

Whispering Lake Grove,
A.D.F.



Ostara

March 21, 2004

Grove Attunement (Modified two part meditation) Part I

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. *(Pause on 3 count)* In through your nose and out through your mouth. *(Pause)*

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 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. *(Pause)* Feel it nourishing your being. Carry it up the length of your branches. Pushing the water and its vitality into 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 water shimmering in the tops of the branches beneath the warmth of the sun before spilling forth and flowing over leaves and branches back into the earth.

(Pause on a 3 count)

Turn your attentions now skyward 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 tree 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. *(Pause)* You are not scorched or burned but filled with a passionate inspiration. You draw the heat of this caress from the Sky Father downward and through you. 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. *(Pause)* Carry this heat all they way down into the deepest segments of your roots.

While the earth waters and sun's heat dance through out

your tree being, reflect upon the passions and wisdoms of the ancient ones, before slowly opening your eyes as you prepare to enter our ritual space.

Procession (Bard)

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

In song

Gathering

As one people, one clan

At winters end

Gathering

By blossom and bud

At winter end

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

Opening Blessings

Earth Mother & Sky Father

Great Mother and Father of all
She who hath brought forth all divine
He who hath brought forth our people
Your children stand assembled before you
To honor your great union
That which creates all life.
Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our sacrifice!

An offering of grain and distilled alcohol is made to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

All: Earth Mother and Sky Father, accept our sacrifice!
And now we raise our voices in song to the Earth Mother and Sky Father.

All in song (Bard)

*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.*

*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,*

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

Divine Inspiration (Bard)

Deeds of the past made them legends.
Timeless heroes; examples to us all.
Courage and honor to be remembered through the ages.
Passed upon the eloquent words of your song.

Within the Halls of Valhalla you sing their praise.
Welcoming the slain warriors home.

Mighty God of wisdom and poetry.
May you grant us inspiration and eloquence throughout
our rite.

Bragi, accept our sacrifice!

An offering of honey is placed in the offering bowl for Bragi.

All: Bragi (bra-ghee), accept our sacrifice!

Purpose and Precedent

We gather this eve upon the Earth.
In celebration of the turning wheel.
Enjoying the warmth and protection of our hearth.
While we welcome our friends about us.

We gather this eve beneath the Sky.
In celebration of life anew,
Enjoying the returning warmth and light of the sun.
While we welcome the Kindred among us.

We gather this eve at the crossroads.
In celebration of the Feast of Ostara.
Enjoying the sights and sounds of Spring.
While we welcome the rebirth of the natural world
before us.

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 unto us the way to the Shining Ones.

An offering of dragon's blood oil 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 open unto us a path to the Mighty Ones.

An offering of silver is made into the well.

To the bile

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 nine 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 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.
We now raise our voices in song.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith

All in song (Bard)

***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 & 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

Oh, Heimdall, Guardian of Bifrost, warder of the way
between of Asgard and Midgard.

Protector and guide to all those who travel upon the
Rainbow Bridge.

We call upon you this night to open the gates and let us
walk the path between the worlds.

An offering of red wine is made.

Heimdall, accept our sacrifice!

All: Heimdall, All Hail and Welcome!

Heimdall merge your magick with mine!

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

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.

A Druid traces the hammer over the fire and well.

And Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

(Bard) Let us now sing our praise to the Gatekeeper.

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

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 Ostara
Hear us, Teachers and Guides, for we are in need of
your wisdom!

*An offering of light German beer and homemade bread is
made into the offering bowl.*

Mighty Ones, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

All: Mighty Ones, All Hail & Welcome!

Noble Spirits

Beasts of legend and lore
Lurkers of mist and shadow
Creatures of fir, 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 Ostara
Hear us, Spirits both Great and Small, for we are in
need of your company!

*An offering of sunflower seeds and cream is placed in the
offering bowl.*

Noble Spirits, known and unknown, accept our
sacrifice!

All: Noble Spirits, All Hail & Welcome!

Shining Ones

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 Ostara
Hear us Eldest and Brightest for we are in need of your
blessings!

An offering of dragon's blood oil is placed into the fire.

Shining Ones, known and unknown, accept our
sacrifice!

All: Shining Ones, All Hail & Welcome!

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.

Thor

All Hail, Ruddy Son of Earth and Sky!
For his might defends all new life!

All Hail, Wielder of Great Mjollner!
For its' strike breaks their icy grip!

All Hail, Powerful Champion of Asgard!
For his strength has seen us through the long dark!

All Hail, Thundering God of Spring's Protection
For tonight we reach the winter's end!

All Hail, Thor!
As we honor you this eve,
And welcome you to our hall.

An offering alcohol and porridge is made.

Thor, accept our sacrifice!

All: Thor, All Hail and Welcome!

Freyr

All Hail, Forceful Lord of the Awakening Earth!
For his strong hand keeps life fruitful!

All Hail, Bright Son of the Sea God, Njord!
For his light warms the dormant womb of the Earth!

All Hail, Fertile God of Peace and Plenty!
For through him all things grow and prosper!

All Hail, Ruler of the Rain and Sunshine!
For tonight we reach the winter's end!

All Hail, Freyr!
As we honor you this eve,
And welcome you to our hall.

An offering of seeds and grain is made.

Freyr, accept our sacrifice!

