



# Whispering Lake Grove A.D.F.



## “Harvest Tide” Ritual



Autumnal Equinox  
September 19, 2004



### *Grove Attunement (Modified two part meditation) Part I*

#### **(female voice)**

Closing your eyes, take a few deep, cleansing breaths 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:

An energetic squirrel scurrying along the tall branches of the surrounding trees. Sense the changes in the trees about you. Feel the coolness of the lake breeze on your face and know the season of preparation is upon you (pause for 4 count)

#### **(male voice)**

Begin to slow your busy thoughts, breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth; (pause for a 2 count) until your thoughts begin to focus on the creation of your nest within your tree. Slowly, you begin to build your nest gathering the gifts your tree has left for you, the twigs, leaves and nuts scattered along the ground. (pause for a 4 count).

As you settle in your nest, feel your warmth, your heartbeat, your breath become one with the tree that surrounds you. (pause for 2 count) Feel your energy merge with the tree, moving through the trunk, to the branches and to the depths of the roots. (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)**

Turning your 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.

**(male 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 leaf covered branches. (pause 2 count)

**(female voice)**

Now follow your trunk to your upper most branches extending 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 burst into brilliant colors along your leaf covered branches. Celebrate this outward expression of the Shining One's blessings (pause for 4 count).

**(male voice)**

Looking beyond yourself, 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**

*Come we now as a people  
To gather at the sacred well  
Come we now as a people  
To gather in the warmth and the light of the flame*

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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) A sacrifice of bread and clarified butter is made.**

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)** *A sacrifice of cream & honey is made.*  
Lady Brigid, accept our sacrifice!

**All:** Brigid, be welcome among us!

**(Bard)** Now let us raise our voices in song as one people.

***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***

***Purpose and Precedent (Druid #4)***

Tonight we gather between the Earth and Sky.  
To worship and honor the Kindred as one people.  
To sing their praise and make our sacrifice.  
As we seek their blessings in return.

The harvest season has reached its height.  
A time of balance and transition is upon us.  
Magic is in the air about us.  
The Harvest Tide has come.

As we prepare for the dark, cold months ahead.  
The Tuatha prepare for battle!  
A time of chaos and unrest is upon them!  
For their enemies approach!

Tonight we honor Goibniu, Luchta and Credne  
The Smith, The Wright and The Brazier.  
Skilled masters of their trades,  
As they prepare the De Dannan for battle!

May all who gather this eve be welcome among us!

***Fire, Well & Tree***

*To the fire (Druid #1)*

Kindled of the hearth fire  
Sacred 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 the way to the Shining Ones.

**(Sacrificer)** *A sacrifice of clarified butter 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, open the way to the Mighty Ones!

**(Sacrificer)** *A sacrifice of silver is made into the well.*

*To the bile (Druid #3)*

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 all 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 at 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)** *A sacrifice of Irish whiskey is made.*

Manannan MacLir, Mist Weaver, accept our sacrifice!

**All:** Manannan MacLir, be welcome among us!

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*

*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 Harvest Tide.  
Hear us, Spirits both great and small, for we are in need of  
your company!

**(Sacrificer)** *A sacrifice of birdseed and cream is made.*

Noble Spirits, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

**All:** Noble Spirits, be welcome among us!

*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 Harvest Tide.  
Hear us, Teachers and Guides, for we are in need of your  
wisdom!

**(Sacrificer)** *A sacrifice of beer and bannocks is made.*

Mighty Ones, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

**All:** Mighty Ones, 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 Harvest Tide.  
Hear us Eldest and Brightest for we are in need of your  
blessings!

**(Sacrificer)** *A sacrifice of clarified butter is made.*

Shining Ones, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

**All:** Shining Ones, be welcome among us!

**(Bard)** Let us raise our voices in song to the Kindred!

*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.***

**(Sacrificer)** Three strikes of his hammer.

**(Bard)***(hammer strikes 3 times)*

The spear's head is forged.

**(Druid #2)** Three blows of his axe.

**(Bard)***(axe chops 3 times)*

The lance shaft takes form.

**(Druid #4)** Three blows of his fist.

**(Bard)***(Fist hits 3 times)*

The great weapon is born.

**(Sacrificer)** Master of the Forge; Brewer of the healing waters.

**(Druid #2)** Maker of shields; Protector of Champions

**(Druid #4)** Restorer of the wounded; Healer of the King

**(Sacrificer)** Mighty Craftsman of the Tuatha

**(Druid #2)** Work your magic before use this night.

**(Druid #4)** Prepare our folk for the season to come.

**(Druid #4)** Goibniu, Luchta and Credne, be welcome among us!

***A sacrifice of dark, red and light beer is made at the same time into the offering container.***

**(Sacrificer)** Mighty Craftsmen, accept our sacrifice!

**All:** Mighty Craftsmen, 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.***

**(Druid #4)** The Ancients, our Ancestors on the eve of Battle said charms, oaths and blessings over their weapons to ensure victory in the upcoming conflict. Likewise, the farmer, blacksmith and craftsman would say charms, oaths and blessings over their tools to ensure a good harvest, a true spear, and a beautiful work.

