

# Oakstone Protogrove, ADF

## PRE-RITUAL PREPARATION

### Site Set-Up

- set up altars, banners, clergy chairs, etc.
- ensure all items required for ritual are present and placed in appropriate locations (use the ritual organizer's checklist)
- participants may set up seats before and after claiming and hallowing ritual
- place pamphlets and ritual scripts for participants to take as needed

### Claiming and Hallowing Ritual

- two clergy perform the ritual while the third greets attendees, answers questions, oversees and/or organizes food, donations, sign-in, etc.
- ritual performed according to Oak Stone Protogrove, ADF Claiming and Hallowing script
- ritual will not be required once Oak Stone has found permanent ritual space

### Bard Teaches New Chants

- can be done concurrently with claiming and hallowing ritual if Bard is not participating

### Ritualist Welcomes Folk and Introduces Clergy

- officially welcomes all to the rite
- explains purpose of the rite
- introduces those taking on the three main roles

### Seer Explains Creating the Sacred Centre, Opening, and Closing the Gates

- explains purpose of creating Sacred Centre
- explains purpose of opening and closing the gates
- explains purpose of Outdwellers' offering
- if there are no newcomers at the rite, any or all of this briefing may be abbreviated or skipped

### Ritualist Explains Praise Offerings and Determines Order/Limit

- explains when and how to offer praise offerings
- makes a list of all who wish to offer, and what will be offered
- determines order/limit, reads it aloud, and hands it to the Bard

### **Seer Leads Short Centering Meditation**

- leads brief meditation/visualization either specific to occasion, or awareness of natural space
- ends with statement encouraging participants to think on traveling from mundane life toward the sacred as they process

### **CENTERING MEDITATION**

**SEER:** Let us breathe deeply,

Become aware of the Earth below us,  
The Sky above us, and  
The Trees around us.

We stand together,  
Gathered as equals,  
In the eye of the fire,  
Between past and future.

Breathe out your daily stresses,  
Breathe in the sense of sacred time,  
Breathe out your cares and tension,  
Breathe in the sense of sacred space.

As you walk the path of the Old Ways,  
From here to the Sacred Grove,  
Be mindful,  
This is more than treading along a path,  
It is a journey from the mundane into the sacred.

### **PROCESSION**

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song as they process to, and then past, the Outdwellers' altar.*

#### We Are a Circle Moving

(by: Marae Price)

We are a circle moving  
One with another, we are  
Moving together we are one.

We are a circle moving  
One with another, we are  
Moving together we are one.

I am spirit, and I flow in you.  
You are spirit and you flow in me.

## **PURIFICATION**

*Bard brings chant down to a whisper (if not silence), and maintains the beat at a much quieter level.*

**RITUALIST:**           Outdwellers!  
                          Spirits and energies at cross purposes with us!  
                          Trouble not our rite!  
                          Outdwellers!  
                          Powers and deities whose presence brings discord!  
                          Accept from us this beverage as your due, and  
                          Trouble not our rite!

*Ritualist offers soda pop to the Outdwellers.*

**SEER:**                    Outdwellers!  
                          Problems and stresses we hold within ourselves!  
                          Be set aside this night!  
                          Outdwellers!  
                          Distractions and negativities hovering overhead!  
                          Focus on this bubbly drink, and  
                          Be set aside this night!

