

ADF COOR Vedic Lughnasadh Ritual -- Earth

The Ritual

1) Preparation

- Bathe. Dress. Layout altar items and tools.
- Meditate.
- Light the candle and incense. Ring bell.

2) Purification

- Pick up water with flower and sprinkle over head then in a circle around you and the altar while chanting the traditional vedic purification verse:

Om apavitrah pavitro vaa
sarvaa vasthaM gato'pi vaa
yah smaret pundariika-aksham
sah bhaaya-abhyantarah shuchih

Om - whether pure or impure
in all places and paths
those who remember the infinite
they are purified inside and out.

- chant Shanti invocation from Brihad-aryanyaka Upanishad of Shukla Yajur Veda(5.1.1):

purnam adah, purnam idam, purnaam purnam udachyate;
purnasya purnam aadaaya purnam evavasisyate
That (origin of creation) is full. This (creation) is full. From fullness is fullness
brought forth. Taking fullness from fullness, fullness still remains.

Om Shanti Shanti Shantih
Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

-Outdweller invocation:

To the strong Rudra bring we these our songs of praise, to him the Lord of Heros with the matted locks... (offer incense)

O Rudra, harm us not -- neither great or small Be gracious unto us, O God, and bless us, and then guarantee us doubly-strong protection. (offer fire)

imá rudráya taváse kapardíne kṣayád vīrāya prá bharāmahe matíḥ

má naḥ mahántam utá má naḥ arbhakám

mṛḷá ca no ádhi ca brūhi devádhā ca naḥ sárma yacha dvibárhāḥ

(Rig Veda 1 :114: 1a, 7a & 10c)

(offer water)

3) Honoring the Earth Mother

11a: O Mother Earth! Be auspicious to us with thy snow-clad mountains and hills and woodlands!

giráyas te párvatā himávantó 'raṇyaṃ te pṛthivi syonám astu

(Atharva Veda 12.1.11a)

Offer rice.

***4) Statement of Purpose:

“I have come here at Lughnasadh, the first Harvest, to offer worship to the Goddess Earth -- She, our Mother, who upholds and nourishes us all. May she grant happiness, prosperity, fecundity and spiritual support.

Om! O Earth, Sky, Heaven!

I meditate upon the divine brilliance

Of the exalted Lord of the Sun

May he enlighten our minds!

Om bhur bhuvah suvah

tat savitur vareṇyaṃ
bhargo devasya dhīmahi
dhiyo yó naḥ pracodayāt
(Rig Veda 3.62.10)

4.5) Two Powers

- Take at least a few minutes to entrance the Two Powers. Then say,
May mighty Heaven and Earth, most worthy of honor, be present here with light
and gleaming splendour

mahii dyaavaaprithivii iha jyesthe rucaa bhavataaM shucayadbhir arkaih
(Rig Veda 4.65.1a)

(offer flowers, incense, light and water)

5) Recreating the triad cosmos - Invoke cosmology - earth, air, heavens

-"Under my feet the earth stretches, surrounding me, broad and boundless,
holding me.

Offer rice.

-About my body the air envelopes me, mists and cloud, lightning and wind, the
abode of celestial waters enfolds me.

Offer incense and water and flowers.

-High above me, luminous space, sun and stars and moon, form the heavens.
Where the gods and spirits rest, drawing me ever up and onward."

Offer light.

Chant: From earth's high ridge to middle air I mounted, and from mid-air ascended up to heaven. From the height of heaven's reach I came into the world of light.

ṛṣṭhāt ṛṭhivā́ ahám antárikṣam áruham antárikṣād dívam áruham
divó nákasya ṛṣṭhāt svàr jyótir agām ahám
(Atharva Veda 4.14.3)

6) Opening the Gates

Call Gatekeeper

While chanting, wave ghee lamp in circles around the altar:

agnim ile purohitaM yajñasya devam ritvijam hotaaraM ratnadhaaatamam
I worship Agni, the priest, the god of the ritual, the vibrant cosmic order (rtam vijam), the giver of delight. (Rg Veda 1.1.1)

Open Gates – make gate opening gesture – say “Swaha!”

7) Inviting the Kindred - Offerings to each as called

Ancestors - Offering: water

May the Pitris protect me at this invocation of the devas!

avantu maa pitaro devahuutau

(Rig Veda 6.52.4d)

Nature Spirits (Gandharva)¹- Offering: incense

gandharva itthaa padamasya rakshati paati devaanaaM janimaanyad bhutah

¹ The term Gandharva has many meanings – it can refer to a particular class of nature spirits, to nature spirits generally, or even to the god Agni who is rather beyond and above most nature spirits – I use it here in the generic sense

Gandharva verily protects the dwelling place; Wondrously guarding the generations of the Gods.

