

Blessing Rite · April 2008

Procession

All who wish to bless/charge objects place the object at the hallows before the rite begins.

All gather in the ritual area and a chime is sounded 3 times to signal the beginning of the ritual, and the folk sing **We Create the Sacred Grove** 3 times:

All sing **We Create the Sacred Grove (3x)**:

All: *We create the sacred grove*

With hearts and minds and flesh and bone.

Joined as one *in ways of old,*

We have come home.

(Modified words, original words and music by Sean Miller)

Opening Prayer

AT: *For what purpose have the Folk gathered here this night?*

All: *We are here to honor the gods and seek their blessings for our Work.*

Purification of Folk and Space

KB lights incense and fills a bowl with water from the Well, if necessary, and begins to pass both around the circle of Folk in opposite directions.

Each attendee censes and asperges her/himself with incense/water; as this happens, **All** chant:

By the might of the waters, and the light of the fire, this grove is made whole and holy.

When censing & asperging is completed, **KB** leads three more rounds of the above to crescendo.

Honoring the Earth Mother

JC honors the Earth Mother:

Oh great Earth Mother below, you who support our grove and provide sustenance and foundation for our Folk, we pray that you uphold our rite as you uphold our lives.

JC offers corn meal in the offering bowl and says: *Earth Mother, accept our offering.*

All: *Earth Mother, accept our offering!*

All sing Oh Earth Mother (1x):

*Oh Earth Mother, we praise thee.
That seed springeth,
That flower openeth,
That grass waveth...
We praise thee, for winds that whisper
Through the shining grass,
Through the lively pine,
Through the mighty oak...
We praise thee, for all things.
Oh Earth Mother, you who givest life.*

(Words by the RDNA, music by Richard Mac Kelley)

Grounding and Uniting in the Grove Meditation

(EM leads the grove meditation, ending with “we are one”.)

EM leads the folk in the **Unity Chant (1x):**

All: *We are one, in our grove,
upon the earth, within the sea, beneath the sky.
We are joined, to send our call,
to the honored dead, to the spirit folk, to the blessed gods.
We praise thee, in one voice, in our sacred grove.
We are one.*

(Words and music by Ian Corrigan)

Statement of Purpose

JC: *In days of old the Folk knew well the cycles of nature: The cycles of the land, the cycles of the sea, and the cycles of the starry sky. We too know these cycles... seasons of dark and seasons of light, seasons of planting and seasons of harvesting, seasons of conception and seasons of fruition.*

And so with the seasons of the world and our lives in mind, at the time of the ____ moon we gather together to plant our own seeds of desire and intention, to reweave the patterns of the world with our Will, and to cast order onto the chaos of the cosmos. So be it!

All: *So be it!*

Establishing the Sacred Grove: Fire, Well, and Tree

JC: *Now with the Folk united in one grove and one purpose, let us bless the sacred elements of our world, the Fire, the Well, and the Tree.*

All sing **The Portal Song** (1x):

Chorus

*By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.*

*By Fire and by Water, between the Earth and Sky
We stand like the World-Tree rooted deep, crowned high.*

Well

(EM pours waters from the Well to the blessing cup, offers silver to the Well)

*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)

Fire

(KB adds wood to the Fire and makes an offering of incense)

*We will kindle the Fire, Bless all, and with harm to none,
We will kindle the Fire, and offering pour,
We will kindle the Fire, a light 'neath the Moon and Sun,
We will kindle the Fire, our spirits will soar.*

(chorus)

Tree

(DQ dresses and censes the World Tree)

*Gather we at the Tree, the root and the crown of all,
Gather we at the Tree, below and above,
Gather we at the Tree, together we make our call,
Gather we at the Tree, in wisdom and love.*

(chorus)

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Land/Sea/Sky and Completion of Consecration of Space

JC: *The fire, the well, the sacred tree,*

All: *Flame and flow and grow in me!*

JC: *In land, sea and sky,*

All: *Below and on high!*

JC: *Thus is the sacred grove claimed and hallowed.*

By the cleansing of water and fire, let all ill turn away from me and mine.

JC: *So be it!*

All: *So be it!*

Opening the Gates Between the Worlds

DQ: *Heimdall, Manannan, Ianus, all of you who guard the ways between... You who stand at the borders, behind all bridges, doors, and thresholds, you for whom light is dark, and dark is light, guide us now in our working. Great guardians of all the worlds and realms, lend your aid to our cause now, accept our offering, and open the gates between your realm and ours.*

DQ makes an offering of oil or wine and says: *Gatekeepers, accept our offering!*

All: *Gatekeepers, accept our offering!*

All sing **Gatekeeper Open the Portals (3x):**

*Gatekeepers open the portals,
Between the gods and mortals,
Power freely flows,
As our magic grows.*

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DQ: *Now, Gatekeepers, join your magic with ours... **Let the Fire open as a gate...***

Let the Well open as a gate... Let the Tree connect all the Worlds...

