fire the Sacrificer lays a token for the Outdwellers)*

Dark dwellers, take heed this night!
Know the Mighty Tuatha will ward this place!
Their treasures will strike order from choas!
Driving all that is twisted and bent into the darkness.

Balor of the Evil Eye; King of the Fomorians,
Who has dared to challenge the Might and Magic of the Tuatha.
You and your kin, primal bringers chaos and discord,
Hoards, whose screams and cries, harmonize not with our songs and praise.

Dark dwellers, take heed this night!
This time and place we claim as ours!
You may have held it in the past, you may hold it in the future, but for now,
Let it be known that it is OURS!
We have given to you all that we intend to give.
Take what has been laid beyond the fire’s light
And trouble us not this night!

Purification of Participants & Space

The aspersion bowl is filled from the Well and the censer is kindled from the Fire. Ritual participants are cleansed with water from the well and purified with smoke from the censor. After the participants are cleansed and purified the Nemeton is cleansed and purified as the following power building chant is led.

With the powers to create and destroy.

And the strength to cleanse and purify.

When all participants have been purified an officiate will step forward saying:

Through the union of fire and water,

Our Nemeton is made whole and holy!

Once more we have met the threat of chaos with order and laid claim to this place. We have made sacred this space that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

2ND PHASE

RECREATING THE COSMOS & PRELIMINARY POWER RAISING

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

In Song

Deep Peace (Author Unknown)

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

*Deep peace of the sacred flame
Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth
May peace, may peace, may peace fill your soul
Let peace, let peace, let peace make you whole.
Repeat chant 3 times*

Establishing Sacred Time

In the beginning and so too in the end; there was but the fires of the Sky and the waters of the Earth.
And between them lay a fertile land.

In the South the old Fir Bolg King, dreamed of birds, the sky grew dark as the great flock approached the shore.

From the North through smoke and mist came beings of great might and magic, the vast army of the Tuatha to overtake the land.

Bringing with them four treasures that would assure their victory.

Reaching the shore, the Tuatha burnt their ships and a great battle for the land began. Great numbers of the Fir Bolg fell as the armies of the Tuatha swept across the land. In defeat the Fir Bolg retreated to the lands of the Fomorians and the Tuatha De Danann lay claim to Ireland.

Fire, Well & Tree

All in song

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky

We stand like the World-Tree rooted, deep, crowned high.

By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky

We stand like the World-Tree rooted, deep, crowned high.

Come we now to the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth,

Come we now to the Well, and silver we bring.

Come we now to the Well, the waters of rebirth

Come we now to the Well, together we sing.

CHORUS

We will kindle a Fire, Bless all, and with harm to none,

We will kindle a Fire, and offering pour,

We will kindle a Fire, a light 'neath the Moon and Sun,

We will kindle a Fire, our spirits will soar.

CHORUS

Gather we at the Tree, the root & the crown of all

Gather we at the Tree, below & above,

Gather we at the Tree, together we make our call,

Gather we at the Tree, In wisdom and love.

CHORUS

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Offerings of silver to the well, incense to the fire and cense and asperge the bile during the song.

COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky

The waters support and surround us.
The land extends about us.
The sky stretches above us.
And at the center burns a living flame.
Let us pray with a good fire.
May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith

OPENING THE GATES

Manannan MacLir, it is your might and magic that wards the threshold.
Grey Rider of Aonbarr, we ask for your protection as we walk through the mist this night.
Mighty Lord of the Crossroads, as we travel between the worlds of man and Sidhe may you part the mist before us.

Irish whiskey is offered to Manannan.

Manannan MacLir, Mist Weaver, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

All in song

*Gatekeeper open the portals,
Between the Gods and mortals,
Power freely flows, as our magic grows!*

Repeat chant three times

© *Liafal*

Manannan, merge now your magick with ours!

See the flame leaping forth from the fire.
See the mist arising from the well,
Flame and mist converging upon the tree.
Forming a meeting place between the realms

Striking a sigil or triskel over the fire

Let the fire burning towards the heavens open as a gate that we may follow the way to the Shining Ones.

Striking a sigil or triskel over the well

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld open as a gate that we may follow the way to the Mighty Dead.

Striking a sigil or triskel upon the tree

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, be open to us.

By the land before us!

By the seas about us!

By the sky above us!

Let the Gates Be Open!

GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

Now that the world of the living and that of the spirit are one, we call out from the crossroads to the Mighty Kindred!

Allies of the Middle Realm!

Bright and shining messengers to the Otherworld

Elves, Sprites, and Faeries of the Hollow Hills

Protectors of this sacred ground.

Mighty Sidhe, be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered.

Wise Ones of the Realm Below!