*Seer offers soda pop to the Outdwellers.*

**RITUALIST:**            Outdwellers!  
                          Trouble not our rite!

**ALL:**                    Trouble not our rite!

**SEER:**                    Outdwellers!  
                          Be set aside this night!

**ALL:** Be set aside this night!

*Ritualist and Seer take up places on either side of the entrance to the Sacred Precinct as the Bard renews the chant and leads the procession through.*

*Ritualist takes up a bowl of water and asperses each person as they pass by, saying:*

**RITUALIST:** May you be purified and blessed.

*Seer lights sage and censes each person as they pass by, saying:*

**SEER:** May you be purified and blessed.

*Ritualist and Seer asperse and cense each other, leaving the water and sage outside the Sacred Precinct, and join the end of the procession.*

*Bard leads the folk, chanting, in a sunwise circuit three times around the interior of the Sacred Precinct.*

*Chant continues until all are standing, facing inwards, and the **clergy** raise and lower their staves to indicate the end.*

**RITUALIST:** Please remain standing as we honour, and offer to, Mother Earth.

### **HONOURING THE EARTH MOTHER**

*Ritualist moves to the altar.*

**RITUALIST:** Earth Mother,  
Whose bounty and generosity supports us all,  
We present apples as an offering from our winter stores.

*Ritualist offers apple slices to the offering bowl.*

**RITUALIST:** Earth Mother, accept our offering!

**ALL:** Earth Mother, accept our offering!

**RITUALIST:** Earth Mother,  
Who gives freely of Herself to support Her children,  
We offer apple cider to warm your bones.

*Ritualist offers apple cider to the offering bowl.*

**RITUALIST:** Earth Mother, accept our offering!

**ALL:** Earth Mother, accept our offering!

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song, repeating the chant three times.*

Earth Mother  
(by: Unknown)

Earth Mother, we honour your body  
Earth Mother, we honour your bones  
Earth Mother, we sing to your spirit  
Earth Mother, we sing to your stones

**RITUALIST:** In the name of hospitality, we welcome all those who would sit in comfort to take their seats at this time. For those who prefer to stand, be also welcome at this rite.

*Ritualist sits. Bard moves to altar dedicated to the spirits of inspiration.*

### **BARDIC INSPIRATION**

*Bard lights a candle.*

**BARD:** Spirits of inspiration!  
Givers of Awen, Imbas, and Soul Fire,  
Look kindly upon us,  
And share your gifts that our offerings may be worthy,  
In the eyes of the Kindreds and Deities!

*Bard rings a bell three times.*

We beseech you,  
To silver our tongues,  
To sweeten our voices,  
And to open our ears and spirits,

To the beauty of this rite!

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song, repeating the chant three times.*

Birgita

(words by: Lisa Theil)

Birgita, Birgita, Goddess of the flame

Birgita, Birgita, Goddess of the flame

Awaken the flame within my being

Awaken the sacred fire within my being

**BARD:**               Spirits of inspiration!  
Aid us in our worship,  
Help us find the Awen within!

**GROVE ATTUNEMENT**

*Seer speaks from the seated position.*

**SEER:**               We are about to attune ourselves to the power of the Sacred Grove. Take a moment to ensure your comfort. Begin with your breath... breathe deeply, from your belly... in... and out... make your body comfortable... stretch if you need to, settle in place... and focus on your breath... observe your breath as it flows in and out of your body... and with each breath, allow your body to relax... let your breath carry away tension from your flesh.. relaxing your feet and legs... letting your belly soften and relax... breathing away tension from your shoulders and arms... from your neck... relaxing your face and mouth, your eyes... with each breath your body becoming warmer, comfortable and relaxed... your mind alert and prepared...

Now, with your body still and calm, imagine that from your feet, or the base of your spine, roots begin to grow downward... roots reaching and growing into the earth, down through soil and stone... deepening and spreading... reaching to touch the waters under the Earth... the Earth current... the dark, cool, magnetic power that nourishes and sustains life... as your roots touch this current it is drawn in and up toward your body... your breath draws the Earth power upward... into your body... the invisible, magnetic power fills your legs, energizing and strengthening... waters rise from the earth, into your legs... rising... into your loins... and pooling in your loins, a cauldron of Earth power... You breathe the power upward... rising from the earth, through your loins, rising up your spine... into your heart... pooling and filling a cauldron in your heart with healing, restoring energy... power rising from the deep, through your loins, through your heart... rising up your spine and into your head... filling a cauldron of wisdom and vision behind your eyes... and rising still, filling all your body and flowing out again through the crown of your head... through your hands... flowing out around your body and back into the earth... the

power under the Earth flows in you... grounding you in the source of life...

