

Moonpath Chapter of CUUPS presents

## **A Yemaya Summer Solstice Celebration with dragnfli & friends**

at the UUCFL on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 8:30pm

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### **Ritual Players:**

**High Priestess & Servant of Yemaya Olokun** – dragnfli

**Ellegua Aye's Servant** – Shaper

**Smudger & Keeper of the Gate** – Moonday

**East Attendant & Yemaya Asesu's Servant** – Luna Azul

**South Attendant & Yemaya Okute's Servant** - Kalimir

**Drum Leader & Drummers** – Mitch Kopp with Karl the Drummer and Crew

**Offerings Attendant** –Alba Luna

**Yemaya Olokun's High Altar Servant & West Attendant** – Chahanpi  
Melissae

**Blessing & Consecration Table Attendant** – Raigne

**North Attendants - Yemaya Majalewa & Osain's Servant**–Datura &  
Moonwalker

**Techno Attendants** – Count de Mony & Spelcastor

**Fire Attendants** – Owldrums & Fritter Man

**Feast Attendant** - Sparkle

### **RITUAL WEAR**

**Everyone needs to wear all white clothes, including a white head covering**

White symbolizes purity, peace and renewal, and appeases Yemaya.

You may wear accessories in all shades of blue and silver, or the Path of the Orisha that you are Attending upon, ask the HPS if you are not sure which colors are for your path.

### **Ebbos (Offerings) for Yemaya Olokun's Altar**

White Flowers esp. white roses, carnations or gladiolas

Watermelon, pineapple and other tropical fruits

Molasses, Honey & Cornmeal

Perfume

Jewelry

Fans

Mirrors & Combs

Peacock feathers

### **Food & Drink for the Feast**

Caribbean, South American and African-Style Foods & Drink including chicken, pork, rice and sweet potato dishes especially with tropical fruits for dessert

## **RITUAL WORKINGS**

### **LUNAR & SOLAR INFORMATION**

Waxing Crescent Moon (17% visible) in Leo – Rise - 10:14am / Set - 11:23pm  
Sun in Gemini – Rise - 6:29am / Set 8:15pm Dusk Ends - 8:42pm

**Introduction** done by HPS on the patio giving background information and instructions.

**First Acts: Smudging, Grounding & Centering Meditation** on the patio before participants begin the journey...

**Second Acts: Make Offerings** (Ebbo's) to

**a. The Egungun** of feast food, a cigar and rum on the patio, and then participants walking out to ritual space.

**b. Ellegua** of feast food, Rum & Cigar at entrance to the Ritual Circle, We will also sing praise songs to Ellegua and Yemaya before we enter, and then participants are once again smudged as they enter the ritual space.

**c. Yemaya** of flowers and food, & put items to be blessed or consecrated to be placed on their respective altars as everyone walks all the way around the circle **creating the ritual circle** as they go.

**Third Acts: a) Shell Meditation - Cleansing from things that no longer serve us personally.** – While holding a shell in one hand, we will meditate to release our blocks to clear flow and give them to the Mother in the Pool. After letting go of our Shell into the “Ocean” (pool) we will make an

**b) Offering of a White Flower with a request for something we need for personal growth**, you can leave it up to Yemaya if you are not sure what you need. *This is a time to look at where we came from, and see if we are staying on task, or, if we need to adjust our course for smoother sailing.*

**Forth Acts: Yemaya Trance Dance Meditation** (HPS & Main Altar Servant will dance here) followed by **Drumming & Dancing** with everyone joining in. This ecstatic dancing is in & of itself an offering to Her.

**Final Acts: Ground, Center and Open Ritual Space** with a final song/chant everyone will be encouraged to join in, and a grounding meditation, and finally an opening of ritual space going back to the mundane world. **And cleaning up!**

## **ALTARS**

### **Egungun Altar**

On the floor, on the patio, on a white altar clothe with a white candle, incense, white flowers and an offering of food from the feast. Also a cigar & rum to be offered by the HPS at the beginning of the ritual.

### **Ellegua Aye's Altar**

Ellegua Aye's Altar will be located just inside the entrance to ritual space on the East side, on a green column covered by red & black tulle, with a coconut head found on the church grounds at its base, as well as offerings of a cigar and rum, and feast food.

### **Yemaya Asesu's East Altar**

- \* Body of "Ocean" Water (kiddie pool filled with water)
- \* White Fabrics and bamboo poles to create "waves" behind pool
- \* clear blue lawn table in the pool as an altar with blue tarp under pool as well
- \* 2x Baskets of White Flowers
- \* White Yard Table for Clear Blue Water Bowl & Peacock Feather & Altar Clothe

### **Yemaya Okote's South Altar**

- \* White Yard Table for White Water Bowl and Wisk or Broom & Altar Clothe

### **Offering Altar (Southwest)**

\* Table to the South of the Main Altar, covered in white fabric and Feast Offerings, HPS & Attendants/Servants' Offerings & Room for Participant Offerings.

### **Yemaya Olokun's Main Altar in the West**

- \* Frame of wood & string with Blue & White fabrics hanging on it as a background
- \* Large Round Table
- \* Statues and other stuff (shells, brush, mirror, feathers, fabrics, etc.) to decorate
- \* Clear/Cobalt Water Bowl with Sea Water for Cleansing

### **Consecration & Blessings Altar (Northwest)**

\* Table to the North of the Main Altar, covered in white fabric with candles. Participants to put any items they want blessed or consecrated by Yemaya on this altar.

