

Neptunalia/Furrinalia

Ritual Briefing

Greet the participants and briefly explain the purpose and order of ritual, including responses in Latin (FIAT!).

Calling the Guardian

[Sacrifice of wine & pork for Silvanus]

Father Silvanus,

I pray you be of good will and favorable to us, our hosts and our friends,

for which purpose I make this sacrifice

that you may prohibit, defend and avert things seen and unseen that may oppose us.

All: FIAT. So be it.

Acknowledgement of the Outsiders

[as usual]

Processional/Purification of the Folk

[as usual]

Musical Signal

We are here to honor the Kindred!

Specification of Ritual Purpose & Historical Precedent /

Naming Deity of the Occasion

July 23 is the date for the Neptunalia. Neptune is a very old, Italian god of fresh water; he did not become a sea God until he was associated with the Greek God, Poseidon.

Neptune was more particularly a deity whose concerns were the drainage and irrigation of farmlands and the city of Rome. Just like in Arizona, July was the hottest and driest month of the year, before the rains come, when the danger of lightning and fire were greatest. It is within Neptune's purview to maintain a constant water supply and prevent crops from drying out and to keep the water supply to the city to prevent water shortages and fire hazards.

Initially more of a private celebration, Romans would go on camping trips out to the woods and sheltered under arbors of laurel leaves from the hot July sun, where they would rest, picnic and drink cool spring waters, thanking the god, Neptunus for that relief from the hot city.

July 25 is the date for the Furrinalia, the Festival of the Goddess Furrina. Even Varro doesn't know much about the Goddess Furrina, except to note that "honour was paid to her among the ancients, who instituted an annual sacrifice for her, and assigned to her a special priest, but her name is barely known, and even that to only a few" (Varro VI 19).

Presumably Furrina has some association with water, particularly with respect to drilling operations and wells -- or at least springs and wells. She may well have been an Etruscan deity.

And so on this day we honor both Neptunus and Furrina as deities of water, and ask their blessings upon us and our lands in this, typically the hottest, driest season of the year. We ask that they receive, hold and distribute the monsoon waters as they fall upon our land, enriching and sustaining us, moistening the land and quenching any wildfires.

Honoring the Earth-Mother

Children of the Earth, let us honor the Earth Mother...

Ops Mater. Goddess of the bounty of the earth,
We send out words in praise of you, from whom all worlds flow.
Mystery of mysteries, this continual creation,
like a fountain forever bubbling up from the Earth's darkness
She is a cup that is never empty.
Generous One, eternally giving gifts,
We pray to you; we praise you.
Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!
All: Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

[All sing "Earth Mother" chant]

Lighting the Sacrificial Fire

And now from the hearth of our host, let us light the sacrificial fire and honor the hearth goddess, Vesta...

[Mariah lights the fire from her hearth (focus) and making an sacrifice of incense to Vesta]... use these words or any others, as the celebrant deems appropriate:

Shining Lady, unite us all,
for by worshipping at a common hearth
we are made one family, one people.
Queen of the hearth, Vesta Mater, your household is here.
Let us pray with a good fire.

All: FIAT! So be it.

Inviting the Bardic Deity

Children of the Earth, let us seek inspiration for our worship...

[pours an sacrifice of wine for Apollo.] ... use these words or any others, as the celebrant deems appropriate:

Phoebus Apollo, who bears the gold sword, who
Shoots from afar with his bright silver bow;
Whose lilting lyre delights all Olympus;
Whose oracle utters Zeus's unerring will;
Whose art, aim, and intellect reigns supreme over all.

Sweet-tongued Apollo, who sings for the Gods, may you
Guide thence our praises to bathe them in honor;
Only this boon we beg thee, grant to us now:

That our voices be pleasing to Gods, Spirits, and Manes;
That the aim of our rite strike its target precisely;
That our blessings and theirs pass freely between
The realms of the Kindreds and the lips of our Seer.

All: FIAT! So be it.

Centering, Grounding, & Merging

Children of the Earth, take a moment to find the center of your mind, body and soul.

