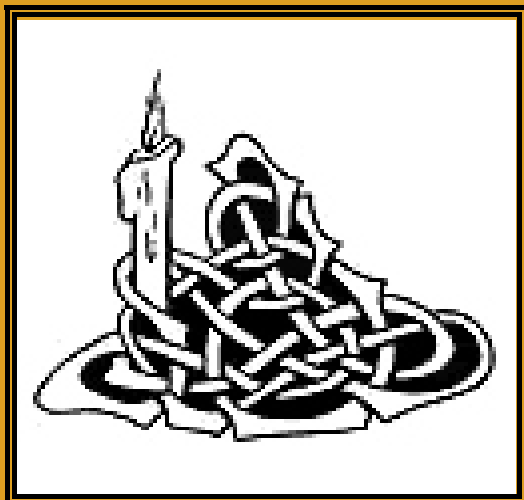




Whispering Lake Grove ADF.



Imbolc
February 3, 2008
6:00 PM

PREPARATION

GROVE ATTUNEMENT (Isaura)

Closing your eyes, take a few deep cleansing breaths.

Breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth.

In through your nose and out through your mouth.

As you breathe, lay aside the worries, troubles and woes of the mundane world. *(pause 4 count)*

We now stand between Earth and Sky

Feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below us flows the primal waters

Cold, dark and chaotic; filled with the potential of all life.

Allow the primal waters to enter your being.

Feel the coolness of the waters as they pool within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. *(pause 8 count)*

Reaching high into the sky above

Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens

Know that above us burns the primal fires

Warm, light and ordered; filled with the spark of all life.

Allow the primal fire to enter your being.

Feel the warmth of the fires as they illuminate your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. *(pause 8 count)*

Now join your hands, your hearts and your minds as one people.

(All participants join hands)

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky as they surge through you, lending strength and energy to your being. *(pause 8 count)*

As we open our eyes, know that we assemble as one folk to worship with a common purpose.

All:

May our worship be true.

May our actions be just.

May our love be pure.

Blessings, honor and worship to the Holy Ones.

Honoring Our Grove Patron (Eld Naðr)

Rider of the Maned Waves...

Protect us from the storms.

Guardian of the Threshold...

Guide us from all harm.

Magician of the Shoreline...

Bless us with your might.

Mist Weaver,

May you walk with us this night!

A member of Whispering Lake Grove will prepare a special offering for the Grove Patron and give the offering at this time.

An offering is made to Manannan.

Manannan, accept our offering!

All: Manannan, be welcome among us!

PROCESSION (All in song)

In Song (Carrion)

The Waters flow around us

The Fires burn within us

Standing tall we gather at the center of the world.

Upon the Earth our mother

We worship here together

All as one we gather at the center of the world.

(Words and Music by Emerald)

Repeat until all participants have entered the worship area.

OPENING PRAYERS

(Raven)

Musical Signal- *hammer strikes anvil 9 times.*

Honoring the Earth Mother and Sky Father

(Grollwynn) (Isaura)

Great Earth Mother and Sky Father,

Through your sacred union springs forth all life.

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 we ask that you uphold and bless our gathering!

(Grollwynn)(Isaura) *An offering of milk and clarified butter is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.*

Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our offering!

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

Invocation for Bardic Inspiration

Bardic Inspiration (Raven)

We call upon the Sun-faced Warrior of the Tuatha;

The Honey-mouthed God of Poetic Word;

And Father of the Ogham.

Oh, Binder and Inspirer of the Journeying Soul.

Bless us with your inspiration and eloquence this night!

(Eld Naðr) *An offering of honey is made.*

Oghma, accept our offering!

All: Oghma, be welcome among us!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Purpose of the Ritual

Isaura & Marcia-places milk & oats outside the door.

Luna & Chris G.- Luna places the Brighids mantel on the shrine and Chris places the candle and lights the shrine hearth fire.

Marisha & Morrighan-prepares the bed for Brighid

(Carrion)

This night the women of this hall make ready our home for a very special guest.

The fire of spring has been secretly lit within the shadows of darkness.

New life begins to stir deep beneath the blanket of white, as the Greenworld awakens from its slumber.

Tonight, we celebrate in sacred tradition the lengthening light, returning warmth and first stirring of Springtime.

With praise, love and sacrifice we shall honor Lady Brighid

That her blessings of health, wealth and wisdom might be ours!

