

Whispering Lake Grove A.D.F.



Samhain Ritual

October 24, 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

*It's The Blood of the Ancients
That Runs Through Our Veins
And The Forms Pass
But The Circle of Life Remains*

by Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy

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 Brighid, accept our sacrifice!

All: Brighid, 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.

We gather this night in celebration of the turning wheel.
Enjoying the final fruits of the harvest.
Tonight we celebrate life, death and rebirth,
As we remember those who have walked before us.

We gather this night at the crossroads.
In celebration of the Feast of Samhain.
Enjoying the company of friends and family.
As we remembering the ways of old.
While we welcome the new year before us.

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

(Sacrificer) *A sacrifice of corn meal 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 Samhain.
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 #4)

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 Samhain.
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.

Morrighan **(Druid #1)**

On the wings of a raven the huntress rides the night.
Calling to her chosen few before the day's first light.
Great warriors have seen the withered hag upon the river's ford.
As she washes their blood soaked armor; removed from bodies
torn.

Her vengeance brings great warriors forth.
Her fury fuels their fires.
Her rage fills their hearts and minds.
Their slain bodies quench her desires.

War is waged; the battle won.
The slain lay upon the ground.
The raven shrieks from over head.
Until their souls are found.

Great Phantom Queen of the Celts
Their death is not fore lorn.
For it is through you Great Morrighan
That a warrior's soul is reborn.

O, Great Queen, we offer you welcome this night.

An offering red wine and apples is made.

Morrighan, accept our sacrifice!

All: Morrighan, accept our sacrifice!

Dagda

From out of the hollow hills; a tall, broad shadow strides.
Upon his back a magic harp does ride.
Many have heard its gentle call;
Sweet music to turn the wheel toward fall.

His cauldron fills those that keep their oaths.
His bounty rewards their courage.
His club gives life yet death may bring.
To those opposing this mighty High King.

Enchanted was the Great Good God;
Upon the river, Boyne.
Through secret knowledge that was shared,
A victory was born.

All father of the Tuatha De Dannan.
Eldest and wisest of us all.
Through you we feed our sacred flames and plant our seeds this
fall.

O, Great Good God, we welcome you among us this night.



An offering of oatmeal and beer is made.

Dagda, accept our sacrifice!

All: Dagda, accept our sacrifice!

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.

On the eve of Samhain the Ancients, our Ancestors would make dark the hearth's fire which was then rekindled from the flames of the Need Fire. As we prepare to extinguish our hearth's fire we reflect upon the events of the past year, upon our successes as well as our failures.

As we look forward to the new year that lays before us, the time is ripe for making a fresh start, a new beginning for Samhain is a time of death and rebirth. Those among us who wish to leave something in the past year as it comes to an end may now do so in the flames of the hearth's fire.

Participants are given an opportunity to leave something in the past year by burning it in the hearth's fire before it is extinguished.

For many of us the past year has held both joy and sorrow, as we remember the challenges we have faced as our young Grove struggled to maturity. We remember those of our tribe that are no longer among our number.

Tonight one among our number is remembered for a most precious contribution.

A Druid will come forward and make a special thank at this time.

As our Ancestors once did, we too will make dark our sacred fire. As we extinguish the flames we place our trust in the Kindred of Land, Sea and Sky.

The Fire is extinguished with sand at this time.

The only protection that now lies between us and the endless winter is our fire that lies in the South. We will give honor, as did the Ancients to the Dark One, the guardian of death and rebirth, whose hospitality has been shared with the Mighty Dead. To our Ancestors the apple was the symbol of life, death and rebirth and so we offer these to you Great and Mighty Donn.

Apples are offered at the Southern Fire.

Good folk! Turn now your attention to the Shrine of the Ancestors. Behold! The Mighty Dead approach. It is good and proper that we make them welcome.

We commune with and give honor to the Mighty Dead, who have traveled far to be with us this eve.

We commune with and give honor to both Ancestors of blood and Ancestors of spirit.

We commune with and give honor to those friends and family, who have passed from this world to the next, during this past year.

Now good folk, welcome home the Mighty Dead. You may now approach the Shrine and spend a few moments communing with and giving honor to those who have returned to be with us this eve.

All are given time to approach and commune with the Mighty Dead. The Druid enacting the role of the Morrigan will leave the Nemeton through the Northern entrance at this time.

Turn now your eyes to the Dagda, the Great Good God, as he prepares for a night of passion with the Morrigan, the Dark Battle Goddess.

The Druid enacting the role of the Dagda joins the Morrigan outside the Nemeton.

On this eve of Samhain, the Tuatha prepare for battle. The Fomorians, their enemy, prepares to attack, but where and when remains a mystery.

On this eve of Samhain, the Dagda has been enchanted of the Morrigan. On this evening of Samhain the Dagda has taken the Morrigan. The secrets shared this eve have ensured the survival of the tribe. This union has ensured not only victory in the battle to come, but it has also ensured the promise of Spring renewal.

The Druids enacting the Dagda and the Morrigan return to the edge of the Nemeton.

Behold the couple returns! As the Morrigan prepares the wood, the Dagda brings forth the flame to give life to the Need Fire.

The Druid enacting the Morrigan lays the wood on the fire and the Druid enacting the Dagda kindles the fire with a brand from the Southern fire. If the fire does not burn additional offerings of a dark red wine are made. Then another attempt to light the fire will be made.

Once the fire is burning.

We now give thanks to both the Morrigan and the Dagda for this gift of life during this time of death. All who wish to be purified and all who wish to make sacrifice to the new years fire; as well as those who offer praise to the Kindred are invited to do so at this time.

Participants are given an opportunity to make offering to the new year fire.

(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) Great Phantom Queen of the Irish Celts, hallow these waters of life.

(Sacrificer) Great Good God, 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.

OATHS OF OFFICE - New officers will take oaths of office.

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 #1)

Great Morrigan, Mighty Phantom Queen of the Celts; Many are your guises. As both the Enchantress and hag upon the ford you attend to us. Oh Raven of Warrior's Dreams, we thank you this night for your strength and courage through the cycles of life. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Morrigan, we thank you!

(Druid #3)

Dagda, The Great Good God, All Father of the Tuatha; Excellent are your skills. Let us open our ears so we may hear the great harps call. May we have the courage to take of the cauldron of plenty as you share with us the secrets of rebirth. Oh Mighty Chieftain of Danu, we thank you this night for your love and guidance. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Dagda, we thank you!

(Druid #4) 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

Gods & Dead and Mighty Sidhe; The Gatekeeper Chant, The Portal Song; Pour the Waters

Ellen Klaver & Charlie Murphy for the chant

Blood of the Ancients

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.

***Whispering Lake Grove
Samhain Ritual
2004***

Ritual text written by

Members of the Whispering Lake Grove

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