

Samhain - 2015

Dale Frampton

October 27, 2015

1 Offerings

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

- Outdwellers (Lugh): Mead
- Danu: Steel-cut Oats
- Fire: Long stick of incense
- Well: Silver
- Tree: Water from the well
- Donn: Whiskey
- Sídh: Milk & honey
- Sinsearach: Bread
- Túath dé Dannan: Whiskey
- Sinsearach (Key Offerings): Everybody
- Final Sacrifice: Rosemary
- Waters of Life: Mead

2 Initiating the Rite (Wade)

**{Drummer}: Drum as participants circle around the area*

{Horn Blower}: After all have circled the area and the drum stops, blow horn 3 times, then speak

{Speaker}: Speaks after horn call

Once again we have gathered together as one people, to honor our Kindred and celebrate the changing of the seasons.

Around us the spirits of nature move, amongst us our ancestors gather and before us our gods stand tall.

At this time, in this place, we set aside all that we brought with us. We focus our thoughts and our actions on this moment while we commune with the Kindred.

3 Outdwellers (Nick)

{Speaker}:

Lugh, son of Ethniu and Cian; grandson of Balor and Dian Cecht, Lugh, fierce striker; sling thrower,

Lugh, vanquisher of the Fomorians; liberator of the Túath Dé Dannan

Lugh Lámhfhada, we make this offering to you.

Stand here with us, and ward us from the Fomorians and all others that would interfere with our work here tonight.

Lugh, accept our offering!

{Speaker}: Pours offering into the fire

4 Purification (TBD1 & TBD2)

{Speaker}: Walks around the circle playing the singing bowl, while speaking

Let the sound go through your body, your bones, and your being. Let it bring you into harmony with the world around you. As the water falls on to you let it cleanse away the cares of the world.

{Assistant}: Walking behind the speaker, asperge the attendees with a tree branch dipped in the well

5 Meditation (Dale)

Insert meditation here

6 Honoring the Earth Mother (Tonya)

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Danu! We make space at our fire for the goddess Danu.

Great goddess, Earth Mother, the bounty of our world comes from you.

You are the grass under our feet, and the sky above our heads.

You are the air we breath, and food we eat.

Your life is our life, and we honor you.

{Speaker}: Sprinkles corn meal on the Earth Mother altar, and speaks

Earth mother, accept this offering!

{All}:

Earth mother, accept this offering!

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

7 Statement of Purpose (Dale)

{Speaker}:

We are at the threshold of a new year, one that begins in darkness before ending in light. What stands before us is the season of dying, and decay, but also of renewal and strength. Were it not for this, new life would not spring from the soil, the nutrients would be bound into the old plants and the young would wither and die. Life flourishes when the old give back to the young; where each generation prepares the way for the next.

Samhain is a liminal time, it marks the transition from summer to winter. Liminal times like liminal places leaves the door to the otherworld slightly ajar; open enough for the spirits of our ancestors, for the sidhe and others to pass through unbidden.

We use this opportunity to honor our ancestors. They have passed through uncounted winters and we seek their guidance and support as the warmth and light leaves us.

8 Recreating the Cosmos (Chad)

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

Fire, with this incense let you be purified and transcend the limits of this world. You are now The Sacred Fire; our connection to the heavens and the gods.

{Speaker}: Offering is placed in the fire. Moves to the well

Cauldron of water, With this silver, let you be purified and transcend the limits of this world. You are now The Sacred Well; our connection to the underworld and our ancestors.

{Speaker}: Silver is placed in the well. Moves to the tree

Mighty tree, with this fire from The Sacred Fire, and water from The Sacred Well, you become The World Tree; that which connects and binds the three worlds together.

Like the tree is rooted in the land, so too do we stand firmly upon it.
Like the tree is encircled by the seas, so too are we encircled by them.
Like the tree dwells beneath the sky, so too do we live beneath it.

Once again we remember our place in the three realms, and await the coming forth of the kindred

9 Opening the Gates (Amanda)

{Speaker}: Facing west and addressing the Gatekeeper

Fáilte Donn, eldest of the sons of Mil and first of them to die in the battle with the Tuath Dé Danann. It is to the west, to Teach Duinn, the House of Donn, that the spirits of men first go, to feast and to repose on their journey to the otherworld.

Donn, Lord of the Dead, we call to you!
You who have sheltered and guided the spirits of our ancestors, we call to you!
On this night, Oíche Shamhna, when the borders to the otherworld are fluid, we call to you!

Accept this offering, and lend your might and magic to ours, and open the gates between the worlds!

{Speaker}: Places the offering into the fire

Let this Fire be a gate!
Let this Well be a gate!
Let the World Tree be a gate!
Let the gates be opened!

{All}:

Let the gates be opened!

10 Inviting the Kindred

10.1 Inviting the Gods (TBD)

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Túath Dé Dannan. Welcome to our gods. We make space at our fire for the Túath dé Dannan, for the gods of our people, and the gods of this land.

Gods, goddesses, accept this offering.

{Speaker}: Pours offering into the fire

You who nurture our spirits, you who challenge us to grow, you who we return to when we pass from this world.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

10.2 Inviting the Nature Spirits (TBD)

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Sídh. Welcome Nature Spirits. We make space at our fire for The Good people, for the spirits of this land, of its plants and trees, its birds and beasts and its waters.

Sídh, accept this offering.

{Speaker}: Places the offering next to the World Tree

You who have dwelled in this land before man, who protect it, who nurture it.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

10.3 Inviting the Ancestors (TBD)

{Speaker}:

Fáilte Sinsearach. Welcome Ancestors. We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors, and for our beloved ancestors.

Sinsearach, accept this offering.