(Rig Veda IX.83.4a)

Gods - Offering: ghee lamp or candle

vishve devaasa aa gata shrunutaa ma imaM havam

O Devas - Hear this my invocation; come hither, O Universal Gods

(Rig Veda 6.52.7a)

*****8) Key Offerings - Call and offer to the Deity of the Occasion – Prithivi or Bhumi**

Offering – wave light while chanting, offer rice.

Truth, Eternal Order that is great and stern, Consecration, Austerity, Prayer and Ritual - these uphold the Earth.

May she, Queen of what has been and will be, make a wide world for us. (1)

Earth which has many heights, and slopes and the unconfined plain that bind men together,

Earth that bears plants of various healing powers, may she spread wide for us and thrive. ----- (2)

Earth, in which lie the sea, the river and other waters, in which food and cornfields have come to be,

in which live all that breathes and that moves, may she confer on us the finest of her yield. ----- (3)

Mistress of four quarters, in whom food and cornfields have come to be, who bears in many form the breathing and moving life, may she give us cattle and crops. ----- (4)

Earth, in which men of old before us performed their various work, where devas overwhelmed the asuras, Earth, the home of kine, horses, birds, may she give us magnificence and lustre. ----- (5)

At end offer incense, water and flowers

9) Prayer of Sacrifice

Offer ghee lamp to all areas of altar

When thou art praised with words and decked with brightness, accept this song, the singer's worship.

yác chasyáse dyúbhir aktó vácobhis táj juṣasva jaritúr ghóṣi mánma
(Rig Veda 6.5.6)

10) Sacrifice Offerings to the Three Kindred

Mighty Kindred! O Pitris, Gandharvas and Devas! I offer this rite in your honor and ask that all mistakes or incompleteness be overlooked. I ask that this rite be received in the same love and honor in which it is given. Kindreds accept my sacrifice!"

Offer Water to the Pitris

Fathers who sit on sacred grass, come, help us:

these offerings have we made for you; accept them.
bārhiṣadaḥ pitara ūty àrvāg imá vo havyá cakṛmā juṣádhvam
tá á gatávasā sám̐tamenáthā naḥ sám̐ yór arapó dadhāta
Rig Veda10:15:4

Offer incense to the Nature Spirits
Accept in friendliness my hymn, and prosper him who offers gifts.
práti sūktāni haryatam bhávataṃ dāsúṣe máyaḥ
(Rig Veda 1.93.1c)

Offer light to the Devas
With Holy Thoughts and with munificence may all Gods, knowing the Law
immortal, Manu's Holy Ones, Boon-givers, favourers, finders of light, and Heaven,
with gracious love accept my songs, my prayer, my hymn.
vísve deváḥ sahá dhībhīḥ púraṃdhyā mánor yájatrā amṛtā ṛtajñāḥ
rātiṣáco abhiṣácaḥ svarvídaḥ svàr gíro bráhma sūktáṃ juṣerata
(Rig Veda 10.65.14)
(bow)

11) Omen

Om! O Earth, Sky, Heaven!
I meditate upon the divine brilliance
Of the exalted Lord of the Sun
May he enlighten our minds!

Om bhur bhuvah suvah
tat savitur vareṇyaṃ
bhargo devasya dhīmahi
dhiyo yó naḥ pracodayāt
(Rig Veda 3.62.10)

Make me your friend: show us some little mercy.
mitráṃ kṛṇudhvam khálu mṛlāta naḥ

(RV Hymn to dice: 10:34:14)

Cast Vedic dice three times and interpret the omen

12) Calling for the Blessing - Call for a gift in return for your gift

O Indra! Give us a share in the divine light and waters, purity, and reputation.

sá tvam̐ na indra súr̥ye só apsv ànāgāstvā á bhaja jīvaśam̐sé

(1:104:6)

Blessings - Water.

Calling -

"I request now that the spirits give to us their blessings. Offer to us as we offer to you, a gift for a gift. Honored Ones give us the Waters!"

13) Hallowing the Blessing - Acknowledge that the blessings are in the cup

Ye Visvedevas, who protect, reward, and cherish men, approach Your worshipper's drink-offering.

ómāsaś carṣaṇīdhṛto víśve devāsa á gata dāśvāṃso dāśúṣaḥ sutám

(Rig Veda 1:3:7)

-"Behold the Waters of Life!" (drink)

14) Affirmation of the Blessing

O Lord of disciplined senses I drink of the twofold draught, the bright celestial mingled with the earthly.

