

Whispering Lake Protogrove A.O.F.

Autumn Equinox Ritual

2003



Written by : Raven of the Sorrows

Lead By : The members of the Whispering Lake Protogrove,  
A.O.F.

### **Hallowing and Claiming**

Bringers and makers of disorder and chaos  
Both around and among us  
Accept this offering of from the Harvest  
And give us peace by taking your rest.  
Let this be our time, our place  
And trouble not this sacred place.

*An offering is lay beyond the perimeter of the ritual space.*

Spirits of the Land, Sea and Sky  
Spirits of all time that rule this place  
Spirits of the land where my ancestors lie  
Spirits that watch all of us with grace  
Allow us this time and the use of this space.

*Milk and Honey is offered at several points about the  
Nemeton space.*

### **Purification**

The Water

May these waters be strong like the sea  
Blessing this place  
Claiming this space

*A bowl is filled and the Nemeton asparged.*

## The Fire

May these flames dance with passionate strength  
Blessing this space  
Claiming this place

*A censer is kindled and the Nemeton censed.*

## The Bile

May this be known  
Among those of fur, fin and feather  
Across hill, ocean and heather  
By the Shining Ones blessing grown  
This grove shall be whole and holy.

*3 times a bell tolls signaling all enter the space.*

*Procession of all Druids into the Grove as Bard leads the chant*

**CHANT:** We have come to the Sacred Grove with Hearts and Minds and Flesh and Bone. Join us now in ways of old, we have come home.

*Members of the Grove are asparged and censed as they process into the Nemeton space.*

**Grove Attunement** - Modified two part meditation  
Let us begin

*Please close your eyes and join me taking in a few cleansing breaths. In through your nose and out through your mouth. (Pause for 5 count) in through your nose and out through your mouth.*

*As we stand here assembled among the trees of this life, this space, this world, imagine time slowly wearing away and until you are standing among the tallest, oldest trees of all worlds. Perhaps they are giant sequoias or perhaps they are ancient oaks, but these trees have stood the test of time.*

*As you wander slowly through them you can feel the ancient energy rise about you, drawing you toward and into one of the tallest, oldest trees. Slowly you feel your body melt away and your spirit merge into one with the tree. Your feet seem to stretch on and endlessly down in to the dark moist reaches of the earth. Stretching and stretching endlessly on and into the darkness below the surface you feel the first cool trickling of the water and know that your roots are approaching the water table. A deep thirst for this life giving water urges you to extended your roots deeper until feel your roots plunging into the sacred waters of life deep inside the earth.*

*For a moment allow your roots to be washed over by the ever subtle underground currents of the dark waters. Feel the energy of this current. Its time tested presence, strength and life. Slowly draw the water up through your roots and allow it to pool in your trunk. Feel it nourishing your being and carry it up the length of your branches. Pushing the water and its vitality in to your leaves. Lift the water higher and higher through your limbs to the finest and smallest edges of new growth at the top of your*

*branches.*

*Feel the earth mothers life giving waters shimmering in the tops of the branches beneath the warmth of the sun before spilling forth from the branches and flowing over leaves and branches back into the earth.*

*Turn your attentions now sky ward where the warm radiance of the sun awaits. Feel the glowing light of the sun wash over the smallest branches at the top of your branches and peek through various leaves to warm parts of your trunk.*

*As you stretch you limbs skyward to draw in the sun's warmth, a tongue of fire strikes forth and covers all of your top most limbs. You are not scorched or burned but filled with a passionate inspiration. You draw the heat of this caress from the Sky father down ward and through you and feel the heat of this passion collect in your branches and limbs. Mingling with the cool waters as it travels down and pools in the trunk of your being. Carry this heat all they way down into the deepest segments of your roots.*

*While the earth waters and suns heat dance through out your tree being, reflect upon the passions and wisdom of the ancient ones, before slowly opening your eyes and returning to this ritual space.*

## **Opening Blessing**

Great Earth Mother and Sky Father  
Mother and Father of all that is, was and shall be  
Look favorably upon your children, our sisters and brothers  
As we gather before you in love and respect  
Bless our gathering

*An offering of bread and honey.*

## **Bardic Invocation - Brighid**

O Great Lady of inspirations passion  
Ignite within us poetry and melody  
To celebrate in joyous fashion  
Enjoying the fruits of our labor with thee  
Lady Brighid accept our sacrifice

*An offering of honey.*

## **Purpose and Precedent**

We gather now in the old ways,  
Remembering, celebrating this harvest time  
Reaping the fruits of our labor  
Honoring the work of Macha and Goibniu  
Deities of the field and fruit honored at harvest time  
Blessing these fruits of our labor and all that we savor  
Preparing for the constant turn of the wheel  
And the changing of our seasons deal.

