

A Tribute to the Dawn

Summerlands 2009 Dawn Rite

Preritual briefing:

This is a ritual designed to honor the Goddesses of the Dawn in the various IE hearth cultures. You will notice this is not a full Core Order. I did this on purpose so as to avoid creating a sacred space of one culture and inviting Goddesses from another into it. As such, feel free to take a moment while giving offerings to quietly pay tribute to those Deities on your heart. Instead of singing the portal song or silvering the well, we will be singing a chant that I wrote for this occasion. In the Vedic hearth, silver are the tears of Agni, and as such should not be given as offerings when a Vedic Deity, such as the Dawn Goddess, Usas, because giving silver as a gift is offensive: it is giving her sorrow. I will be blessing the waters in the well with dried flower petals and herbs.

Opening statements:

“Greetings and Good Morning, Walkers of the Elder Paths! We come today to honor our Dawn Goddess in a gesture of unity and harmony. We call them to meet us most always on our terms, and now we show respect and honor to them by meeting them on theirs at their chosen time.”

Establishing the sacred center

“Let us begin by establishing our Sacred Center...”

Chant:

*Well and Fire and Sacred Tree
Flow and Burn and Grow in me...*

**Xausus Meditation: Grove Attunement*

Visualization and Opening of the Gates:

“Close your eyes. Breathe deep. Breathe in and breathe out. Take in the positive energy around you. Push out the negative energy within you.

Above you, around you, below you and before you...all is darkness. Night has taken control of the world and all is consumed in eternal blackness, broken only on those occasions when Moon shows us her shining face. Blackness....

You suddenly realize this blackness is no longer absolute. Images and shapes begin to swirl before you, slowly becoming shadowy impressions of the world around you. You see the faintest hint of a tree or a shrub. The day-walking animals are beginning to stir. The early birds begin to

sing, much to the demise of the worms. Rustling can be heard as all around you signs of others rousing echo through the once silent wood. Looking around you, you realize that the shapes are gaining definition; details are becoming more and more clear.

It is Dawn. **Xausus* has awakened. As she stretches her rosy fingers across the sky, she gently caresses the darkness toward to West, making the way clear for Sun in the East to begin his frantic and fiery journey across the sky. This is our Gatekeeper. **Xausus*, Liminal Goddess of the Dawn, with the strength to coax back night itself and the very Sun at her heels.

**Xausus*! Goddess of the Dawn! Bringer of light in the darkest of night! We honor you in the Old ways. Accept our sacrifice and in return, join us! Add your powerful magic to ours and aide us in opening the gates! **Xausus*, Accept our Offering!

Open the gates, open the gates, open the gates..... (folk chanting)

**Xausus*! Below you stands the gate to the Lower Realm! Throw back the door to the Underworld that our words may resound in the Well! May the Well open as a gate!

Liminal Being of the morning! Before you stands the gate of the Middleworld, rooted deep into Mother Earth and crowned high through Father Sky. May the tree open as a gate!

Holy Goddess of the Dawn! Above you stands the gate to the Upperworld, the bright fires of the Heavens where many of the Gods and Goddesses have made their homes! May the fire open as a gate!

**Xausus*! May the Gates be open!

--hold--

“We stand, now, in the presence of the Gods. They hear our thoughts and intentions. Meet them with purity and devotion.”

Tribute to Dawn Goddesses:

"We of the Elder Ways have come to honor Thee, O Dawn Goddesses! Hear us as we offer you praise of our hearts and our hands."

Hellenic: Eos (Irisa)

"With dew heavy upon leaf and blade

We raise our faces to the east

Awaiting the golden glow of Eos

Eos brings the dawn of illumination, light and love
Unity of heart with kin and kindred
We open our hearts to this loving illumination
May your love illuminate our hearts and souls!
Eos! Accept our Sacrifice!”

Roman: Aurora (Jenni)

Golden-haired Aurora,
Mother of Four Winds,
Sister of Sun and Moon:
You dispel night's shadows
and flush the sky with crimson.
As your dew-wet hair trails across the sky,
all the glittering stars run away,
yielding to your gentle saffron crescendo.

Aurora, you never fail to turn each night to morning;
you never fail to give each day new colors.
Your arrival is a cheerful invitation
to greet the day with optimism.
May you bless us, who honor you
when your daily task is complete
and you sip sweet nectar from the hills of heaven.
Aurora! Accept our sacrifice!

Vedic: Usas (MJD)

A maiden dancing, dancing
on the rim of the world.
Resplendent, radiant.
I blush to see you rise from your bath,
the colours of the morning drip from your bosom
as you open the ways for the sun.
Greetings, Usas, Daughter of Heaven.

You release the bright kine from their stables;
rushing forth, they go to the waters,
as the waters rush down to the sea.
Usas, we welcome you.

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Your light touches all, lighting the fires of sacrifice
as you move from east to west,
awakening the pious to devotion
and causing the impious to sleep on.
Usas, we welcome you.

Usas, we honour your brightness and blush.
Usas, accept our sacrifice.

Norse: Eostre (Anna)

Goddess of Spring, of hope, of dawn
You are the symbol of rebirth, regeneration
Each morning you bring us from the darkness and death of night
Into the light and life of day
You remind us that with each morning the world is renewed.

You are the beginning of the Journey
You ARE rebirth
You ARE hope
You are the light that shines upon our path

Eostre, goddess of the dawn
We Hail you!
Eostre! Accept our sacrifice!

Slavic: Zorya Utrennyaya (Em)
[text kept private]

[Offer to unnamed Goddesses of the Dawn from those Hearths not represented, but dear to our IE hearts. Celts, Gaels, Gauls, Welsh] (Lesley)
"To the Unnamed Goddesses of the Celtic Peoples, though we know not your names, your light still illuminates the darkness and breaks the darkness of night for your people. We honor you. Unnamed Dawn Goddesses! Accept our Sacrifice!"

Final Sacrifice:

"We have come before you with praise and offerings. We have given freely of our hands, of our spirits, and of our hearts! May our deeds and words be accepted. Dawn Goddesses! Day-Bringers! Accept our sacrifice! So be it!" (offer spirits)

Thanking the Dawn Goddesses:

"Unnamed Dawn Goddesses of the Celtic peoples, we thank you.
Zorya Utrennyaya, we thank you.
Eostre, we thank you.
Usas, we thank you.
Aurora, we thank you.
Eos, we thank you."

"And now let us begin our departure..."

Closing the Gates:

"*Xausus, we honor you, and we thank you for your continued awakenings, for illuminating our paths when they are the most dark, and for the many things you do that are unseen. Accept this one final token of our gratitude and respect (make offering). We ask you for one last favor that you may join your magic with ours once more this day and close these gates, leaving behind the imprint of the work we have done that others may be touched by your glorious light."

Close the gates, Close the gate, Close the gates...

*Xausus! Below you stands the gate to the Lower Realm through the well! May the gate be closed!

Morning Star! Before you stands the gate of the Middleworld through the tree. May the gate be closed!

Holy Goddess of the Dawn! Above you stands the gate to the Upperworld through the fire. May the gate be closed!

*Xausus! May the Gates be closed! So be it!

"We have honored the gods, and we have done it well. This rite is ended! Go with the light of the Dawn illuminating your beings and carry that light on to touch those you meet today. So be it."