



*Whispering Lake Grove
A.D.F.*



Beltaine

May 2, 2004



Grove Attunement (Modified two part meditation) Part I

(female voice)

Closing your eyes, take a few deep, cleansing breath(s) in through your nose and out through your mouth; (pause) in through your nose and out through your mouth (pause for a 2 count)

Taking a few deep breaths, focus on the sounds of nature around you (pause for a 4 count). Focus on the scents in the air about you (pause for a 4 count) Finally, focus on the feel of nature on your skin (pause for a 4 count).

Now envision your life:

A busy person scrambling from here to there, like the busy bee collecting pollen to produce the sweet nectar, honey. See yourself as you dart from here to there, all along the blossoming trees. (pause for 4 count)

(male voice)

Begin to slow your busy thoughts breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth; (pause for 2 count) until your thoughts resemble the pollen filled flower which slowly drifts in the misty lake breeze, still moving, but more slowly, more elegantly (pause for a 2 count).

As you continue to slow your thoughts, feel yourself move from the flower to the strengthening branches of the tree, moving up the branches until you reach the mighty trunk. (pause for 2 count) As you become one with the steady, strong trunk, feel your power, your majesty, as you join the worlds of land, sea, and sky. (pause for 2 count)

(female voice)

Now feel your roots reaching down into the depths that have not been disturbed for a millennium. Feel the Mighty Ones lift the waters of life from The Well to your awaiting roots. Drink of the water that was old when the age of man was young. Feel their ancient wisdom as they lend strength to your roots, providing a

solid foundation for your growth. Draw the essence of the Earth up your roots, into your trunk, and out to your blossoming branches. (pause 2 count)

(male voice)

Turning you attention toward your trunk, see the Noble Spirits about you . For they dance around you, live within you, and embrace you. Look as they decorate you in the colors of the season. Hear them as their voices mingle with your own. Feel the companionship they offer as they share their lives with you. Be thankful for the wisdom they collect and bring to you, as they prepare you for all things to come.

(female voice)

Now follow your truck to your upper most branches extend high into the sky, as the Sun's blessings radiate down upon you. Feel the Shining Ones reaching down to guide your branches upward towards them. See your inspired thoughts form as new sprouts along your branches. Welcome this new growth (pause for 4 count).

(male voice)

Looking beyond your self, for you stand as a mighty tree, amongst the other trees within the grove. They grow as you grow, for all are in harmony. As you open your eyes, see but one grove, one tribe and one people with a common purpose.

Procession (Bard)

Now let us raise our voices in song as we proceed to our Nemeton.

In song

Processional Song

Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood

And court the Lady Fair

In the heat of their passion, passion

In the heat of their passion, passion

In the heat of their passion, passion

The corn will rise again

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Repeat until all participants have entered the Nemeton and have been censed and asperged.

Opening Blessings

Earth Mother & Sky Father (Druid #1)

Great Earth Mother and Sky Father,
Through your sacred union springs forth all life.
Your children gather between Earth and Sky in your honor.
Mother and Father of all that was, of all that is and all that will be.
We come before you in love and respect and ask that you uphold and bless our gathering.

(Sacrificer) *An offering of bread and clarified butter is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.*

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our sacrifice!

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, be welcome among us!

(Bard) And now we raise our voices in song to the Earth Mother

and Sky Father.

All in song

*Earth Mother, We sing to your body,
Earth Mother, We sing to your bones,
Earth Mother, We honor your body,
Earth Mother, We honor your stones.*

(lyrics and music written by an unknown author)



*Sky Father, We sing to your spirit,
Sky Father, We sing to your light,
Sky Father, We honor your spirit,
Sky Father, We honor your might,*

(lyrics by Scaan Glass)

*Your children, We gather before you,
Your children, Together we call,
Your children, We honor your presence,
Your children, Look to us all.*

(lyrics by Raven and Carrion Mann)

Divine Inspiration (Bard)

Goddess of inspiration and poetry,
Great Mother of song and music,
May our words echo in the sacred well.
May our hearts and minds burn with your eternal flame.
May our songs resonate upon the wind.
May you grant us the gift of inspiration and insight.