CONSECRATION OF SPACE & PARTICIPANTS

Outdwellers (at the Southern fire the Sacrificer lays a token for the Outdwellers) (Raven)

Beings of chaos and discord!

Hoard, whose minds know not rest and whose spirits know not peace.

To all those whose screams and cries, harmonize not with our songs and praise.

Know that this time and place we claim as ours!

You may have held it in the past, you may hold it in the future, but for now,

Let it be known that it is OURS!

We have given to you all that we intend to give.

May order reign and chaos trouble not our gathering!

Purification of Participants & Space

The aspersion bowl is filled by Eld Nadr. from the Well and the censer is kindled from the Fire by Moondragon. Ritual participants are cleansed with water from the well and purified with smoke from the censor. After the participants are cleansed and purified the Nemeton is cleansed and purified as the following power building chant is led by Raven.

With the powers to create and destroy.

And the strength to cleanse and purify.

When all participants have been purified Raven will step forward saying:

(Raven)

Through the union of fire and water,

Our Nemeton is made whole and holy!

Once more we have met the threat of chaos with order and laid claim to this place. We have made sacred this space that we may worship and honor the Kindred as one people.

THE SACRED CENTER

Affirmation of Unity

(Isaura) Let us now raise our voice as one people.

In Song

Deep Peace (Author Unknown)

Deep peace of the 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

Establishing Sacred Time (**Carrion**)

In the beginning and so too in the end; there was but the fires of the Sky and the waters of the Earth. And between them lay a fertile land.

In the South the old Fir Bolg King, dreamed of birds, the sky grew dark as the great flock approached the shore.

From the North through smoke and mist came beings of great might and magic, the vast army of the Tuatha to overtake the land. Bringing with them four treasures that would assure their victory.

Reaching the shore, the Tuatha burnt their ships and a great battle for the land began. Great numbers of the Fir Bolg fell as the armies of the Tuatha swept across the land. In defeat the Fir Bolg retreated to the lands of the Fomorians and the Tuatha De Danann lay claim to Ireland.

All in song (**Grollwynn**)

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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Eld Na(d)r will offer silver to the well, incense to the fire and cense and asperge the bile during the song.

COMPLETING THE COSMOLOGY

To Land, Sea & Sky (Carrion)

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

OPENING THE GATES

(Raven)

Dagda Mor, your might and magic wards the threshold.

Great Good God, in your protection we shall stand at the center of all worlds.

Mighty Druid of the Tuatha, as the world of man and Sidhe converge within this place may you open the mounds before us.

(Raven) *Irish whiskey is offered to Manannan.*

Dagda Mor, accept our offering!

All: Dagda Mor, be welcome among us!

(Carrion) Let us raise our voices in song to the Gatekeeper!

All in song

Sing through my voice,

Play through my hands,

Let the way be open!

Repeat chant three times

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(Raven)

Dagda Mor, merge now your magick with mine!
See the flame leaping forth from the fire.
See the mist arising from the well,
Flame and mist converging upon the tree.
Forming a meeting place between the realms

Striking a sigil or 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.

Striking a sigil or triskel over the well

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

Striking a sigil or triskel upon the tree

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, be open to us.
Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

GENERAL OFFERINGS TO AND INVOCATION OF THE SPIRITS

(Carrion)

Now that the world of the living and that of the spirit are one,
we call out from the crossroads to the Mighty Kindred that they may join us in celebration this night!

(Eld Naðr)

Allies of the Middle Realm!
Bright and shining messengers to the Otherworld
Elves, Sprites, and Faeries of the Hollow Hills
Protectors of this sacred ground.
Mighty Sidhe, be welcome among us!

Irish Whiskey is offered (Eld Naðr)

(Isaura)

Wise Ones of the Realm Below!

Beloved Dead of blood and spirit; Ancestors of flesh and bone
Great Cu Chulainn, Maeve and Finn
Heros of myth and legend
Mighty Ones, be welcome among us!

Irish Whiskey is offered. (Eld Naðr)

(Grollwynn)

Eldest and Brightest of the Realm Above!
Bringers of life, death and rebirth.
Deities of Might , of Magic and those of the Mist.
Blessed Children of Danu!

Shining Ones be welcome among us!

Irish Whiskey is offered (Eld Naðr)

(Carrion)

*Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe
Powers of Earth and Sky and Sea
By Fire and Well, by Sacred Tree
Offerings We Make to Ye*

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Kindred, accept our offerings!