Now imagine the sky overhead... The sun and moon and, far beyond them, the stars... imagine a single star at the center of the sky, shining directly over your head... the center of your inner sky, your own pole-star...see a flash of light shining down from that star... streaming down between moon and sun... gold, silver and blue-white light... the bright, warm, electric power of the sky... the light touches your head, filling and illuminating the cauldron like sun on still water... shining from above... filling your head with warm, awakening power... flowing down into your heart... warming the cauldron... shining down through head and heart, illumining the waters... downward to reach your loins... The cauldron shines with sky power in your loins... Tingling, electrical light in head, heart and loins... the light flows downward into Earth, and you are shining and flowing with the mingled powers of Earth and sky... the raw material of magic... the chaos of potential and the world order...

Reach out to those beside you. Join your shining hands together. Let the Waters and the Light merge and flow through us all... the Power flowing upward from below... the power flowing downward from above... through each and all of us... making us one light, one depth, one united and Sacred Grove.

*Seer holds this circle of energy for a moment, then speaks.*

**SEER:** Let the energies continue to flow within you and between us all for the duration of this rite.

*Ritualist, Seer, and Bard stand and move to centre.*

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**RITUALIST:** We are gathered here today to mark the longest night. This is the point where the sun reaches its zenith in its southernmost journey in the solar cycle. Today the dark triumphs over the light, yet within that triumph, we will also celebrate the rebirth of the sun. With this turning point, we will mark that in the sun's death lay its rebirth. From this point on, the nights will begin to shorten until we reach the other half of the year when the light has triumphed.

So today we celebrate, as we have done before, and as our ancestors have done in the ancient past. We will pay homage to the light, and may the joy of our celebrations keep the light within bright, even unto the darkest times.

**SEER:** Tonight we honour Arawn, Lord of the Underworld, for it is he who will ensure the sun's safe journey on this longest of nights, and it is he who will release the sun from the Underworld at the moment of its rebirth.

The Underworld is the world in which all things first took shape and form. It is not a dark and dreary land, for it is where the secrets of agriculture and animal husbandry were kept until they were stolen by Amaethon in order to improve the lives of the mortals living in the world above. It is from here that the newly reshaped sun will emerge.

We call upon Arawn because he is a guardian of the ways between the worlds, and because his hounds will chase back the dark, allowing the sun to be reborn.

**BARD:** Arawn is the King of Annwn. He is the Grey Man of Earth, a Death Lord who kills in order to bring forth new life. The death of the sun tonight brings forth its birth.

Arawn is known to ride through our lands in autumn, winter, and spring with his pack of white, red-eared hounds – the Cwn Annwn – the Hounds of Annwn. The baying of the hounds can be heard in the crying of geese as they migrate, and their quarry can be seen in the mists and fogs that hide the wandering Otherworld spirits. Arawn and his hounds hunt these spirits and return them to the Underworld where they wait to be reborn again in ours.

On one occasion, Arawn and his hounds were taking a break from hunting spirits and instead were chasing a magnificent stag. The stag fled through the lands of Dyfed where Pwyll, its king, was also hunting. Seeing the awe-inspiring beast, Pwyll set his hounds upon it and brought it down. It was only after the animal was dead that Pwyll realized that Arawn had claimed it as his own. Not wanting to anger the Lord of the Underworld, Pwyll offered to pay for his error.

Arawn agreed and demanded that the two kings trade places for a year and a day as his price. Pwyll agreed to the arrangement and then discovered that he would have to battle Arawn's rival, Hafgan, for control of the Dark Lord's realm.

