

# Koliada (Winter Solstice) - 2013

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## 1 Offerings

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

- Outdwellers: Ale
- Mati Syra Zemlya: Bread and vodka
- Fire: sage
- Well: silver
- Tree: water from the well
- The Zoryi: vodka
- Gods: Oil
- Nature Spirits: Bread
- Ancestors: Bread & Salt
- Svarog, Morana & Dazhbog: vodka
- Final Sacrifice: cedar incense
- Waters of Life: Sparkling juice or spiced warm cider

## 2 Preparing the Space

- Attempt to dig a pit for offerings
- Start ritual fire
- Setup ritual table with the following items:
  - Dark colored table covering
  - Cauldron with water
  - Offerings for the Kindred

- Start heating water for tea
- Prepare snack table for after the ritual

### 3 Initiating the Rite

*{Speaker}:*

Raised against the empty winter sky, the barren limbs of trees and our hands reach out in prayer. We ask from the winter gods strength we will need to endure until spring and the wisdom we require to learn from the dark and the cold the lessons they will teach. May we receive them without flinching — (Book of Pagan Prayers, p.155)

*Insert meditation here*

### 4 Outdwellers

*{Speaker}: Moves just outside the perimeter*

You who come from the outer dark,  
You who stood against the gods and man,  
You who are cold of heart and cruel of mind,  
Take this and trouble not our work.

*{Speaker}: Leaves ale outside perimeter*

### 5 Purification

*{Speaker}: Anoint each participant*

May you be pure, fit to approach the gods.

### 6 Honoring the Earth Mother

*{Speaker}:*

Mati Syra Zemlya we honor you, for the food we eat, the wood that keeps our homes warm, the water we drink, and all that you have ever provided us. Accept this sacrifice.

*{Speaker}: Place bread and whisky/vodka in a hole in the ground*

### 7 Statement of Purpose

*{Speaker}:*

We are here today for the winter solstice which is also known as, Yule, or in the Slavic region Koliada. It is the longest night of the year, the veil to the other world is thin and our ancestors are welcomed to visit. We burn bonfires to keep warm and help Perun and Dazbog bring back the daylight.

Svagor helps keep our fires burning bright. Today we understand the battle between night and day, the struggles it brings, the new beginnings that are started and ends we bring to a close.

This is the long night.

This is the dark night.

This is the cold night.

This is the night of last hope.

This is the night of little spark.

This is the night turning from darkness.

This is the night of turning toward light.

This is the night of wonder.

The long night is here: come to us, you spirits; together let us fill the long night with light, calling all beings to warm themselves at our fires.

## 8 Recreating the Cosmos

*{Speaker}: Moves to the fire*

To the flame, with this sacrifice let you become The Sacred Fire; our connection to the heavens and the gods.

*{Speaker}: Moves to the well*

Cauldron of water, With this silver, let you become The Well; our connection to the underworld and our ancestors.

*{Speaker}: Moves to the tree*

Mighty tree, with this sacrifice let 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

*{Speaker}: Addressing the Gatekeeper*

I call to the Zoryi, the daughters of Dažbog, the sisters that watch the gate from which the sun leaves at dawn and enters at dusk.

Greetings Zorya Utrennaya, the morning star. We ask you who guards palace gate at dawn; you who opens it to allow the sun to traverse the sky, make this fire a gate.

Greetings Zorya Vechernyaya, the evening star. We ask you who guards the palace gate at dusk; you who closes it once the sun has left the sky, make this tree a gate.

Greetings Zorya Polunochnaya, midnight star. We ask you who watches over the world in the dark of the night, make this well a gate.

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

Zoryi, accept this offering. Let the gates be opened!

*{All}:*

Let the gates be opened!

## 10 Inviting the Kindred

### 10.1 Inviting the Gods

*{Speaker}:*

Dobro požalovat Bogi i Bogini.

Welcome Gods and Goddesses.

We make space at our fire for the Gods and Goddesses of our people, and the gods of this land.

Bogi i Bogini, accept this offering of oil.

*{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

Dobro požalovat Lesovík.

