



Whispering Lake Grove A.D.F.



Yule

December 19, 2004



Grove Attunement

(Sacrificer) 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 4 count)** As you breathe, begin to slow your busy thoughts. **(pause for a 4 count)**

(Bard) Feel the chill in the winter air. See the gentle breeze as it carries each snowflake from the Sky to the Earth **(pause for a 2 count)**. See this gentle breeze as it carries away your worries and troubles of this world. **(pause for a 4 count)**

(Sacrificer) Feel your feet firmly resting upon the Earth. Imagine that from your feet roots begin to grow. **(pause)** See your roots as they break through the icy ground. **(pause for a 4 count)**

(Bard) Feel your roots as they reach the swift current of primal waters. **(pause)** With each breath, draw the icy current up through your roots and into your body. **(pause for a 4 count)** Feel this ancient energy as it restores you and lends strength to your being. **(pause for a 4 count)**

(Bard) Turning your attention Skyward, extending your arms high into the sky above. **(pause)** Feel your arms begin to lengthen like the branches of the mighty ash. See your branches reaching the depths of the cosmos. **(pause for a 4 count)** Feel the primal power of the Sun; of the Moon and of the Stars.

(Sacrificer) A flash of electric energy rushes toward your out stretched limbs. Feel this electric power of the Sky as it shoots down your arms, illuminates your mind and mingles with the Earth energy throughout your body. **(pause for a 4 count)**

(Bard) Feel the power of Earth and Sky as the energies merge within you. Feel the strength and balance this power brings to you. **(pause)**

(Sacrificer) Opening your eyes, see all who have joined together this night as one tribe and one people.**(pause)** Feel the harmony that surrounds you as we begin our worship between the Earth and Sky.

Procession

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

In song

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

Repeat until all participants have entered the Nemeton and have been censed by Druid 1 and asperged by Druid 2.

Once all participants have been purified, 3 hammer strikes will announce the beginning of the ritual with the following words.

(Druid #3)

(Hammer strike) Urd record the passing of our work!

(Hammer strike) Verdandi watch over our work as it occurs!

(Hammer strike) Skuld bless the work we have yet to complete!

Opening Blessings

Earth Mother (Druid #1)

Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth
First and Eldest of the Van
You cradle the World Tree in your loving embrace
Ancient Mother of Midgard

Cloaked in green and brown
Adorned with amber bright
You sow fertility in the fields and folk
We call forth your cattle drawn carriage from its Sacred Grove

May our weapons be sheathed
May our thoughts be of peace
May our fields yield plenty

(Sacrificer) *Jet is sacrificed to the Earth Mother.*

Nerthus, Ancient Earth Mother, accept our sacrifice!

All: Nerthus, All Hail and Welcome!

Sky Father (Druid #2)



Mighty Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky
Boldest and most courageous of the Aesir
You make fertile the Earth with your seed
Bright Father of Midgard

Primal power to sway victory in battle
Bringer of order and binder of chaos
You sacrifice yourself for the folk
We call forth your might and ancient wisdom

May we show courage in our battles
May we seek to do right by our kith and kin
May we learn the meaning of true sacrifice through your guidance.

(Sacrificer) *Clarified butter is sacrificed to the Sky Father.*

Tyr, Ancient Sky Father, accept our sacrifice!

All: Tyr, All Hail and Welcome!

Divine Inspiration (Bard)

You traveled afar to Gunnlod's court
The blood of Kvasir (Kvah-seer) your quest

A giant, a snake and three sips of the brew
And the treasure of Suttung (Soot-ung) was yours.

You cunningly took back what was stolen by force
And to Asgard on eagles wings flew

Returning to the Gods, a most precious gift

That is shared with the folk at your will.

Mighty All-father of the Aesir
Winner, keeper and giver of the Mead of Poetry
Pour down your mead upon us this night
That our songs and praise may echo through the worlds.

(Sacrificer) *Honey is sacrificed into the offering bowl.*

Odinn, One-Eyed Wanderer, accept our sacrifice!

All: Odin, All Hail and Welcome!