As the time to return to their original lands approached, Pwyll defeated Hafgan and returned the Underworld to its rightful king. The two became good friends for having spent so much time in the other's place, and most importantly because neither slept with the other's wife.

## **RECREATING THE COSMOS**

**RITUALIST:** We are gathered together at the axis of all worlds. Within our rite we will recreate the cosmos and connect our world to all the others. We have the Well into the Underworlds, and the Fire into the Upperworlds. In order for our triad to be complete, we need the World Tree that links us all together.



## HONOURING THE SACRED CENTRE

*Ritualist, Seer, and Bard chant and circle sunwise three times around the container that will house the World Tree.*

### World Tree

(by Cheryl Angst)

From tree to staff,  
Works wrought by hand.  
From staff to Tree,  
Our works will stand.

*Ritualist, Seer, and Bard thrust their staves into the container at the end of the chant.*

**RITUALIST:**           The Sacred Centre is complete! The World Tree stands!

*Bard generates a steady drum beat and begins leading the folk in the chant.*

*Ritualist moves to the Well, Seer moves to the Fire, and Bard moves around the Sacred Precinct.*

### Portal Song

(by: Ian Corrigan)

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

*Ritualist offers silver to the Well and scoops out Well water into a small bowl.*

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.

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

*Seer offers oil to the Fire and lights the sage using the Fire.*

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.

*Ritualist and Seer move to the Tree.*

Gather we at the tree  
The root and the crown of all  
Gather we at the tree  
Below and above

Gather we at the tree  
Together we make our call  
Gather we at the tree  
In wisdom and love

*Ritualist asperses the World Tree with Well water and then places the bowl on the altar.*

*Seer censes the World Tree with the sage and then extinguishes it and places it back on the altar.*

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.

**RITUALIST:** With the re-creation of the cosmos, we stand at the centre of All Worlds.  
We are connected to all space. We are connected to all that is sacred.

*Ritualist, Seer, and Bard sit.*

**RITUALIST:** Let us attune to the Three Realms surrounding us.

### **HONOURING THE THREE REALMS**

**SEER:** We are surrounded and supported by the Three Realms. Take a moment to feel the Earth under your feet... Feel it firmly supporting you... Feel the Sea gently cradling the land... Feel its gentle rocking soothing you... Feel the Sky over your head... Feel the breath of the wind calling to you... Feel connected to the centre of all.

**SEER:** Upper world of the Sky,  
Home to the Shining Ones,  
We feel your presence at our rite!

**BARD:** Mid world of the Land,  
Home to the Nature Spirits,  
We feel your presence at our rite!

**RITUALIST:** Under world of the Sea,  
Home to the Ancestors and Mighty Dead,  
We feel your presence at our rite!

**SEER:** We feel your presence at our rite!

**ALL:** We feel your presence at our rite!

*Bard remains sitting as Seer and Ritualist move to the altar to open the gates.*

### **OPENING THE GATES**

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the chant to build the energies to open the gate.*

#### Gatekeeper Open the Portals

(lyrics by Sue Parker, music by Richard MacKelly)

Gatekeeper open the portals,  
Between the Gods and mortals,  
Power freely flows,  
As our magic grows.

*Bard brings chant and drum beat down to a whisper, but keeps it going throughout, until Ritualist declares all gates to be open.*

**SEER:** Gwyddion ap Donn,  
You are Druid of the Gods.  
We call upon you,  
O wise teacher of all that is good.  
We call upon you,  
Helper and friend to human kind.  
We beseech you,  
To use your magic and your powers bold,  
We beseech you,  
To open a way between our worlds,  
We implore you,  
To allow our words and actions to cross the veil  
We implore you,  
To hold the ways between the worlds open  
Gwyddion ap Donn,  
Master, Magician, Druid of the Gods,

We call upon you,  
To open the Gates!