We begin in this celebration of late harvest  
In joy and thanks for this year and season's best.

### **Fire**

Sacred flame kindled of hearth fire  
By light banishing darkness  
Igniting passions of heart and mind inspire  
While opening the way to the Shining Ones

*An offering of clarified butter.*

### **Well**

Portal to the Otherworld, shrine of old  
Cleanser, purifier of the soul  
Channel to rebirth and secrets untold  
Open for us the ways to our ancestors

*An offering of silver.*

### **Bile**

Sacred and mighty oak  
Rooted Deep and crowned high  
Keeper and teacher of traditions and wisdom of old  
Spanning Earth and Sky, joining three worlds  
Guide us to the realms where wisdom unfolds

Water rise about us

Sky surround us  
Land stretch about us  
At the hearth center living flame

*Bile is aspersed and censed.*

May our Worship be true  
Our ancestors just  
And our love pure  
As we honor and worship the holy ones

*CHANT: Portal Song*

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.*

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, and 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 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 in Love.

Chorus

### **Opening the Gates**

Manannan Mac Lir, Guardian  
Warder of the Ways between all worlds  
Raise up the grey mists  
And make open the way between the worlds

*An offering of clarified butter and ale or wine.*

May the flames open unto the Shining Ones  
May the well run to the roots of our ancestors  
May the tree bridge the Earth and Sky  
May all open the gates for us.

Manannan, May the gates stand open!

All: May the gates stand open!

*CHANT: Gatekeeper open the portals between the Gods and mortals, Power freely flows as out magic grows.*

### **Kindred Offerings**

Those who walked this life before us  
Those known and unknown to us  
Friend and family alive in our hearts  
Bless us and join us in these sacred arts  
Guide us in wisdom true  
Ancestors welcome and accept our gift

All: Ancestors, accept our gift

*An offering of ale or wine.*

### **Nature Spirits**

Spirits of fur, fin and feather  
Spirits of this land and all lands  
Bless us in this endeavor  
And guide us with your gentle hand  
Nature Spirits accept our offering

All: Nature Spirits accept our offering

*An offering of nuts.*

### **Shining Ones**

Gods & Goddess of our people  
You who have many faces, many names  
Those known and unknown to us

Ones marking each seasons gain or loss  
Join us, honor us with your company this night  
By our hearth fire's blessed light  
Shining Ones accept our sacrifice

All: Shining Ones accept our sacrifice

*An offering of clarified butter and fruits.*

*CHANT: 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.*

### **Patrons of the Right**

Ancient Mother guarding the fields and flock each year  
Barring pillage from harvest to harvest  
Providing sustenance, knowledge and wisdom  
Desiring to protect and provide for your children dear  
To make them pillars of the best  
Macha, Mother of Agriculture and the fertile harvest  
Enlighten us in the ways of old  
Providing a bounty in a harvest of secrets untold  
Macha, welcome and be among us.

*An offering of grain and milk.*

All: Macha, accept our offering.

The forge burns hot to temper the weapon  
A time tested brew from the finest of the harvest  
Forages the celebration at the end of a long battle  
Goibniu, Maker of the brew and weapon  
Create from the fruits of our best  
The finest of ale, mead and wine  
To inspire us in a celebration of the passing of time  
Goibniu, welcome and be among us.

*An offering of grapes and barley grain.*

All: Goibniu, accept our offering.

### **Praise Offerings**

#### **Sacrifice and Omen**

Kindred with thanks and love in our hearts  
In respect we bring you this final offering  
The fruits of our labors and final harvest  
The fruits of our innermost inspirations  
A thanksgiving for the seasons past  
While we await the turning of the year

Spirits of the largest beast and smallest stone  
Ancient and recent dead  
Shining Ones of might and bounty in limitless bound  
Kindred all, accept our sacrifice

All: Kindred accept our sacrifice

*Final offering of the fruits of the harvest is made.*

Closing our eyes and opening heart and mind's eye  
Let your love flow to the Shining Ones  
Honor them with your actions and presence this day and every day.

Beloved and honored kindred hear us this day  
In respect, love and highest honor, we pray  
You receive and accept our gifts  
As we stand ready for your blessings

*The Diviner takes one Ogham for the Shining Ones, one for the Ancestors, and one for the Nature Spirits.*

From the Nature Spirits \_\_\_\_\_. What use have you in your heart or in your life for \_\_\_\_\_?