(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)

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 (Druid #1)

Kindled of the hearth fire

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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 as a way to the Shining Ones.

(Sacrificer) *Incense is sacrificed upon 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 as a path to the Mighty Ones.

(Sacrificer) *Silver is sacrificed into the well.*

To the bile (Druid #3)

Mighty ash of the ancient grove
Roots burying deep within the Underworld

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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.

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 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.
(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, 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 (Druid #4)

Heimdall, Son of the Nine Waves; Father of Mankind
It is your might and magic that wards the threshold.

White Lord of the Crossroads; Sounder of Gjallarhorn
It is your warning that all will hear before Ragnarok.

Mighty Watchman of the Gods, this night we ask for your
protection and guidance as we travel between Midgard and
Asgard.

(Sacrificer) *A sacrifice of ale is made .*

Heimdall, Great Guardian of Bifrost, accept our sacrifice!

All: Heimdall, All Hail and Welcome!

Heimdall, 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.

Striking the hammer sign over the fire

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

Striking the hammer sign 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, bridge between Earth & Sky, be open to us.

All: Let the Gates Be Open!

(Bard) Let us now sing our praise to Heimdall.

All in song

Gatekeeper open the portals,

Between the Gods and mortals,

Power freely flows, as our magic grows!

Repeat chant three times

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Kindred Offerings

Landvettir/ Noble Spirits (Druid #1)

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 the Feast of Yule!
Hear us, Spirits both great and small, for we are in need of
your company!

(Sacrificer) *A portion of seeds and cream are sacrificed.*

Landvettir, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

All: Landvettir, All Hail and Welcome!

Alfar and Disir/ 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 the Feast of Yule!
Hear us, Teachers and Guides, for we are in need of your
wisdom!

(Sacrificer) *A dark beer and bread is sacrificed.*

Alfar and Disir, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

All: Alfar and Disir, All Hail and Welcome!

The Aesir/ Shining Ones (Druid #3)

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 Yule!

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

(Sacrificer) *Clarified butter is sacrificed into the fire.*

Aesir, known and unknown, accept our sacrifice!

All: Aesir, All Hail and Welcome!

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

Hail all the Gods!

Hail all the Goddesses!

Hail all the Holy Ones!

We dwell together!

Repeat chant 3 times

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 (Druid #1)

All Hail, Champion of Asgard!

For it is your strength that brings order from chaos.

All Hail, Greatest Enemy of the Frost Giants!

For it is your might that defends all life.

All Hail, Wielder of Great Mjollner!

For it is your strike that wards this place!

All Hail, Ruddy Son of Earth & Sky!

For it is your companionship we seek through the long dark.

All Hail, Mighty Thor!

We honor you this eve.

(Sacrificer) *Dark beer and porridge are sacrificed.*

Thor, Defender of the Folk, accept our sacrifice!

All: Thor, All Hail and Welcome!

Skadi (Skathi) (Druid #3)

All Hail, Dark Goddess of the North!

For it is you that protects all that lay sleeping beneath the ice

and snow.

All Hail, Beautiful Daughter of Frost!

For it is your song we hear upon the winter winds.

All Hail, Icy Maiden of the Mountains!

For you ward the bonds of blood and troth.

All Hail, Snowshoed Huntress!

For it is your bright tracks upon the snow we follow through
the longest night!

All Hail, Skadi !

We honor you this eve.

(Sacrificer) *Terminated Quarts Crystals are sacrificed.*

Skadi, Queen of Winter, accept our sacrifice!

All: Skadi, All Hail and Welcome!

Seasonal Enactment (Druid #4)

“A Norse Sumbal”

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

Following the Sumbal, 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.

Sacrifice and Omen (Sacrificer)

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.

(Sacrificer) *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!

(Sacrificer) *The final sacrifice is made.*

Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

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.

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

(Druid #2)

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 #2) 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. **(pause)** 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. **(pause for 2 count)**

(Druid #2) 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. **(pause)** 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. **(pause)** 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. **(pause for 2 count)**

(Druid #2) 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. **(pause)** 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. **(pause for 2 count)**.