**RITUALIST:** Gwyddion ap Donn,  
Open the Gates!

**ALL:** Gwyddion ap Donn,  
Open the Gates!

*Ritualist raises horse sculpture above the Fire.*

**RITUALIST:** Gwyddion ap Donn,  
Your symbol is the white horse,  
Accept from us this stallion!

Gwyddion ap Donn,  
Accept our offering!

*Ritualist offers horse sculpture to the offering bowl.*

**ALL:** Gwyddion ap Donn,  
Accept our offering!

**RITUALIST:** Let the Well become a Gate between the Worlds.

*Ritualist makes the sign of the Triskele above the Well.*

**RITUALIST:** Let the Fire become a Gate between the Worlds.

*Ritualist makes the sign of the Triskele above the Fire.*

**RITUALIST:** Let the World Tree stand as a bridge, connecting all worlds.

*Ritualist circles the World Tree once clockwise with arms raised and palms toward the World Tree.*

**RITUALIST:** Let the Gates Be Open!

*Bard ceases drumming.*

**ALL:** Let the Gates Be Open!

### **INVITING THE THREE KINDREDS**

**RITUALIST:** Let us now invite the Three Kindreds to attend our rite.

**SEER:** Nature Spirits!  
Beings of stone and fur!  
Spirits of Wind and Water!  
Be welcome at our rite!

*Ritualist raises the offering of bird seed.*

**RITUALIST:** Nature Spirits!  
At this time of year when food is scarce,  
Accept from us this offering of nutritious seed.

*Ritualist offers bird seed to the offering bowl.*

**SEER:** Nature Spirits accept our offering!

**ALL:** Nature Spirits accept our offering!

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song, repeating the chant three times.*

#### Fur and Feather

(by: Sable)

Fur and Feather and Scale and Skin  
Different without but the same within.  
Many of body but one of soul  
Through all creatures are we made whole.

**SEER:** Ancestors!  
Kin of blood and spirit!  
Heroes from the past!  
Be welcome at our rite!

*Ritualist raises the offering of tobacco.*

**RITUALIST:** Ancestors!

Gather at our fire and enjoy the scents of the living,  
Accept from us this offering of tobacco.

*Ritualist offers tobacco to the offering bowl.*

**SEER:** Ancestors accept our offering!

**ALL:** Ancestors accept our offering!

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song, repeating the chant three times.*

Mothers and Fathers of Old

(by: Sable)

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 Old.

**SEER:** Shining Ones!  
Gods and Goddesses!  
Powers and Deities!  
Be welcome at our rite!

*Ritualist raises the offering of mead.*

**RITUALIST:** Shining Ones!  
Your presence brightens our lives,  
Accept from us this offering of ambrosia.

*Ritualist offers mead to the offering bowl.*

**SEER:** Shining Ones accept our offering!

**ALL:** Shining Ones accept our offering!

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song, repeating the chant three times.*

Hail All the Gods

(Original Words by Paul Maurice, Richard Mac Kelly, Gwynne Green. Music by Paul Maurice, Sean Miller and Gail Williams. Lyric adaptations by Cheryl Angst, Keith Baldwin, Genevieve Lacombe, David Wheeler)

Hail all the Gods,  
Hail all the Goddesses,  
Hail all the holy ones,  
We dwell together!

**RITUALIST:** Let all who wish to honour their chosen deities or other powers do so now, as is befitting the occasion.

*Ritualist and Seer sit.*

*Bard makes the first offering and then creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in quietly singing the chant until the **Seer** and **Ritualist** have made their offerings.*

Hail All the Gods

(Original Words by Paul Maurice, Richard Mac Kelly, Gwynne Green. Music by Paul Maurice, Sean Miller and Gail Williams. Lyric adaptations by Cheryl Angst, Keith Baldwin, Genevieve Lacombe, David Wheeler)

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 Ancestors,  
We dwell together!