Welcome woodland spirits.

We make space at our fire for the spirits of this land, of its plants and trees, its birds and beasts and its waters.

Lesovík, accept this gift of bread, and lead us not astray as we walk through the world.

*{Speaker}: Places offering next to the 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

*{Speaker}:*

Dobro požalovat predki.

Welcome Ancestors.

We make space at our fire for our mighty ancestors, for our honored ancestors, and for our beloved ancestors.

Predki, accept this traditional offering of bread and salt.

*{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

*{Speaker}:*

We praise Svarog; grandfather god, who is the origin of all Slavic kin, and creator of everything that lives; he is the eternal source that flows everywhere in summer, and in the winter never freezes. — The Book of Veles

Greetings Morana, icy queen of winter. We honor you in your season, and see how you have painted the land. Look kindly on us, and ease our passage through this harsh time of the year.

Dažbog, god of the sun, your ride across the sky has grown short, and we long to see more of you. Dažbog, ride your golden chariot across our sky and see our land below you, covered in snow. Journey longer and let your white horses breath their fire across the sky and bring warmth back to the land. We know there is a purpose in this season, but we miss your light and warmth, return to us.

Svarog, Morana, Dažbog, accept this offering.

*Attendees may make praise offerings at this point.*

## 12 Prayer of Sacrifice

*{Speaker}:*

Kindred, we welcome you amongst us. Through each ritual, each prayer, we grow closer to you . Accept this final offering of incense, let the smoke rise up, and with it, our words to your ears.

Kindred, accept our offering.

## 13 The Omen

*{Mary to take the omen}:*

## 14 Calling for the Blessings

*{Speaker}:*

O kindred, we have made you welcome at our fire, we have honored you, and we have gifted you with sacrifices. We await your blessings.

*{Speaker}:*

Bring forth the Waters of Life!

*{All}:*

Bring forth the Waters of Life!

*{Speaker}:*

Children of Earth, the Kindred have heard your praise, and have accepted your sacrifices. You shall have the Waters of Life.

## 15 Hallowing the Blessings

*{Speaker}: Fills the cups, then speaks*

By the blessings of the Kindred, by the magic of Morana, and through Dažbog,  
the hope of brighter days.

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

Behold the Waters of Life!

## 16 Affirming the Blessings

*\*{Assistants, passes the cups to the participants}:\**

*{All}: Raises the cups, 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 the Kindred.

*{Speaker}: Speaks then pauses for a moment.*

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

## 17 Workings

*{Speaker}:\**

The Slavs considered the winter solstice much like the Celts considered Samhain,  
as a time when the world was close to the underworld. To them it was a time to  
honor and feed their dead. Please take a moment to remember your ancestors.

This holiday is also close to our new year, and within our ritual, you may sym-  
bolize the beginning or ending of something by burning your paper in the fire.

## 18 Thanking the Kindred

*{Speaker}:\**

Svarog, Morana and Dažbog, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may the  
winter not bring hardship to us.

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

Woodland spirits, we thank you for sharing our fire, may you continue to care  
for the land beneath its blanket of snow.

Ancestors, we thank you for sharing our fire, and may our actions in this world  
bring honor to you.

## 19 Closing the Gates

*{Speaker}*:

As our rite draws to a close, we again turn to the Zoryi to 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

*{Speaker}*:

We thank the moist mother earth Mati Syra Zemlya for always being here with us today and the days to come. When the time comes for melting snow may she keeps our plows ready and our fields fertile. May she watch over us, for some of our journeys may find us alone in a forest with only her moist warm earth beneath us and her soft sweet voice all around us. We shall always honor and thank her for all she does even when not asked.

Thank you Mati Syra Zemlya.

## 21 Closing the Rite

*{Speaker}*:

Our celebration has come to an end but remember the kindred are always with us. As the light comes back to us so should our faith in our and gods and in ourselves, just as they have overcome the darkness remember so can we. As long as fire burns somewhere there is always hope.

Thank you to all who were with and joined us today. Have a happy Yule.

End of Rite