

# Beltaine Solitary Ritual



May 2005

*An offering is made for the Outdwellers and is laid beyond the perimeter of the ritual space prior to claiming and hallowing.*

## **Claiming and Hallowing**

### **Outdwellers**

Dark Dwellers beyond the fire's light.  
Bringers of primal chaos; those who will never know peace.  
You who harmonize not with our songs & praise;  
Those who's whispers are but cries and screams.

You may have held this place in the past.  
You may hold this place in the future.  
But for now, take what has been laid beyond the fire's light  
And trouble me not this night!

### **Spirits of the Land**

From this crossroads between Earth and Sky  
Among those that dwell in this plane,  
I call out to the spirits of this land.

To you, who whisper and watch, as I have erected my  
Nemeton before you.  
This night I call to you spirits of this land and ask for the use  
of this place for my worship.

Deities of past and present peoples;  
Guardians and protectors of this ground;  
Those of you in tune with my purpose;  
I invite you to share in my celebration.  
*An offering is made to the Spirits of the Land.*

Spirits of this land, accept my offering!

***3 X 3 the bell tolls or drum beats, saying:***

As a child of the Earth Mother and Sky Father,  
I come before my hearth to be one with the Kindred.  
That I may worship according to the ways of old.

As the world of the living and that of the spirit become one,  
I welcome home my kin and remember my tribe.  
That we may begin this celebration together in this hallowed  
place between Earth and Sky.

***The water is blessed, saying***

By the cleansing purity of water,  
I claim this place!  
I purify this place in the name of the Kindred that I may  
worship with it's purity.

***The asperging bowl is filled from the Well and the Nemeton  
sprinkled.***

***The fire is lit and blessed, saying:***

By the forging strength of fire,  
I claim this place!  
I strengthen this place in the name of the Kindred that I may  
worship with it's strength.

***The Censer is kindled from the Fire and the Nemeton censed.***

With the purity of the waters  
And the forging strength of the fire,  
This grove is made whole and holy.

***At the Bile, saying:***

May these words be heard:

In the forest, glen and glade  
By fur, fin and feather  
From this world to the next.

May these words be heard:

In the sacred wells, upon the waves and across the seas  
By family, friend and foe  
From this world to the next.

May my words echo:

In the hollow hills in honor, respect and love for the Shining  
Ones  
From this holy ground!

***The participant is asperged with waters from the well and  
censed.***

***In song***

***Deep Peace (Author Unknown)***

*Deep peace of flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the sacred flame  
Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth*

*May peace, may peace, may peace fill your soul  
Let peace, let peace, let peace make you whole.*

*Repeat Chant 3 times*

### **Opening Blessings**

#### **Earth Mother & Sky Father**

Great Earth Mother and Sky Father,  
Through your sacred union springs forth all life.  
This night your child calls out to you from between Earth and  
Sky!

Mother and Father of all that was, of all that is and all that  
will be.  
I come before you in love, honor and respect and ask that you  
uphold and bless my rite.

*An offering is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.*

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept my sacrifice!

#### **Prayer for Divine Inspiration**

Goddess of inspiration and poetry  
Great Mother of song and music  
May my words echo in the sacred well  
May my heart and mind burn with an eternal flame  
May my song resonate upon the wind  
May you grant me the gift of inspiration and insight

*An offering of honey is made to Brighid.*

Lady Brighid, accept my offering!

### **Purpose and Precedent**

This eve I gather upon the Earth on my own;  
To worship and honor the Kindred as my people;  
Celebrating the fertility of the world around me.

I gather beneath the Sky;  
To make sacrifice to the Kindred;  
Receiving their blessings in return.

I 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 me.

May all who have gathered this eve be welcome.

### **Fire, Well & Tree**

#### ***To the fire***

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 as the way to the Shining Ones.

*An offering is made into the fire.*

***To the well***

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 as a path to the Mighty Ones.

***An offering is made into the well.***

***To the bile***

Mighty oak 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.

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

***To Land, Sea & Sky***

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

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

***Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith***

**Opening the Gates**

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

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

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

***An offering is made to Manannan..***

Manannan MacLir, Mist Weaver, accept my sacrifice!

Manannan merge your magick with mine.

***Tracing a triskel over the fire.***

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

***Tracing a triskel over the well.***

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld open as a gate that I may follow the way to the Mighty Dead.

***Tracing a triskel upon the bile.***

Let the tree, pathway between earth and sky, be open to me.

*Chant*

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

*(Repeat 3 times)*

**Kindred Offerings**

**Noble Spirits**

Spirits of the smallest stone, fertile land and highest mountains  
May you show me the path to balance and stability.

Spirits of the gentle stream, endless sea and sacred wells  
May you grant me the gift of inspiration and insight.

Spirits of the growing green, magickal herb and ancient trees  
May you lend me your wisdom and knowledge.

Spirits of my animal ancestors.  
May you guide me to your strength and intuition

Mighty dragons, guardians of the treasures of land, sea and sky  
May your fire burn within me!

