

Leaving of the Ego

Upon entering this space, we all equals. Please leave your ego behind and outside of this space as you join us as equals.

Opening Meditation

As we gather together, let us ground ourselves in the earth, and seek our centers.

Close your eyes and open your spirits.

Draw your focus inward. Breathe slowly and deeply. Turn aside all distractions.

Be aware of your body, of your breath, of your heart beating in your chest. With each breath, relax your body. Make yourself comfortable. Move and adjust your body as needed to feel balanced and at ease. Release the tension in your head, your neck. Relax your shoulders, your arms. Let your stomach soften and relax. Adjust your position until your spine feels comfortably aligned. Release the tension in your hips, relax your legs, your feet. Feel any aches and pains fade away. Be at ease.

Be aware of your spirit, your inner self. Observe your thoughts, your feelings. Let them wash over you, through you. Let them settle as you continue to breathe slowly and deeply. With each breath, set aside the many worries and cares that fill your mind. Focus on the calm and peace of this moment. Feel safe and protected.

Be aware of the earth beneath you. Feel yourself anchored firmly to the earth, to the planet that supports you, in body and spirit. Focus on your connection to the earth. Feel the tug of gravity, drawing you close, binding you to the earth. Be aware of the substance of the planet – the soil and water and air that comprise our world. Be aware of these elements within yourself: the earth that makes up your flesh, the water that flows in your blood, the breath that fills your lungs. Feel the magic of that connection – the power that links you to the larger whole.

Be aware of the spirits around you. Feel your connection to the other beings that support you, in body and spirit.

Be aware of the web of life that surrounds you: the beings that inhabit this world with you. Feel your connection to the plants and animals and others that you depend on for life – for food, for shelter, for the very air you breathe. They are a part of you. You are a part of them. Feel the magic of that connection – the power that intertwines your life with the greater web of all life.

Be aware of your ancestors, of their role in shaping who you are. Feel their presence in your life – their history and teachings living on in your memory, their legacy moving forward through your words and deeds. They are a part of you. You are a part of them. Feel the magic of that connection – the power that connects you to the past, to your own history and the history of all humanity.

Be aware of the deities, of their role in the shaping of the world and civilization. Feel their presence in your life – their guidance and support and power. They call to you and invite you to learn from them. They gain power from your love, and in turn, they grant you the power to shape the world through your words and deeds. They are a part of you, and you are a part of them. Feel the magic of that connection – the power to create something new and wonderful.

Be aware of the others gathered here in spirit if not in flesh. Feel their presence in this sacred space. They are here in common purpose with you, to celebrate and strengthen their connection to the earth, to the spirits of land, to the ancestors, the deities, and to one another.

As we gather in common purpose, let us do so with full awareness of the connections we share and the power it grants us.

As you breathe, deeply and slowly, focus once again on this place, this moment, where we come together in fellowship and worship, and when you are ready, open your eyes.

Honoring the Earth Mother

As we gather here in this place, we honor the Earth we stand upon. We call to the Earth Mother who surrounds and supports us. We call to the Earth Mother who feeds and nourishes us. We call to the Earth Mother who shelters us and gives us a home to live in. Without you, we would not be here. Without you we would not survive. Without you, we would not be. We honor you. We love you. We respect you. We all work to make you healthy. We now give to you these offerings in a token of our appreciation. Earth Mother, accept our offerings!

Statement of Purpose

We are here today to celebrate the Fall Equinox. We are in the midst of September, and all the crops are coming to fruit. We're getting fresh tomatoes. The fruit trees are turning ripe. The grapes are starting to be harvested off the vines. Look around at all the abundance that we have in this time of harvest! We are here today to celebrate this harvest, and the bounty of the land. We are here to take some time to celebrate the fruits of our labor before we head into the colder and darker months of the year.

Recreate the Sacred Center

officiant makes offerings during the appropriate sections of the text.

As we stand here in our circle, we see the hallows in the center as our sacred center, each with its role in the cosmos.

We first have the well, our connection to the underworlds. This is our pathway to the realms of the Ancestors and all that are found in those realms. We offer this silver to the well to connect it to all the other wells in the world. As we offer this silver, our well becomes the well.

Next, we have the fire, our connection to the upper-worlds. This is our pathway to the realms of the Deities, and all that are found in those realms. We offer this incense to the fire to connect it to all the other fires in the world. As we offer this incense, our fire becomes the fire.

Finally, we have the tree, our pathway between all the worlds. This is how we travel to all the realms of the Deities and the Ancestors, and all who are found outside of our realm. We connect this tree to the well with the waters of the well. We connect this tree to the fire with the smoke of the fire. As we make these offerings, our tree becomes our path.

Outsiders

All of you who do not stand with us for the purpose of this rite. All of you who only wish to cause harm. All of you who are beyond our light. We call on you, and we recognize you. We ask that you do not disturb us while we do our work. If you do not disturb us we will make you an offering of this beer when our rites are over.

Purification

Officiants will sprinkle the congregation with water and smudge with incense while the following is spoken

As we gather here in this place, let us once again focus on our ritual purity. Wash yourselves with the waters from the well, washing away all your cares and all your worries. Smudge yourself with the incense from the fire, to join us all in ritual. As we do this washing and smudging, see our circle become cleaner and purer until we are all here as one.

Call to the Ancestors

Officiant makes offerings of grains when indicated.