***Seer** and **Ritualist** remain at the altar after making their offerings. **Bard** leads the folk in loudly singing the chant three times through.*

**KEY OFFERINGS**

**RITUALIST:** Welcome all the gods and goddesses, welcome nature spirits and the ancestors! Join us in worshipping Arawn, our Patron of this rite, in our sacred grove!



Tonight we mark the time of longest night. The sun has reached its most southerly point in the sky, and darkness holds the land in sway. Tonight marks the triumph of the night, but be not afraid for within its triumph is born the seed of its defeat. Through our prayers, devotion, and observations the sun will return!

Let us honour Arawn, Grey Man, Lord of the Underworld. Let us acknowledge his power as it is manifest tonight and throughout the land. Let us listen for the baying of the hounds as he and his pack ride the winds to bring back the sun. Tonight we offer our worship and devotion to the powers of death and rebirth!

*Seer readies the offering of ale as **Ritualist** speaks.*

**RITUALIST:**        Master of Anwnn,  
                          Warder of Lost Souls,  
                          Death Lord,  
                          We present our offering of ale.  
                          Accept from us this sacrifice!

*Seer offers ale to the offering bowl, saying:*

**SEER:**                Master of Anwnn, accept our sacrifice!

**ALL:**                Master of Anwnn, accept our sacrifice!

*Seer readies the offering of a spear as **Ritualist** speaks.*

**RITUALIST:**        Ghostly Hunter,  
                          Lord of the Wild Hunt,  
                          Mythical Pack Leader,  
                          We present our offering of this spear.  
                          Accept from us this sacrifice!

*Seer offers spear to the offering bowl, saying:*

**SEER:**                Ghostly Hunter, accept our sacrifice!

**ALL:**                Ghostly Hunter, accept our sacrifice!

*Seer readies the offering of a holly crown as **Ritualist** speaks.*

**RITUALIST:**       Arawn,  
                  Grey Man,  
                  King of Anwnn,  
                  We present our offering of a holly crown.  
                  Accept from us this sacrifice!

*Seer offers holly crown to the offering bowl, saying:*

**SEER:**               Arawn, accept our sacrifice!

**ALL:**                Arawn, accept our sacrifice!

**RITUALIST:**        Let all who wish to honour Arawn do so now, as is befitting for the occasion.

*Ritualist and Seer sit as the Bard steps forward to make his/her offering.*

*Bard makes the first offering and then creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in quietly singing the chant until the Seer and Ritualist have made their offerings.*

Lord Arawn

(music by: Sean Miller, words by: Cheryl Angst)  
(to the tune of We Approach the Sacred Grove)

Lord Arawn, on the shortest day,  
Baying hounds mean the Hunt rides soon,  
Bring to us the sun's bright rays,  
King of Anwnn.

*Seer and Ritualist remain at the altar after making their offerings. Bard leads the folk in loudly singing the chant three times through.*

*Just prior to 22:07 the Seer lights a small taper from the altar fire and then extinguishes the altar fire as the Ritualist speaks.*

**RITUALIST:**        The solstice is about to arrive. Let us take a moment to meditate on the death of the sun on this long winter night and its upcoming miraculous rebirth at dawn.

*At the moment of solstice (22:08), the Ritualist rings a bell solemnly nine times, then bows his/her head for another minute of silence.*

*The Seer relights the altar fire while Ritualist speaks.*

**RITUALIST:** The light of the sun has disappeared beyond the ninth wave. We light our fires to symbolize the undying power of the sun. The sun may not be visible to us, but it is still present. Let our fires serve as a beacon to welcome the sun back from its journey beyond the sea.

*The Bard creates a quiet, steady drum beat to underpin the Ritualist's speaking.*

### **PRAYER OF SACRIFICE**

**RITUALIST:** We have made offerings to all the Powers who have attended this rite. We have made offerings to our Patron. We have offered our love, devotion, and worship to the Powers.