ádhā niyutva ubháyasya naḥ piba śúciṃ sómaṃ gāvāśiram

(Rig Veda 8:90:10

- Drink! :)

15) Workings (if any)

*****16) Thanking the Beings – IN REVERSE ORDER**

"I have honored the gods, given sacrifice, received blessings in return, and now it is my turn again, this time to be grateful.

Visvadevas and Lord Indra, I thank you! Shri Indraaya Namah!

Lord Savitri, I thank you! Shri Savitreh Namah!

Shri Prithivii, O Earth, I thank you! Shri Prithiviyai Namah!

Shining Visvadevas, Nature Spirits and Pitris, I thank you!

Shri Visvedevbhyah Namah, Shri Gandharvebhyah Namah, Shri Pitribhyah Namah!

O Heaven and Earth, I thank you! Shri Dyaavaa-Prithiviibhyaam Namah!

Lord Rudra for your protection, I thank you! Shri Rudraaya Namah!

17) Closing the Gates -

"Agni through you the gods have received my offerings. I thank you also, and ask now for you to shut the ways between the worlds here. Agni let the gates be closed!"

Shri Agnaye Namah!

(offer fire and water)

18) Thanking the Earth Mother

"Prthivi, I thank you and once again honor your beauty and bounty."

Shri Prithiviyai Namah!

19) Closing the Rite –

Om ! Bhadram Karnebhih: Shrinuyaama Devaah:
Bhadram Pashyemaakshabhir Yajathraah: |
Sthirairangai Stushtuvaagum Sastanoobhih:
Yashema Devahitham Yadhaayuh: |
Svasti Na Indro Vriddha shravaah:
Svasti Nah Pooshaa Vishva Vedaah: |
Svasti Nastaarkshyo Arishtanemih:
Svasthi No Brihaspatir Dhadhaathu ||
Om ! Shaanti:, Shaanti:, Shaanti:. Om !

O' Ye Gods ! May we hear with our ears only what is auspicious.
May we see with our eyes only what is auspicious.
May we, who sing your praise,
Live our allotted span of life in perfect health and vigor.
May Indra who is praised by the devotees,
vouchsafe to us safety and well being.
May the all known Pushan grant us safety.
May Taarkshya (the Sun) and Brihaspati grant us well being.
-from Maandukya Upanishad of Atharva Veda

"The rite is ended."

Bow

The Bhumi Suktam of Atharva Veda – the Hymn to the Earth. 12th Mandala,
Hymn 1

<http://www.vashikaran.org/atharvaveda-part-8.html>

Metre: Trishtuph etc.

including mixed metres

Rishi: Atharvan

Truth, Eternal Order that is great and stern,

Consecration, Austerity, Prayer and Ritual -

these uphold the Earth.

May she, Queen of what has been and will be,

make a wide world for us. ----- (1)

Earth which has many heights, and slopes and

the unconfined plain that bind men together,

Earth that bears plants of various healing powers,

may she spread wide for us and thrive. ----- (2)

Earth, in which lie the sea, the river and other waters,

in which food and cornfields have come to be,

in which live all that breathes and that moves,

may she confer on us the finest of her yield. ----- (3)

Mistress of four quarters, in whom

food and cornfields have come to be,

who bears in many form the breathing and moving life,

may she give us cattle and crops. ----- (4)

Earth, in which men of old before us

performed their various work,

where devas overwhelmed the asuras,

Earth, the home of kine, horses, birds,

may she give us magnificence and lustre. ----- (5)

All-sustaining, treasure-bearing, firm staying-place,
gold-breasted, home of all moving life,
Earth bears the sacred universal fire.

May Indra and Rshhabha give us wealth. ----- (6)

Earth, whom unsleeping devas protect for ever without erring,
may she pour on us delicious sweets,
and endow us with lustre. ----- (7)

Earth, which at first was in the water of the ocean,
and which sages sought with wondrous powers,
Earth whose heart was in Eternal Heaven,
wrapped in Truth, immortal
may she give us lustre and strength
in a most exalted State. ----- (8)

Earth, in which the waters, common to all,
moving on all sides, flow unfailing, day and night,
may she pour on us milk in many streams,
and endow us with lustre. ----- (9)

Earth, in which the Ashvins measured out and Vishnu strode,
which Indra, Lord of might,

made free from foes for himself,
may she pour out milk for me - a mother to her son. ----- (10)