Our grove is the sacred center... Let the gates be opened!

All: *Let the gates be opened!*

Outdwellers Appeasement

Outside of the ritual space, **EM** gives soda to the **Outdwellers**, saying:

EM: *You who come from the outer dark,
You who stood against the gods and man,
You who are cold of heart and cruel of mind,
Any and all forces of chaos who would disrupt our rite,
Take this and trouble not our work.*

Bardic Inspiration

KB invokes the powers of inspiration:

KB: *O Powers of Inspiration that attend us,
Brigid, Ogma, Bragi, Saga, the Muses,
Voices of the fire of purpose and the well of wisdom,
Come into our hearts' shrine.
O powers of inspiration in this holy place,
O powers of inspiration at this holy time,
O powers of inspiration at the center of all,
Fill the three cauldrons within us,
Guide our rite in the way of truth,
And let our works please the spirits tonight. [today]*

KB makes an offering of oil and says: *Powers of inspiration, accept our offering.*

All: *Powers of inspiration, accept our offering!*

All sing **Let the Way Be Open** (3x):

*Sing through my voice,
Play through my hands,
Let the way be open!*

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Honoring and Inviting the Three Kindreds

Ancestors

DQ takes the blessing horn, fills it, holds it aloft, and says:

*O Mighty Ones, Ancestors and Kin,
You who whisper wisdom in our ears,
You who give us the strength to persevere,
You who fill the empty womb,
Hear us as we name you and invite you to our fire...*

DQ passes the blessing horn sunwise, and then each participant in turn names the ancestors s/he wishes to honor, finishing with a drink (or pour and drink) and passing the cup onward.

DQ: *O Mighty Ancestors,
Named and Unnamed,
We honor you and offer our love and worship.
Be with us in our grove
And in our hearts
And accept this gift
In token of our friendship.*

DQ pours from the blessing horn for the ancestors and says: *Ancestors, accept our offering!*

All: *Ancestors, accept our offering!*

DQ refills the blessing horn while **All** sing **Blood of the Old Ones** (3x):

*Feel the blood of the old ones,
Running through our veins,
Hear the words of the ancient ones,
Our song is the same.*

Nature Spirits

KB takes the blessing horn, fills it, holds it aloft, and says:

*O Noble Ones, Nature Spirits,
You who fill the land and sea,
You who play in the sky above,
You who walk between the worlds,
Hear us as we name you and invite you to our fire...*

KB passes the blessing horn sunwise, and then each participant in turn names the nature spirits s/he wishes to honor, finishing with a drink (or pour and drink) and passing the cup onward.

KB: *O Noble Spirits,
Named and Unnamed,
We honor you and offer our love and worship.
Be with us in our grove
And in our hearts
And accept this gift
In token of our friendship.*

KB pours from blessing horn for the nature spirits and says: *Nature Spirits, accept our offering!*

All: *Nature Spirits, accept our offering!*

KB refills the blessing horn while **All** sing **Hoof and Horn** (3x):

*Hoof and Horn, Hoof and Horn,
All that dies shall be reborn.*

*Corn and Grain, Corn and Grain,
All that falls shall rise again.*
(Words and music by Ian Corrigan)

Gods

EM takes the blessing horn, holds it aloft, and says:

*O Shining Ones, Gods and Goddesses,
You who walk with us and guide us,
You who teach us to be more than we are,
You who sustain all the worlds,
Hear us as we name you and invite you to our fire...*

EM passes the blessing horn sunwise, and then each participant in turn names the deities s/he wishes to honor, finishing with a drink (or pour and drink) and passing the cup onward.