Ancestors! We call on all those who have come before us. We call on our relatives, those that have passed throughout the years. We call on our chosen family, our mentors, and our heroes that have come before. We call on all those in this very earth, those who were in this land long before us. We call to you all and ask that you join us by our fire. Ancestors, accept our offerings

Call to the Land Spirits

Officiant makes offerings of grains when indicated.

Land Spirits! We call to all the spirits of the land around us. We call to all of you animals that surround us each and every day. We call to all of you plants that grow around us each and every day. We call to all of the unseen spirits that live among us each and every day. We call to you all and ask that you join us by our fire. Land Spirits, accept our offerings.

Call to the Deities

Officiant makes offerings of grains when indicated.

Deities! We call to all the gods and goddesses who watch over us and guide us in our daily lives. We call to all our matrons and patrons, the deities we work with on a personal level. We call to all the deities of this place, you who we work with while in this place. We call to all the unknown deities that watch over us who we work to discover. We call to you all and ask that you join us by our fire. Deities, accept our offerings.

Call to the Honored Beings

Officiant makes offerings of grains when indicated.

Dionysos

Dionysos Perikionios, hear my pray'r,
who mad'st the house of Cadmus once thy care,
With matchless force, his pillars twining round,
(when burning thunders shook the solid ground,
In flaming, founding torrents borne along),
propt by thy grasp indissolubly strong.
Come mighty Bacchus to these rites inclin'd,
and bless thy suppliants with rejoicing mind.

(Orphic hymn XLVI. To Dionysos Perikionios
<https://www.theoi.com/Text/OrphicHymns2.html#44>)

Demeter

O Universal mother, Deo fam'd august, the source of wealth, and various nam'd:
Great nurse, all-bounteous, blessed and divine, who joy'st in peace, to nourish corn is thine:
Goddess of seed, of fruits abundant, fair, harvest and threshing, are thy constant care;
Who dwell'st in Eleusina's seats retir'd, lovely, delightful queen, by all desir'd.
Nurse of all mortals, whose benignant mind, first ploughing oxen to the yoke confin'd;
And gave to men, what nature's wants require, with plenteous means of bliss which all desire.
In verdure flourishing in honor bright, assessor of great Bromios, bearing light:
Rejoicing in the reapers sickles, kind, whose nature lucid, earthly, pure, we find.
Prolific, venerable, Nurse divine, thy daughter loving, holy Koure:
A car with dragons yok'd, 'tis thine to guide, and orgies singing round thy throne to ride:
Only-begotten, much-producing queen, all flowers are thine and fruits of lovely green.
Bright Goddess, come, with Summer's rich increase swelling and pregnant, leading smiling Peace;
Come, with fair Concord and imperial Health, and join with these a needful store of wealth.

(Orphic hymn XXXIX. To Demeter Eleusinia
<https://www.theoi.com/Text/OrphicHymns2.html#39>)

Shared Meal

Behold these small cakes. With these cakes, we share a meal with the Land Spirits. As we set aside a portion for them, the rest will be shared between us.

Food is passed around for all to eat

Blessing of the Waters

We have made our offerings to all of the spirits. We have honored the Land Spirits and called to them to celebrate the life of this earth and turn the wheel towards summer. We call to all we have honored today to bless these waters. Fill them with the powers of their blessings in return for our offerings. Spirits, give us the waters! Behold the blessed waters!

Waters are passed around for all to drink

Thanking the Beings

Thanking the Honored Beings

Demeter

Demeter! We have made offerings to you and you have returned the favor. For all you have done for us, Demeter, we thank you.

Dionysos

Dionysos! We have made offerings to you and you have returned the favor. For all you have done for us, Dionysos, we thank you.

Thanking the Deities

Deities! We have made offerings to you and you have returned the favor. For all you have done for us, Deities, we thank you.

Thanking the Land Spirits

Land Spirits! We have made offerings to you and you have returned the favor. For all you have done for us, Land Spirits, we thank you.

Thanking the Ancestors

Ancestors! We have made offerings to you and you have returned the favor. For all you have done for us, Ancestors, we thank you.

Acknowledging the Outsiders

Outsiders! We asked you at the start of the rite that you leave us to work in peace. You have done so. We will honor our end of the bargain and pour you the beer we offered you earlier.

Thanking the Earth Mother

Earth Mother! We have given to you, and we have honored you. You are the reason we are able to survive in this world. For all that you have done for us both today and throughout our days, Earth Mother, we thank you.

Closing Meditation:

As we conclude our ritual, let us once again seek our centers and ground ourselves.

With spirits open, close your eyes. Breathe slowly and deeply. Draw your focus inward. Feel the threads that connect you to the others gathered here today – threads of common purpose and devotion, of fellowship and mutual caring.

Feel the threads that connect you to the deities – threads of power and faith, of wisdom and trust.

Feel the threads that connect you to the ancestors – threads of lineage and history, of lore and memory.

Feel the threads that connect you to the spirits of the land – threads of life and sustenance, of beauty and wonder.

Feel the threads that connect you to the earth – threads of life and sustenance, lineage and history, power and faith, love and existence itself.

As you feel these connections, know them to be ever present. But for now, relax your focus of these bindings. Let your awareness of them soften, but never fade as you go about your daily lives.

As you breathe, deeply and slowly, focus once again on this place, this moment, as we prepare to go forth into the world, and when you are ready, open your eyes.

And so the rite is finished, go now in wisdom and peace.