All: Kindred, be welcome among us!

HONORING THE DEITY OF THE RITE

At the shrine of land

(Grollwynn)

Lady of Smithy's craft,
Fair Maiden the Field,
Goddess of the Awakening Land,
And Blessings it shall yield.
Fill our lives with bounty,
Forge our spirits with you strength,
Hear our voice ring beyond the veil,
Brighid, we call you near this night!

Milk is offered to Brighid

At the shrine of the well (Carrion)

Lady of the Waters Still,
Primal Mother of the Deep,
Wise One of the Ages,
The Well your secrets keep.
Hold us in your Mantel,
Heal us with your might,
Hear our voices upon the water,
Brighid, we welcome you this night!
Honey is offered to Brighid

(Raven)

At the shrine of the fire

Lady of the Sacred Flame
Exalted One on High
Bright One of the Springtime,
And Daughter of the Sky.
Enliven our hearts,
Inspire our minds,
Awaken our potential,
Hear our voices upon the fire,
Brighid, we honor you this night!
Irish Whiskey is offered to Brighid

(Grollwynn, Carrion & Raven)

Lady, Brighid, accept our offering!
All: Brighid, be welcome among us!

A male member of the Grove will leave the Nemeton briefly to get the brideog from beyond the feasting area bringing her to the doorway of our ritual space. At this time an unmarried female member of the Grove will proceed to the doorway and carry the brideog into the Nemeton and once around the sacred center to her bed by the hearth's fire as the remaining participants sing:

Hymn to Brighid

*O Bridget, our heart, our brightest queen
Cast your blessings unto us.
We are your children and you are our mother,
So hearken unto us.
You are the cauldron now in our Grove,
Wise woman inspire us.
O Fire of Love, O Fire of Life
Please Bridget, come to us!
Lyrics by Isaac Bonewits*

PERSONAL/PRAISE OFFERINGS

(Carrion) At this time you may bring forth your offerings of praise to Lady Brighid.

PRAYER OF SACRIFICE

(Raven)

Through our praise, love and sacrifice;
We honor Brighid, as she walks among us.
Through communication with the Otherworld;
We receive her guidance, inspiration and insight.
Tonight we call out from the crossroads to our honored guest!
As we prepare to make our final sacrifice.
The final sacrifice is prepared. (Eld Naðr)
(Eld Naðr)

It is in love, honor and respect that we have offered hospitality to our guest this night.

We have sung her praise; made our sacrifice.

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

We call once more through the Gates and deep within the Otherworld that she shall know of our devotion.

Brightest Lady, we honor you.

The final sacrifice is made.

Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

All: Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

THE OMEN

(Raven)(Eld Naðr)

The Omen is taken by drawing three Ogham. The seer then interprets the omen asking if our sacrifice and offerings have been accepted. The Seer then leads the company to contemplate the blessings/warnings of the omen from the Deity of the Occasion. While the omen is being taken Carrion will lead all present in the following chant.

(Carrion)

Let us raise our voices in song as Brighid reveal her will.

In Song

Holy water, sacred flame

Brighid we invoke your name

Bless my hands, my head, my heart

Source of healing, song and art.

(words by Diane Baker/music by Anne Hill)

Brighid's Girdle

Drummers will begin drumming. Carrion will lead a spoken chant: *Brighid Your Blessings Upon Us.....* Participants will begin to circle the Nemeton as two members of the Grove

hold the Brighid's Girdle. All participants will pass through the Girdle of Brighid to receive her blessings.

CALLING FOR THE BLESSING (Raven) (Carrion)

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

The following words will be spoken over the pitchers.

(Raven) 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.

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

(Raven) Brighid your blessings upon us!

All: Brighid your blessings upon us!

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

(Raven) Once again, Brighid your blessings upon us!

All: Ancestors your blessings upon us!

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

(Raven) One last time, Brighid your blessings upon us!

All: Brighid your blessings upon us!

(Grollwynn) *The pitchers are lifted saluting the fire, well and tree.*

HALLOWING OF THE WATERS

(Grollwynn) Behold the Waters of Life!

(Raven) Brighid hear and bless us.

(Carrion) Beloved Lady of Health, Wealth & Wisdom, hallow these waters of life.

(Grollwynn) *lifts the pitchers before the participants.*

(Grollwynn) Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

AFFIRMATION OF THE BLESSINGS

(Eld Naðr) Now Good folk, do you wish to receive the blessings of our honored guest? _____. Then we shall drink deep the blessings of Brighid!