Pleasant be thy hills, O Earth,
thy snow-clad mountains and thy woods!
On Earth - brown, black, ruddy and multi - coloured -
the firm Earth protected by Indra,
on this Earth I stand, unvanquished, unslain, unhurt. ----- (11)

Set me, O Earth, amidst what is thy centre and thy navel,
and vitalising forces that emanated from thy body.
Purify us from all sides. Earth is my mother, her son am I;
and Parjanya my, father: may he fill us with plenty. ----- (12)

Earth, on which they build up the altar,
and various workers spin the web of yajna,
on which are fixed the tall, bright poles before the invocation;
may she, prospering, make us prosper. ----- (13)

The man, O Earth, who hates us, is hostile to us,
who threatens us by his thoughts and his weapons,
overwhelm him, Earth, as thou hast done before. ----- (14)

Born of thee, on thee move mortal creatures;
thou bearest them - the biped and the quadruped.

Thine, O Earth, are the five races of men to whom, mortals,
the sun as he rises spreads, with his rays, the light immortal. ----- (15)

In concert may all creatures pour out blessings!
Endow me, Earth, with honeyed speech. ----- (16)

Mother of all plants,
firm Earth upheld by Eternal Law,
may she be ever beneficent and gracious to us
as we tread on her. ----- (17)

A vast abode art thou, and mighty,
and mighty is thy speed, thy moving and thy shaking;
and mighty Indra protects thee unerring.
May thou, O Earth, make us shine forth
with the brightness of gold.
Let no one hate me. ----- (18)

There lies the fire within the earth,
and in plants,
and waters carry it;
the fire is in stone.
There is a fire deep within men,
a fire in the kine,
and a fire in horses: ----- (19)

The same fire that burns in the heavens;
the mid-air belongs to this Fire Divine.
Men kindle this fire that bears the oblation
and loves the melted butter. ----- (20)

May Earth, clad in her fiery mantle,
dark-kneed,
make me aflame;
may she sharpen me bright. ----- (21)

Earth on which they offer
yajna and oblation to devas
with many decorations,
on which mortal men live by food and drink:
may she give us breath and life,
may she make us long-lived. ----- (22)

The fragrance that rises from thee, O Earth,
that plants and waters carry,
and is shared by Gandharvas, by Apsarasas,
make me sweet with that.
May no one hate me. ----- (23)

The fragrance that entered the lotus,

and that the Immortals, O Earth, first brought at Surya's bridal,
make me sweet with that.

May no one hate me. ----- (24)

Thy fragrance that is in men and women,
and the majesty and lustre in males,
in the hero and the steed,
in the wild beast and in the elephant,
and the radiance that is in the maiden,
unite us with these, O Earth !

May no one hate me. ----- (25)

Rock, soil stone and dust,

Earth is held together and bound firm.

To her my, obeisance, to gold-breasted Earth. ----- (26)

We invoke all-supporting Earth

on which trees, lords of forests, stand ever firm. ----- (27)

Rising or sitting, standing or walking,

May we, either with our right foot or our left,

never totter on the earth. ----- (28)

I call to Earth, the purifier,

the patient Earth, growing strong through spiritual might.

May we recline on thee, O Earth,
who bearest power, plenty, our share of food and molten butter. ----- (29)

Pure may the waters flow for our bodies' cleansing.
To those who trespass against us
we offer an unpleasant welcome.
I cleanse myself, O Earth, with that which purifies. ----- (30)

May those that are thy eastern regions,
and the northern, Earth, and the southern and the western,
be pleasant for me to tread upon.
May I not stumble while I live in the world. ----- (31)

Do not push me from the west or from the east,
or from the north or the south.
Be gracious to us, O Earth. Let not those find us
who waylay people on the road.
Take deadly weapons far away from us. ----- (32)

So long as I look on thee from around, O Earth,
with the sun as friend,
So long, as year follows year,
may not my vision fail. ----- (33)

When, lying down, O Earth,

I turn on my right side and on my left,
or when we lie straight on our ribs
against thee behind us,
be thou not unkind to us then, O Earth,
thou who layest all to sleep. ----- (34)

Whatever I dig from thee, Earth,
may that have quick growth again.
O purifier, may we not injure thy vitals or thy heart. ----- (35)

May thy summer, Earth, and thy rains,
thy autumn, thy dewy months, thy winter and thy spring,
may these thy seasons, Earth, that make the year,
and day and night
pour their abundance on us. ----- (36)

She, purifier, who kept away from the Serpent,
and carried the fires within her waters,
she, Earth, having opted for Indra and not VrRtra,
drove away the God-hating Dasyus,
and held on to sakra, the strong and mighty. ----- (37)

