

## **Blessings of the Zorya: Three Rivers Main Ritual 2016**

Fire is lit and blessed at the circle by the fire keeper.

**(Amongst the Folk) Opening statement:** We are here to celebrate and honour the beauty of the stars and the patterns of order they weave in the cosmos. Bless us, O Shining Ones, in our work.

*Procession to keyhole fire, singing following chant:*

*Come to the land, the holy land,  
The land that has welcomed our people.  
Come to the land, the beautiful land,  
May we root in her ever deeper.*

*People are asperged and censed as they enter the sacred space.*

### **Earth Mother**

(Bowing down to touch the Earth):

As always, Earth Mother, on whom we live

We offer first sacrifice:

Matka Ziemia, blossom lifter

For the sprouting of the seed

And the bounty of the harvest,

For all that we have, and for all that we are

We say hail to you!

*(as offering is made of flowers and water):* The foundation of our lives and all our happiness is built upon you, and so we give this, the first offering, in thanks.

### **Perun:**

Perun, mighty one, strong as the oak

We bring you an offering for peace.

Let the skies remain (become) clear

For our devotion to the stars.

Let our words ring with truth,

Let our actions be right,

Let us not be bothered in our task.

Great protector, keep us during this rite!

(offering of vodka made to Perun)

**Statement of purpose:**

We come together this night to revel in the beauty of the stars, and dance amongst them. In their dance, there is predictability, there is balance. They move steadily across the sky, night following day, bringing peace and order in the rhythm of their movements. Tonight we welcome that rhythm into our hearts, and let our spirits shine alongside them in the dance of the universe.

Let us draw toward the centre of all things, where our voices resound throughout all the worlds, and where our magic is strongest.

**Building the Cosmos:**

**Tree:**

In the centre of all, there is the one tree

Stretching above and below

And through all the worlds.

Time worn but ever standing

Shelter we find 'neath your branches

Strength we draw from your roots

(tree is watered with essential oils)

Sacred tree, grow within us

Response: Sacred tree, grow within us

**Well:**

In the centre of all, beneath the tree

There is a well of power

Fed from the moist mother

Full of magic and wisdom.

In the centre of all, there is the one tree

Stretching above and below

And through all the worlds.

Time worn but ever standing

Shelter we find 'neath your branches

Strength we draw from your roots

(tree is watered with essential oils)

Sacred tree, grow within us

Response: Sacred tree, grow within us

(well is silvered)

Sacred waters, flow within us

Response: Sacred waters, flow within us

Fire:

In the centre of all, beneath the tree

We light the sacred fire

Bright is the praise that we will give

In kindling the flames of sacrifice

With holy fire we raise our offerings up

Upward to the realms of gods

And pure will our worship be.

(oil is poured on the flames)

Sacred fire, burn within us

Response: Sacred fire, burn within us

### **Opening the Gates**

We call now to the keepers of the Gates to make open the portals to the heavens:

Beloved daughters of the gloaming, I call to you for the first time

Keepers of the gates of heaven, join your magic with ours.

Oh Radiant Zori, you who guard the world from the horrible hounds

Splendid and most beautiful are you, shining brightly

In the space between worlds, between day and night.

Radiant ones, we call to you

Guard us as we join with you in the heavens tonight.

Accept this offering, beloved Gatekeepers.

(Vodka is given to the fire)

Radiant ones, we call to you

Make the stars bright as markers

Make the pathway shine!

***(Congregation begins to chant:***

***The well, the fire, the tree, the gate!***

***Repeating and getting louder, building the energy***

***As celebrant says:***

Let the well open as a gate!

Let the fire open as a gate!

Let the tree become the pathway to the stars!

LET THE GATES BE OPEN!

**Calling the Kindreds:**

We make our offering to the Kindreds of the Worlds

To those who dwell below and those who dwell above

To the tribes of Spirits

Throughout the worlds

Hear your true worshippers as we make due sacrifice.

***Ancestors***

Ancestors old, keepers of wisdom

Grandmothers and fathers, beloved dead

Ancestors of blood, of heart and of land

Teachers from beyond the veil.

To you we give thanks for all that we are

All that you've given is what we have.

Ancestors, we call you forth, to bless the night

Bless our rite and the people herein.

(Vodka is given to the fire)

### ***Nature Spirits***

Spirits of the Land, keepers of place  
Wild ones and tame, dwelling among us  
Creatures of feather and fur and skin  
Teachers of the natural order.  
To you we give thanks for all that we are  
All that you've given is what we have.

Nature spirits, we call you forth, to bless this night,  
Bless our rite and the people herein.  
*(Bird seed and bread is given to the land)*

### ***Shining Ones***

Gods of Sky and Gods of Land,  
Gods of the Wind and Gods of the Waters  
Creators and destroyers, your powers shine forth  
In the beauty and bounty of this world.  
To you we give thanks for all that we are  
All that you've given is what we have.

O Shining Ones of magic and might, we call you forth,  
Bless our rite and the people herein!  
*(Offering of oil is made to the fire)*

### **Key Offering(s)**

**(Drumming begins, and someone begins handing out cut-out stars, which will be the offering given to the fire for the Zorya)**

O bright star of morning, wondrous Zvezda Dennitsa

Fierce protector of the cosmos and

Keeper of order.

I bow to your beauty, arriving gently into the sky

With colours so pale and sweet that the earth rejoices with the song of birds,

and the waters must reflect them in envy.

I bow to your goodness, in guarding us from the horrible Hound Simargl

Ensuring that we are not devoured by chaos.

I bow to your dance, your strong and measured steps

The grace of your movements, moving in and out,

Giving us order, and the peace that comes with it.

