

Bealtaine / Full Hare Moon

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May 4, 2010



Circle of the Dark Moon Coven
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You will need these items:

General

- Altar facing east.
- Bell
- God/Goddess candles
- Red (fire) illumination candle
- Quarter Candles - Green (North), Yellow (East), Red (South) and Blue (West)
- Matches or lighter
- Athamé, Sword, or Wand
- Besom
- Chalice for Libation for God and Goddess
- Plate for libation for God and Goddess
- Cauldron

Specific to the Ritual

- Oak crown for the Oak King
- Incense (lilac, passion flower, rose, or vanilla) used alone or blended.
- A white candle for each coven member
- A Green candle for the Cauldron and the altar.
- Ritual cakes (nuts or something nutty)
- Wine or Ale (white or light ale)
- Small chaplet of spring flowers, of hawthorn, and blackthorn for all women who care to wear one.
- Blackthorn and hawthorn to decorate the altar.
- A green scarf or piece of gauze of at least a yard.

Preparation

1. The cauldron is in the center of the circle with a candle burning inside to represent the Bel-fire.
2. Sprigs of hawthorn and blackthorn decorate the altar. The women may wear chaplets made of flowers, and blackthorn, and hawthorn if they so desire.
3. If oak leaves can be found a chaplet is made of them for the HP/Oak King.
4. A green scarf or gauze at least a yard square is laid by the altar.
5. You will need as many wax tapers as there are people in the circle.
6. 'Cakes' for consecration should be nuts or something nutty.

Attunement

HPS: This is an exercise which shall help us to combine and harmonize our energies. It is simplified version of the middle pillar exercise.

- ❖ Stand relaxed but upright with you spine straight.
- ❖ Inhale, then exhale.
- ❖ Visualize a bright beam of streaming light shining down upon your head.
- ❖ Begin to breathe in slowly to a count of three; hold this breath for a count of three, and then slowly exhale to a count of three.
- ❖ Then hold at the bottom for a count of three and then begin again.
- ❖ While you are breathing, pull this light energy into your body. Let the light fill you until you are translucent and fairly glowing. Then let the light go and sink into the ground at your feet.
- ❖ Let's do this visualization for a total of three breaths.
- ❖ Now let's do this again but instead of grounding the energy, let it circulate around your aura in a circle.
- ❖ Visualize this energy coming out of the top of your head and going around the outskirts of your energy field, one stream going to the left and the other stream going to the right. The two streams should reconnect at the feet and enter back into the center of your body.
- ❖ Let's do this for a total of three breaths.



Consecration of Water and Salt

Charge at the Pentacle

(HPS and HP with athames over their hearts and the other hand on the pentacle, bend in silence for a moment. During this time, they silently ask the Lord and Lady for strength and guidance.)

Blessing the Salt

HPS: *(places dish of salt upon the pentacle)*

I consecrate thee O creature of salt—of the Earth,
magickal aid, and seasoning for the cauldron of rebirth.
I cast from thee all hindrance and malignity, so that in my works of
magick you may well serve me.

(HPS removes the dish of salt from the pentacle and then places the dish of water upon the pentacle. Then she takes the salt and using her athame drops into the water three measures of salt. She stirs the water three times with the tip of her athame. HPS sets the salt aside.)

Blessing the Water

HPS: I consecrate thee O creature of water—the Lady's sacred element—life giving, whether swiftly flowing or gently falling from the firmament.
I cast from thee all hindrance and malignity, so that in my works of magick you may well serve me.

All: So mote it be.

Blessing the Air

(HP places the censer containing incense upon the pentacle)

HP: I consecrate thee O creature of Air—bringer of storms, and warm evening breezes fair.
I cast from thee all hindrance and malignity, so that in my works of magick you may well serve me.

All: So mote it be.

Blessing the Fire

(HP lights the incense)

HP: I consecrate thee O creature of Fire—signifier of the Sun.
Burn brightly so that we may dance by the balefire's light.
I cast from thee all hindrance and malignity, so that in my works of magick you may well serve me.

All: So mote it be.

(HP sets the censer aside.)



Circle Casting

(by Earth)

(HP and HPS take their athames and trace the sacred circle. If desired, they may leave a doorway in the northeastern quadrant. They walk together with the HP's hand upon the HPS' shoulder.)