(Sacrificer) An offering of cream & honey is placed in the offering bowl for Brighid.

Lady Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

All: Brighid, be welcome among us!

Purpose and Precedent (Druid #4)

This eve we gather upon the Earth as one tribe;
To worship and honor the Kindred as one people;
Celebrating the fertility of the world around us.

We gather kin and clan beneath the Sky;
To make sacrifice to the Kindred;
Receiving their blessings in return.

We gather to keep the Feast of Beltaine.
To worship and honor the beautiful Aine and Aengus Og Mac
Oc, Queen and King of the Mighty Sidhe.
Celebrating love and life about us.

May all who gather this eve be welcome among us.

Fire, Well & Tree

To the fire (Druid #1)

Kindled of the hearth fire
Scared flame upon the Earth
Joining together hearts and minds
Darkness banished before the roaring blaze

Transcending the realm of light and shadow
Purifier and cleanser of mind, body and spirit
Sacred fire open unto us the way to the Shining Ones.

(Sacrificer) An offering of essential oil is made into the fire.

To the well (Druid #2)

Threshold to the Other world
Window to the souls
Cauldron of inspiration
Sacred shrine of old

Ford of cleansing waters
Vessel of rebirth
Sacred well of Danu open unto us
a path to the Mighty Ones.



(Sacrificer) *An offering of silver is made into the well.*

To the bile (Druid #3)

Mighty ash of the ancient grove
Roots burying deep within the Underworld
Wise teacher of traditions old
Branches reaching into the heavens.

Keeper of sacred knowledge
Pillar joining Earth and Sky; spanning the three worlds
Road to all realms; Sacred tree
Let all who walk this way walk in your wisdom.

(Sacrificer) *The bile is asperged with water from the well
and censed with incense.*

To Land, Sea & Sky (Druid #4)

The waters support and surround us.
The land extends about us.
The sky stretches above us.
And the center burns a living flame.

Let us pray with a good fire.
May all the Kindred bless us.
May our worship be true.
May our actions be just.
May our love be pure.
Blessings and honor and worship to the holy ones.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith

(Bard) We now raise our voices in song.

All in song

*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.*

*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

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

CHORUS

*Gather we at the Tree, the root & the crown of all
Gather we at the Tree, below & 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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Opening the Gates (Druid #4)

Manannan MacLir, it is your might and magic that wards the threshold

Grey Rider of Aonbarr, we ask for your protection as we walk through the mist this night.

Mighty Lord of the Crossroads, as we travel between the worlds of man and Sidhe may you part the mist before us.

(Sacrificer) *An offering of Irish whiskey is made.*

Manannan MacLir, Mist Weaver, accept our sacrifice!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us as you ward the way!

Manannan MacLir, merge now your magick with mine!

See the flame leaping forth from the fire.
And the mist arising from the well,
Flame and mist converging upon the tree
Forming a meeting place between the realms.

Tracing a triskel over the fire

Let the fire burning towards the heavens open as a gate that we may follow the way to the Shining Ones.

Tracing a triskel over the water

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld open as a

gate that we may follow the way to the Mighty Dead.

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, be open to us.

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

(Bard) Let us now sing our praise to Manannan MacLir.

All in song

*Gatekeeper open the portals,
Between the Gods and mortals,
Power freely flows, as our magic grows!*

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Repeat chant three times

Kindred Offerings

The Mighty Dead (Druid #2)

Priests of magic and lore
Chieftains of kith and clan
Bringers of law and order
Mighty Ones of the realm below

Heros of myth and legend
Warriors of strength and courage
Champions of might and honor
Beloved Dead of blood and spirit

Hunters of forest and glade
Tenders of flock and field
Fishers of lake, sea and stream
Ancestors of flesh and bone



Mighty Ones who inspire our hearts and minds
Ancestors who guide our actions and intentions
Join us this night as we celebrate the Feast of Beltaine
Hear us, Teachers and Guides, for we are in need of your wisdom!

(Sacrificer) *An offering of hard cider is made into the offering bowl.*

Mighty Ones, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

All: Mighty Ones, be welcome among us!