[Two Powers meditation]

Now stretch forth your hands to those closest to you, and grasp hands or simply touch them, if you can. At one with the cosmos and at one as a grove – we are, as a community, greater than the sum of our parts. We stand as a grove in a forest of trees, one folk.

The waters support and surround us
The land extends about us
The sky stretches out above us.

At the center burns a living flame.

May all the Kindred bless us.

May our worship be true.

May our actions be just.

Blessings, and honor, and worship to the Holy Ones.

All: FIAT! So be it.

Offerings to the Sacred Center (ADF Portal Chant)

Children of the Earth, let us establish the Sacred Center...

[Portal Song]

Evoking and Sacrifice to the Gate Keeper

Children of Earth, we stand at the Center, as we invite our Gatekeeper to join us...

[a sacrifice of a key is made]

Salve Ianus Pater!

Ianus Inceptio, God of beginnings;

Ianus Brifons, Two-faced Ianus;

Ianus Patulcius, Opener of doors;

Ianus Domesticus, Protector of homes;

Ianus Quirinus; God of the folk

Lend wings to our prayers and conjure a portal between us and the world of the Gods.

Through your door, let the prayers of your supplicants pass to the Kindreds.

Ianus Pater, accept our sacrifice!

All: Ianus Pater, accept our sacrifice!

[All sing "Gatekeeper" chant]

Opening the Gates.

Now, Janus

Join your magic with mine

[Conjures the Gates, as the folk chant, "Open the Gates!"]

And let the fire open as a gate,

Let the well open as a gate,

Let the tree be the crossroads of all Worlds.

PORTAE PATENT

Let the gates be open!

All: Let the gates be open!

And now, Children of the Earth, let us invite the Mighty Kindred to join us, beginning with the Ancestors...

Ancestors

[an sacrifice of beer is made]

All: Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!

[All sing "Mothers and Fathers" chant]

Children of Earth, breathe deeply, and with your mind's eye, see the Mighty Dead surrounding us with their wisdom and love.

And now let us invite the Nature Spirits to join us...

Nature Spirits

[a sacrifice of bird seed is made]

All: Nature Spirits, accept our sacrifice!

[All sing "Nature Spirits" chant]

Children of Earth, breathe deeply, and with your mind's eye, see the Noble Spirits surrounding us with their wisdom and love.

And now let us invite the Shining and Chthonic Deities to join us...

Deities

[a sacrifice of incense is made]

All: Deities, accept our sacrifice!

[All sing "Hail All the Gods" chant]

Children of Earth, breathe deeply, and with your mind's eye, see the Shining and Chthonic Ones surrounding us with their wisdom and love.

All the Kindred have now joined us for our worship. Each time we invite them to our rituals, we do them honor, and they become more aware of our needs, as we become more aware of theirs.

Praise Offerings, Dance, Libations, etc.

Have the Folk sacrifices for Patrons, Matrons, or any Kindred other than Neptune or Furrina?

[Praise offerings to those other than Neptune or Furrina are made]

Have the Folk sacrifices for Neptune or Furrina?

[Offerings from the congregation to Neptune and Furrina may be made at this time.]

The Main Sacrifice

[Jenni washes her hands first]

Neptune

Neptune, God of fresh water,
Whose rivers flow from the mountains to the sea,
Whose waters nourish and refresh our land, our crops, our animals and our people,
We make offering to you today in gratitude for your abundant blessings.

Jenni recites in Latin:

Neptunus Pater,
te hoc vinum ommovendo bonas preces,
precor uti sies volens propitius illis Quiritibus te laudatis,
quoius re ergo hoc sacrificium offero.

Assistant interprets in English:

Father Neptune,
With good prayers I offer to you this wine.
May it be your will to look with favor upon these folk who have honored you,
for which purpose I make this sacrifice.

All: FIAT. So be it.

Furrina

Furrina, Goddess of springs and deep wells,
Whose depths hold the monsoon waters that fall this year and in years past,
Whose waters nourish and refresh our land, our crops, our animals and our people,
We make offering to you today in gratitude for your abundant blessings.