**(Druid #4)** It is good and proper that as we gather on this eve of the harvest we honor and keep the ways of old. Bring forth now your weapons and tools to speak charms, oaths and blessings upon them. Raise them into the air, point them to the earth, bath them in the waters that they may be blessed of land, sea and sky.

***Participants are given an opportunity to bring forth their weapons and tools of their trade for blessing.***

**(Druid #1)** At the end of the harvest our Ancestors would cut the last sheath. This was then woven into a corn dolly. If the harvest had been good the figure was kept in a place of honor until the next harvest, if the harvest had been bad the figure was buried in the ground of an enemy to lay waste to their land.

**(Druid #1)** We no longer live in ancient times, we no longer reap the last sheath, but we continue to celebrate the harvest. We have labored hard this past year, no so much with our hands, but with our hearts, minds and souls... ***Holding up the corn dolly.***

**(Druid #1)** This figure represents the harvest of Whispering Lake Grove. It is in the form of a knot because we have worked to become one tribe and one people. As the knot comes to you, feel free to give your own blessing upon it. ***The corn dolly is past among the participants until it returns to its starting point.***

**(Druid #1)** We have had a good harvest and now the corn dolly will rest this year in a place of honor. ***The corn dolly is placed upon the blessing cup table.***

**(Druid #3)** For the Ancients a good wheat and barley harvest meant life for the upcoming year. It meant now none would go hungry during the long dark time to come. They also knew the time for stories had returned, soon they would huddle beside the hearth fire. They knew that bread was life and brew was joy. For nothing goes better with a good story than good friends, family and some good home brew.

**(Druid #3)** Our Ancestors, knew life is to be full of joy. We now join in drinking from the harvest cup. If you do not wish to drink then kiss the cup and pour some to the earth. ***The harvest cup is passed among all participants.***

**(Druid #4)** Mighty Ones of the harvest, Old Ones who have labored in pasture, meadow and field.

**(Druid #3)** Noble Ones of the harvest, Old Ones who rule the frost, rain and sun.

**(Druid #1)** Shining Ones of the harvest, Old Ones who guard the sewing, growing and reaping.

**(Druid #3)** We thank the Kindred for the good harvest they have give unto us.

**(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.

**(Druid #3)** 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.*

**(Druid #3)** 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.

**(Druid #3)** 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.

**(Druid #3)** 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 will 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 Noble Spirits \_\_\_\_\_.

From the Mighty Dead \_\_\_\_\_.

From the Shining Ones \_\_\_\_\_.

***The Blessing (Sacrificer) & (Druid #2)***

***Two cups will be filled and sat in the midst of the hallows. The following words will be spoken over the cups.***

**(Druid #2)** 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 Cup of Inspiration. May the blessings of health, wealth and wisdom be ours.

**(Druid #2)** 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 #2)** 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 #2)** One last time, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

**All:** Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

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

**(Sacrificer)** Behold the Waters of Life!

**(Druid #2)** Shining Ones hear and bless us.

**(Sacrificer)** Goibniu, Luchta and Credne, Mighty Weapon Makers of the Tuatha, hallow these waters of life.

*The cups are lifted before the participants.*

**(Druid #2)** Behold the Waters of Life!

**All:** Behold the Waters of Life!

**(Sacrificer)** As we drink deep of the blessings of the Shining Ones, may we remember those of our tribe that could not be with us this night.

*Pouring the first of the blessing cup upon the ground.*

**(Sacrificer)** May the blessings of the Shining Ones be with them. May the waters support them; lending strength and courage in times of need.

**(Druid #2)** Now Good folk, drink deep; the blessings of the Shining Ones.

*Blessing cups are passed and all participants share the waters. As the cups 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 cups 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 #4)** Credne, Skilled Brazier, may you continue to restore the wounded among us.

**(Druid #2)** Lutchta, Maker of Mighty Shields, may you continue to offer your protection to warriors among us.

**(Sacrificer)** Goibniu, Great Smith and Brewer, may you continue to work your magic among us.

**(Bard)** Great Weapon Makers of the Tuatha De Dannan. We thank you for your blessings and protection this eve. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

**All:** Credne, Luchta and Goibniu, 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 Brigid, 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:** Brigid, 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.

Re-entering 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 brilliantly colored leaves. Let that guidance flow from your branches into the cool 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 arise and overwhelm us.

**(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)*

***Following the rite once the Hallows has been returned as it once was a final offering in thanks is made to the spirits of the land for its us.***

***Special Thanks To:***

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

***Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants***

*Come We Now As A People, 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  
Autumnal Equinox Ritual  
2004***

***Ritual text written by***

***Members of the Whispering Lake Grove***

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