Beloved Dead of blood and spirit; Ancestors of flesh and bone

Great Cu Chulainn, Maeve and Finn

Heros of myth and legend

Mighty Ones, be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered.

Eldest and Brightest of the Realm Above!

Bringers of life, death and rebirth.

Deities of Might, of Magic and those of the Mist.

Blessed Children of Danu!

Shining Ones be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered.

The alcohol is ignited in offering as it burns all will sing the following chant 3x.

In song

Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe

Powers of Earth and Sky and Sea

By Fire and Well, by Sacred Tree

Offerings We Make to Ye

© *Stone Creed Grove, ADF*

Kindred, accept our offerings!

All: Kindred, be welcome among us!

3RD PHASE

MAJOR SENDING OF POWER TO DEITIES OF THE OCCASION

HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

Morrighan

Sleek Raven of Warrior's Dreams,
Flying high above the field of battle.
Bringing fear to the hearts of our foes,
Great Phantom Queen of the Celts,
We call to you and offer you welcome this night!

An offering of red wine and apples is made.

Morrighan, accept our offering!

All: Morrighan, be welcome among us!

Dagda

High King of the Tuatha
Striding forth from the hollow hills.
Bringing life and death with his club.
Great Good God of the Celts,
We call to you and offer you welcome this night!

An offering of oatmeal and beer is made.

Dagda, accept our offering!

All: Dagda, be welcome among us!

Donn

Horned One beneath the Waves
Riding upon a horse, dark as the night sky,
Bringing hospitality to all travelers upon the way,
Great Lord of the Mighty Dead.
We call to you and offer you welcome this night!

An offering of apples and beer is made.

Donn, accept our offering!

All: Donn, be welcome among us!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to the Deities of the Occasion.
(Once all personal praise offerings have been made to the Deities of the Occasion the Group will offer praise)

Group Praise Offering/Seasonal Enactment

Good folk, turn your attention to the Shrine of the Ancestors. Behold! The Mighty Dead approach.
It is good and proper that we make them welcome.

We commune with and give honor to the Mighty Dead, who have traveled far to be with us this eve.

We commune with and give honor to both Ancestors of blood and Ancestors of spirit.
We commune with and give honor to those friends and family, who have passed from this world to the next, during this past year.

Now good folk, welcome home the Mighty Dead. You may approach the Shrine and spend a few moments communing with and giving honor to those who have returned to be with us this eve.

The Bard will lead the chant "Ancestors Calling to Me" as all are given time to approach and commune with the Mighty Dead.

This night we also remember those of our tribe that are no longer among our number. May the blessing of health, wealth and wisdom be with them.

Tonight we thank all those that have strived to see our Grove grow closer to the Kindred and to each other over the past year.

As the old year comes to a close, so too do two leadership positions within the Grove. As the light of the old year wanes, Eld Na(d)r and I see our oaths of service to our Grove and our tribe fulfilled.

As our Ancestors once did, we too will now make dark our sacred fire knowing that all things must die to be reborn a new. As we extinguish the flames we place our trust in the Kindred of Land, Sea and Sky.

The fire is extinguished with sand.

For the Ancients no words were held more sacred than those of an oath sworn by leaders to the people they served. Tonight, the leadership of our Grove will reaffirm such an oath. May all who have gathered bear witness.

The newly elected and seated Grove officer's come forward and gather at the fire.

Oath of Service (all Grove officers renew or take)

Taking up the Grove oath ring.

Upon this ring we swear our oath to serve the Kindred and the folk.

May our worship be true as we honor the Holy Ones

May our actions be just as we serve our kin and clan

May our love be pure that we may grow and prosper.

May Manannan Mac Lir part the mists before us

That health, wealth and wisdom might be ours!

All Grove officers light the new year fire.

In Song

The Waters flow around us

The Fires burn within us

Standing tall we gather at the center of the world.

Upon the Earth our mother

We worship here together

All as one we gather at the center of the world.

(Words and Music by Emerald)

Repeat 3 times.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor Deities, as they walk among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive their guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our guests of honor!
As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.

The final sacrifice is prepared.

It is in love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to our guests this night.
We have sung their praise; made our sacrifice.
It is our hope that our words and sacrifice have conveyed our love.
We call once more through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld that all shall know of our devotion.
Eldest and Brightest, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!
All: Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

THE OMEN

The Omen is taken by drawing three Ogham. The Seer then interprets the omen asking if our sacrifice and offerings have been accepted. The Seer then leads the company to contemplate the blessings/warnings of the omen from the Deities of the Occasion. While the omen is being taken the Bard will lead all present in the following chant.