From the Ancestors \_\_\_\_\_. What use have you in your heart or in your life for \_\_\_\_\_?

From the Shining Ones \_\_\_\_\_. What use have you in your heart or in your life for \_\_\_\_\_?

### **Blessing**

A gift for a gift  
As they once did say

And so we drink of the Caldron of Rebirth

Seeking the blessings of wisdom, health and wealth

Shining Ones your blessings upon us

We gather together as the many and the few  
Proud to be your people honoring you.

Shining Ones your blessing upon us.

We have brought gifts in our offerings  
Made our sacrifice

Shining Ones your blessing upon us

Behold the Waters of Life

Shining Ones hear and bless us

Macha and Goibniu at this harvest time hallow these waters

Behold the Waters of Life

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

*CHANT: 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.*

*Drinking horns are passed and individuals are afforded the opportunity to make personal toasts of thanksgiving for the blessings they have harvested during the preceding year.*

#### Thanksgiving and Closing

Prepare we now to thank those powers  
Who honored and attended with us these hours  
The gates still stand open  
And so in praise we make a final token

*Individuals are offered time to make their personal offerings.*

Macha, mother protector of field and flock  
Goibniu, brewer of the finest drink  
May peace stand between us  
'Til we meet again by the sacred fires  
Macha and Goibniu we thank you for honoring us with your presence this night.

All: Macha and Goibhniu we thank you.

Shining Ones those of all people  
You of many faces and many names, known and unknown  
May peace stand between us  
'Til we meet again by the sacred fires  
We thank you for your blessings

All: Shining Ones, we thank you!

Spirits carried by fin, fur or feather  
Those of this land and all lands  
May peace stand between us  
'Til we meet again by the sacred fires  
We thank you for your company and protection

All: Nature Spirits, we thank you!

Those who walked this life before us  
Friend or family who remains alive in our hearts  
May peace stand between us  
'Til we meet again by the sacred fires  
We thank you for your patient wisdom and constant guidance

All: Ancestors, we thank you!

Manannan Mac Lir watchful Guardian  
Warder of the ways  
May peace stand between us  
'Til we meet again by the sacred fires  
Lower the mists as we thank you.

All: Manannan Mac Lir, we thank you!

Great Lady of inspiration and passion  
Touching song and hearth fire  
May peace stand between us  
'Til we meet again by the sacred fires  
Brigid, we thank you for inspiring us this day



All: Brighid we thank you!

Earth Mother and Sky Father  
Mother and Father of all that is was and shall be  
May peace stand between us  
'Til we meet again by the sacred fires  
Earth Mother and Sky Father, we thank you for attending this day

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

The work has completed  
And the Gates must be closed

Manannan Guardian and Warder of the Ways  
See closed the Gates we opened this night

May the Path to the Shining Ones  
Again be only flame

May the way to our Ancestors  
Again be only water

May the road between the Worlds  
Again be only wood

Through the might and wisdom of the Ancestors, Spirits of all  
land, and the Shining Ones, the way to the Kindred be warded.

## Closing mediation

The great work has concluded, brethren take a moment and reconnect yourself to the medication we began with at the opening of this right.

*With the honor and lessons of our deities learned and remembered, recall now the image of your ancient tree. Feel the vitality of the waters mingling with the fires passion. Feel the ebb and flow of all life's energy. Now feel the suns fire slowly move back up through your being, mingling with the waters and then flowing up and out through the branches in the highest parts of the sky.  
(Pause)*

*In the same manner the waters slowly retreat from your being coming down from top most branches and pooling in your trunk before retreating down through your roots. Note the ebb and flow of all life's energy as the waters return to the earth.*

*Slowly you emerge from the tree and with thanks you begin walking away though the woods and the ancient woods become the woods of this place and of this space which surrounds us and we return to this time.*

*Take a moment to reflect on the lessons of fire water and tree and all that was given by divine spirit and deity. Opening your eyes you have returned as you were but more than you were when began this right and so with thanks we conclude.*

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  
arise and overwhelm us.

*Bell tolls three times*

### **Recessional**

*CHANT:* Sun And Moon And Star. We Are Together  
We Are Joined As One. Now And Forever

*Repeat until all have departed from the Nematon space.*

### **Thanks to -**

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Coven of the Sun, Moon and Star for the Recessional

All of you who took time to attend our rite.

The Divine in all forms and by all names for guiding and inspiring  
myself and all of my fellow members of the Whispering Lake  
ProtoGrove A.D.F.