

# Samhain - 2015

Dale Frampton

October 28, 2016

## 1 Preritual Brief

Inform the participants of the following:

1. When offerings are made, after the speakers says, "Accept our offering", the ritual participants should echo "Accept our offering".
2. When inviting in the Earth Mother, and various kindred, there is a call response. The speaker will say, "We remember you", and the participants should echo "We honor you".
3. During the main part of the ritual, feel free to make offerings to any gods or spirits you wish to honor. However, do not forget your ancestors, they are why we are here today. It is on those who passed before us that our minds should most firmly be directed. As an offering to them, you may want to consider telling all a brief story about them, to keep their memories alive and vibrant. Before the ritual, or as you are walking into the ritual, you may place a memento on the ancestor altar; please remember to gather it up at the close of the rite.
4. There is an optional working section that builds off the work done last year. Last year's work isn't required, and you can go through the working part if you are interested.

The working section is to delve into the mysteries of death and our own mortality. It will give the participant an opportunity to reflect on how they believe they will be seen as an ancestor and a glimpse into their afterlife beliefs.

The guided meditation/journey may contain triggers for some people. Please see me ahead of time if you have concerns. Triggers may be external such as the content of the meditation which is heavily focused on death and dying or internal, such as painful memories resurfacing.

1. For this ritual there is an optional working. The purpose of this working is to reflect upon the life you have lived, and what you will pass on to the next generation. How do you want to be remembered as an ancestor? If you choose to participate, I ask that you take some time to reflect upon your life, how you hope to pass, and what you would like to hear in your eulogy. Write it down, and during the working section you will be casting the paper into the fire. This is a commitment from yourself, to yourself. It is up to you to choose the direction of your life, along with when to change your direction.

## Synopsis

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## 2 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
- Mannánan Mac Lir: Apple
- Túath dé Dannan: Whiskey
- Sídhhe: Milk & honey
- Sinsearach: Bread
- Sinsearach (Key Offerings): Everybody
- Final Sacrifice: Rosemary
- Waters of Life: Mead
- Working, Donn: Whiskey

## 3 Outdwellers (Dale)

*{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 (Kalyn)**

*{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 (Lisa)**

*{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 offering 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 (Laura)

*{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 (Kalyn)

*{Speaker}: Addressing the Gatekeeper*

Mannánan Mac Lir Abú. Hail Manannán, son of the sea.

We give praise and honor to you, o mighty god who walks between the worlds with ease. You who wreaths yourself in mist, and frequents the liminal places of the world, we call to you.

Accept our offering; lend your might to ours, and open the gates between the worlds.

*{Speaker}: Places the offering into the fire*

Manannán, make the Sacred Fire a gate! Manannán, make the Well a gate!  
Manannán, make the World Tree a gate!

Let the gates be opened!

*{All}:*

Let the gates be opened!

## 9.1 Inviting the Gods ()

*{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*

## 9.2 Inviting the Nature Spirits ()

*{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*

### **9.3 Inviting the Ancestors ()**

*{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*

## **10 Key Offerings ()**

*{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)*

## **11 Prayer of Sacrifice ()**

*{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.

## **12 The Omen (Lisa)**

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

## **13 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!

## 14 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!

## 15 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.

## 16 Closing the Main Rite (Dale)

*{Speaker}:*

For those not continuing with the working, 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.

*Wait as those not participating exit the ritual space.*

## 17 Thanking the Kindred (Dale)

*{Speaker}:*



Donn, we thank you for your assistance on our journey this evening, and may you be there to guide us when we pass from this world.

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

## 18 Closing the Gates (Kalyn)

*{Speaker}:*

Manannán, 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!

## 19 Thanking the Earth Mother (Lisa)

*{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.

## 20 Closing the Rite (Dale)

*{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