Noble Spirits (Druid #3)

Beasts of legend and lore
Lurkers of mist and shadow
Creatures of fur, fin and feather
Allies of the middle realm

Guardians of the woodland and stream
Protectors of the mountain and glen
Spirits of the natural world
Companions in life, death and rebirth

Beings of myth and magic
Messengers of the Otherworld
Dwellers of land, sea and sky
Watchers of this sacred ground

Noble Spirits who inspire our hearts and minds
Creatures who guide our actions and intentions
Join us this night as we celebrate the Feast of Beltaine
Hear us, Spirits both great and small, for we are in need of your company!

(Sacrificer) *An offering of seeds and cream is placed in the offering bowl.*

Noble Spirits, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

All: Noble Spirits, be welcome among us!

Shining Ones (Druid #1)

Guardians of hearth and home
Protectors of kith and kin
Bringers of peace and plenty
Shining Ones of the realm above

Champions of honor and might
Wielders of war and destruction
Dwellers of light and shadow
Deities of land, sea and sky

Patrons of song and music
Masters of fire and forge
Warders of the thresholds
Gods of life, death and rebirth

Shining Ones who inspire our hearts and minds
Gods who guide our actions and intentions
Join us this night as we celebrate the Feast of Beltaine
Hear us Eldest and Brightest for we are in need of your blessings!

(Sacrificer) *An offering of clarified butter is placed into the fire.*

Shining Ones, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

All: Shining Ones, be welcome among us!

*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*

Repeat chant three times

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Key Offerings

Descriptive invocations of the patron powers for the rite are given. Offerings are made and a portion of each is held back for the final sacrifice.

(Druid #2)

Aengus Mac Og (AYNG-ghus)

We call to the palace on the banks of the Boyne
To the inspirer of youthful love
We seek the young son of the Dagda
The beautiful, Aengus!

Our voices echo throughout the hollow hills
To the Great God of Love and Beauty
We seek the harpist of the Sidhe
The witty, Aengus!

We give honor to the King of the Faery Folk
To the enchanter of mortal maidens
We seek the dreamer of Caer (kyair)
The handsome, Aengus!

We bid welcome to the bringer of youth and beauty
To the patron of musicians and poets

We seek the Chosen One of the Tuatha
The fair, Aengus!

(Sacrificer) *An offering of rose petals is made.*

Aengus Mac Og, Great God of Love and Life; be welcome among us!

All: Aengus; be welcome among us!

(Druid #1)

Aine (AN-yuh)

We call deep into the sacred waters
To the healer and restorer of life
We seek the emerald eyed maiden
The beautiful, Aine!

Our voices echo high upon the tallest mountains
To the Great Goddess of Ancient Ireland
We seek the Sweetheart of the Sidhe
The splendid, Aine!

We give honor to the Queen of the Faery Folk
To the enchantress of mortal men
We seek the patroness of cattle and crops
The fair, Aine!

We bid welcome to the bringer of love and desire
To the mistress of unbridled passion
We seek the wielder of fire's free spirit
The bright lady, Aine!

(Sacrificer) *An offering of meadowsweet is made.*

Aine, Great Goddess of Life and Death; be welcome among us!

All: Aine, be welcome among us!

Seasonal Enactment

Following the Seasonal Enactment, ritual participants are given an opportunity to make praise offerings in the form of poetry, song, dance, or works of their hands etc. Please avoid clapping after praise offerings.

(Bard) In the days of old a Queen of May and her King, the Lord of the Greenwood, were chosen to preside over the festivities of Beltaine. For some tribes this queen was chosen from among the maidens of the village. She would then chose her king from among the young men. Other tribes chose their king by drawing a burnt bannock. However, not all tribes chose this couple in such a manner. Some tribes chose from among the married folk. For our tribe we have chosen our May Queen and her King, a couple who have recently re-pledged their love for one another.

(Bard) Let us now raise our voices in song as we call forth the Queen of May and the Lord of the Greenwood.

*The May Queen and her King now proceed to their thrones.
(Druid #4) crowns the royal couple and gives a bouquet of flowers to them.*

In Song (Bard)

*Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood
Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood
Come the Lord of the Greenwood, Greenwood
And court the Lady Fair*

In the heat of their passion, passion

In the heat of their passion, passion

*In the heat of their passion, passion
The corn will rise again*

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(Druid #4) Behold, Good Folk! The May Queen and her King, the Lord of the Greenwood. You are invited to come and take a flower from our royal couple to dress the Well, the eye and the mouth of Earth.

