

Ancient Sea Island Continuum



RITUAL SPACE PREPARATION

Two tall yellow candles for the altar; chalice; basket of apples covered by a black cloth; sharp knife to cut the apples; several gourds; juice; small bowl of hazelnuts; vines (real or from craft store) to decorate altar; sage smudge stick & feather; organic bug spray; copper burning pit on stand; wooden slats; burning paper; burning coals; magick marker; drums.

Place food & ritual elements on altar table. Place chairs on circle boundary. Place table for Help of Beaufort & UUFB donations inside Building B.

Quarters sweep the circle boundaries, then...

SMUDGING

Smudge celebrants with sage as they enter circle.

Smudger To join the circle & work arcane
Bring goodness in, leave the profane.
With heart & mind, flesh & bone,
You may enter now our sacred home.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guide Merry meet!

UUFb welcome, visitors, announcements, information, then...

Let us begin the celebration of Mabon,
With a grounding meditation & chant
As Darkness overtakes Light!

*When ritual is ready to begin, Quarters walk to altar & face outward
towards their directions.*

GROUNDING

Guide Relax & breathe deeply (*pause*)
Take a breath & count to 3,
Hold your breath & count to 3,
Exhale as you count to 3.
Now, plant your feet firmly on the ground.
Think of your feet growing roots into this ground
Absorbing the relaxing energy of the earth.

An autumnal pause... wait for the drum...

All

My roots go down,
Down into ground,
Down into ground,
Down into ground.

My roots go down,
Down into ground,
Deep to the depths of the Earth.

I am an oak, upon the bluff.
I am a willow, over the pond.
I am a pine, tall in the forest.
I am an elm, shading the path.

*Quarters & Guide turn in & face each other for an
autumnal pause... wait for the drum... then turn
outward.*

My roots go down,
Down into ground,
Down into ground,
Down into ground.

My roots go down,
Down into ground,
Deep to the depths of the Earth.

QUARTERS

North

Spirits of North, element Earth,
Your fields provided the provisions for our winter.
We celebrate in the abundance of your blessings.
Join us in our circle this night.
Hail & welcome!

All Hail & welcome!

East Spirits of East, element Air,
Your warm summer breezes yield to autumn winds,
Birthing blazes of bright color.
We appreciate the blessings of the beauty
You bestow on this world.
Join us in our circle this night.
Hail & welcome!

All Hail & welcome!

South Spirits of South, element Fire,
Your brilliant August sun is now a memory
That will dance through our hearts
In the dark months to come.
May we find your spark
To illuminate our path ahead.
Join us in our circle this night.
Hail & welcome!

All Hail & welcome!

West Spirits of West, element Water
Your autumn rains wash our sea islands
To make way for a winter's rest.
May we continue to receive
The blessings of your cleansing showers.
Join us in our circle this night.
Hail & welcome!

All Hail & welcome!

GOD INVOCATION

The Sun God solemnly enters the circle draped in black, walks deosil a complete circuit slowly, & then stands silently behind the altar.

Guide Hail & Welcome!

All Hail & Welcome!

GODDESS INVOCATION

The Priestess enters performing a vine dance. She moves deosil; her left leg advances her step. Her right leg moves first, behind then in front of the left to simulate the winding growth of a vine. She places her right foot behind the left, & then steps sideways with her left foot. Crossing her right foot in front of the left, she then takes another step with her left foot. She keeps alternating the movement of her right foot behind, then in front of her left. All chant until she stops dancing:

All Harvest dance, goes round & round,
Blessings for everyone to be found.

Priestess Blessed be the earth & all who dwell upon it.
Give thanks for the season now departing,
For the blessings have bestowed upon you,
And upon those with whom we share the world.
Blessed be the new season.
Pray that it will be a time filled with peace,
With abundance, with wisdom, with love.
Let us now prepare for the time ahead
By opening our hearts & minds & spirit.

An autumnal pause... wait for the drum...

I invoke the Great Mother of all life!
Blessed be life that returns to Her
As the seed of what will arise.

Guide Hail & Welcome!

All Hail & Welcome!

Priestess lights candles on altar & starts fire in copper burning pit.

Guide Here in the Center
In the heart of sacred space,
In the timeless moment of balance,
The fire is lit,
The circle is cast
Blessed be!

All Blessed be!

MUSIC SOLO

Now the Day Is Over

Baritone steps towards the altar top, briefly explains the affinity of the song, then sings a capella:

Baritone Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh,
 Shadows of the evening steal across the sky.
 Now the leafless landscape settles in repose,
 Waiting for the quiet that frozen winter knows.
 Now as twilight gathers let us pause & hear
 All the slowing pulsebeats of the waning year.
 May the season's rhythms, slow & strong & deep,
 Soothe the mind & spirit, lulling us to sleep.
 Sleep until the rising of another spring
 Keeps the ancient promise fall & winter bring.