*Ritualist raises final praise offering of a sun-shaped loaf of bread, saying:*

**RITUALIST:** Through our offerings we have made our worship plain and our devotion sincere. Should we have failed to satisfy the Powers, or if anything we have done is incomplete, Arawn, and all Mighty Beings who have chosen to attend, accept from us this offering of the staff of life; heartiest of bread!

*Bard brings the drum beat to a crescendo as the sacrifice and prayer are offered.*

*Ritualist breaks the loaf of bread apart and offers it to the offering bowl.*

**RITUALIST:** Powers, accept our sacrifice!

**ALL:** Powers, accept our sacrifice!

### **OMEN**

**RITUALIST:** With these offerings we send our thoughts and energies to the Otherworlds. Let us all focus our prayers and intentions through the Gates, and let us determine what blessing the Powers offer us in return.

*Seer moves to the altar and prepares the divination tool. Bard prepares to record the omen as it is read and interpreted.*

**RITUALIST:** Have our sacrifices been accepted?

*Seer draws the first omen, announces it, and interprets it for the grove.*

**RITUALIST:** What blessing is offered in return?

*Seer draws the second omen, announces it, and interprets it for the grove.*

**RITUALIST:** What further need do the Powers have of us?

*Seer draws the third omen, announces it, and interprets it for the grove.*

**SEER:** The omens have been drawn. The will and blessing of the Gods is known. Let us each take a moment to meditate on what we would individually ask of the Powers; tailor your thoughts to suit the omens just drawn.

*Bard hands Ritualist the Omen notebook and returns to seat. Seer sits while Ritualist remains standing at the altar with head bowed. After a few moments the Ritualist takes a deep breath and raises the Waters above the Fire.*

### **CALLING FOR THE BLESSING**

**RITUALIST:** Powers and Mighty Beings!  
We have made sacrifices and honoured you!  
A gift calls for a gift,  
We ask you to bless these Waters!  
Powers, bless these Waters!

**ALL:** Powers, bless these Waters!

**RITUALIST:** Shining Ones!  
We yearn for your blessing!  
We strive to please you,  
We thirst for these Waters!  
Shining Ones, bless these Waters!

**ALL:** Shining Ones, bless these Waters!

**RITUALIST:** Gods and Goddesses!  
Your powers are beyond our ken,  
We call for a blessing!  
We call for the Waters!

Deities, bless these Waters!

**ALL:** Deities, bless these Waters!

## **HALLOWING THE WATERS**

*Ritualist places the Waters on the altar.*

**RITUALIST:** We gladly offer sacrifice,  
We give our gifts out of love and devotion,  
For we are truly blessed.

*Ritualist inscribes the symbol of the first omen drawn over the Waters.*

**RITUALIST:** Through our worship,  
We receive the blessings of the Deities,  
They offer guidance to those who would hear.

*Ritualist inscribes the symbol of the second omen drawn over the Waters.*

**RITUALIST:** The Powers work to help us,  
When we listen to what the Powers have to say,  
Our worlds become richer and more fulfilled.

*Ritualist inscribes the symbol of the third omen drawn over the Waters.*

*Seer moves to the altar and both **Seer** and **Ritualist** pick up one of the Waters and hold it aloft.*

**RITUALIST:** Behold, the Waters of Life!

**ALL:** The Waters of Life!

*Ritualist offers Waters to the **Seer**, who then offers Waters to the **Ritualist** saying to each participant:*

**RITUALIST:** Drink and be blessed.

**SEER:** Drink and be blessed.

*Ritualist offers Waters to the **Bard**.*

*Bard* creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in song as the **Ritualist** and **Seer** distribute the Waters to the participants. **Ritualist** and **Seer** lead the response portion of the chant for one full verse before moving to distribute the Waters.

Power of the Spirits

(by Ian Corrigan)

**BARD:** Power of the Spirits...

**ALL:** Flowing through me...

**BARD:** Power of the Spirits...

**ALL:** Shining in me...

**BARD:** Power of the Spirits...

**ALL:** Growing with me...

*(repeat until Ritualist and Seer return to altar)*

**AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSING**

*Ritualist* and *Seer* return the Waters to the altar. *Bard* moves to the altar.

