

Whispering Lake Grove, ADF

Yule 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 special offering for the Grove Patron is given.

Manannan Mac Lir, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

PROCESSION

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 until all participants have entered the worship area.

1ST PHASE

STARTING THE RITE & ESTABLISHING THE GROUP MIND

CLEAR-CUT BEGINNING

OPENING PRAYERS

Musical Signal- *A Thor's Hammer strikes the anvil 9 times.*

(Hammer strike) Urd record the passing of our work!

(Hammer strike) Verdandi watch over our work as it occurs!

(Hammer strike) Skuld bless the work we have yet to complete!

Words by Wolf of Winter Night

Clear-cut Beginning

Once more winter's icy grasps falls upon Midgard and the green world sleeps beneath the ice and snow. A chilling wind blows across this frozen land, as the dark hand of chaos threatens to surround and overwhelm us.

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

Earth Mother *kneeling before the well*

Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth

First and Eldest of the Van

You who cradles the World Tree in your loving embrace

Ancient Mother of Midgard

As children of the Earth and Sky,

May our weapons be sheathed
May our thoughts be of peace
May our fields yield plenty
Nerthus, we call upon the life-giving magic of the Earth!

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

Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky
Boldest and most courageous of the Aesir
You who makes fertile the Earth with your seed
Bright Father of Midgard
As children of the Earth and Sky,
May we show courage in our battles
May we seek to do right by our kith and kin
May we learn the meaning of true sacrifice through your guidance.
Tyr, we call upon the illuminating power of the Sky!

Earth Mother and 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 ask that you uphold and bless our gathering!
White bread & Clarified butter is offered upon the fire to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.
Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!
All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, All Hail and Welcome!

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

We call upon the Skald of Valhalla
Most eloquent God of poetry and song
And Herald of Odin's Great Hall
Oh, welcomer of the Einherjar
Bless us with your inspiration and eloquence this night!
An offering of honey is placed in the offering bowl for Bragi.
Bragi, accept our offering!
All: Bragi, All Hail and Welcome!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Yule was the time our Ancestors gathered to strengthen the bonds of fidelity by drinking, toasting and boasting the deeds of the past year. They raised their horns to those who came before and to the Gods that blessed them.

As our Ancestors once did, so too do we gather this night in fidelity one with another. We gather to strengthen the bonds of kinship and friendship among us; to toast, boast and make oaths to the Kindred and to each other that the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom might be ours.

Good Folk, know this night that Odin, the Azure Cloaked Wanderer and Decider of the Fates of Men; the one who forges of the chosen of the Einherjar; the Winner, Keeper and Giver of the Mead of Poetry will walk once more among us.

May all who gather this night 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 that Mighty Thor will ward this place!
Mjollnir will strike order from choas!
Driving all that is twisted and bent into the darkness.

Loki, sly-one, who has dared to share the fire's light.
You and your brood, Fenrir, Jormungand and Hel,
Hoards, whose minds know not rest and whose spirits know not peace.
To Ragnarok you will battle with the Aesir and the Folk.

Trolls, primal bringers of choas;
Etins of the mountains and those of fire and ice.
Lurkers at the edge of the sacred fire's light.
Those 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 censor 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 steps 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 and time 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 "The Yule Log"

*Outside the rain drives down, drives down, but we are dry and warm.
The winter wind blows cold, blows cold, but we are safe from harm.
Protection from the storm have we, and shelter from the night,
and so we hail the holy hearth, and the Yule Log's living light!*

*The longest night is come, is come, the year is at an end.
May all ill-luck be gone, be gone, all broken fortunes mend.
Midwinter's fire burns every bane, illuminates the night,
and so we hail the holy hearth, and the Yule Log's living light!*

*See how the sacred fire, the fire is hidden in the wood.
Just so the ills we see, we see, may hold a spark of good.
From winter shall the spring be born, day from the womb of night,
and so we hail the holy hearth, and the Yule Log's living light!*

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Establishing Sacred Time

In the beginning so too in the end; there was but fire and ice
And between them a vast emptiness.

