

Fall Equinox Ritual 2018 (Norse)

Held by Grove of the Gathering Waters, ADF

[Sacrificer: Heather]

1: Initiating the Rite

[Start outside of ritual space]

Say: "Before we get started, let us perform the Two Powers meditation..."

[Perform Two Powers meditation]

Say: "The children of the Earth have come to honor the Kindreds! May we pray with a Good Fire."

2: Purification

Say: "Jotuns (YO-tuns), ill wights (WHITES), and beings of the outer darkness. Take this ale and go. Trouble not our rite, or the fury of Thor be upon you."

[Make bribe of ale]

Say: "Let us now enter the sacred grove, and as we pass the two flames of purification, be cleansed."

[Process into ritual space, walking between two flames positioned at entrance]

3: Honoring the Earth Mother

Say: "We sacrifice to the Earth Mothers first, for without them, we could not live."

Say: "Hail Jord! Hail Nerthus! Goddesses of the Earth! Your blessings of abundance and peace flow over the land, giving life to all. We stand upon you with gratitude and we honor you. Be with us in our rite. Jord and Nerthus, accept our offering!"

All: "Nerthus and Jord, accept our offering!" **[SARA]**

[Make offering of corn meal]

4: Statement of Purpose

Say: "A chill fills the air, the leaves shift their color as the sun loses its strength, and the fruits of the planting season come to bear. Autumn has come!"

Say: "We gather this evening to celebrate the harvest, for without it, we could not survive. Not only are we blessed by the crops of the field to sustain us, we are blessed by the fruition of our own projects in each of our lives."

Say: "So too do we seek the blessings of the Three Kindred: the ancestors, nature spirits, gods, and goddesses. We gather tonight to do just that, to give our gifts to these beings, and receive their blessings, establishing *ghosti so that they may continue to enrich our lives."

Say: "In these rites, we often honor a central deity who embodies the time of the season. So, tonight, we honor Sif, the wife of Thor, whose golden hair is not unlike the golden corn in the fields, ready to be reaped for the benefit of all."

5: (Re)Creating the Cosmos

Say: "It is now time to recreate the cosmos, and establish the Sacred Center so that we may give gifts to the Kindred!"

Say: "And so it came to pass that Odin and his brothers slew the giant Ymir: Of Ymir's flesh the Land was fashioned, and of his blood the Sea; crags of his bones, trees of his hair, and of his skull the Sky. Then of his brows the Gods made Midgard for sons of men." (modified from original translation)

Say: "In the center burns a Fire, the flame of hearth and tribe, where Bifrost touches Midgard, gateway to the gods who dwell in Asgard and Vanaheim."

[Make offering of olive oil to the Fire]

Say: "Sacred Fire, burn within us!"

All: "Sacred Fire, burn within us!"

Say: "In the center flows a Well, with waters from the Three Great Wells: the Well of Hvergelmir, source of all waters and gateway to the ancestors who dwell in Helheim, the Well of Mimir, the Well of Wisdom where Odin gave his eye for one drink of its waters, and the Well of Fate, where the gods hold court and the Norns determine the fate of gods and men."

[Make offering of silver to the Well]

Say: "Sacred Well, flow within us!"

All: "Sacred Well, flow within us!"

Say: "In the center stands a Tree, Yggdrasil, the World Tree! Standing tall in Midgard,

connecting all Nine Worlds together, from Helheim below to shining Asgard above, from deepest root to tallest branch, the center of the cosmos!"

[Asperge the Tree]

Say: "Sacred Tree, grow within us!"

All: "Sacred Tree, grow within us!"

6: Opening the Gate(s)

Say: "Now, we shall call on the gatekeeper, so we may open the gates to the worlds!"

Say: "Hail Heimdall (HEIM-dall), son of nine mothers, all-seeing and all-hearing guardian of Bifrost Bridge! You stand at the threshold of Asgard, guarding the realm of the Gods from those who seek to destroy it. Be with us in our rite. Heimdall, accept our offering!"

All: "Heimdall, accept our offering!" **[VICTORIA B.]**

[Make offering of mead]

Say: "Heimdall, aid us as we open the gates! May this Fire become a gate, opening to Asgard, realm of the Gods! May this Well become a gate, opening to the Halls of the Dead, realm of the Ancestors! May this Tree become a gate, opening to Midgard, realm of the wights, and connecting all Nine Worlds together!"

Say: "May the gates be open!"

All: "May the gates be open!"

[Make an opening motion with hands, envisioning the gates opening in the Sacred Center]

Say: "Imagine, in your mind's eye, a portal opening up before you, a portal that opens to the realms of the ancestors, the land wights, and the gods and goddesses."

Say: "The gate is now open!"

Say: "Now, let us renew our center."

[Renew center]

7: Inviting the Three Kindred

Say: "It is time to invite the Three Kindred!"

Say: "Who calls to the Ancestors?"

Say: "Hail Ancestors! From the line of Ask and Embla, to the line of our Alfar and Disir, with wisdom and strength you guide us from realms above and below, with wisdom and strength you guide us from within our blood. We honor you. Be with us in our rite. Ancestors, accept our offering!"

All: "Ancestors, accept our offering!" **[VICTORIA E.]**

[Make offering of ale]

Say: "Who calls to the Land Wights?"

