

Cleansing (*At the head of the trail, choose an herb you are drawn to and grab a handful, put in the cauldron.*)

Calling the Directions

- EAST:** Wind of midsummer sirocco, midsummer mantle of life, breath of the midsummer twilight—your clarity holds me, guides and enfolds me. Welcome, Spirit of Air, to our rite. So mote it be.
- SOUTH:** Flames of the midsummer bonfire, heat of the midsummer sun, hearth of the midsummer starlight—your purity holds me, guides and enfolds me. Welcome, Spirit of Fire, to our rite. So mote it be.
- WEST:** Cascading midsummer rivers, powerful midsummer tides, wellspring of midsummer delights—your empathy holds me, guides and enfolds me. Welcome, Spirit of Water, to our rite. So mote it be.
- NORTH:** Towering midsummer mountains, fertile the midsummer field, unyielding midsummer earth—your stability holds me, guides and enfolds me. Welcome, Spirit of Earth, to our rite. So mote it be.
- ALL:** Spirit within me, rouse midsummer mysteries, awaken midsummer magic. Guide me, hold me, teach me, enfold me—my hand in yours. So mote it be.

~from Moonchild

Casting (All) We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / Spinners and weavers, Tool makers, potters; / As dancers and dreamers, / Fixers, changers, / Singers and screamers. / We cast this circle with our ancestors and guardians, / God and Goddess too, / You who teach and who speak true, / Who plant, who reap, / Who soar, who creep, / Who cook, who drum, / Who have been and yet to come, / Unreasonable women, / Unmanageable men. / We cast as pagan, druid and witches, / Loving hearts or furious bitches. / We are sweet water, we are the seed; / We are the storm wind to blow away greed. Into this circle we bring to birth / the love that reclaims our earth.

Covenant (All) As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

Invoking the God: (All) From this Grove, Your children call thee. Your antlers ride the sky, Horned One, and carry with them the legacy of Kingship. Come to our side, Lord of the Forests, bring Your strength and stability that are the mountains rising high. Bring Your joy and ecstasy, that we might know Your nature. Come to this dance and be with us tonight!

Invoking the Goddess: (All) Your moon a magic mirror hangs in space. Every month your three-fold image shines. Mistress of magic, Ruler of tides seen and unseen, Spinner of the threads of fate, O Ancient One upon whose shoulders Nature is exalted, vast and shadowed, Your power we invoke to aid us here!

Rededication

Water/West: Green Earth Mother—bless this water, we do ask. Great One of the Stars and Spinner of Fates, we do honor You and call upon You in many names—some ancient, some unknown.

Fire/South: Mighty Sun, God of Fertility and Plenty, we ask your blessing. We give You honor and call upon You in many names—some ancient, some unknown.

(All take turns dipping finger into the water and blessing forehead and heart; then all will read the blessing.)

We will serve and revere the Great God and Goddess.
We are pagans, heathens, witches and seekers;
stones of the ancient circle;
standing firmly balanced on the earth,
yet open to the winds of the heavens.
and enduring through time.
May the Old Ones witness our words—so mote it be!

We Have Come To Be Danced!

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the pretty dance
- not the pretty, pretty, pick me, pick me dance
- but the claw-our-way-back-into-the-belly-of-the-sacred-sensual-animal dance
- the unhinged, unplugged, cat-is-out-of-its-box dance
- the holding-the-precious-moment-in-the-palms-of-our-hands-and-feet dance

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the jiffy booby, shake-your-booty-for-him dance
- but the wring-the-sadness-from-our-skin dance

- the blow-the-chip-off-our-shoulder dance
- the slap-the-apology-from-our-posture dance

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the monkey-see, monkey-do dance
- one, two, dance-like-you
- one, two, three, dance-like-me dance
- but the grave robber, tomb stalker, tearing-scabs-and-scars-open dance
- the rub-the-rhythm-raw-against-our-soul dance.

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the nice, invisible, self-conscious shuffle
- but the matted-hair-flying, voodoo mama, shaman-shakin'-ancient-bones dance
- the strip-us-from-our-casings, return-our-wings-sharpen-our-claws-and-tongues dance
- the shed-dead-cells-and-slip-into-the-luminous-skin-of-love dance.

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the hold-our-breath-and-wallow-in-the-shallow-end-of-the-floor dance
- but the meeting-of-the-trinity, the body-breath-and-beat dance
- the shout-hallelujah-from-the-top-of-our-thighs dance
- the mother-may-I? Yes, you-may-take-10-giant-leaps dance
- the olly, olly oxen-free, free, free! dance
- the everyone-can-come-to-our-heaven dance.

All – We have come to be danced!

- where the kingdom's collide in the cathedral of the flesh
- to turn back into the light
- to unravel, to play, to fly, to pray
- to root in skin sanctuary.

All – We have come to be danced! We have come!

--by Jewel Mathieson

Spiral Dance!

Chant:

“Midsummer King of wisdom and might /
the power of summer and life at its height.”

Communion

Faery Blessing

EAST: It's never a good idea to neglect the faeries!

SOUTH: We must give them their due for protecting our woods.

WEST: So we have this bowl of “pretties” to offer as gifts of gratitude.

NORTH: After we bless these stones, come and get one and put it somewhere in the woods for the faeries to find.

EAST: Distribute them all over the woods, to your favorite place or where you think the faeries' might gather.

ALL: Fey and Fairy-folk alike, / Leprechauns and Flitting Sprite,
We pay honor now to Thee, / Upon You, may all blessings be.

Thanking the God: Horned One, Lover of the Goddess! You have consented to join us tonight and we thank You for that favor. Stay with us in our hearts, let us always feel the pull of Your wild forests even though we be in the midst of the city. Go if You must, stay if you will. Blessed be!

Thanking the Goddess: All praise the Lady by saying: Blessed be the name of the Maiden, blessed be the name of the Mother, blessed be the name of the Crone. Thank You for Your favor tonight. Go if You must, stay if You will. Blessed be!

Thanking the Directions

NORTH: Earth, midsummer stones of stability, our thanks for attending this rite. Hail and farewell, blessed be!

WEST: Water, midsummer tides of empathy, our thanks for attending this rite. Hail and farewell, blessed be!

SOUTH: Fire, midsummer flames of purity, our thanks for attending this rite. Hail and farewell, blessed be!

EAST: Air, midsummer winds of clarity, our thanks for attending this rite. Hail and farewell, blessed be!

ALL: The circle is open, yet remains; around us flows its magical power. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!