HPS: I conjure thee, O Circle of Power, to be a meeting place of love, joy and truth—a boundary between the worlds of men and the Realms the Mighty Ones.

A rampart and Protection against all wickedness that shall both contain and entertain the powers raised within—wherefore do I consecrate thee in the name of Lugh and Brigid.



Entry into Sacred Space

The Challenge

Sweep the area with besom then smudge with violet-sage.

(HPS rings bell three times)

HPS: Attention. Harken for the bell and gather in thy assigned places. Prepare for admission into the circle.

HPS: *(Challenges each covener by pointing her athame against their breast)*

Better, you should run thyself through on mine blade than to enter here with malignity or fear in your heart. What say you? How dost thou come here?

Covener: In perfect love and perfect trust.

HPS: *(Admits covener into the circle)*

HP: *(After admission into sacred space, the covener approaches the HP who then smudges the covener with sage or lavender. When this action is completed, the covener moves to their place about the altar.)*



Strengthening the Circle

(by Water)

(Witch 1: Sprinkles the salt and water mixture around the circle)

Witch 1: Rain of water and salt sprinkled upon the ground,
This blessed water sprinkled round and round.
Protect us from wickedness and make our magick sound.

(Witch 1: When their circuit is completed, they replace the water upon the altar.)

(by Air)

(Witch 2: takes the censer and walks about the circle)

Witch 2: Into the night sky, incense smoke, roil, rise, and writhe,
This smoke takes our intentions to the skies
Sunder us from the mundane like a scythe.

(Witch 2: When their circuit is completed, they replace the censer upon the altar.)

(by Fire)

(Witch 3: takes a candle and walks about the circle)

Witch 3: Fire, shine true and bright,
Beltane balefires light the night,
Aid, grant clarity of sight,
Mayest the Gods be with us this night.

(Witch 3: When their circuit is completed, they replace the water upon the altar.)



Calling the Quarters

East

Hail, guardians of the East: Sylphs of the Airs,
From balefires you carry smoke that fills the night air.
I invite you to our circle this Beltane night
To witness and protect our sacred magickal rite.

(Draw the invoking pentagram of Air)



South

Hail, guardians of the South: salamanders of Fire,
Your light shines forth from the hilltop balefires.
I invite you to our circle this Beltane night
To witness and protect our sacred magickal rite.

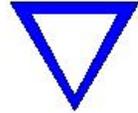
(Draw the invoking pentagram of Fire)



West

Hail, guardians of the West: Undines of the Waters.
May dew makes maidens beautiful, when we skim the luck in the early morning hours.
I invite you to our circle this Beltane night.
To witness and protect our sacred magickal rite.

*(Draw the invoking pentagram of **Water**)*



North

Hail, guardians of the North: Gnomes of the Earth.
You silently nurture the return of fertility the land, and other works of worth.
I invite you to our circle this Beltane night,
To witness and protect our sacred magickal rite.

*(Draw the invoking pentagram of **Earth**)*





Drawing down the Moon
Invocation to the Goddess
Five-fold Kiss of the Moon

(All coveners place their athames upon the altar and all except the HP and HPS go to the south of the altar. The HPS stands with her back to the altar, with wand in her right hand and the scourge in the other, in the Osiris position.)

HP: *(administers the five-fold kiss—right foot, left foot, right knee, left knee, womb, right breast, left breast and lips. When the HP reaches her womb, the HPS opens her arms in the blessing position. When she does the HP declaims:)*

Blessed be thy feet, that have brought me in these ways.
Blessed be thy knees, that shall kneel at the sacred altar.
Blessed be thy womb, without which we would not be.
Blessed be thy breasts, formed in beauty.
Blessed be thy lips, which shall utter the sacred names.

(For the kiss on the lips the HP and HPS embrace full-length.)

HP: *(kneels before the HPS who assumes the blessing position with her right foot extended slightly.)*

I invoke thee and call upon thee, Mighty Mother of us all, bringer of
fruitfulness; by seed and root, by bud and stem, by leaf and flower and
fruit, by life and love do I invoke thee to descend upon the body of this
thy servant and priestess.