To the North the ice and snow of Niflheim, frigid winds and fearsome storms ravaged the land.
To the South the fires of Muspell, molten and glowing the dancing flames consumed all that lay before them.

In the vast emptiness the warm breath of Muspell mingled with the ice of Niflheim. The warm winds began to melt the ice and tiny drops of water began to form. Within the tiny drops of water new life began to stir and the powers to destroy life became the powers that created it.

In song

Fire, Well & Tree

Fire, bright Fire

Gate to the Shining Ones

Fire, bright Fire

Our passage to the Sky

Fire, bright Fire

Warmth of our Community

Spark of Life

We honor you now

Incense is offered to the fire.

Well, deep Well

Gate to the Underworld

*Well, deep Well
Our passage to the Sea
Well, deep Well
Wisdom of the Ancestors
Waters of Life
We honor you now
Silver is offered into the well.
Tree, great Tree
Gate that reaches everywhere
Tree, great Tree
With you we share the Land
Tree, great Tree
Our passage to the Otherworld
Source of Life
We honor you now.
The bile is asperged with water from the well and censed with incense.
Words & music by Pandora*

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

Invocation to the Gatekeeper

Heimdall, Son of the Nine Waves; Father of Mankind
It is your might and magic that wards the threshold.
White Lord of the Crossroads; Sounder of Gjallarhorn
It is your warning that all will hear before Ragnarok.
Mighty Watchman of the Gods, this night we ask for your protection and guidance as we travel
between Midgard and Asgard.

A offering of German beer and bread is made .

Heimdall, Great Guardian of Bifrost, accept our offering!

All: Heimdall, All Hail and Welcome!

All in song

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

Repeat chant three times

© Liafal

Opening the Gates

Heimdall, 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 the hammer sign 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 the hammer sign 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 the hammer sign 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 Midgard!

Bright and shining messengers to the Otherworld

Protectors of this sacred ground.

Light Alfs, House Ghosts and Wights,

Be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered.

Wise Ones of the Nine Worlds!

Beloved Dead of blood and spirit

Ancestors of flesh and bone

Alfar and Disir, be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered.

Eldest and Brightest of Asgard!

Deities of Might and Magic

Bringers of life, death and rebirth.

Mighty Aesir and Bountiful Vanir

Shining Ones be welcome among us!

Alcohol is offered.

The alcohol is ignited in offering.

In song

Hail all the Gods,

Hail all the Goddesses,

Hail all the Holy Ones,

We dwell together.

Lords of the sky,

Ladies of the sacred earth,

Spirits and the ancestors,

We dwell together.

Repeat chant 3x

© *Words by Paul Maurice. Music by Paul Maurice, Sean Miller and Gail Williams*

Mighty Kindred, accept our offerings!

All: Mighty Kindred, All Hail and Welcome!

3RD PHASE

MAJOR SENDING OF POWER TO DEITIES OF THE OCCASION

HONORING THE DEITIES OF THE RITE

Song for Odin

Words and music by Karl Donaldson

In song

I sing of the tales of The Wanderer

The rider of Yggdrasil

He gave up an eye into Mimir's Well

Where deeply, he drank his fill.

For nine long nights, Old Harr, hung he

In search of the spoken spell;

The Runes that he found drew sounds for man

And down, from The Tree, he fell.

A snake, he slid through Gunnlod's court;

The Mead of Poetry sought;

Three sips, and he fled as eagle's wings;

By Suttung, was never caught.

Two sticks on a beach Harbard had found;

His brothers heard his call;

He gave his own breath and his blood to the wood

And told them of his hall:

*“Valhalla holds the Einherjar
“Who’ll fight on Vigrids plain.”
As Fenrir sinks his fangs to the bone
The life of Odin will wane.*

*Fear not, my kin, of the Ragnarok
For Fimbulvyr truly has won;
He saw his own death at the end of time*

And whispered this to his son.