EM: *O Shining Deities,
Named and Unnamed,
We honor you and offer our love and worship.
Be with us in our grove
And in our hearts
And accept this gift
In token of our friendship.*

EM pours from blessing horn for the deities and says: *Gods and Goddesses, accept our offering!*

All: *Gods and Goddesses, accept our offering!*

EM refills the blessing horn while **All** sing **Hail All the Gods** (3x):

*Hail all the gods,
Hail all the goddesses.
Hail all the holy ones,
We dwell together.*

*Powers of the sky,
Powers of the sacred earth,
Powers of the underworld,
We dwell together.*

*Hail all the Gods!
Hail all the Goddesses!
Hail all the Gods... and Goddesses.*

(Modified from the original: words: first verse, Paul Maurice; Second verse, Richard Mac Kelley; Bridge section, Gwynne Green. Music: Paul Maurice, Sean Miller, and Gail Williams)

(Note: last verse “wraps around” to first verse, including on last time through)

Meditation of Merging the Energies and Re-Centering

(EM leads a meditation of merging and re-centering, ending with “the host is gathered”.)

All sing **Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe** (3x):

*Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe,
Powers of Earth and Sky and Sea,
By Fire and Well, by Sacred Tree,
Offerings we make to ye.*

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Honoring the Spirits of the Occasion (Optional, for Work)

[not for this rite]

Main Praise Offering

AT: *Children of Earth, we have called the gods, the spirits of the land around us, and our own ancestors and honored dead, and they have come.*

We have called the Kindreds, given them honor, and they have received our praise. Let us join our voices together now in one final offering...

Raise your voice high, make a sound, an om if you will, or a humming, or any other noise that you feel in your heart expresses your love for the Kindreds.

Reach deep within your heart and let out a sound of love and praise, and send that energy out to the Kindreds. Children of Earth, lift up your voices now...

AT starts the humming/singing/om-ing, **All** join in, continuing until naturally stopping on own.

Final Prayer of Sacrifice

AT: *Children of earth, relax now... and reach deep within your hearts and touch that tender place of worship... hear the music of love and devotion there that we play together tonight... and see before us the Kindreds lovingly awaiting our final prayer of sacrifice... Holy ones, accept these final offerings with all our love and thanks...*

(oil poured) *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice.*

(oil poured) *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!*

(oil poured) *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!!*

All: *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice.*

All: *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!*

All: *Holy Ones, accept our sacrifice!!*

AT: *Shining Ones, Noble Ones, and Mighty Ones, we have given you praise and honor! A gift calls for a gift, and we pray to you as we offer up these sacrifices. Accept them, open our hearts, and give to us of your blessings.*

All sing (3x):

*Let our voices arise on the Fire,
Let our voices resound in the Deep.
May the spirits accept what we offer,
As we honor the old ways we keep.*

(Words and music by Ian Corrigan)

Omen for the Blessings

While **DQ** takes the omen, **EM** distributes individual blessing cups and **All** sing:

All: *Come druids all, ovates and seers
And let your minds be still.
Earth, sea, and sky will lend no fears,
As the gods reveal their will.*

*Let every heart sing praise to them,
And all our works be skilled.
Claiming their blessings to the very end,
As the gods reveal their will.*

(Words by Sean Miller; music traditional English)

DQ reveals the omen, finishing with: *These are the blessings of the gods. So be it!*

All: *So be it!*

Calling for the Blessings

AT: *Children of Earth, all our work, all our offerings and praise, all we have done in our rite today, have led up to this moment. We have made offerings to the Powers, we have divined what blessings they give us in return, and now we will receive those blessings.*

Think for a moment about your own life... What use have you for the power of ___? What use have you for the power of ___? And what use do you have for the power of ___?

Think also of the workings you have come here to do, if any. What do these omens portend for your works, and how can you weave these blessings into your spells?

Think for a moment on each specific thing you would ask of the Powers in your workings. Feel, hear, and see in your mind's eye what you most want, and most need.

And when we raise the blessing cup in a moment, when we say, "Kindreds, give us the Waters", see the power of the blessings you desire descend into the cup like a mist, filling it to the brim and pulsing with potential.

*And when your cup is filled with these Waters of Life, and when you drink of them, know that you take the powers of the Gods into you and your life, and that your heart's desires **will** be fulfilled.*

Now let your eyes close and take a final moment to think on your needs, and the workings you might do in a moment, and call out with your spirit to ask that the blessings you seek will fill our vessels.

(pause for a few moments of meditation on personal and group needs – **nine count**)

Receiving the Blessings

DQ: *Children of earth, we call for the blessing of the Ancient Ones.
Together we cry... Kindreds, give us the waters!*

All: *Kindreds, give us the waters!*

DQ: *We join our hearts, that each of us be blessed. Together we call... Kindreds, give us the waters!*

All: *Kindreds, give us the waters!*

DQ: *And as we are blessed, let all the worlds be blessed.*

Together we pray... Kindreds, give us the waters!