Jenni recites in Latin:

Furrina Mater,

te hoc vinum ommovendo bonas preces,
precor uti sies volens propitius illis Quiritibus te laudatis,
Eiusdem rei ergo macte vino inferior esto.

Assistant interprets in English:

Mother Furrina,
With good prayers I offer to you this wine.
That you might favor those who have honored you,
So, too may you be blessed by this sacrifice of wine.

All: FIAT. So be it.

Final offering to both

NEPTUNUS ET FURRINA – MACTETE HOC SACRIFICIO

All: Neptune and Furrina, accept this sacrifice!

[All sing "Sacrifice Chant" chant]

Piacular Offering

[Quietly make a final sacrifice of wine]

Neptunus Pater,
Furrina Mater,
Gods and Goddesses,
Holy Ancestors,
Spirits of this place:
If anything that we have done here has offended you,
If anything we have done here has been incomplete,
If anything we have done here has not been in the proper manner,
accept this final sacrifice in recompense.

[There should be no response.]

Seeking the Omen of Return

So we have given of our love and our wealth
To the Powers, that they may know our devotion.

Now let our voices arise on the Fire
Let our voices resound in the Well
Let our words be heard by those to whom we have offered.

Having sacrificed to Neptune and Furrina
May we open to them, asking what blessings they offer us in return
And the needs they have of us.

[One omen is drawn for Neptune and one for Furrina.]

Calling for the Blessings

Ancient and Mighty Ones we have honored you
We pray you honor us in turn
For a gift calls for a gift

Hear us Father Neptune, Mother Furrina:
Hallow these waters with your blessings!

NEPTUNUS, AQUAE VIVAE DA!

All: Neptune, give us the Waters!

FURRINA, AQUAE VIVAE DA!

All: Neptune, give us the Waters!

NEPTUNUS ET FURRINA, AQUAE VIVAE DATE!

All: Neptune, give us the Waters!

Hallowing the Waters

[Jenni holds the omens over the waters and speaks to imbue the waters with them.]

Behold the holy Cup of Magic
The outpouring of Blessing from the Great Ones
When we share the Waters of Life
We drink in wisdom, love and strength
To do as we will in the worlds
In service to the Shining Ones.

ECCE AQUAE VIVAE!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

Affirming the Blessings

Children of Earth, do you wish to receive the blessings?

All: We do!

[The cup is shared, as we sing, "Share the Waters" then "We are a Circle"]

Closing and Thanks

The Great Ones have blessed us.

With joy in our hearts,

Let us carry the magic from our sacred Grove

Into our lives and our work.

Each time we offer to the Powers

They become stronger

And more aware of our needs and our worship.

So now as we prepare to depart

Let us give thanks

To all those who have aided us.

Father Neptune, GRATIAS TIBI AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

Mother Furrina, GRATIAS TIBI AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

O Gods and Goddesses, DEI GRATIAS VOBIS AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

O Spirits of this land, GRATIAS VOBIS AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

O Ancestors, our Kindred, GRATIAS VOBIS AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

To all those Powers that have aided us, we say again... GRATIAS VOBIS AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

Mother of all

To you we return all we leave unused
Uphold us now in the world as you have in our rite.
Mater Ops, GRATIAS TIBI AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

Ianus Clusivius, closer of doors,
For your presence and power
Your guiding and guarding we say...
GRATIAS TIBI AGAMUS!

All: We thank you!

Final offering to Vesta:

(M makes a final sacrifice of incense to the sacrificial fire, which is left to burn out on its own.)

Vesta Mater, Queen of the hearth,
who by rights receives the last,
bless and guard all those who worship you
whether in their home or without
whether alone or with others
whether thinking of you or engaged in business.
Lady of Fire, receive this sacrifice.

Closing the Gates

Now by the Keeper of Gates and by our magic
We end what we began.

[Conjures the Gates closed, as the folk chant, "Close the Gates!"]

Now let the Focus be but a flame;
Let the Mundus be water;
Let the Port be a simple tree.
Let all be as it was before
PORTAE TEGENT
Let the gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

Go now, Quirites
In peace and blessings

The rite is ended!

ALL: IO NEPTUNALIA!!

IO FURRINALIA!!