MEANING OF MABON

Priestess Blessed be this season of Mabon,
 The time of the second harvest,
 Of thanksgiving & sorrow,
 Of balance between day & night.

 Tonight all things are in balance:
 Goddess & God, Life & Death, Light & Dark.
 Tonight, darkness overtakes light,
 Leading us deeper into the waning year.
 Tonight, we seek balance in our own lives,
 And ask for the help of the Goddess & God.

RITUAL BACKGROUND

“La Sonadora” Enya

Yo; el otoño	I, the autumn;
Yo; el vespero	I, the evening star (Venus);
He sido un eco.	I have been an echo.
Seré una ola.	I shall be a wave.
Seré la luna.	I shall be the moon.
He sido todo,	I have been everything,
Soy yo.	I am myself.
Yo; el verano	I, the summer;
Yo; el ébano	I, the ebony;
Soy la soñadora.	I am the dreamer.

MAGICKAL EXCHANGE

Quarters hand out wooden slats & magick markers to celebrants.

Priestess Think of a good deed
You selflessly performed this year
Whether for flora, fauna, community, or Earth
And scribe a word or two,
Signifying a value you upheld with this action.
Now I invite you to reap
The harvest you have sown.

Starting deosil, a celebrant proceeds to the basket on the altar as the God holds open his hand. The celebrant places the offering in his open hand & says:

Celebrant I have sown. I have tended.

The God hands the offering to the Goddess who places the offering in the copper burning pit. The God chooses an apple, & offers it to the celebrant to complete the exchange.

Celebrant I have grown. I have gathered.

Celebrant returns to their seat. The next celebrant proceeds to the altar & so on. After all have finished:

Guide On first thought, the number five seems strange & unbalanced, but when we look at Nature, five-fold symmetries are inherent to life, as in the form of a starfish, sand dollars, flowers, plants, & many other living things, even the fingers of the human hand. This pattern of five embodies the form & formation of life, the very essence of life.

Imagine the perfect apple, ripe & bursting with life. Sliced in half, it reveals a beautiful five-point symmetry, a star formed by the seeds inside. In fact, each of these five seeds may be seen to contain a symbolism of its own, mirroring the spiritual aspects of this universal symbol: idea, sustenance, life, secret knowledge, & the hidden mysteries within the earth.

The Pythagoreans considered the five-pointed star to be a symbol of life, a symbol of stability & balance, & of the divine human. Yet, in the past, they were told, just as many of us learned about the Tree of Knowledge, that we should not attempt to know the world, & many attempts over the centuries to obtain knowledge, both of the Universe, & ourselves, was suppressed. After the subjugation of their school, the pentagram, the five pointed star inside the circle of life, became the secret sign of the Pythagorean followers, "so that they may know each other" & in its modern guise, the pentacle was a target of this subjugation.

The Priestess takes an apple & a sharp knife cuts the apple in half between the poles & holds each half up for display, for all to see the five pointed star formed by the seeds.

Priestess

Behold the mystery:
In silence are the seeds of wisdom gained!

An autumnal pause... wait for the drum...

Tomorrow, take your harvest, cut it in half so you may see the seeds of wisdom granted. Eat of the fruit, one half. Meditate on the beauty of the patterns on Nature, & then bury the other half with solemnity in some secret place, mindful of the sacrifice of the Sun, & of his return.

VALEDICTIONS

When ritual is ready to end, Quarters walk to altar & face outward towards their directions.

Priestess The God has laid himself down as a sacrifice
 And has gone to the Otherworld to become
 The Guardian of the Gates of Death at Samhain
 And to await his rebirth as the Sun,
 Child of Promise, at Yule.
 God, I thank you for your bounty
 And honor your sacrifice, that I might live.
 Hail & farewell!

All Hail & farewell!

Priestess Goddess, I thank you for your gifts
 And praise your womb, cradle of all life.
 Blessed be the Great Mother of all life.
 Blessed be the Life that returns to Her
 As the seed of what will arise.
 Hail & farewell!

All Hail & farewell!

QUARTERS

North Spirits of North, element Earth,
 Thank you for joining in our circle this night.
 Stay if you wish, leave if you must
 Hail & farewell!

All Hail & farewell!

East Spirits of East, element Air,
Thank you for joining in our circle this night.
Stay if you wish, leave if you must
Hail & farewell!

All Hail & farewell!

South Spirits of South, element Fire,
Thank you for joining in our circle this night.
Stay if you wish, leave if you must
Hail & farewell!

All Hail & farewell!

West Spirits of West, element Water
Thank you for joining in our circle this night.
Stay if you wish, leave if you must
Hail & farewell!

All Hail & farewell!

CLOSING

Guide Our harvest meal beckons as darkness overtakes light.
With perfect love & perfect trust, we close our sacred
rite. And now, we all say...

All The Circle is open but never broken!
Merry meet, merry part, & merry meet again!



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