To all of my companions, teachers and friends of old I invite  
and welcome you to my hearth

*An offering is made to the Noble Spirits.*

**Mighty Dead**

Grandfathers & Grandmothers of old  
Ancient ones and most recent dead  
Friends, family and loved ones  
All those who have passed from this world  
I await your rebirth and ask for your guidance

Those I long to remember and you I still search for  
Fear not, communication with me.  
Know you continue to live in my heart and memories  
As I invite you to gather and rejoice at my hearth

*Offering is made to the Mighty Dead.*

**Shining Ones**

Shining Ones, whose might and bounty know no bounds.  
Gods of my people and my people's people  
Watchers over your children and their children's children  
Gods of Life, Gods of Death, Gods of Rebirth  
Gods of Land, Sea and Sky  
Gods that are well known and those who I have yet to meet.  
Gods of this place and of this season of change  
I bid you welcome to my hearth's fire.

*An offering is made to the Shining Ones.*

***In song***

*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 3 times)*

## **Key Offerings**

### **Aengus Og Mac Oc** (AYNG-ghus)

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

My voice echoes throughout the hollow hills  
To the Great God of Love and Beauty  
I seek the harpist of the Sidhe  
The witty, Aengus!

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

I bid welcome to the bringer of youth and beauty  
To the patron of musicians and poets  
I seek the Chosen One of the Tuatha  
The fair, Aengus!

***An offering is made to Aengus.***

Aengus Mac Og, Great God of Love and Life; be welcome  
this night!

### **Aine** (AN-yuh)

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

My voice echoes high upon the tallest mountains  
To the Great Goddess of Ancient Ireland  
I seek the Sweetheart of the Sidhe  
The splendid, Aine!

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

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

***An offering is made to Aine.***

Aine, Great Goddess of Life and Death; be welcome this  
night!

## **Seasonal Enactment**

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 I now offer nine sacred  
woods as sacrifice as I light my need fire.

***An offering of nine sacred woods is made.***

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

***The participant purifies themselves with smoke from the  
fire.***

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 I will forge my alliances with the Noble Ones.

Those who are the guardians of the growing green

Those who are the granters of luck or bane

Those who are the keepers of secret knowledge

Those who are the Earth: beast, rock and tree

Those who are the Sky: bird, wind and cloud

Those who are the Sea: seal, wave and reef

Those who are the wrathful protectors

Those who are the tribe of peace

Those who are the teachers and the guides

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 I prepare to forge my own alliances with the Sidhe.

*The participant has an opportunity to tie clouties to the faery tree.*

### **Praise Offerings**

### **Sacrifice and Omen**

*A final sacrifice is prepared and final prayer of sacrifice is made.*

With my thanks, love and respect I bring this the last of my offerings. As the time of light is upon me I offer this in thanks for the season that has past, as I look forward to the season to come.

Smallest stone and highest mountain, gentle stream and sacred well, growing green and ancient tree and animal ancestors. Grandmothers that bore me, Grandfathers that quicken me accept this sacrifice.

Shining Ones, whose might and bounty know no bounds, accept this sacrifice.

*The final sacrifice is made.*

*Meditate on the kindred, sending your energies through the gates.*

I have offered hospitality and sacrifice to the Kindred at my hearth this day. I pray that my gifts, given in the highest honor and respect, receive acceptance from the Kindred. I ask for your guidance and blessing upon my hearth and home.

*The Omen is taken as usual. One Ogham drawn for each of the Kindred. (Noble Spirits, Mighty Dead and Shining Ones)*

### **The Blessing**

As in the ways of old I have given my gifts freely and as in the ways of old a gift is given in return.

I will drink deep of the Horn of Inspiration. May the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be mine.

Shining Ones your blessings upon me!

I gather with you between Earth and Sky. I am a proud follower of the old ways.

I have brought my offerings. I have made sacrifice.

Shining Ones your blessings upon me!

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

Behold the Waters of Life!

Shining Ones hear and bless me.

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

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

*Drink deep; the blessings of the Shining Ones.*

### **Thanksgiving and Closing**

*While the Gates remain open it is time to make final offerings.*

**Beautiful Aine**, Sweetheart of the Sidhe. May you continue to heal and restore my life and my world. Great Queen of the Faery Folk, I thank you for your blessings this eve. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Aine, I thank you!

**Aengus Og Mac Oc**, Witty King of the Sidhe. May you continue to bring beauty and youthful love to my life and the world around me. Great God of Love and Beauty, I thank you for your blessings this eve. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Aengus, we thank you!

**Shining Ones**, Eldest and Brightest. May you continue to guide and bless me as I walk this path. Shining Ones, known and unknown, I 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. Shining Ones, I thank you!

**Mighty Ones**, of blood and spirit. Those who inspire and guide me in my life. Beloved Dead I thank you for the wisdom you have shared with me. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire. Mighty Dead, I thank you!

**Noble Spirits**, beings of land, sea and sky. Companions who

aid and guide me in my journey. Noble Spirits I thank you for sharing your knowledge and protection. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Noble Spirits, I thank you!

**Lady Brighid**, Great Mother of song and music. I 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.

Bright Lady, I thank you!

**Earth Mother and Sky Father**, Mother and Father of all that was, all that is and all that will be. I 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.

Earth Mother and Sky Father, I thank you!

**Manannan MacLir**, Weaver of Gray Mists; thank you for your protection and guidance this night. I 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.

Manannan MacLir, I thank you!

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

I now return all that has gone unused to the Earth and the Sky, may they continue to support, surround and sustain me.

**I will keep the faith until the sky falls upon me and crushes me; until the earth opens and swallows me; until the seas arise and overwhelm me.**

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*Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.*

***And to the Unknown Author of the Chant: Deep Peace***



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