Tonight we have gathered in celebration of you!

Come join us, come dance with us!

Let us honour you with our voices and our movement!

***(the dancer representing Zvezda Dennitsa, begins dancing slowly around the fire, holding and dancing with a hoop)***

***(Lead celebrant goes across the way to the dancer representing Zvezda Vechernaya)***

O brilliant star of evening, wondrous Zvezda Vechernaya!

Fierce protector of the cosmos and

Keeper of order.

I bow to your beauty, arriving boldly into the sky

With colours so vibrant and breath-taking that the earth becomes still with awe

and the waters must reflect them in envy.

I bow to your goodness, in guarding us from the horrible Hound Simargl

Ensuring that we are not devoured by chaos.

I bow to your dance, your strong and measured steps

The grace of your movements, moving in and out,

Giving us order, and the peace that comes with it.

Tonight we have gathered in celebration of you!

Come join us, come dance with us!

Let us honour you with our voices and our movement!

***(the dancer representing Zvezda Vechernaya joins first dancer in dancing around the fire with her hoop, keeping opposite of each other)***

***(Drumming gets louder and more distinct as the beginning of "We are a circle moving")***

Come now, children of earth!

Come join in the dance of the cosmos!

Join your spirit with those around you,

Join your spirit with the stars in the night!

We are one with each other!

We are one with the Kindred!

We are one with all!

Come give your offering to the Zorya, and honour them with your voices and movements!

***(people dance around the fire, placing their offering into the fire as they go by. Meanwhile, drummers drum and singers dance:***

We are a circle moving

One with another, we are

Moving together, we are one

(repeat)

I am spirit and I flow in you.

You are spirit and you flow in me.

***(Once the energy is suitably high, dancing and singing will stop, and we will take a moment to revel in it).***

**Prayer of Final Sacrifice:**



So we have given of ourselves  
To the Powers, that they may know our intentions.

Now let our voices arise on the Fire  
Let our voices resound in the Well  
Let our words pass the boundary to the Otherworld.

Zori, Kindreds!  
We give you our love,  
our respect, and our devotion  
as we pray you...

Bright Zori, Kindreds! Accept our sacrifice! (offer vodka, flowers and magnesium to the fire)

All: Zori, Kindreds! Accept our sacrifice!

### **The Omen**

Children of Earth, is it your wish to hear of the blessings and wisdom of the Kindred?

All: It is!

The omen is drawn.

### **Cup of Blessing (*Cup of sparklers is held up*)**

Behold the cup of (omen blessing)! Behold the cup of (omen blessing)! Behold the cup of (omen blessing)! This is the outpouring of Blessings from the Mighty Ones, from the bright and beautiful Zori. Let us shine as they shine, let our spirits know the peace of order, and let our sense of wonder be forever renewed. Behold the cup of blessing!

Response: Hail the cup of blessing!

*(as the cup is passed, each person takes a sparkler. Once half have them, lead celebrant lights theirs from the fire and then lights the one next to them, who lights the one next to them and so on...)*

*Meanwhile, we sing:*

*"If the people lived their lives*

*As if it were a song, for singing out of life!*

*Providing music for the stars*

*to be dancing circles in the night"*

## **Acknowledgment**

We have called out to the Shining Ones and been answered with glorious resounding  
We have given our offerings and been blessed in return.  
Great and wonderful is this world and the creators who made it!  
With each call we make to the Shining Ones, and each offering we give  
They heed our calls more, and our connections become stronger.  
Even though the rite is ending, we leave this place wiser,  
And carry the blessings and beauty with us always.

## **Thanking the Deity of the Occasion**

Blessed Zorya! May you continue to shine in beauty and strength, and keep the hound at bay. For your goodness, for your beauty, for the dance that we all share in, we say thank you.

*Folk: Zorya, we thank you!*

## **Thanking the Kindred**

### **Shining Ones**

Shining Ones! We thank you, for your guidance and your wisdom, for your grace and your strength.  
Shining Ones! We thank you!  
*All: Shining Ones! We thank you!*

### **Nature Spirits**

Nature Spirits! Noble Ones, Allies, Spirits of Place. We are grateful for your guidance. Nature spirits! We thank you!  
*All: Nature spirits! We thank you!*

### **Ancestors**

Ancestors! Those of Hearth and Spirit, and those of blood, we thank you. We are grateful for your knowledge and learn from your experiences. Ancestors! We thank you!  
*All: Ancestors! We thank you!*

## **Thanking the Gatekeeper**

Wondrous keepers of the gates of heaven,  
How you have been good company!  
You have aided us, carried our offerings and words  
And provided beauty and grace to our work this night!.  
Beloved Zorya, We thank you!  
*All: Zorya, we thank you!*

## **Closing the Gates**

And now, daughters of the gloaming, we make one final request,  
That you join your magic with ours once more, that we may return to our world and our time,  
Carrying the Blessings of order and beauty in our hearts.  
Zori, Aid us as we close the gates!  
May the Well be but water,  
May the Fire be but flame,

May all be as it was, only better for the work we have done this night.  
Zori! May the Gates be closed!  
*Folk: May the Gates be closed!*

**Thanking the Earth Mother**

Beloved Earth Mother,  
All that is left unused we return to you.  
May our footprints be light upon your soil  
And every step be a reminder of your constant support and provision.  
Moist Earth Mother, All Mother, Our Mother,  
We thank you.  
*All: Earth Mother, we thank you!*

**Ending the Rite**

We have done as our ancestors have done, and as our children will do and the Kindred have answered.  
Let us go now as children of the Earth. Peace be on us and blessings too.