Participants will take flowers from the royal couple and place them beside the well.

(Bard) In ancient times the need fires dotted the hill tops on May Eve. The Beltaine fires of old were kindled of nine sacred woods. In honor of these ancient fire we now offer nine sacred woods as sacrifice as we light our need fire.

(Sacrificer) *An offering of nine sacred woods is made.*

(Bard) The ancients, our ancestors, would purify themselves, in, between and over these fires to prepare for the season of fertility.

We no longer purify ourselves within the fire, but we invite you now to dance between the fires in celebration of the coming season.

A drum beat begins and all have an opportunity to be purified between the fires.

(Druid #4) The Queen and King of the Sidhe rule from deep within the Hollow Hills. Aine, Mistress of Unbridled Passion and Aengus, the Chosen One of the Tuatha. Before you we will forge our alliances with the Noble Ones.

(Druid #1) those who are the guardians of the growing green

(Druid #2) those who are the granters of luck or bane

(Druid #3) those who are the keepers of secret knowledge

(Druid #4) those who are the Earth: beast, rock and tree

(male voice) those who are the Sky: bird, wind and cloud

(female voice) those who are the Sea: seal, wave and reef

(Bard) those who are the wrathful protectors

(Sacrificer) those who are the tribe of peace

(male voice) those who are the teachers and the guides

(Bard) In the Old days alliances with the Faery Folk were made by tying of bright strips of cloth in the branches of the sacred trees. This May Eve as the veil stands thin we prepare to forge our own alliances with the Sidhe.

(Bard) Come Good Folk, to our Faery Tree and tie a cloutie among the branches, so that it may stand for your alliance with the Noble Ones during this season of fertility.

All are given an opportunity to tie clouties to the faery tree.

(Bard) Now let us offer our praise to the Kindred.

Praise Offerings

Sacrifice and Omen

(Sacrificer)

Through Manannan MacLir, Great Warder and Guardian of the Ways, we have opened the Gates this night.

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;

We have honored the mighty Kindred as they walk among us.

Through communication with the Otherworld;

We receive guidance, inspiration and insight;

As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.

A final sacrifice is prepared. (Sacrificer)

(Sacrificer)

Kindred of land, sea and sky we call to you!

Hear us this night for we are in need of your guidance and wisdom. Tonight we call out from the crossroads to all who aid us!

We call to our allies of the middle realm!

Noble Spirits, who inspire our hearts and minds.

All beings of the land about us, who offer their guidance and protection.

We call to the Mighty Dead of the realm below!

Ancestors who guide our actions and intentions.

All of the Mighty Ones who offer their wisdom and inspiration.

We call out once more from the crossroads!

We call to the Shining Ones of the realm above.

Gods and Goddesses who inspire our hearts and minds and guide our actions and intentions.

Shining Ones who bless our lives and our gathering.

Deities, whose might and bounty know no bounds!

The final sacrifice is made. (Sacrificer)

Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

All: Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

(Druid #4)

It is with love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to the Kindred this night.

We have called through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld our invitation to gather in their honor.

We have sung their praise and made our sacrifice.

It is our hope that our words and sacrifice have conveyed our love.

(female voice) Let us now close our eyes and open our hearts

and minds to the Kindred. Breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth; in through your nose and out through your mouth (pause) With each breath pouring out our love as we prepare to receive the blessings of the Kindred upon us.

Participants meditate on the kindred, sending their energies through the gates.

(male voice) As we have gathered here as one people, joining hearts and minds we see those we have honored this night. We feel their presence and hear their whispers from the Otherworld.

We send our love, honor and respect deep into the Sacred Well to the Mighty Dead, our ancestors of blood and of spirit, it is their timeless wisdom that inspires us to strive always to better ourselves and our world around us. May they feel our love; see our sincerity and hear our praise in their honor. (pause for 2 count) Feel the presence of the Mighty Dead. (pause) Hear their whispers as we await their message.

