

THE RITUAL OF BELTANE

April 29, 2007 -- 3:00 PM EDT

Moon in Libra

Prior to the ritual, the Bel fire is lit in the fire pit. Seasonal altars are prepared at the quarters, and the cakes and ale are set in the North. Holes have been dug around the circle to receive the oak seedlings after the ritual, and the bucket of seedlings is set in the South (one for each hole, and one for each person who wishes to take one home), along with a red pillar candle.

Jim leads us as we warm up our voices with toning to clear our Chakras and align our core.

I. PURIFICATION

We purify at the gate with salt water and incense.

II. PATHWORKING OF THE OAK GROVE

Gretchen leads us in a visualization

III. CIRCLE OF SOUND

Gretchen will start the Circle of Sound casting, passing the tone to the person on her left, who repeats the process. When the energy gets back to Gretchen, she steps out of the circle, along with Eala and Jim. The casters walk as a group around the perimeter of the circle, facing outward, toning as they go. When they have completed the circle, they rejoin the group, and the group raises a final Aum to complete the casting.

IV. OPEN THE CHALICE - Keepers

The Holly Chalice stands on the West altar, bearing witness to our Rite.

V. STATEMENT OF INTENT

Stacey's Statement is read by Brian, reminding us of the purpose of this Holiday and its place in the Great Wheel of the Year.

VI. INVOCATION OF THE LORD AND LADY

Leanne & Mark invoke Aphrodite and Pan. They speak to us about the oak saplings and our selves and what they expect of us in the coming cycle of growth. We ask the blessing of the Lord and Lady to fan the flames of the passions within us and to ask for their protection over us.

VII. WALKING BETWEEN THE FIRES

Janice lights the pillar candle in the South from the Bel fire, and replaces it on the altar. The Chalice is carried from the West altar and is walked between the Bel fires and returned to its place. The oak seedlings are moved so that they are between the fires, and we all walk between as well, declaring our wishes and intentions as we do so. You may jump the main fire if you wish.

When all have done so, the seedlings are brought to the central fire, and we raise 3 Aums and charge the seedlings with the energy.

Afterward, we raise one hand to the sky and point the other towards the Earth, declaring, "As Above, So Below" bringing our hands and the energy together at center with a resounding clap and releasing it to the fire. We light our red candles from the Bel-fire while affirming our wishes for protection and lighting the flames of our desires.

VIII. CAKES AND ALE

We ask the Goddess and God for their blessing on the cakes and ale.

IX. CLOSING

We give thanks to the Great Ones, and those who keep the grove. The group listens with their inner ear for that sound which expresses the energy of the moment and place, and directs that sound as a group into the ground. Ground and Center.

MERRY MEET, MERRY PART, AND MERRY MEET AGAIN!

After changing out of ritual wear, we will plant the oak seedlings, chanting:

Guardians Of The Dreamtime
Shapes And Forms
Roots Of The Mountain
Silent And Deep
Earth Spirits Dreaming,
Awaken To Our Touch
Shapers Of The Crystal, Shapers Of The Leaf
Shapers Of The Valley Beneath Our Feet