

Meditation and Dumb Supper

Procession to the Circle

Opening: Samhain is here and darkness falls. Samhain is traditionally a time of divination, a time of communicating with the dead, absent friends or the deepest part of ourselves. Our own spirits come back to haunt us in this season. Samhain is a water sabbat, a still and motionless one. We can glance into its mirrored surface and see the mysteries that lie beyond this life. At Samhain, the old year slips away. Take one last breath, close your eyes. When you open them again, we will be in another time, another place, in another life.

Smudging at the Veil

Directions

- SOUTH:** From the South I call the Fire. Charge forth, oh Flames! Bring us passion and enthusiasm. Warm our spirits with your energy and vitality. Charge us with the courage to turn the Wheel. Guardians of the South, we seek your presence here. Come, South, be here this night. Blessed be.
- EAST:** From the East I call the Air. Blow forth, oh Winds! Come quickly with refreshing breezes to clear our thoughts. Carry our spirits aloft with new understanding of your Winds of change as the Wheel must turn. Guardians of the East, we seek your presence here. Come, East, be here this night. Blessed be.
- NORTH:** From the North, I call the Earth. Come forth, oh stable ground! Guide us in defining our limitations, then help us see beyond them. Lead us into Spring's rebirth, turning the Wheel as easily as you turn daily. Guardians of the North, we seek your presence here. Come, North, be here this night. Blessed be.
- WEST:** From the West I call the Water. Flow forth, oh Waves! Tides of emotions that ebb and flow with the Moon, let us look into your depths and learn your secrets as we turn with the Wheel. Guardians of the West, we seek your presence here. Come, West, be here this night. Blessed be.

Casting: We now do conjure this to be a circle of protection, of power and truth and love. Be it a sacred space between the visible and invisible worlds where we may fearlessly look upon the faces of God and Goddess, seeing in them a reflection of our own eternal light. From Earth, we watch the Sun pass around us in his yearly cycle, in his phases of relationship with the Mother. We merge with our Lord and Lady in perfect love and perfect trust. As we will it, 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;
And 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,
Grant the love of God, Goddess and all goodness.

THE GODDESS:

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

[All together] We welcome the Goddess in all of her aspects.

THE GOD:

We light three candles for the Triple God: yellow for the Bright Sun King, who is success and plenty. Green is for the Horned God of the Woodlands, who is fertility and growth. Black is for the Dark Lord of the Underworld—Consort of the Crone, who is protection and rest.

[All together] We welcome the God in all of his aspects.

Invoking the Ancestors:

S: Hands clasp in the sultry dark; voices murmur, heartbeat-close; embracing each other as we embrace ourselves and all our ancestors.

E: In community I remember them most, feeling their ghostly presence beside me. In my hands I remember them most, familiar flesh calling kindred spirits home.

N: I can feel their hands over mine, a fine line reaching back to the foremost days. The bread dough turns silky and resilient under our hands. My grandmothers kneaded just such dough with just such motions in the long and long ago.

W: I can feel their hands over mine, work-roughened and strong, a memory of love's labor: the dark Earth gives forth the harvest in Autumn. My grandfathers sowed and reaped just such crops with just such motions in the yawning morning of the world.

S: The hands of my Ancestors overlay my own in these familiar rhythms, in the rocking of cradles and the fetching of firewood; in the stitching of quilts and the stalking of game, in the slow and patient shaping of clay.

E: They live on in me, as I shall live on with them in our descendents...

N: Little hands to carry on what others have begun.

W: With just such motions our Ancestors made the world for us.

S: With just such motions we make the world anew for our own children.

E: With just such motions I honor those who have gone before.

N: Setting aside a portion of the feast for their pleasure.

W: Feeling the hands of our Ancestors all the while.

Blessing the Bones:

Bones! You are to represent the wisdom of our Ancestors. We do now charge you to be guides for us in the coming year. Hold you the experience of our beloved dead. As we will it, so mote it be!

Resolutions: To make a resolution, or to leave old business behind you, entering the New Year with a clean slate—write your resolution on a slip of paper and toss it into the fire saying, "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 juice left over to pour into the fire and a good-sized s'more. Take any incense from the censer & toss it onto the fire with the food and drink, saying:]

May the fire release the spiritual essence of these offerings, so that you, our beloved Ancestors, may partake of this feast in our company. Bless our offerings, both Lady and Lord.

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.

Every beginning has an ending, and every ending is a new beginning. In life is death and in death is life. Watch over us, our loved ones, and all of my brothers and sisters, here and departed, who are joined together tonight again in fellowship and joy. Bless us all as we light our hearth fires, and the eternal fires in our hearts.

[All together]

Protect and guide us tonight and throughout the coming year. We reluctantly release your spirits, should you 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 & Goddess:

S: As the New Year is born, we are all reborn with new hopes and dreams.

E: Guide us in the future as in the past.

N: Give us strength, courage and knowledge.

W: Assist us as we try to fulfill our goals.

[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.

Thanking:

SOUTH: Guardians of the South, spirits of Fire, thank you for your blessings. Hail and Farewell!

EAST: Guardians of the East, spirits of Air, thank you for your blessings. Hail and Farewell!

NORTH: Guardians of the North, spirits of Earth, thank you for your blessings. Hail and Farewell!

WEST: Guardians of the West, spirits of Water, thank you for your blessings. Hail and Farewell!

The circle is open, but unbroken. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!