{Speaker}: Places offering next to the Well

You who are of our blood and bone, you who are of our spirit and heart, you who have walked this world and left it before us.

{Speaker}: Call

We remember you.

{All}: Response

We honor you.

Repeat Call/Response for a total of 3 times

11 Key Offerings (Dale)

{Speaker}:

We call to the ancestors of our blood, the ancestors of our hearts, the ancestors of our paths. Join us and lend your voices to ours as we honor you! Welcome to our fire!

Our world is built upon the labors of our ancestors, and so too are our traditions. We learn from the stories left behind by our ancient pagan ancestors, but also from the modern stories.

As we honor you, we seek from you the wisdom that passed with you. Let us find, and nurture that wisdom to pass to the future generations.

Now is the time for those gathered here to make offerings to the ancestors.

{All}: Time for offerings

{Dale}: Last offering to the forgotten dead (recite "Do not go gentle into that good night" by Dylan Thomas)

12 Prayer of Sacrifice (Wade)

{Speaker}: A drum heart beat is playing softly in the backgrounds

Turn you mind towards your ancestors,
To those of your family that have passed beyond the veil.
See them standing before you; looking back at you.
Call out their names.
Remember who they were.
Vow to tell their story; share your memories of them.
Let the sharing of your memories be your offering to them.
Are there any here who have short stories to tell?

{All}: Share stories

{Speaker}:

Ancestors, we offer to you Rosemary for remembrance.

{Speaker}: places rosemary in the fire

Ancestors, accept this offering

{All}:

Ancestors, accept this offering.

13 The Omen (Tonya)

{Speaker}: *Asks the oracle if our offerings were accepted, and what the blessings of the kindred are*

14 Calling for the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker}:

Ancestors, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you, and have gifted you with offerings. We have heard your blessings, and ask you to bring forth the waters of life.

{All}: *repeat 3 times*

Bring forth the waters of life!

15 Hallowing the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker}: *Fills the horn then speaks.*

By the might and wisdom of our ancestors, hallowed are these waters!

{Speaker}: *Passes the horn over the fire and speaks*

Through the sacred fire, may the blessings flow into these waters.

{Speaker}: *Dips the horn in the well and speaks*

Through the sacred well, may the blessings flow into these waters.

{Speaker}: *Touches the horn to the tree and speaks*

Through the world tree, may the blessings flow into these waters.

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

Behold the Waters of Life!

16 Affirming the Blessings (Dale)

{Speaker, then remaining worshipers}: *Raises the horn, speaks then drinks (or pours a small amount on the ground/in the fire) and passes the horn to the next worshiper.*

I accept the blessings of my ancestors.

{Speaker}: Speaks then pauses for a moment.

Let us reflect a moment on the blessings we have been given.

17 Workings (Dale)

{Speaker}:

Much of what we know of our gods are based on what our ancestors wrote. However, our gods are not static. They have grown and changed over the hundreds, perhaps thousands of years since their stories were told. What we don't know about them would fill many more books than what we know about them; but we are thankful for what we have.

{Speaker}:

Whose minds envisioned those stories?

{All}:

Our Ancestors!

{Speaker}:

Whose mouths told those stories?

{All}:

Our Ancestors!

{Speaker}:

Whose hand recorded those stories?

{All}:

Our Ancestors!

{Speaker}:

The past is not dead. The kindred are not static, and each day they interact and shape both us and our world. Who will the gods interact with now, who will tell and write their new stories?

We will! And someday in the future, we will be the ancestors. What will we leave behind?

Earlier you were asked to contemplate your own ending. How did you pass? What did you leave behind? What would be written in your eulogy?

Reflect upon that now.

Did you go gentle into that good night or were you dragged kicking and screaming; clawing for one more moment of life in which to leave your mark behind? What will you leave behind for the next generation?

Take the words of the eulogy you want, and these herbs: oak for resolve; rosemary, to be remembered; and poppy for rest.

Focus one last time on what you want to leave behind. Commit yourself to your future and cast your words and the herbs into fire. Here you make a promise to yourself, to further the next generation. One taken willingly before your ancestors, as one who will someday join them.

Cast your words and herbs into the fire!

{Speaker}: Pauses, then speaks and pours offering to the fire

As the flames consume our words, let us not mourn their passing, but celebrate their creation. Each day to come is an opportunity to improve the world around us.

May our honor hold us to the course we set, and always be true to ourselves!

18 Thanking the Kindred

{Speaker}:

Túath dé Dannan, gods of this place, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our relationship with you continue to deepen.

Good People, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may you look kindly on us in our future meetings.

Sinsearach, both new and old, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our actions in this world bring honor to you.

Lugh Lámhfhada, we thank you for standing with us, and look forward to your wisdom and guidance in the future.

19 Closing the Gates (Amanda)

{Speaker}:

Donn, as our rite draws to a close, we again turn to you; assist us in closing the gates.

{Speaker}: Moves to the tree

Let this gate return to a tree.

{Speaker}: Moves to the well

Let this gate return to a cauldron.

{Speaker}: Moves to the fire

Let this gate return to the fire.

Let the gates be closed!

{All}:

Let the gates be closed!

20 Thanking the Earth Mother (Tonya)

{Speaker}:

We thank the Great Danu for all she has given and done for us. We now return all that we did not use back to the earth. May Danu continue to provide for all of us. We thank you.

21 Closing the Rite (Wade)

{Speaker}:

Our time of communion with the Kindred draws to a close, and cares of mundane world began to assert themselves over us once again.

Let us take the blessings of the Kindred, back into the world, and remember our connection to the divine.

We have come together as we have done before and shall do again. Until next we meet, may peace and prosperity be upon you.

{Horn Blower}: Blow horn 3 times

End of Rite