(During the invocation, the HP touches the HPS with his right finger upon right breast, left breast, and womb. He touches her in the same fashion again, and finally the right breast. Still kneeling he then spreads his arms outwards and downwards, with palms forward.)

Hail Brigid from the Almathean Horn.
Pour forth thy store of love; I lowly bend
Before thee, I adore thee to the end,
With loving sacrifice they love adorn.
Thy foot is to thy lip...

(HP kisses HPS' right foot)

...my prayer upborne
Upon the rising incense smoke then spend
Thine ancient love, O mighty One descend
To aid me, who without thee I am forlorn.

(HP rises and takes a step backwards, facing the HPS.)

HPS: *(Draws the invoking pentagram of Earth in the air in front of the HP using the wand/athame)*



HPS: Of the Mother Darksome and divine
Mine the scourge, and mine the kiss;
The five-point star of love and bliss—
Here I charge you in this sign.

(HPS lights the Goddess candle.)



The Charge of the Goddess

(HPS as the Goddess Herself, the HPS turns to face the coven.)

HP: Listen to the words of the Great Mother, she who
of old was called among men Brigid, Artemis, Diana, Aphrodite, Dana,
Arianhod, and by many other names too numerous to declaim.

HPS: Whenever ye have need of any thing, once in the month, and better it be
when the moon is full, then shall ye assemble in some secret place and
adore the spirit of Me, who is Queen of all witches. There shall ye

assemble, ye who are fain to learn all sorcery, yet have not won its deepest secrets; to these I will teach things that are yet unknown.

And ye shall be free from slavery; and as a sign that ye be really free, ye shall be naked in your rites; and ye shall dance, sing, feast, make music and love, all in My praise. For Mine is the ecstasy of the spirit, and Mine also is joy on earth; for

My law is love unto all beings. Keep pure your highest ideal; strive ever towards it; let naught stop you or turn you aside. For Mine is the secret door which opens upon the land of youth and Mine is the cup of wine of life, and the cauldron of Brighid, which is the Holy Grail of immortality.

I am the gracious goddess, who gives the gift of joy unto the heart of man. Upon earth, I give the knowledge of the spirit eternal; and beyond death, I give peace and freedom, and reunion with those who have gone before.

Nor do I demand sacrifice, for behold, I am the mother of all living, and it is my love which I pour out upon the earth.

HP: Listen to the words of the Star Goddess; she in the dust of whose feet are the hosts of heaven and whose body encircles the universe.

HPS: I am the beauty of the green earth, and the white moon among the stars, and the mystery of the waters, and the desire in the heart of man. It is I who calls unto thy soul. "Arise, and come unto Me." For I am the soul of nature, who gives life to the universe; from Me all things proceed, and unto Me all things must return.

Before My face, beloved of Gods and men, let thine innermost divine self be enfolded in the rapture of the infinite. Let My worship be within the heart that rejoiceth; for behold, all acts of love and pleasure are My rituals. Therefore, let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion, honor and humility, mirth and reverence within you. And thou who thinkest to seek Me, know thy seeking and yearning shall avail thee not unless thou knowest the mystery—that if that which thou seekest thou findest not within thee, then thou wilt never find it without thee. For behold, I have been with thee from the beginning; and it is I and my love and comfort that is attained at the end of desire.



Drawing down the Sun
Invocation to the God
Five-fold Kiss of the Sun

(All coveners place their athames upon the altar and all except the HP and HPS go to the south of the altar. The HP stands with his back to the altar, with wand in his right hand and the scourge in the other, in the Osiris position.)

HPS: *(administers the five-fold kiss—right foot, left foot, right knee, left knee, womb, right breast, left breast and lips. When the HPS reaches his phallus, the HPS opens her arms in the blessing position. When she does, the HPS declaims:)*

Blessed be thy feet, that have brought me in these ways.
Blessed be thy knees, that shall kneel at the sacred altar.
Blessed be thy phallus, without which we would not be.
Blessed be thy breasts, formed in strength.
Blessed be thy lips, which shall utter the sacred names.

(For the kiss on the lips the HP and HPS embrace full-length.)

(HPS steps backward, kneels and invokes)

Deep calls on height, the Goddess on the God,
On Him who is the flame that quickens Her;
That He and She may seize the silver reins,
And ride as one the twin-horsed chariot.
Let the hammer strike the anvil,
Let the lightning touch the Earth,
Let the Lance ensoul the Grail,
Let the magick come to birth.

