



Whispering Lake
Proto-Grove, A.D.F.



Yule

Dec. 14, 2003



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

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

In song

Deck the Hall

(Traditional English carol; the tune is originally Welsh.)



Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la, la la la la!

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la la, la la la la!

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

Sing we joyous all together, Fa la la, la la la la la!

Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

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

Opening Blessings

Earth Mother & Sky Father

Azure cloaked wanderer and crystal jeweled protectress.
Father of Sky and Mother of Earth;
Through your sacred union springs forth all life.
We honor the Earth and Sky;
The Mother and Father of all that was, of all that is and all
that will be.
Your children come before you in love and respect and ask
that you uphold and bless our gathering.
Odin and Frigga, Mighty King and Queen of Asgard,
accept our sacrifice.

***An offering of wine 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

*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.*

(chant 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 Carrion and Raven Mann)

Bardic Inspiration

Deeds of the past made them legends.
Timeless heros; 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 night upon the Earth.
In celebration of the turning wheel.
Enjoying the warmth of our hearth's fire.
Remembering the promise of returning light.
While we welcome our friends about us.
We gather this night beneath the Sky.
In celebration of life, death and rebirth,
Enjoying the memories of those passing from this
world.
Remembering those who have walked before us.
While we welcome the Kindred among us.

We gather this night at the crossroads.
In celebration of the Feast of Yule.
Enjoying the company of friends and family.
Remembering the ways of old.
While we welcome the new year 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 clarified butter 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 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 the three 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.

Land, Sea & Sky Text by Ceisiwr Serith

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, 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.

Guide and ward our passage so that we all walk in safety
Heimdall, father of all humankind, we honor you with
sacrifice and love this night.

An offering of dark beer is made.

Heimdall, accept our sacrifice!

A Druid traces the hammer over the fire and well.

And Let the Gates Be Open!

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

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 Ones

Oh, Mighty Ones, whose wisdom guides us.
Hear us this night as we call forth your guidance.
Share with us your secrets and allow us to see;
For your knowledge is great.

Oh, Mighty Ones, we call for you to stand with us.
To open our eyes and our minds; that we may walk the
path of ancient wisdom.
Bringing ancient secret's back to our hearts and lives.

Mighty Ones we honor you with sacrifice and love.

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

All: Mighty Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Noble Spirits

Noble Spirits of the Nine Worlds.
Light elves of the woodland and of the stream.
Land whites, kobolds and hidden folk of the world about
us. May you look kindly upon us this night.

Dwarves, mighty miners and great craftsmen of the
forge. Dwellers from the depth of the Earth on which
we stand. May you lend us your strength and skill.

Animal kin, companions and friends of old,
Possessors of the warrior's spirit; the boar, bear and
wolf.

Noble spirits stand beside us this night as we welcome
you among us.

Noble Spirits, we honor you with sacrifice and love!

*An offering of homemade bread, beer and cream is placed in
the offering bowl.*

All: Noble Spirits, accept our sacrifice!

Shining Ones

Oh, Shining Ones, Aesir and Vanir,
Deities of magic and bounty.

Those known and unknown to us.
Warriors, spinners; champions all.

Gods of life, of death and of rebirth.
Keepers, protectors and guardians of the Nine Worlds.

We call to you from Midgard on this eve of Yule.
Hear us, most mighty ones as we ask for your guidance,
protection and wisdom.

We welcome you to our hearth this eve to share in our
celebration.

Shining Ones, we honor you with sacrifice and love.

An offering of clarified butter is placed into the fire.

All: Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

Let us now raise our voices in honor of the Kindred.

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood;
The holly bears the crown!

***Chorus:** O the rising of the sun and the running of the
deer; the singing of robin redbreast when Merry Yule
draws near.*

The ivy and the holly, when they are both full grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood;
The ivy bears the gown.

Chorus

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.*

Freyr

Rider of the favorable wind;
From the helm of your magical ship;
Welder of the magic sword.
Peace you bring king upon king.

Deep within the mountain halls;
Your chariot was forged.
Drawn by the mighty golden boar.
A symbol of protection for all against war.

Beauty of which you likewise hold.
Bringer of fertility and plenty.
Blood shall not spill upon your shrines.

Freyr, Lord of the Vanir, accept our sacrifice!

All: Freyr, accept our sacrifice!

An offering Golden Copal is made.

