

Samhain '04

OPENING:

By the power of star and stone, by the power of the land within and without, by all that is Fair and Free--let us welcome each other to this rite of Samhain.

We have come from West and East, North and South to be here together today.

Join hands. Let us take three breaths--
Together with the Earth beneath us...
together with the Sky above us...
together with the Sea around us.

With the blessings of Earth, Sea and Sky--may our ceremony begin!

CALLING:

W - With the blessing of the salmon of wisdom who dwells within the sacred waters of the pool, we call upon the powers of the West. *(Blessed be.)*

N - With the blessing of the great bear of the starry heavens and the deep, fruitful earth, we call upon the powers of the North. *(Blessed be.)*

E - With the blessing of the hawk of dawn soaring in the clear, pure air, we call upon the powers of the East. *(Blessed be.)*

S - With the blessing of the great stag in the heat of the chase, and the inner fire of the sun, we call upon the powers of the South. *(Blessed be.)*

CASTING:

These woods are dark, this path is shadowed. Walk with me, Lord and Lady. Hunter of the Forests, stand at my back. Star-eyed Protectress, fold your wings around me. Hold me fast, I pray; and banish all fear. With harm to none, so mote it be.

COVENANT: [*all together*] As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed, and we are connected in spirit.

INVOCATION:

The circle is cast, we stand together in the eye of the sun, by the light of the stars, here and now, between past and future. The earth below us, the heavens above us, the circle around us. This is sacred time, this is sacred space.

[all together]

Grant, O God and Goddess, thy protection,
and in protection, strength,
and in strength, understanding
and in understanding, knowledge,
and in knowledge, the knowledge of justice
in this knowledge of justice, the love of it,
and in the love of it, the love of all existences,
and in the love of all existences,
the love of God and Goddess, and all goodness.

THE GODDESS:

I light three candles for the Triple Goddess: white for the Glorious Maiden, who is youth and new beginnings, dawn and the planted seed. Red for the Great Mother, who is magic and plenty, love and knowledge. Black for the Dark Crone, who is wise night, death and rebirth. We welcome the Goddess in all of her aspects.

THE GOD:

I light three candles for the Triple God: yellow for the Bright Sun King, who is success and plenty. Green for the Horned God of the Woodlands, who is fertility and growth. Black for the Dark Lord of the Underworld, who is protection and rest. We welcome the God in all of his aspects.

I invite all of you up to the altar to place your photos and remembrances; after you have done that, please drop a pinch of incense in the cauldron. Now is the time when we invite our ancestors to join us on this night when the veil between the worlds is so thin.

INVOKE THE ANCESTORS:

O Ancestors, known and unknown, ancestors of our bodies and spirits, all those who have given form to our lives, who have made us what and who we are--body and soul. Mothers, Fathers, Teachers, Guides, Healers! Showers of the way to go...and the way not to go! All you whose Fire is in us, whose Water is in us, whose Air is in us, whose Earth is in us! All you whose Spirit is in us! On this night of Samhain, we feel you near. At this time of no time, we call to you.

Come, dear Spirits! We welcome all of you who come in love and friendship, who share our quest for the truth; and even as you move amongst us, we shall remember those of the departed who are most dear to us.

Let any who so choose, step forward and speak the names of those they wish to remember, that they be honoured in our circle tonight.

O dear Spirits, you who were our predecessors, our friends, our guides, come to the help

of those who are striving strenuously upon the path; guide them upon their quest for the light, support them in their times of difficulty. We greet you as brothers and sisters during your brief transit across our world.

RESOLUTIONS: To make a resolution, or to leave old business behind you, entering the new year with a clean slate--toss your paper into the fire and say, "I burn the old and face the new."

COMMUNION:

Beloved spirits, we welcome you to share this simple feast with us. [*After the sharing of the 'feast,' make sure there's a bit of wine/mead/juice left over to pour into the fire and a good-sized morsel of cake or whatever. Take the incense from the cauldron and toss it onto the fire with the food and drink, saying:*] May the fire release the spiritual essence of these offerings, that you, our beloved Ancestors, may partake of this feast in our company.

PRAISE FOR THE ANCESTORS:

[*all together*]

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.
In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live,
For they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

We reluctantly release the spirits we have called here, should they choose to go. Stay if you will, go if you must. Take with you our love, our gratitude, our wishes for peace.

THANKS TO GOD AND GODDESS:

[*all together*]

We give thanks, Lord and Lady, for Your presence here and your continued blessings.
We give thanks for the Earth, Air, Fire and Water all around who are also a part of us.
Walk with us, Lord and Lady, abide in our steps, now and always.
Blessed Be.

DISMISSING:

W - In the name of the salmon of wisdom and the element of water, we thank the powers of the West. (*Blessed be.*)

N - In the name of the great bear of the starry heavens and of the element of earth, we thank the powers of the North. (*Blessed be.*)

E - In the name of the hawk of dawn and of the element of air, we thank the powers of East. (*Blessed be.*)

S - In the name of the great stag and of the element of fire, we thank the powers of South. (*Blessed be.*)

The circle is open, but unbroken.

Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!