The Waters are passed (Grollwynn & Chris F) and all participants share the waters. As the waters are passed the following song is sung by all participants.

(Carrion) 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.

THANKING THE BEINGS

(Carrion) Lady Brighid, Great Goddess of Poetry, Healing and Smithcraft, we thank you for the blessings you have given us. **(a final token is offered)** May you continue to Bless our lives with health, wealth and wisdom. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Brighid, we thank you.

(Grollwynn) Mighty Kindred of land, sea and sky, Eldest, Wisest and Mightiest of the realms. May you continue to protect, guide and bless us as we walk this path. Kindred we thank you for the knowledge and blessings you have shared with us. **(a final token is offered to each of the 3 Kindred)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Kindred, we thank you!

(Raven) Oghma, Honey-mouthed God of Poetic Word. We thank you for the inspiration and eloquence you have shared

with us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Oghma, we thank you!

CLOSING THE GATES

(Raven)

Dagda Mor, Great Guardian of the Threshold, I now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between the worlds once more. Let the fire burning towards the heavens once more become but flames.

Let the well whose depths reach the Underworld once more become but water.

Let the tree, pathway between Earth & Sky, become but wood. Dagda Mor, let the Gates be closed!

All: Let the Gates be closed!

(Raven) Dagda Mor, Mighty Druid of the Tuatha; we thank you for your protection and guidance as we stand at the center of all worlds this night. **(A final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire

All: Dagda, we thank you!

THANKING THE EARTH MOTHER AND SKY FATHER

(Grollwynn) Mighty Father of the Clear Sky, we thank you for the blessings you have given us. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Sky Father, we thank you!

(Isaura) Great Goddess of Sovereignty, we thank you for all life. **(a final token is offered)** May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Earth Mother, we thank you!

(Eld Naðr) 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.

STATEMENT OF ENDING

Unmerging, Regrounding & Recentering: Meditation

(Isaura) Children of Earth and Sky, join me once more as we close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth **(pause for a 2 count)**.

As the mighty oak is part of the forest, we are all part of the great circle of life. Remember the blessings we have received together this night **(pause)**.

As we stand between Earth and Sky

Once more feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth

Know that below us flows the primal waters.

Once more feel the coolness of the waters that have pooled within your belly, within your heart and finally, within your head. **(pause 4 count)**

Reaching high into the sky above

Feel the illuminating radiance of the Heavens.

Know that above us burns the primal fires.

Once more feel the warmth of the fires that have illuminated your mind, your heart and finally your spirit. **(pause 4 count)**

Feel the primal powers of Earth and Sky surging through you, as they have given strength and energy to your being. **(pause 4 count)**

Keep of this power what you need, sending what remains forth from our beings into the Great Lake **(pause)**. See this energy heal and protect her as we conclude our worship.

May all that is be what was, that it may be again!

(Raven)

Musical Signal- *An Anvil strikes 3 X 3 times.*

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.

Recessional Song

Raven will light Brighids candles at the doorway, while Morrighan asperges participants with water from Brighid's well.

(Carrion) Once more as we raise our voices in song to leave our Nemeton may the blessing of Brighid go with us. Take of her fire and healing waters that health, wealth and wisdom be yours.

In song

We Will Never, Never Lose Our Way To The Well Of Her Memory

And The Power-- Of Her Living Flame It Will Rise, It Will Rise Again.

*Like The Grasses, Through The Dark, Through The Soil,
To The Sunlight -- We Shall Rise Again. We Are Thirsting --
For The Waters Of Life,
We Are Moving -- We Shall Live Again.*

Words By Starhawk and Rose May Dance, Music adapted from a South African Freedom Song

Special Thanks To:

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

*Emerald of Sassafras Grove for the chant
The Waters Flow Around Us*

The Unknown Author of the chant Deep Peace.

*Anne Hill and Diane Baker for the chant: Holy Water,
Sacred Flame.*

*Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants
Gods and Dead and Mighty Sidhe, Pour the Waters and the
Portal Song*

Isaac Bonewits for the Hymn to Bridget.

*Starhawk and Rose May Dance for the words to: Way to the
Well.*

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

Whispering Lake Grove, ADF

Imbolc Ritual

2008

Ritual text written by

(Unless otherwise credited)

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