(HPS rises, and with her forefinger, touches the HPS' throat, left hip, right breast, left breast, right hip and throat again, thus making the invoking pentagram of fire. HPS spreads her hands outward with palms forward, and continues speaking.)

In Her name do I invoke Thee,
Mighty Father of us all—
Lugh, Pan, Belin, Herne, and Cernunos—

Come in answer to my call.
Descend, I pray Thee, in thy servant and priest.

(The HPS/HP embrace. For the kiss on the lips the HP and HPS embrace full-length.)

(HPS steps backward, still facing the HP)

HP: *(makes the sign of the invoking pentagram of fire before the HPS.)*

(HP lights the God candle.)



Charge of the God

HP: Listen to the words of the Horned God,
The Guardian of all things wild and free,
Keeper of the Gates of Death,
Whose Call we all must Heed:
I am the fire within your Heart,
The yearning of your Soul.
I, the Hunter of Knowledge, Seeker of the Holy Quest
I, who stand in the darkness, am He whom you call Death.
I, the Consort and Mate of Her whom we adore,
Beckoned forth to Thee,
To learn the secrets of Death and Peace,
Come thou unto me.
I am corn at harvest and fruit on the trees.
I am He who leads you home.
With Scourge and Flame, Blade and Blood,
These are mine own gifts to thee.
Call unto me in the forest wild and hilltop bare,
And seek me in the Darkest Night.

I, who have been called;
Lugh, Pan, Hades, Hermes, Puck, Loki, and Osiris Bright.
Speak to thee in thy search, Come to dance and sing;
Come live and love; behold this is worshiping.

I, thy Father. You are my children. On swift night wings,
it is I who lay you at the Mother's feet;
to be reborn and to return again to seek .
Know me, I am the untamed wind,
the fury of storm.
Seek me with pride and humility,
and passion in your Soul.



Statement of Purpose

HP: Welcome everyone.

Tonight we celebrate the Bealtaine (b'yol tinnuh).

Just as at Samhain the veil thins for us to see into the Underworld, at Bealtaine, the veil thins between us and the Fairy Realm. Fairies are most active in spring since they have the most work to do then.

Now, is the time when they need our help to bring beauty and happiness to our lives.



Power Raising

(HPS & HP lead the coven in the Beltane Rune)

Beltaine Rune

A Maying, a Maying we come between April and June.
Hearken ye unto the Bealtaine Rune.
East then South, West then North,
Dance about the Maypole then sally forth!

A nutting, a nutting we will go,
from sunset 'till Beltane morn's first glow.
We'll look for nuts 'neath streamers of the Maypole.
If we can't find any, off to the greenwood we'll go.

Out of sight, we'll pick flowers by the dim light.
Don't look for us; we'll be out all night.
We'll gather hawthorn and alder decorated with balls bright,

Twined like lovers laying the night's delights.

It's so very dark here in the greenwoods.

We might meet Little John Maid Marian, or Robin Hod.

Come harvest will be a new crop to remember this May Eve:

Hodsons, Robinsons, Johnsons more than you might believe.

Horned hunter of the night,
with the Goddess by his side,
Embrace and smile to see such a sight,

Couples everywhere beyond the balefire's light.

Back to the fire for one last run.

Bid farewell to the Goddess and the Horned One.

By the power of the Moon and Sun,

Jump the flame for luck and because it's fun.

By the morning light we'll parade our charade.
With woven boughs and garlands we made,
We'll leave flowers and nuts in each doorway,
As a pretense for spending May Eve in the glade.

(IF she likes, the HPS may have the coven chant the Eko Eko chant three times)

All: Eko Eko Azarak
Eko Eko Zomelak

Eko Eko Azarak
Eko Eko Zomelak

Eko Eko Lugh

Eko Eko Brigid.