**RITUALIST:** Each time we offer to the gods and goddesses we grow closer to them. As we leave this grove today, let us take with us the blessings received and use them to brighten our lives.

**THANKING THE POWERS**

**RITUALIST:** Let us thank the Powers for both their blessing and attendance at this rite!

**RITUALIST:** Arawn! King of Anwnn!  
Warden of Lost Souls,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Wild Hunter!  
Your pack runs sleek and fast,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Death Lord and Grey Man!

Through death you create new life,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**SEER:** Shining Ones!  
You who dwell in the heavens,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**SEER:** Gods and Goddesses!  
You to whom we offer praise,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**SEER:** Deities!  
Whose power radiates throughout the land,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**BARD:** Nature Spirits!  
Who dwell among tree and stone,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**BARD:** Noble Fey!  
Your voices carry across the winds and water,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**BARD:** Lords and Ladies of Faerie!  
Whose world overlaps ours,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Ancestors!  
Kin of bone and blood,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Honoured Dead!  
Those who walked the lands before us,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Heroes of Yore!  
Kin of spirit who inspire us to greatness,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

### **CLOSING THE GATES**

**RITUALIST:** Our workings here are complete. Let us close the Gates in preparation for ending the rite.

**RITUALIST:** Gwyddion ap Donn,  
Keeper of the Gates,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Master of Magic,  
Druid of the Gods,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Teacher of all that is Good!  
Mighty Gatekeeper,  
We thank you!



**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Let the Fire become flame.

*Ritualist makes the sign of the reverse Triskele above it. **Bard** strikes one hard beat on the drum.*

**SEER:** A Gate has been closed.

**ALL:** A Gate has been closed.

**RITUALIST:** Let the Well become water.

*Ritualist makes the sign of the reverse Triskele above it. **Bard** strikes one hard beat on the drum.*

**SEER:** A Gate has been closed.

**ALL:** A Gate has been closed.

**RITUALIST:** Let the World Tree cease to be a bridge, and return to simple staves. Let the Gates be closed!

**SEER:** The Gates have been closed!

**ALL:** The Gates have been closed!

*Bard ceremoniously hands the staves back to their respective wielders.*

## **THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER**

*Seer and Bard sit.*

**RITUALIST:** As this rite draws to a close, let us offer any excess energies and sacrifices to the Earth Mother, for she gives to us without limit.

*Ritualist offers any left over sacrifices to the offering bowl.*

**RITUALIST:** Earth Mother!  
Sustainer of life,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Earth beneath us!  
Mother of all,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

**RITUALIST:** Queen of Queens!  
Bountiful mistress,  
We thank you!

**ALL:** We thank you!

### **CLOSING THE RITE**

**SEER:** Let us take a moment to focus,  
Breathe in, breathe out,  
Feel the shared energies of our grove begin to recede.  
Pull your roots back into yourself,  
Offering excess energy to the Earth,  
Feel yourself becoming a solitary tree.  
Feel the energy ebb away as you return to full awareness.  
Breathe deeply, once,... twice,... three times,  
As you move from the Sacred Grove, be conscious of the journey  
As moving from the sacred to the mundane.

**RITUALIST:** Go in peace,  
The rite is ended!

*Seer creates one loud clap to symbolically end the rite.*

*Bard creates a rhythmic drum beat and leads the folk in chant as they recess counterclockwise around the Sacred Precinct and exit.*

#### I Am Walking

(by: Phoenix)

I am walking, walking, walking

I am walking, walking, walking

I am walking home

I am walking home

Written by Cheryl Angst.

Two Powers meditation taken from the *ADF Dedicant Program Manual*.

All chants and poems credited within the script.