

# Summer-lands Festival/Earth Warriors Festival 2008 Warrior Ritual 4.0

Note: The warrior ritual continues to evolve as we write and experiment with different parts. Some of the latest discussion is whether or not we should even have an Out-dwellers part of the ritual since it is a frith-stead and all should be welcome. With that in mind I wrote the Guardian Prayer and Prayer for Peace to replace the traditional Out-dwellers section of the ritual.

## **Procession –stop**

### **Out-dwellers/warder**

#### **Guardian Prayer**

Written by Seamus

*“I stand firm with the Earth beneath me.  
I stand tall with the Sky above me.  
I stand strong with the Sea around me.  
With the power of the Earth, Sea and Sky, I stand ready.  
I am aided by the might of the Kindred  
I am a guardian for this grove (hall) and stand ever vigil.”*

#### **Prayer for Peace**

Written by Seamus

*“May there be peace in the North, in the East, in the South and in the West  
May there be peace from above and below  
May there be peace among us.  
May the Ancestors remind us of our history and council our action and deeds.  
May the Nature Spirits remind us of our responsibilities and council our hearts and minds.  
May the Shining Ones remind us of our potential and council our thoughts and dreams.  
May our work be in honor, service and balance”.*

Note: Procession waits outside of hall and Lady of the Hall steps forward:

Lady: *“Welcome all to the hall those who walk together under the banners of their grove and those who stand alone but together with us all.”*

All enter hall: Groves announced as they enter. Solitaries enter last and welcomed by all.

Host (Lord of the Hall): *“Hail and welcome all to the hall. Has everyone who wishes to enter the hall done so?”*

Note: Orion stood outside of the hall with the warrior's lantern (a lantern that the COH lights and places on the Warrior Altar at festivals)

Lone Warrior: *"NO, there are many who have fallen and many, who serve. Let this light burn bright in memory and in honor to their service and sacrifice, hail the warriors!"*

The Hall: *"Hail the warriors!"*

Note: Orion walked in and placed lantern on main altar.

**Earth Mother:** (Warrior picked at ritual, words spoken from the heart –standard ADF)

**Inspiration:** (Warrior picked at ritual, words spoken from the heart –standard ADF)

**Meditation:** (Warrior picked at ritual, words spoken from the heart –standard ADF)

### **Preparing the Sacred Center**

#### **Fire, Well and Tree**

(Offerings to the Sacred Center.)

#### **Portal Song**

Written by Ian

#### CHORUS

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 & 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 & love.

CHORUS (with gusto)

## **Warrior Gateway**

Written by Emerald

Emerald: *“Warriors now hold fast in your minds the image of a patron warrior deity, a hero or courageous ancestor close to your heart, or a warrior ally from amongst the worldly spirits. See them, hear them, remember how it feels to be in their presence...Now, as one voice, we call to them”*

Notes: Simultaneously, warriors call out the name of their Gatekeeper

Emerald: *“Again!”* (They do it again.)

Emerald: *“Again.”* (They do it a final time.)

Emerald: *“Warriors we call draw near.*

*To Warriors standing here.*

*From the halls and palaces of the realm above, on high in the starry sky. . .”*

Warriors: *“Warriors we call draw near, to Warriors standing here!”*

Emerald: *“From the fields and halls of the realm below, rebirth in the well of earth”*

Warriors: *“Warriors we call draw near, to Warriors standing here!”*

Emerald: *“From within our world in the middle realm, world of green seen and unseen”*

Warriors: *“Warriors we call draw near, to Warriors standing here!”*

Emerald: *“Warriors of the Kins! Warriors of the Folk! We stand close to each other; only the gates between the worlds stand between us now. Together we focus our magic and might that our power will freely flow this night.”*

All sing:

Warriors open the portals

Between the kins and mortals

Power freely flows

As our magic grows (repeat as necessary)

Notes: Emerald makes offerings to the Gatekeepers. After song ends, Emerald bangs staff three times

All: *“The gates are open!”*

## **Honoring and Inviting the Three Kindreds**

**Ancestors** (Warrior picked at ritual, words spoken from the heart –standard ADF)

**Nature Spirits** (Warrior picked at ritual, words spoken from the heart –standard ADF)

**Shining Ones** (Warrior picked at ritual, words spoken from the heart –standard ADF)

## **Establishing Frith Stead**

Host :*”Hail Tyr, Great Sky father, Guardian of Order, God of the Thing. First to call to me so long ago even before I knew you, you who walks with me, teaches me and reminds to be true to heart, and to act with honor and frith. I hail and honor you. You who sacrificed yourself for the good of the tribe; let our words ring true, our actions be just, may we remember that we can disagree without being disagreeable. May this weekend be about celebrating friendships and making memories. May we long remember the friendship and fellowship that we have created in this hall and indeed for the entire weekend. Let all remember that this Frith-stead has been raised. Hail Tyr!”*

All: *“Hail Tyr!”*

Note: Community Bloat – one round or three depending on time and energy of hall.

## **Charging the horn.**

Notes: This is usually done by Leesa with words from the heart and making a hammer sign over the horn.

1<sup>st</sup> round – Gods/Goddesses

2<sup>nd</sup> round – Ancestors, Totems, and Heroes

3<sup>rd</sup> round – Toast, boast and Oaths

Notes: Oaths are to be taken very seriously, it is accepted and expected that oaths be defined and challenged. I usually place oath sickle around the neck of those taking oath. I have seen others have them place their hands on the sickle. I say something like...

*“Oaths are always a sacred thing but oaths taken in sumble take on even more meaning. All those gathered here to witness this oath are also tied to this oath for an oath spoken over the horn of Wyrð will bind our Wyrð together. Do not oath lightly; is it your intent to oath?”*

If yes then I say *“Then proceed with your oath”* I will often time ask questions and for clarification of details and will also set up payment/sacrifice for failed oath. Once the oath is taken I ask the hall, *“And so you have heard this oath, taken and explained do you accept this oath.”* If no one challenges the oath I say

*“Then you have made you oath, it is between you and your Gods, witnessed by the hall, if you are to fail in your oath then may the sky fail down upon you, may the land crumble beneath you and may the seas swallow you whole. “*

If no then we continue to discuss and define the oath until all are happy.

### **Waters of Life/Return Flow**

Note: Unlike most ADF rituals the waters of life is concurrent with the sumble, as we praise the Kindreds they in return bless us by strengthening our relationships with the Kindreds and each other. I usually say something like

*“And so my friends we have come together in sacred space we have shared our hearts and our beliefs. We have praised and sacrificed to the Kindreds, we have prayed with a good fire. The blessings we receive tonight are not infused in the water. They linger on your lips from the shared horn. Allow tonight’s work to take shape in our hearts and echo in our work and lives. We have been blessed with fellowship, and we have strengthened our community. Let us now take omens asking what more the kindred have for us on this wonderful night...”*

### **Omen**

### **Thanking**

### **Closing the Gates**

Reverse Opening - use same images

Ending:

*“From the Earth, to us, to the Gods, from the Gods, to us, to the Earth. We have done as our ancestors have done, and as our children will do; go now, children of the Earth, in peace and blessings. The ritual has ended. So be it”*