Invocation to Odin

All Hail, Mighty All-Father of the Aesir!
For he is the ruler of Asgard!

All Hail, The Mad One!
For he forges his army through his might!

All Hail, The Furious One!
For he decides the fate of humankind!

All Hail, The Inspired One
For he is the Winner, Keeper and Giver of the Mead of Poetry!
All Hail, the One-Eyed Wanderer!
For he may seek hospitality at your home and hearth!

All Hail, Odin! We honor you this eve.
Mead is offered to Odin.
Odin, accept our offering!
All: Odin, All Hail and Welcome!

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

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

Group Praise Offering/Seasonal Enactment

“A Norse Symbol”

Good Folk, join us as we make our oaths, boast and toasts to our Ancestors, Deities and others.

Ancestors- *a round of toast are offered to the Ancestors*

Deities- *a round of toast are offered to the Deities*

Final Round - *toasts, oaths and boast are made in a final round.*

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor Odin, as he walks among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive his guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our guest 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 Odin this night.
We have sung his 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.

Odin, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Odin, accept our sacrifice!

All: Odin, accept our sacrifice!

Participants chant the following, sending their energies through the gates.

In song

*Come druid all, ovates and seers
And let your minds be still
Earth, sea and sky will lend no fears
As the gods reveal their will.*

*Let every heart sing praise to them
And all our works be skilled
Claiming their blessings to the very end.
As the gods reveal their will.
(Words by Sean Miller)*

THE OMEN

The Omen is taken by drawing three Runes. 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 Deity of the Occasion.

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.

Odin, Mighty All-Father of the Aesir, 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 Odin has for us this night? _____.

Then we shall drink deep his blessings!

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

As we receive the blessing of the Shining Ones let us raise our voices in song.

All in Song

Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green,

Here we go a-wandering, so fair to be seen!

Love and joy come to you, and to you good wassail, too,

All Gods bless you and send you a happy New Year,

All Gods send you a happy New Year!

Repeat until the horns have been passed to all participants.

5TH PHASE

UNWINDING AND ENDING THE CEREMONY

THANKING THE BEINGS

Odin, One-Eyed Wanderer, we thank you for your wisdom and inspiration you have shared with us. May you continue to wanderer among us sharing your blessing at your whim. (a final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Odin, we thank you!

Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest and Brightest of the Nine Worlds. Aesir and Vanir; Alfar and Disir and Alfs, House Ghost and Wights. 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!

Bragi, Great Skald of the Halls of Valhalla. God of Poetry and Song. We thank you for the inspiration and eloquence 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: Bragi, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

Heimdall, Mighty Watchman of the Gods; we thank you for your protection and guidance this night. (a final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Heimdall, we thank you!

Heimdall, Great Guardian of Bifrost, we now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more.

Striking the hammer sign over the fire

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

Striking the hammer sign over the well

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

Striking the hammer sign upon the tree

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

Mighty Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky, may you continue to show us the way to courage and right. Bright Father of the Aesir, we thank you for your sacrifice. (a final token is offered) May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Tyr, we thank you!

Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth, may you continue to grant us peace and plenty. Ancient Mother, 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: Nerthus, 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 or burnt in the fire.*

STATEMENT OF ENDING

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 ash 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 Thor's Hammer strikes the anvil 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

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.

Words and music by Sable

Special Thanks To:

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

Liafal for the chant: The Gatekeeper Chant

Wolf of Winter Night for the text: The Norns

Emerald of Sassafras Grove for the chant: The Waters

Pandora for the chant: The Verticle Axis Chant

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Diana L. Paxson for the chant: The Yule Log

Sable for the chant : Walk With Wisdom

Karl Donaldson for the words and music for The Odin Song

***Whispering Lake Grove
Yule Ritual
2006***

***Ritual text written by
(Unless otherwise credited)***

Raven & Carrion Mann

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