Main Ritual Working

(Insert Working Here)

HP: *(Picks up the green scarf and winds it as though to use it as a rope. Then, he starts to move toward the HPS, he makes as though to capture the HPS with the scarf.)*

HPS: *(Backs away tantalizingly.)*

(Notes: *The HP continues to pursue the HPS around the circle but she always eludes him. Members of the coven may 'assist' the HPS by stepping forward and blocking the HPS' path.*

After a bit—perhaps two or three laps around the circle, the HPS allows herself to be captured. The HP throws the scarf over the HPS and pulls her to him. They embrace and then separate. The HP then offers the scarf to any other couple who also may want to partake of the love chase. The scarf is passed from couple to couple until all who wanted to have participated in the love chase game; the scarf is then passed back to the HP.

Once again the HP pursues the HPS but this time the chase is more stately than playful. Even the HPS' tempting is more solemn as though she is luring the HP into danger. Also different in this chase is that the coveners do not intervene to block the HP from his intent. The pursuit continues until the HPS has positioned herself between the altar and the cauldron, facing the altar.

The HP halts with his back to the altar and captures the HPS. They embrace solemnly but wholeheartedly. The HP drops the scarf. The HPS releases the HP and takes a step backward. The HP drops to his knees and sits back on his heels; his head slumped forward upon his chest.)

HPS: *(Calls two women by name to come forward and help her. She picks up the scarf and the three of them face inward in a triangle about the HP. Together they lower the scarf over him like it is a funeral shroud. The HPS then sends the women back to their places.*

Next the HPS calls forth two men—if available otherwise she can call two others to help her—instructing them to extinguish the two altar candles—but not the Earth candle. When they have done as she instructs she sends them back to their places.

The HPS kneels before the cauldron while instructing the other coveners to do likewise. The HP stays where he was-kneeling but dead.

When all are in place the HPS blows out the cauldron candle and waits for a moment in silence.)



The Return of the King (The Oak King that is)

HPS: The Bel-fire is extinguished, and the Oak King is dead. He has embraced the Great Mother and died of his love. So it has been year by year since time began. Yet if the Oak King is dead—He who is the God of the waxing year—then all is dead: the fields bear no crops; the trees bear no fruit; and the creatures of the Great Mother bear no young. What shall we do therefore that the Oak King lives again?

All: Re-ignite the Bel-fire!

HPS: So mote it be.

(The HPS takes a taper, goes to the altar and lights the taper from the Earth candle. She returns to the cauldron to kneel beside it. She relights the cauldron candle from the taper.)

HPS: Take each of you a taper and light it from the Bel-fire.

(Notes: The coven do as they are told and return to their places.)

HPS: *(Calls the two women who previously helped her to again assist her. The HPS arises and turns to face the HP. She indicates that the two women should lift the shroud from the Oak King. Then she sends the women back to their places and she summons the other two helpers who assisted her. She instructs them to relight the altar candles with their tapers. When they have done thusly she sends them back to their places. She holds out a taper to the HP who up to this point hasn't moved.)*

HPS: Come back to us, Oak King, that the land, beasts, and people may be fruitful.

HP: (Rises)

I am a stag of seven tines,

I am a wind off the sea;
I am a flood across a plain,

I am the sun on a deep lake,

I am a sound of your heart during the hunt,
I am a stag of seven tines,
I am a hawk above the cliff,

I am fair among flowers,
I am a wizard,

Who but I sets the cool head aflame?



(End Main Working)



Consecration of the Wine and Cakes (Symbolic Great Rite)
Great Rite (Symbolic)

(HPS takes the chalice and the HP stands before her holding his athame.)

HPS: You are the spear of Lugh.

(HP lowers his athame into the wine)

HP: And you are the Grail of the Moon.

HPS/HP: And together we conjoined as one.

(HP replaces his athame upon the altar.)

Consecration of the Wine

HPS: *(lays her athame down and places the chalice on the pentacle.)*

HPS: May this offering to the God and Goddess keep us from ever knowing thirst.

Consecration of the Cakes

HPS: *(removes the chalice and replaces it with the plate of cakes before the. She touches each cake in turn with her athame.)*

HPS: May this offering to the God and Goddess keep us from ever knowing hunger.

Simple Feast (Cakes and Ale)

(Note: the ceremony of Cakes and Ales now proceeds according to the HPS' wishes: either the plate and chalice is passed from covener to covener and they serve themselves or each other according to coven custom or the HPS and HP proceed from covener to covener serving them and finally each other.

