

Autumnal Equinox - 2013

Dale Frampton

9/16/13

1 Offerings

This section describes the offerings made to the various hallows, the Kindred and the attendees of the rite.

- Guardian/Thor: Mead (if available), else beer
- Nerthus: Milk
- Fire: Incense (Juniper)
- Well: Silver the well
- Tree: Water from the well
- Heimdall: Mead (if available), else beer
- Toast to the Kindred: Hard Cider
- Landvaettir: Incense (sage from garden, if available)
- Ancestors: Bread
- AEsir/Vanir: Cheese
- Freyr: Pork (boar) sausage
- Freyja: Apple
- Final Sacrifice: Brandy
- Waters of Life: Mead (if available), else hard cider

2 Initiating the Rite

{All}: Participants process in silence to the ritual location and circle around the fire and altar.

{Drummer}: When all participants are situated the drummer performs 9 heartbeats.

3 Outdwellers

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to Thor

Outdwellers, beware this day and do not trouble our rite, for amongst us is a mighty warrior of our gods.

Hail Thor! Weilder of Mjöltnir, enemy of the Midgard Serpant, vanquisher of giants, we ask you to guard our ritual. To hold at bay the Outdwellers; those who would disrupt our worship, those who act outside our best interests.

Thor, protector of Midgard, accept our sacrifice and aid us.

4 Purification

{Speaker}: Takes the bowl of holy water from the altar

Let this water cleanse us. Let it wash away our doubts, our worldly concerns and purify us so we may stand in the presence of the Shining Ones.

{Speaker}: Anoints the participants.

{Speaker}: Leads the group on a brief Two Powers meditation.

5 Honoring the Earth Mother

{Speaker}: Speaks then places offering in the fire

Oh Goddess Nerthus, we give praise and offerings to you on this day. We thank you for support in our lives and in our rituals. We are the children of your Earth. We remember and honor you.

Nerthus, we call to you and ask for your presence and support in our working today.

Goddess, accept our sacrifice!

6 Statement of Purpose

{Speaker}:

This evening we gather together as one people to worship the old gods, and to celebrate the changing of the seasons. We honor the God Freyr and the Goddess Freyja, who have gifted Midgard with their fertility. They have helped bring abundance into our world and our lives and now we give our praise and thanks to them.

The world is in a time of balance, but moving into the dark half of the year. Our ancestors would be harvesting and preserving their crops. They would be repairing their homesteads to stand against the trials of the winter. Much as our ancestors have done, we harvest our crops and preserve them. We prepare ourselves, and our homes for winter.

Like fall, like the spring, is a time for cleaning, A time to make space for our harvest. A time to clear out those things that won't aid us as the weather worsens.

As the world grows darker, remember to kindle the light within ourselves and our community.

7 Recreating the Cosmos

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

This fire is our connection to the heavens. I bless it and make it sacred!

{Sacrificer}: Gives offering to the fire

{Speaker}: Moves to the bowl

This water is transformed into the well. It is our connection to the underworlds. I bless it and make it sacred!

{Sacrificer}: Silvers the well

{Speaker}: Moves to the tree or bile

For us, this tree is Yggdrasil. It connects each of the nine worlds together. I bless it and make it sacred!

{Sacrificer}: Gives offering of water from the well to the tree

{Speaker}:

We are gathered here, in Midgard, at the base of Yggdrasil.

8 Opening the Gates

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to the gatekeeper

Hail Heimdall! Hear us! See us!

Guardian of Asgard accept our sacrifice and send the Bifrost to us. Hold the portal open so our worship and sacrifices may flow to The Kindred.

By your magic and ours, let the gates be opened!

{All}:

Let the gates be opened!

9 Inviting the Kindred

9.1 Inviting the Nature Spirits

{Speaker}: Fills horn with hard cider

{Speaker}:

Welcome landvaettir. You kindred of the earth, stones, plants, birds and beasts.
We remember you with honor.

{Speaker}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

We honor you

{Each Participant}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

We honor you!

{Sacrificer}: Speaks, then empties the horn onto the ground/in the fire

Landvaettir, accept our sacrifice!

9.2 Inviting the Ancestors

{Speaker}: Fills horn with hard cider

{Speaker}:

Welcome ancestors. You who are of our blood and bone, you who are of our
spirit and heart. We remember you with honor.

{Speaker}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

We honor you

{Each Participant}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

We honor you!

