

# A BACKPACK DEVOTIONAL

BY MATTHEW WRIGHT

In younger days practicing Asatru in New Mexico, it was common for me to pack my drinking horn and a beverage to libate into a backpack and hike out into the desert, the riparian woodland along the Rio Grande, or up into the Sandia mountains until I reached a favorite ritual spot, or a place that called to me somehow, and perform simple rites. For some time, I believed that ADF rites were incompatible with my impulse to worship in this manner, and performed rituals in my own style instead. Upon discovering Brandon Newberg's "An Anywhere Devotional," I realized that a portable rite could be compatible with the ADF Core Order of ritual. I designed and wrote this rite to be performed using a backpack, a drink to libate, and some grain ( or sunflower or other seeds ) as offerings. I keep a backpack specifically for this purpose, with a text of this rite, a baggy of sunflower seeds, and a can of Mexican nectar always at the ready.

## **Items needed:**

water, nectar, milk, or other beverage  
Grain or seeds  
a Backpack  
optional divinatory tool

## **1. Initiating the Rite**

*(Take a moment to breathe and focus on the upcoming rite)*

## **2. Purification**

*(Clean body, hands, and or mouth using whatever method you prefer.)*

## **3. Honoring the Earth Mother and 4. Statement of Purpose**

I pray first and last to mother Earth. Be honored, Earth, mother of all.  
(offer grain to mother earth)

## **5. (Re)Creating the Cosmos**

In the center of my home a warm fire burns. At the center of the universe towers the Mountain which extends to the sky, upon which dwell the immortals. The well brings upward wisdom of the deep earth. I behold the upward-welling waters.

As the stones of the land are akin to my bones I hail the holiness of the land, and as the brine of the seas is akin to the blood in my veins, I honor the power and wisdom of the sea, and as the air of the sky is akin to the breath in my lungs I venerate the sky's divinity.

## **6. Opening the Gate**

I hail and honor the gatekeeper. Let the gates be open. Gatekeeper I pour libations to you!  
I see the gates opening!

*(pour libation)*

## **7. Inviting the Three Kindreds and 8. Key Offerings**

To my mothers and their mothers and fathers, and to my fathers and their mothers and fathers, to the line of my family going all the way back, ancestors of every creed, culture, and tribe, I say, receive my libation, and be well, be remembered you who have fared before!  
Ancestors, I pour this libation to you!

*(pour libation)*

To the fair folk who dwell beyond the veil, to the spirits of fin and feather and scale, I say to you be honored! Spirits, I pour this libation to you!

*(pour libation)*

To the Gods and Goddesses, to the shining and immortal ones, I say, be well in your glorious halls! Be well in the land, be well in the waters, be well atop the mountain and in the luminous sky! Goddesses and Gods, I pour this libation to you!

*(pour libation)*

*(optionally, speak prayers and make offerings to patron deities, or deities appropriate for the rite.)*

### **9. Prayer of Sacrifice**

Let the immortal and shining ones, the Mothers and Fathers, the Fair folk and spirits be gladdened by these offerings. Let any stumblings in speech and deed be forgiven. Let my prayers be received in the spirit in which they have been spoken.

### **10. Omen ( optional )**

*(Look for an omen in the natural environment, or use another form of divination.)*

### **11. Calling (asking) for the Blessings**

Let the blessings of the Goddesses and Gods, the Fair Folk, the Spirits of land, water and sky, and our beloved Ancestors who have fared before flow down from the sky, from across the wide ocean, and up from the deep currents of the land. I honor the ancestors and the fair folk. I pray for all of my kin; grant us all health, wealth, and fertility. Ward us against people and wights who would do us harm. Protect us from the violence of the elements. Hallow and ward our children, lands, and animals. Grant us peace and increased wealth.

### **12. Hallowing the Blessing**

Let the favor of the divine kins flow ( into this waters / this ale / wine etc.....). From above flows downward the luminous might of the sky and the light of the celestial pathways. From the sea, ancient power and wisdom. From the Earth, the holiness of the soil and stones. Blessings from the divine kins flow into this drink and I drink it down.

*( drink of the hallowed beverage )*

### **13. Affirmation of the Blessing**

Manifold are the Gifts of the Gods and Goddesses! Strong are the blessings of the Spirits and Fair folk! Of matchless worth is the wisdom of the Ancestors!

### **14. Workings (if any - optional)**

### **15. Thanking the Beings**

With bones that are akin to the stones of the Earth, with blood in my veins that is akin to the brine of the seas, with breath in my lungs that is akin to the air in the sky, I worship all the Gods and Goddesses. I thank the Gods. I thank the Goddesses. I thank the Spirits, and I thank the Ancestors.

### **16. Closing the Gate(s)**

Hail to the gatekeeper! Let the gates be closed! I see the gate is closing! I hail the holy currents of the stars and sun and luminous sky that shine down upon me. I hail the upward flowing currents of the deep earth. I hail the deep waters, flowing upward, imparting wisdom.

### **17. Thanking the Earth Mother**

Whether I am wandering the vast expanses or sitting in front of a good fire, it is with words of praise that I honor Mother Earth, from whom we come, into whose flesh my bones will go when I die, to whom I pray first and last.

*(offer grain to mother earth)*

### **18. Closing the Rite**

I have prayed and made offerings in the Pagan way, in the Old Way. This rite has ended. I go forward with virtue.