(Sacrificer) (Druid #4)

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.

(Sacrificer)

From the Noble Spirits _____.

From the Mighty Ones _____.

From the Shining Ones _____.

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

The Blessing (Sacrificer) & (Druid #4)

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

The following words will be spoken over the cups.

(Druid #4) 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 #4) 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 #4) 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 #4) 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 #4) Shining Ones hear and bless us.

(Sacrificer) Mighty Thor, Wielder of Great Mjollner, hallow these waters of life.

(Sacrificer) Skadi, Dark Goddess of Winter, hallow these waters of life.

The cups are lifted before the participants.

(Druid #4) 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 #4) Now Good folk, drink deep; the blessings of the Shining Ones.

Blessing cups are passed and all participants share the waters. As the cups are passed the following song is sung

by all participants.

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

All in Song

Pour the waters, raise the cup, drink your share of wisdom deep, strength and love now fill us up as the elder ways we keep.

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Repeat until the cups have been passed to all participants.

Thanksgiving and Closing

(Druid #4) 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) Mighty Thor, Defender of Asgard. We thank you for your friendship and guidance this night. May your hammer continue to protect 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!

(Druid #3) Beautiful Skadi, Snowshoed Huntress of the frozen land. We thank you for your protection and guidance. May you continue to light our path through the long dark. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Skadi, we thank you!

(Druid #3) Aesir, 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: Aesir, we thank you!

(Druid #2) Alfar and Disir, 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: Alfar and Disir, we thank you!

(Druid #1) Landvettir, Noble Spirits of land, sea and sky. Companions who aid and guide us in our journey. Landvettir, 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: Landvettir, we thank you!

(Bard) Odin, Winner, Keeper and Giver of the Mead of Poetry, may you continue to pour down your divine treasure upon us. Great One-Eyed Wanderer, 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: Odin, we thank you!

(Druid #2) Mighty Tyr, Ancient Mystery of the Sky, may you continue to show us the way to courage and right. Bright Father of the Aesir, we thank you for your sacrifice. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Tyr, we thank you!

(Druid #1) Nerthus, Primal Mother of Earth, may you continue to grant us peace and plenty. Ancient Mother, we thank you for all life. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Nerthus, we thank you!

(Druid #4) Heimdall, Mighty Watchman of the Gods; we thank you for your protection and guidance this night. We now ask that you close the gates, warding the way between Midgard and Asgard once more. May there be peace between us until we meet once again by the hearth's fire.

All: Heimdall, we thank you!

Heimdall, Great Guardian of Bifrost, 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 will be burnt in the fire or scattered upon the Earth.

Grove Attunement (Grounding & Centering)

(Bard) Good folk, join me as we once again close our eyes; breathing deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth; **(pause)**.

(Sacrificer) As the mighty ash 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)**

(Bard) Feel the oneness and reflect upon the journey we have taken together. **(pause)**

(Sacrificer) Remember the voices of the Noble Spirit and the friendship and knowledge that they have shared with you.

(Bard) Remember the ancient wisdom of the Mighty Dead and the knowledge and life's blood that they have offered. **(pause)**

(Sacrificer) Remember the blessings of the Shining Ones. The guidance and wisdom they have offered to all who have assembled here this night. **(pause)**

(Bard) Once more feel your roots reaching the depths of the Earth and your branches reaching the heavens. Feel the strength and energy of Earth and Sky flowing throughout your being. **(pause)**

(Sacrificer) Feel this strength and energy as it mingles within you. See this energy as it begin to pool in your heart. **(pause)**

(Bard) Let us join this energy as one and send it forth from our beings into the Great Lake. **(pause)**

(Sacrificer) See this energy heal and protect her as we conclude our worship.

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.

(Bard) 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.

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!

Special Thanks To:

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

Stone Creed Grove, ADF for the chants

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The unknown authors of the chants

The Wassailing Song

The Holly and the Ivy

Whispering Lake Grove

Yule Ritual

2004

Ritual text written by

Members of the Whispering Lake Grove