All: Freyr, All Hail and Welcome!

Eostre

All Hail, Fair Lady of the Growing Light!
For her touch brings forth new life!

All Hail, Bright Lady of the Radiant Dawn!
For her breath warms the frosty air!

All Hail, Fertile Lady of New Beginnings!
For through her, all that sleeps shall be reborn!

All Hail, Great Goddess of Spring's renewal.
For tonight we reach the winter's end!

All Hail Eostre!
As we honor you this eve,
And welcome you to our hall.

An offering of hot crossed buns and chocolate is made.

Eostre, accept our sacrifice!

All: Eostre, All Hail and Welcome!

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.

Good Folk, long has the snow laid deep upon our land.
Long has the icy chill gripped our hearts and long has the deep dark gripped our minds.

For too long Old Man Winter has held sway over the land,
but tonight his reign has ended.

Tonight we celebrate the growing light and the coming of Spring.
Tonight we celebrate, for the tribe has survived another long dark and the horn has yet to sound.

Behold, Old Man Winter! Good folk, join with me now as we give Old Man Winter his just due.
Join with me this eve as we drive him beyond the fire's light.

Let us now take Old Man Winter to his place of rest. As we move beyond the fire's light let us move in silence as we give honor and remembrance to those of our tribe that await rebirth and renewal.

Good folk, the light has returned and renewal is upon the land. For the ancients, our Ancestors the egg was the symbol of rebirth. On the day of Ostara our Ancestors placed red eggs upon the graves of those awaiting rebirth. As in the ways of our Ancestors, we will now give honor to the beloved dead who await rebirth. Please take the

symbol of rebirth (holding up the eggs) and place upon the shrine of the Mighty Ones in honor of your Ancestors that await their rebirth.

For the ancients, Ostara was also a time to prepare for the coming season of planting. This eve we too prepare for our season of planting, both spiritually and physically. We now invite all who have brought seeds to have blessed to bring them forth, so they may be blessed by Lady Ostara.

Sacrifice and Omen

Through Mighty Heimdall, 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.

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 those of the Nine Worlds; those Noble Spirits of the lands about us!

You who have offered their guidance and friendship.
All spirits of nature that aid us in our journey.

We call to those from the halls above & realms below!

You who have offered their wisdom and inspiration.
Mighty Ones, our ancestors and beloved friends that aid
and inspire us.

We call out once more from the crossroads!
Hear us eldest and brightest of the Nine Worlds!
Deities known and unknown to us;
Shining Ones, whose might and bounty know no
bounds!

Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

The final sacrifice is made.

All: Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

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; made our sacrifice.

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

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

Let us now close our eyes, opening our hearts and minds

to the Kindred pouring out our love as we prepare to
receive their blessings upon us.

*The Omen is taken. One Rune is drawn for each of the three
Kindred. The seer then interprets the omen, leading the
company to contemplate the things they would ask of the
powers, especially as suggested by the omen.*

From the Noble Spirits _____.
From the Mighty Ones _____.
From the Shining Ones _____.

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

The Blessing

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

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.

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

Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

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

Once again, Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

All: Shining Ones your blessings upon us!

We have brought our offerings. We have made sacrifice.

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.

Behold the Waters of Life!

Shining Ones hear and bless us.

Mighty Thor hallow these waters of life.

Bright Freyr hallow these waters of life.

Radiant Eostre hallow these Waters of Life.

The horns are lifted before the participants.

Behold the Waters of Life!

All: Behold the Waters of Life!

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, faith and love now life us up as the elder ways we keep.

Repeat until the horns have been passed to all participants.

Thanksgiving and Closing

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.

Lady Eostre, Great Goddess of Spring's renewal. We thank you for your blessings this eve. May all that sleeps be renewed with the returning warmth and light. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Eostre, we thank you!

Bright Freyr, Lord of the Vanir. We thank you for your blessings this eve. May the new season bloom with your favor. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Freyr, we thank you!

Mighty Thor, Thundering God of Spring's Protection. We thank you for your blessings this eve. May your hammer continue to protect to all who follow this path. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Thor, we thank you!

Great Shining Ones, Aesir and Vanir. We thank you for your blessings and guidance this night. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Shining Ones, we thank you!

Noble Spirits, of the Nine Worlds. Those who aid and guide us in our journey. Companions of humankind, Noble Spirits we honor you. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Noble Spirits, we thank you!

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

All: Mighty Ones, we thank you!

Bragi, Wise One and Gifted Poet of Hall of Valhalla. We thank you for your inspiration and eloquence this night. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Bragi, we thank you!

Great Mother of divine and Great Father of our people, For your life giving union, we thank you. 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!

Heimdall, Father of all humankind; we thank you for your protection and guidance this night. We now ask that you close the gates once again, warding the Rainbow Bridge until we return once more. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

Heimdall, Great Guardian of Bifrost, We Thank You!

Let the Gates be Closed!

All: Heimdall, Let the Gates be Closed!

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

The great work has concluded. Friends, take a moment and reconnect yourself to the meditation we began with at the opening of this rite.

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. (Pause) 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 the 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 we began this rite. 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 arises and overwhelm us.

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

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***Whispering Lake Grove
Ostara Ritual
2004***

Ritual text written by

Whisper Lake Grove members

***organized by
Ostara Committee***

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