In song

*From far beyond this mortal plan
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.
Words and music by Sable*

4TH PHASE

RECEIVING AND USING THE RETURN POWER

CALLING FOR THE BLESSING

Two pitchers will be filled and sat in the midst of the hallows.

The following words will be spoken over the pitchers.

As in the ways of old we have given our gifts freely and as in the ways of old a gift is given unto us in return.

We will drink deep of the Cup of Inspiration. May the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be ours.

Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

We gather with you between Earth and Sky. We are proud to call ourselves your people.

Once again, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

We have brought our offerings. We have made sacrifice.

One last time, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

Behold the Waters of Life!

Shining Ones hear and bless us.

Morrighan, Raven of Warrior's Dreams, hallow these waters of life.

Dagda, Great Good God, hallow these waters of life.

Donn, Mighty Lord of the Dead, hallow these Waters of Life.

The pitchers are lifted before the participants.

Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

Now Good folk, do you wish to receive the blessings of our honored guests? _____. Then we shall drink deep the blessings of the Morrighan and the Dagda, of Donn and the Mighty Dead!

The Waters are passed and all participants share the waters. As the waters are passed the following song is sung by all participants.

In song

Back to the River, back to the Sea

Back to the Ocean, home to thee

Back through my blood, back through my veins.

Back to my heartbeat, all the same.

By Abbi Spinner

Repeat until the cups have been passed to all participants.

5TH PHASE

UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

THANKING THE BEINGS

Donn, Mighty Lord of the Dead, we thank you for the wisdom and guidance you have offered us this night. May our Ancestors forever find hospitality within your house. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Donn, we thank you!

Dagda, Great Good God, we thank you for the love and guidance you have offered us this night. May we have the courage to take of the cauldron of plenty as you share with us the secrets of rebirth. (a final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Dagda, we thank you!

Morrigan, Raven of Warrior's Dreams, we thank you this night for your strength and courage through the cycles of life. (a final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Morrigan, we thank you!

Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest, Wisest and Mightiest of the realms. May you continue to protect, guide and bless us as we walk this path. Kindred we thank you for the knowledge and blessings you have shared with us. (a final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Kindred, we thank you!

Lady Brigid, Great Mother of Song and Music. We thank you for your blessings of inspiration and eloquence. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Brigid, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

Manannan MacLir, Weaver of Gray Mists; we thank you for your protection and guidance as we have walked between the worlds this night. (A final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Manannan, we thank you!

Manannan Mac Lir, Great Guardian of the Threshold, we now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

Let the fire burning towards the heavens once more become but flames.

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld once more become but water.

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become but wood.

By the land before us!

By the seas about us!

By the sky above us!

Let the Gates be closed!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

Bile, Illuminating One of the Sky, may you continue to show us the way to courage and right.

Bright Father of the Gael, we thank you for the strength and healing warmth you have given us. (a

final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.
All: Bile, we thank you!

Danu, Ancient One of Ever Changing Beauty, may you continue to renew and sustain us. Primal Mother of the Tuatha, we thank you for all life. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.
All: Danu, we thank you!

We now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain us. *All offerings that remain are burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.*

STATEMENT OF ENDING

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

Good folk, join me once more as we close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth **(pause for a 2 count)**.

As the mighty oak is part of the forest, we are all part of the great circle of life. Remember the blessings we have received together this night **(pause)**.

As we stand between Earth and Sky

Once more feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below us flows the primal waters.

Once more feel the coolness of the waters that have pooled within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. **(pause 4 count)**

Reaching high into the sky above

Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens.

Know that above us burns the primal fires.

Once more feel the warmth of the fires that have illuminated your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. **(pause 4 count)**

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky surging through you, as they have given strength and energy to your being. **(pause 4 count)**

Keep of this power what you need, sending what remains forth from our beings into the Great Lake **(pause)**. See this energy heal and protect her as we conclude our worship.

May all that is be what was, that it may be again!

Musical Signal- *A drum beats 9 times.*

All: We will keep the faith until the sky falls upon us and crushes us; until the earth opens and swallows us; until the seas arises and overwhelm us.

Recessional Song

*It's The Blood of the Ancients
That Runs Through Our Veins
And The Forms Pass*

But The Circle of Life Remains
by *Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy*

Special Thanks To:

All who attended, participated and shared in our Samhain celebration.

Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy for the chant the Blood of the Ancients.

Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants

The Gatekeeper Chant, Portal Chant, and Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe.

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Abbi Spinner for the chant Back to the River

Emerald of Sassafras Grove ADF for the chant Recreating the cosmos.

The unknown author of Deep Peace.



Whispering Lake Grove, A.D.F.

Samhain Ritual

2006

Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)

Raven & Carrion Mann

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