Freyr, accept our sacrifice!

All: Freyr, accept our sacrifice!

Freya

Rider of the cat drawn chariot;
High over the battle field you soar.
Conflicts you bring king upon king.
First chooser of the slain.

Forged deep within the mountain hall.
Jeweled necklace gleaming from your breast.
Beauty of which you likewise hold.
Mighty Queen of the Valkyries.

Bringer of fertility and sexuality.
Welder of feminine beauty.

Freya, Lady of the Vanir, accept our sacrifice!

An offering of quartz crystal is made.

All: Freya, accept our sacrifice!

Thor

Rider of the giant goat-drawn chariot.
Hooves thundering through cloud filled skies.
Friend and companion of all humankind;
Is the Red-bearded storm bringer.

With its mighty strike; lightning hits the Earth.
Welder of the hammer, Mjollnir.
Greatest enemy of all Frost Giants;
Is the defender of Asgard.

Bringer of law and order.
A warrior of superior strength.

Thor, Champion of Asgard, accept our sacrifice!

An offering beer and porridge is made.

All: Thor, accept our sacrifice!

Seasonal Enactment

Following the Sumball, 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.

Join us now for a Norse Sumball to make our oaths and toasts to our Deities, Ancestors and others.

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. Great Freyr and Freya and Mighty Thor 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.

As we receive the blessing of the Shining Ones let us raise our voices in song.

All in Song

Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green,
Here we go a-wandering, so fair to be seen!
Love and joy come to you, and to you good wassail, too,
All Gods bless you and send you a happy New Year,
All Gods send you a happy New Year!

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.

Mighty Thor, Defender of Asgard. We thank you for your friendship and guidance this night. 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!

Freya, Queen of the Valkyries; Lady of the Vanir. We thank you for your gifts of beauty and fertility. May we all learn from you the lessons of self-worth. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Freya, we thank you!

Freyr, Lord of the Vanir. We thank you this night for your blessings of peace and plenty. May we all learn from you lessons of love. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Freyr, we thank you!

Oh, Great Shining Ones, Aesir and Vanir. We thank you for your guidance and protection this night. We thank you for the blessings we have received that we shall carry with us from this hearth into the New Year. Shining Ones we honor you. 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!

Oh, Mighty Ones, whose wisdom has guided us. We thank you for standing with us this night. We thank you for sharing your secrets and knowledge so that we may bring what was lost to life. We thank you for inspiring us and opening our eyes to see the path we walk.

Mighty Ones, we honor you. 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!

Odin and Frigga, Sky Father and Earth Mother; Azure cloaked wanderer and crystal jeweled protectress, Mighty king and queen of Asgard, 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!

Oh 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 Honor 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.

As participants leave the grove the following song will be sung until all participants have exited.

*Gods bless you, merry Heathen folk
With luck & health & weal!
Remember all your forebears dear
With horns of Yuletide ale!
Call out your boast, lay orlay bright
That well the Norns may deal!
For our Gods now have called to us--have called, heart
to heart,
For our Gods have spoken deep within our souls.*

*Bright Yggdrasill, the Yuletide Tree
Roots deep within the Well,*

*The World Tree arches overhead,
Its age no one can tell.
The ancients whisper in our ears:
We dream beneath their spell--
For our Gods now have called to us--have called, heart
to heart,
For our Gods have spoken deep within our souls.*

*Between time past and time to come
A shining bridge is spun
Of lore and love and faithfulness,
All that our deeds have won.
Roll up your sleeve, reach out your hand:
Our work is just begun--
For our Gods now have called to us--have called, heart
to heart,
For our Gods have spoken deep within our souls.*

*Glad Yuletide now we bid you all
With horns of flowing mead!
Bright Yuletide feast in Heathen halls
Shall make us glad indeed!
With frith and faith and wisdom's deeds
We plant the glowing seed--
For our Gods now have called to us--have called, heart
to heart,
For our Gods have spoken deep within our souls.*

Special Thanks To:

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

Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants

The Gatekeeper Chant, The Portal Song

The unknown authors of the chants

Gods Bless You Merry Heathen Folk

The Wassailing Song

Deck the Halls

Ceisiwr Serith for the text for recreating the cosmos.



***Whispering Lake Proto-Grove
Yule Ritual
2003***

*Ritual text written by
Whisper Lake Proto-Grove members
organized for Yule
by
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