Say: "Hail Land Wights, spirits of forest and field, spirits of stone and stream, shining elves and earthen dwarves! You guide us as we walk Midgard, teaching us the lessons of nature. We honor you. Be with us in our rite. Land wights, accept our offering!"

All: "Land Wights, accept our offering!" **[CRICKET]**

[Make offering of corn meal]

Say: "Who calls to the Gods and Goddesses?"

Say: "Hail, Gods and Goddesses, Aesir and Vanir! From your halls you shine bright and brave, illuminating us with wisdom, bestowing us with courage, sustaining us with abundance. We honor you. Be with us in our rite. Gods and Goddesses, accept our offering!"

All: "Gods and Goddesses, accept our offering!" **[SHANNON]**

[Make offering of mead]

8: Key Offerings

Being of the Occasion: Sif

Say: "Hail, Sif! Sif, of the golden hair! Sif, wife of mighty Thor! We call to you!"

Say: "Sif, whose hair is the color of the golden corn in the fields, the crops that sustains all that live on this land. We honor you!"

Say: "Sif, we ask for your blessings, blessings for our harvests, blessings for our tribe and families."

Say: "Sif, accept our offering!"

All: "Sif, accept our offering!"

[Make offering of wine]

9: Prayer of Sacrifice

Say: "Ancestors, Land Wights, Gods and Goddesses! In the Sacred Center we have given you offerings, in the Sacred Center we have given you our devotion! Mighty Kindreds, we honor you! Mighty Kindreds, we praise you! Mighty Kindreds, accept our offering!"

All: "Mighty Kindreds, accept our offering!"

[Make offering of whiskey]

[Renew center and feel the flow returning]

10: The Omen

Say: "It is time to draw the omen."

Say: "Hail Odin, All-father, ruler of Asgard! Nine nights you hung from Yggdrasil for the secrets of the runes, nine nights you hung on that windy tree, sacrificing self to self. Odin, All-father, wielder of the runes, let the Kindreds speak to us! Are our offerings accepted?" If so: "Mighty Kindreds, what blessings do we receive?"

If not: "The Three Kindreds do not accept our offering. Let us make another offering so that they may favor us! Mighty Kindreds, accept our offering!"

All: "Mighty Kindreds, accept our offering!"

[Draw three runes] **[ELIAS]**

One for:

Ancestors

Land wights

Gods

11: Calling for the Blessings

Say: "Now, let us call for the blessings!"

Say: "Mighty Kindreds, offerings have we given you and your blessings have been revealed! A gift calls for a gift to complete the exchange of hospitality. Mighty Kindreds, may your blessings flow into this horn, so that we may drink deeply of fair return!"

Say: "Give to us the Waters of Life!"

All: "Give to us the Waters of Life!"

12: Hallowing the Blessings

Say: "Visualize, if you will, the blessings of the Kindreds emerging from the portal as a golden, flowing liquid. This radiant liquid fills the horn."

Say: "Mighty Kindreds, your blessings flow into this horn. Behold the Waters of Life!"

All: "Behold the Waters of Life!"

[Drink]

Sumbel [**Valkyrie: Kim**]

[Offering for Sierra for health following motorcycle accident]

[Sara to make special offering to Earth Mother during gods round]

13: Affirming the Blessing

Say: "Mighty Kindreds, your blessings flow through our heads, our hearts, and our loins. Hail to the Kindreds!"

All: "Hail to the Kindreds!"

[Renew center]

14: Workings

None.

15: Thanking the Beings

Say: "Sif, thank you for your presence and blessings in this rite. Sif, we thank you!"

All: "Sif, we thank you!"

Say: "Gods and Goddesses, Aesir and Vanir, thank you for your presence and blessings in this rite. Aesir and Vanir, we thank you!"

All: "Aesir and Vanir, we thank you!"

Say: "Land wights, spirits of the land, thank you for your presence and blessings in this rite. Land wights, we thank you!"

All: "Land wights, we thank you!"

Say: "Ancestors, kin of our blood and spirit, thank you for your presence and blessings in this rite. Ancestors, we thank you!"

All: "Ancestors, we thank you!"

16: Closing the Gates

Say: "Heimdall, our work here is finished. May the gates be closed!"

All: "May the gates be closed!"

Say: "Now, imagine the gates closing before you. The gates are now closed."

Say: "Heimdall, son of nine mothers, all-seeing and all-hearing guardian of Bifrost Bridge, thank you for your presence in this rite. Heimdall, we thank you!"

All: "Heimdall, we thank you!"

17: Thanking the Earth Mother

Say: "Nerthus and Jord, Goddesses of the Earth. Your blessings of peace and plenty flow over the land, giving life to all. We stand upon you with gratitude and we honor you."

[If there are leftover offerings:]

Say: "Let us return to you that which remains."

[Give leftover offerings]

Say: "Nerthus and Jord, thank you for your presence in this rite and your rich bounty. Nerthus and Jord, we thank you!"

All: "Nerthus and Jord, we thank you!"

18: Closing the Rite

Say: "Let us go forth with the blessings of the Kindreds. This rite has ended!"

Offerings

Outdwellers: ale

Earth Mothers: corn meal

Fire: olive oil

Water: silver

Tree: waters from the Well

Heimdall: mead

Ancestors: ale

Wights: oats

Gods: mead

Sif: wine

Prayer of Sacrifice: whiskey

Blessing: mead