(female voice) We send our love, honor and respect into the Middle realm to the Noble Spirits, our protectors and guides. It is their secret knowledge and companionship that we strive to share and be one with. May they feel our love; see our sincerity and hear our praise in their honor. (pause for 2 count) Feel the presence of the Noble Spirits. (pause) Hear their whispers as we await their message.

(male voice) We send our love, honor and respect through the Sacred Fire into the heavens to the Shining Ones, Eldest and Wisest, it is their guidance and blessings we seek. May they feel our love, see our sincerity and hear our praise in their honor. (pause for 2 count) Feel the presence of the Shining Ones. (pause) Hear their whispers as we await their message.

During the Omen meditation above the Sacrificer and Druid 4 with take, interpret and pronounce the Omen. One Ogham is drawn for each of the three Kindred.

The Kindred have spoken. What use have you in your lives
for their knowledge and wisdom.

From the Mighty Dead _____.

From the Noble Spirits _____.

From the Shining Ones _____.

The Blessing (Sacrificer) & (Druid #4)

Two horns will be filled and sat in the midst of the hallows.

The following words will be spoken over the horns.

(Druid #4) As in the ways of old we have given our gifts
freely and as in the ways of old a gift is given unto us in
return.

(Sacrificer) We will drink deep of the Horn of Inspiration.
May the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be ours.

(Druid #4) Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

(Sacrificer) We gather with you between Earth and Sky. We
are proud to call ourselves your people.

(Druid #4) Once again, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

(Sacrificer) We have brought our offerings. We have made
sacrifice.

(Druid #4) One last time, Shining Ones your blessings upon
us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

The horns are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.

(Sacrificer) Behold the Waters of Life!

(Druid #4) Shining Ones hear and bless us.

(Sacrificer) Aengus Og Mac Oc, bringer of youth & beauty
hallow these waters of life.

(Sacrificer) Aine, healer & restorer of life, hallow these
Waters of Life.

The horns are lifted before the participants.

(Druid #4) Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

(Sacrificer) Now Good folk, drink deep; the blessings of the Shining Ones.

Drinking horns are passed and all participants share the waters. As the horns are passed the following song is sung by all participants.

(Bard) As we receive the blessing of the Shining Ones let us raise our voices in song.

All in Song

Pour the waters, raise the cup, drink your share of wisdom deep, strength and love now fill us up as the elder ways we keep.

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Repeat until the horns have been passed to all participants.

Thanksgiving and Closing

(Bard)

We now prepare to thank the powers that have attended us during this rite. At this time the gates between the worlds remain open and we invite any to give personal offering or sacrifice to the powers.

Participants are given time to make final offerings.

(Druid #1) Beautiful Aine, Sweetheart of the Sidhe. May you continue to heal and restore our lives and our world. Great Queen of the Faery Folk, we thank you for your blessings this eve. May

there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Aine, we thank you!

(Druid #2) Aengus Og Mac Oc, Witty King of the Sidhe. May you continue to bring beauty and youthful love to our lives and the world around us. Great God of Love and Beauty, we thank you for your blessings this eve. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Aengus, we thank you!

(Druid #1) Shining Ones, Eldest and Brightest. May you continue to guide and bless us as we walk this path. Shining Ones, known and unknown, we thank you for your blessings and guidance this eve. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Shining Ones, we thank you!

(Druid #3) Noble Spirits, beings of land, sea and sky. Companions who aid and guide us in our journey. Noble Spirits we thank you for sharing your knowledge and protection. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Noble Spirits, we thank you!

(Druid #2) Mighty Ones, of blood and spirit. Those who inspire and guide us in our lives. Beloved Dead we thank you for the wisdom you have shared with us. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Mighty Dead, we thank you!

(Bard) Lady Brighid, Great Mother of song and music. We thank you for your blessings of inspiration and eloquence. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Bright Lady, we thank you!

(Druid #1) Earth Mother and Sky Father, Mother and Father of all that was, all that is and all that will be. We thank you for your life giving union that springs for all life. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you!

(Druid #4) Manannan MacLir, Weaver of Gray Mists; we thank you for your protection and guidance this night. We now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Manannan MacLir, we thank you!