All: *Kindreds, give us the waters!*

DQ pours water from the Well into the blessing cup and says:

We draw water from the well of wisdom, pouring the ale of inspiration.

DQ holds the blessing cup aloft and says:

O Mighty, Noble and Shining Ones, we have given to you, and now we ask you to bless us in turn, as a gift calls for a gift. Hallow these waters, O holy powers. Grant us the blessing we seek. Let the wisdom, love and power of the Gods, Dead and Spirits flow in this cup of Blessing. Behold, the Waters of Life!

All: *Behold, the Waters of Life!*

The waters are passed and drunk, and as this happens the folk sing (as often as necessary):

Power of the spirits... Flowing through me...

Power of the spirits... Shining in me...

Power of the spirits... Growing with me...

(Words and music by Ian Corrigan)

The song continues for one more verse after until all have drunk the waters.

Working

AT: *Now with the blessings of the gods flowing in us, let us turn to the Work at hand. Are there any present who wish to work their Will in the world, fueled by the fire of desire and aided by the mighty Kindreds?*

All: *There are!*

AT: *Then starting with me and going sunwise around the circle, let us each speak our spell, casting order unto chaos and our Will into the world!*

(drumming **starts and continues**, abating slightly during each participant's intention)

All: *By our words, by our deeds, by the mighty Kindreds three, What we wish, what we will, what we work shall come to be. (1x)*

AT speaks his spell using the following form:

Aided by the Mighty Dead,

Aided by the Noble Spirits,

Aided by the Shining Gods,

By the Power of the Kindreds and by my Will,

It is my Intention that _____

e.g., to manifest abundance in my

life

All: *By our words, by our deeds, by the mighty Kindreds three, What we wish, what we will, what we work shall come to be. (1x)*

Going clockwise around the circle, each one who wishes to join the Work states her/his intention using the form above, followed by another verse of the chant, with drumming throughout.

When all who wish to join the Work have stated their intentions, **D1** pauses, then leads the Folk to chant again, nine times, each time gathering strength. Drumming continues and gets more intense to match the building chant.

All: *By our words, by our deeds, by the mighty Kindreds three,
What we wish, what we will, what we work shall come to be. (9x, each time stronger)*

Finally, on the 9th time and just after, the drumming reaches a crescendo and then **stops**.

AT: *Now... let your mind empty, let the power of your intention go forth into all the worlds,
and know that the seed you have planted this day (night) will bear fruit...*

Now join your voice with mine as we say...

*By Fire, By Well, By Tree,
By Land, By Sky, By Sea,
By Gods, By Dead, By Sidhe*

*Let the power of the Gods and Spirits and our wills combine to make it be. As one grove
we say... **So be it!***

All: *So be it!*

Thanking the Kindreds and Spirits

JC: *We have called upon the Kindreds and they have answered us! With joy in our hearts let
us carry the magic from our sacred grove into our lives and work. Each time we offer to the
powers they become stronger and more aware of our needs and worship. So as we prepare to
depart let us give thanks to those who have aided us.*

JC: *Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!*

All: *Gods and Goddesses, we thank you!*

JC: *Nature Spirits, we thank you!*

All: *Nature Spirits, we thank you!*

JC: *Ancestors, we thank you!*

All: *Ancestors, we thank you!*

JC: *Gatekeepers, we thank you!*

All: *Gatekeepers, we thank you!*

JC: *Powers of Inspiration, we thank you!*

All: *Powers of Inspiration, we thank you!*

JC: *Earth Mother, we thank you!*

All: *Earth Mother, we thank you!*

Re-grounding

(EM leads a short re-grounding meditation, ending with “let us finish the work we started”.)

Closing the Gates

DQ: *Now by the keepers of the gates and by our magic we end what we began...*

Let the Fire be flame... (gesture to Fire)

Let the Well be water... (gesture to Well)

Let the Tree stand alone... (gesture to Tree)

*The sacred center is unmade... **Let the gates be closed!***

All: *Let the gates be closed!*

Affirmation of Continuity, Ending the Rite

KB: *We have done as our ancestors did and as our children will do and the Gods have answered! Let us go out into the world secure in the knowledge that our offerings have pleased the gods and that we go forth under their protection. The ritual is at a close. So be it!*

All: *So be it!*

KB uses the chime 3 times to signal the end the rite.

Recession

All sing **In the Company of Friends** (3x):

Join your heart once more with your comrades

Ere you turn your face to the wind

And walk the road from this holy place

In the company of friends.

(Author of the above chant unknown)

(grove waters recombined)