HPS: *(When all of the coveners have partaken of the simple feast, the HPS places some food and drink in the libation bowl. HPS raises the libation plate in salute.)*

HPS: To the Gods.

Coveners: To the Gods.



Closing the Circle
Release of Deities
Release of the Goddess

HPS: *(faces the altar, assumes the Goddess position—or alternatively salutes with athame—and recites)*

Queen of the Universe who wears a mantle of stars and moonlight, on this Beltane night,

We sang, we danced, and by the balefire's light we saw your and God's love transpire tonight.

We thank you for your attending and witnessing these rites.
With your help, we shall start down the path to wisdom's light.

For this boon, and glimpse
Of your magick, and mystery,
We salute and thank Thee.

Alas, our time together now is past.
We bid thee farewell.
Stay if you will and join our repast.

Leave us if you must.
Ere you leave us, know that all who met here
Did so in perfect love and perfect trust.

HPS: *(Extinguishes the Goddess candle)*

Release of the God

HP: *(Assumes the Osiris position)*

Thou art the Stag of Seven tines.

He who's power is wide as the flood on a plain.
Your wisdom stretches like a hawk across the sky.
Who but you with smoke sets our heads afire?
You wooed, you pursued, you chased the Goddess around the Bel-fire, and She
brought back the Oak King along with Her Sun's warming rays so we might a
conjure Summer and its lengthening days.

For this boon, and glimpse
Of your magick, and mystery,
We salute and thank Thee.
Alas, our time together now is past.
We bid thee farewell.
Stay if you will and join our repast.
Leave us if you must.
Ere you leave us, know that all who met here
Did so in perfect love and perfect trust.

HP: *(Extinguishes the God candle)*



Quarter Dismissals

(The HP follows the HPS around the quarters—except where noted—while the rest of the coven remain in place around the circle but mimic the HPS' gestures. At each quarter, the HPS and HP salute the quarter with their athames. After the dismissal, the HPS, HP, and coveners, draw the banishing pentagram. The banishing pentagram of Earth shall be used for all dismissals.)

North Hail, guardians of the North, Gnomes of the Earth.
On this Beltane night, that marks mischief and love in the night, we thank you for witnessing and protecting our sacred magickal rite.
Go if you must; stay if you will; but know that we met in perfect love and perfect trust.

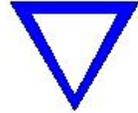
*(Draw the banishing pentagram of **Earth**)*



West

Hail, guardians of the West, Undines of the Waters.
On this Beltane night, that marks mischief and love in the night, we thank you for witnessing and protecting our sacred magickal rite.
Go if you must; stay if you will; but know that we met in perfect love and perfect trust.

(Draw the banishing pentagram of Water)



South

Hail, guardians of the South, Salamanders of Fire,
On this Beltane night, that marks mischief and love in the night, we thank you for witnessing and protecting our sacred magickal rite.
Go if you must; stay if you will; but know that we met in perfect love and perfect trust.

(Draw the banishing pentagram of Fire)



East

Hail, guardians of the East, Sylphs of the Airs,
On this Beltane night, that marks mischief and love in the night, we thank you for witnessing and protecting our sacred magickal rite.
Go if you must; stay if you will; but know that we met in perfect love and perfect trust.

(Draw the banishing pentagram of Air)





Opening the Circle

(HPS and HP face the altar together. The Deities have been thanked and the Quarters dismissed, therefore, the next action is to 'take down' the circle. Since the circle was thrice cast, it should be thrice unwound. Also, because the circle was cast deosil it should be undone in a widdershins direction.)

HPS: O Circle of Power, as I have conjured thee I now release your energies into this blade.

(In your mind's eye, see the circle dissolve into a wispy energy smoke, which the glowing blade readily absorbs)

Where there once existed a rampart between this world and the Otherworld, the rampart is no more. Once again, our realms are separate. However, the love and joy with which we met here tonight remains undiminished.

HPS: *(Rejoins the HP at the altar and then together they face the rest of the coven)*

Just as the holly must yield to the oak, the wind blows away the balefire smoke, and the rising sun signals night's end. It is time for us to leave this realm of magick, mystery, and the circle of our ancestors and friends.

The circle is open but remains unbroken.

Blessed be.

Coveners: Blessed be.