Manannan MacLir, Great Warder of the Way, Let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

(Sacrificer) We now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain us.

All offerings that remain are burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.

Grove Attunement & Meditation-Part II

(male voice) Good folk, join me as we once again close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth; (pause) in through your nose and out through your mouth.

Reentering your tree form, once more feel your roots reaching the depths of the Earth. Feel the strength of your trunk and the Sun's radiant warmth on your branches. Feel the water and Sun's energy mingle throughout your tree spirit. (pause for a 2 count)

(female voice) As the mighty oak tree is part of the forest, we are all part of the great circle of life. Remember the blessings we have received together this night. Feel the oneness; reflect upon the journey we have taken together. (pause for a 2 count)

Remember the blessings of the Shining Ones. The guidance and wisdom that they have offered you. Allow their guidance to move through your branches to your blossoming tips. Let that guidance flow from your branches into the gentle breeze, so that it may radiate from your being to touch all who cross your path.

(male voice) Remember the voices of the Noble Spirits. The friendship and knowledge they have offered you. Allow their guidance and friendship to strengthen your trunk. Feel your trunk grow larger and your outer bark become more protective. Let that strength allow you to show hospitality to all who ask and enable you to persevere in times of struggle.

(female voice) Remember the ancient wisdom of the Mighty Dead. The knowledge and life's blood that they have offered you. Allow this wisdom to flow down from your branches to your trunk and into your roots as the water you had taken in. Allow this water, which forms the foundation on which you stand, to flow from you to the Great Lake to nourish all that is around you.

(male voice) As your tree form begins to fade and your human

form returns, feel the blessings you have been touched with; remember the lessons you have learned; feel a closeness to the Kindred. As you open your eyes, be ever mindful of the journey we have taken together this eve. Take with you as we conclude our worship the wisdom and blessings of the Kindred.

All: We will keep the faith until the sky falls upon us and crushes us; until the earth opens and swallows us; until the seas arises and overwhelm us.

(Druid #4) Good Folk, we now prepare to leave this sacred place. We shall make safe the way for our Queen and King as we proceed to the Maypole so we may dance in celebration.

Winter has passed, Summer has come, but winter does not give up so easy. The Hag, the Cailleach, the Old Woman awaits the Queen of May. The Hag fiercely guards the fertility of the land and will not give up so easily. A champion needs to be chosen from among the tribe. All who wish may choose a bannock from the basket.

All participants have an opportunity to draw a bannock from the basket. The participant holding the burnt bannock will become the champion.

We have chosen our champion in the old way. The one who holds the burnt bannock has been chosen. All Hail, the Hawk of May!

All: All Hail, the Hawk of May!

(Druid #4) Step forward champion and receive your weapon. You are charged with the duty of protecting our Queen. When the Hag has been spotted strike her with the sword, again and again if necessary. The tribe looks to you to release the Hag's fertility back to the land.

The champion takes up the sword as the Hag is spotted. The champion striking the Hag releases her fertility back to the

Earth. When the Hag's fertility has been released all may gather a token of her fertility from the ground around the fallen Hag.

Now, the tribe is ready to process to the place of celebration.

(Bard) Once more may we now raise our voices in song as we leave our Nemeton.

CHORUS

The sky fuels the waters

And the waters sustain the skies

We walk together from this place

With the honored as our guides

Strong in our purpose

We balance and survive

From many wells of fortitude

Our spirits are revived

CHORUS

Joyous in our sharing

We honor dead and alive

With voices of sacred wisdom

We travel the path of our lives

CHORUS

Fulfilled in our learning

Our souls will always thrive

In our varied hearts and minds

We keep the sacred for all time

CHORUS

(lyrics by Moon Dragon; music by Raven of the Sorrows)

Special Thanks To:

All who attended, participated and shared in our Beltaine celebration.

Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants

The Lord of the Greenwood, Gods & Dead and Mighty Sidhe;

The Gatekeeper Chant, The Portal Song; Pour the Waters

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Whispering Lake Grove

Beltaine Ritual

2004

Ritual text written by

Members of the Whispering Lake Grove

ritual organized by

Beltaine Organizing Committee Members

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