Earth on which the sacred seat and shed are built,
and the pole is raised ;
on which Brahmanas, versed in yajus,

worship in rik and Saman hymns,
and priests are busy so that Indra
may drink the soma juice ; ----- (38)

On which, of old, world-building Rishis
chanted the sacred words,
and the Seven Sages prayed in session
with sacrifice and austerity ; ----- (39)

May that Earth grant us the wealth that we desire.
May Bhaga give the task, and Indra come to lead the way. ----- (40)

Earth on which men sing and dance
while uttering various words,
where people meet in battle,
the war-cry rises,
the drum sounds,
may she drive away our enemies,
may Earth make me free from foes. ----- (41)

Earth on which grow food-grains - rice and barley,
on which live the five races of men,
our homage be to her, Parjanya's Consort,
who mellows with the rain. ----- (42)

Earth in which are cities, the work of devas,

and fields where men are variously employed;
Earth that bears all things in her womb,
may the Lord of Life make her graceful for us from every side. ----- (43)

May Earth that bears treasures in secret at many places
give me her riches, gems and gold.
May the bounteous Goddess, giving us wealth,
give it with loving kindness. ----- (44)

May Earth with people who speak various tongues,
and those who have various religious rites
according to their places of abode,
pour for me treasure in a thousand streams
like a constant cow that never fails. ----- (45)

The snake, and the scorpion with the sharp sting,
that, overpowered by the cold season, lie
bewildered in the caves,
the worm and each thing that comes to life, O Earth,
and moves about with the coming on of rains,
may these, creeping, near creep near us
Bless us with what is beneficent. ----- (46)

Thy many pathways for men to travel on
the roads for chariots, and for wagons to pass through

on which walk together both good and evil men,
my we be masters of those, and drive out thief and foe. ----- (47)

Earth bearing the weighty also bears the foolish,
and endures the death of both the good and the bad,
and, being of one accord with the boar,
she lets loose the swine to roam wildly about. ----- (48)

Those thy forest animals, and wild beasts of the woods -
lions, tigers, man-eaters that prowl about,
and the hyena, the wolf, the bear with its evil ways, and Rakshasas,
drive these out, O Earth, from here, away from us. ----- (49)

And, Earth, drive away from us Gandharvas,
Apsarases, Arayas, kimidins,

Pishachas and all Rakshases ----- (50)

Earth to which the winged bipeds fly together -
Swans, eagles, and other birds of various kinds,
on which the wind blows strong, raising the dust, beading trees,
and flame follows the blast forward and backward ; ----- (51)

Earth in which Night and Day - the black and the bright in union -
are settled,
which is covered and canopied over by rain -
may she establish us with bliss

in every dear home. (52)

Heaven, Earth and Mid-air
have given me this wide space,
And Agni, Surya, apas and All-Gods
have together endowed me with the intellect. ----- (53)

I am victorious,
I am called the most exalted on the earth,
a conqueror everywhere,
a conqueror over everything,
I am a victor on every side. ----- (54)

When, O Goddess, proceeding forward,
and extolled by devas, thou hadst spread thy renown,
then a great glory entered into thee,
and thou madest for thyself the four quarters. ----- (55)

In villages, in the forest, and in the assemblies on the earth,
in congregations and in councils, we shall speak of thee
in lovely terms. ----- (56)

As a horse scatters dust, so did Earth, since she was born,
scatter the people who dwelt on the land,
and she joyously sped on, the world's protectress,

supporter of forest trees and plants. ----- (57)

What I speak, I speak with sweetness;
what I look at endears itself to me;
and I am fiery and impetuous: others who fly at me with wrath
I smite down. ----- (58)

Peaceful, sweet-smelling, gracious, filled with milk,
and bearing nectar in her breast,
may Earth give with the milk her blessings to me. ----- (59)

With oblation Vishvakarman sought her
who had entered the light in the mid-air's ocean,
And the delicious vessel hidden in mystery
became manifest for the nurture of those
who found in her their Mother. ----- (60)

Thou art the vessel, the Mother of the people,
the fulfiller of wishes, far-extending.
whatever is wanting in thee is filled
by Prajapati, first-born of Eternal Order. ----- (61)

May those born of thee, O Earth,
be, for our welfare, free from sickness and waste.
wakeful through a long life, we shall become

bearers of tribute to thee. ----- (62)

Earth, my Mother! set me securely with bliss

In full accord with Heaven. Wise one,

Uphold me in grace and splendour. ----- (63)