{Sacrificer}: Speaks, then empties the horn onto the ground/in the fire

Ancestors, accept our sacrifice!

9.3 Inviting the Gods

{Speaker}: Fills horn with hard cider

{Speaker}:

We reach out with our thoughts to the AEsir and Vanir and welcome you to our
ritual and fire. To the Shining Ones of this land, we welcome you to our ritual.
We are honored to be in your presence.

{Speaker}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

We honor you

{Each Participant}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

We honor you!

{Sacrificer}: Speaks, then empties the horn onto the ground/in the fire

Shining Ones, accept our sacrifice!

10 Key Offerings

{Speaker}:

Hail Freyr, riding on your golden chariot. Hail to you, the most loved of the AEsir and welcome to our worship.

Hail Freyja, riding in on your boar to join us. Hail to you, lady of spring and welcome to our worship.

It is through them that fertility has come to our land. Look around and see the fruits of the land that have ripened since they were sewn in the spring.

{Speaker}: Speaks then commits offerings to the fire

Freyr, Freyja, accept our sacrifices!

{Speaker}:

Like the gods bring fertility into the world, we bring that fertility into our lives.

Let us take a moment and reflect on the many blessings we have received over the past year, and give thanks to Freyr and Freyja.

{All}: observe a moment of silence

{Speaker}:

Now is the time for any of our worshipers to give praise offerings to The Kindred.

{All}: give praise offering, if desired

11 Prayer of Sacrifice

{Speaker}: Speaks then gives offering to the Kindred

Landvaetter, Ancestors, Shining Ones, Frayr and Frayja, accept our sacrifices

12 The Omen

{Speaker}: To the oracle

Oracle, what blessings do The Kindred offer us for this season?

{Oracle}: Draws and interprets The Omen

13 Calling for the Blessings

{Speaker}:

O kindred, we have honored you faithfully, and gifted you with food and drink.
We await your blessings.

Children of Midgard, the Kindred have heard your praise, and have accepted
your sacrifices. This half of the year shall not all be darkness, for you shall carry
their blessings with you.

14 Hallowing the Blessings

{Speaker}: Fills the horn then speaks.

By the landvaettir and the ancestors, by the AEsir and the Vanir, by the magic
of Freyja and the generosity of Feryr, hallowed are these waters.

Offerings we have given, and an offering we have been given in return.

Behold the Waters of Life!

15 Affirming the Blessings

{Speaker}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

I accept the blessings of the Kindred.

{Each Participant}: Speaks, drinks or pours a bit on the ground then passes horn

I accept the blessings of the Kindred.

{Speaker}: Speaks then pauses for a moment.

Let us reflect a moment on the blessings of the Kindred.

16 Workings

No planned workings

17 Thanking the Kindred

{Speaker}: Leads a meditation to ground and center.

{Speaker}:

We have given our worship and have been blessed this day by the Kindred. Our worlds may not always be as close, but our world reflects the heavens and the underworld. As we move about in the mundane world, remember that the blessings of the Kindred flow within you.

O Freyr and Freyja

{All}:

We thank you!

{Speaker}:

O AEsir and Vanir

{All}:

We thank you!

{Speaker}:

O ancestors

{All}:

We thank you!

{Speaker}:

O Landvaettir

{All}:

We thank you!

{Speaker}:

O Hemidal

{All}:

We thank you!

18 Closing the Gates

{Speaker}:

Hemidall, our worship draws to a close. By your magic and ours, let us end what we began.

Let the gates be closed!

{All}:

Let the gates be closed!

{Speaker}:

Let the well be water. Let the fire be flame.

The world has been restored.

19 Thanking the Earth Mother

{Speaker}:

Nerthus, we begin with you and end with you. Thank you for being with us at our ritual.

Let all that has not been offered, be offered unto you.

{Speaker}: *All unsacrificed offerings, not part of the ritual meal, are now given to Nerthus.*

{Speaker}: *Speaks, then empties the well onto the earth.*

From you came this water, and unto you this water shall return.

20 Closing the Rite

{Speaker}:

We have come together as one people to worship the Kindred as our ancestors did. May we part in peace, understanding and compassion until we next worship together.

This ritual is complete! Let us now Feast!

{All}: *Complete the ritual meal with the Kindred by eating the food that was first gifted to them.*

{Sacrificer}: *When all worshipers have completed eating, some of the remaining food can be distributed to the animals.*

End of Rite