### **Yemaya Majalewa & Osain North Altar**

- \* White Yard Table for Lite Blue Water Bowl and Pine Branch Asperging Tool

## **OTHER PROPS**

Main Fire (Owl Drummer & Fritter Man)

Tiki Torches (2x Patio Fire Pit, 2x entry, 2x East, 1x each South & North Altars, & 3x Main Altar = **11x** total – also put some lites along the path, in the memorial garden, etc.)

Drumming Area on South Side of Ritual Circle

2x white columns, 1x Large Green Column, & 3x Tall Columns from church

Sage for Smudging for Entryway with Red Table

Lighting for Altars (lights from the Witches Ball and candles)

Kiddie Pool with Water

Clear Blue Yard Table to put in the kiddie pool as an Altar

2x Baskets with White Flowers for Pool Offerings

2x Baskets with Shells for Meditation & Shells from Library

Blue & White Fabrics

Round Main Altar table (from Multi-purpose Room)

2x Card Tables for Offerings & Blessing/Consecration Altars

Sisterhood Arch for Background of Main Altar

Whole Watermelon & Other Fruits

Molasses

Corn Meal

White Flowers for Yemaya and Egungun altars and for the requests to Yemaya

Plate of Yemaya's Favorite Foods that the HPS prepared at home

HPS Offerings to Ellegua – cigar, rum, candy, etc.

Offerings to the Egungun – white candle, incense, white flowers, feast food, cigar & rum

5x White Altar Clothes & Small Tables for Egungun, East, South, West & North Altars

6x Long Lighters

Many White Head Coverings

CD Player, extension cord & CD with music

Bell & Drum & Shakers

# **THE RITUAL**

## **Pre-Ritual Preparation**

**ALL PLAYERS:** *(at 8pm, please gather at the High Altar to do a pre-ritual Connecting, Grounding & Smudging – including all drummers. **THANK YOU!**)*

**SMUDGER:** *(at 7:45pm, please smudge sacred space, and then the Ritual Players prior to the ritual being called to begin. You will stay at the circle until all the Players have taken their place or the HPS cues you to come up for the Smudging, Grounding & Centering. After the Grounding Meditation, you will go directly to the entrance to ritual space, before the HPS, to smudge us all again before we enter ritual space. Please remain just inside the entrance as our **Gate Keeper** once ritual has begun.)*

**DRUMMERS:** *(at 8:15pm, please go out to ritual space, entering in the East, **making sure to be smudged by the Gate Keeper before you go set up your chair and drums** in the South.)*

**ELLEGUA'S SERVANT:** *(At 8:30pm call everyone to put on their white head coverings, and to gather up their offerings/ebbos – flowers, fruit and objects for blessing and/or consecration, and to come out to the patio. Tell them they will be getting a shell for the cleansing meditation we will do in ritual and to bring it out to the ritual space with them; and, also remind them to put on their white head coverings & remind them again to get their offerings and items for blessing or consecration, in preparation for the ritual to begin. This of course will be rather chaotic but look to the High Altar Attendants for assistance and they will have the baskets of shells to hand out. Once you have finished trying to get everyone ready, please go out to the Ritual Entrance & Ellegua Aye's Altar before the introduction to the ritual begins and **get smudged before you stand just outside the circle** in front of the green column.)*

**OFFERING ALTAR ATTENDANT & FEAST ATTENDANT:** *(before anyone partakes of the feast food, you will need to make sure that an offering [ebbo] to Egungun, to Ellegua and to Yemaya, on separate plates, is made of the Feast Food. Before the introduction begins, put Egungun's ebbo on Their altar on the patio; place the ebbo to Ellegua on His altar; and, then put Yemaya's ebbo on the Offering Altar. **Make sure you get smudged at the ritual entrance gate in the East before you enter the ritual space.**)*

**BLESSING & CONSECRATION ALTAR ATTENDANT and HIGH ALTAR SERVANT:** (when directed to do so by **Ellegua's Servant** [Shaper], give participants their shell for the meditation to bring out to the ritual space, make sure that folks bring their stuff for the Blessing & Consecration Altar and they have white head coverings and any Offerings they are making. As soon as everyone has a shell, go to the ritual space from the entrance in the East so you can **make sure you get smudged by the Gate Keeper** [Moonday] **before you enter ritual space** and go to your assigned altar.)

**IMPORTANT\*\*\*DRUMMERS, ELLEGUA'S SERVANT, ALTAR & DIRECTIONAL ATTENDANTS & SERVANTS\*\*\*:** **(you should be at your places in the Circle before ritual begins, or you will make your way there after you have completed your duties on the patio before the Introduction begins, PLEASE be sure you are cleansed by the Smudger at the ritual entrance in the East before you enter the ritual space.)\*\*\*\*\***

## **THE RITUAL BEGINS**

**INTRODUCTION:** (*Begin ritual on patio.*)

**HPS:** [\*\*\*still being written, notes only\*\*\*] (*As soon as everyone is gathered on the patio, standing next to the Patio Firepit, the **HPS** will give an explanation of who Yemaya is and what we will be doing in our ritual, etc. The introduction will be up to 7 minutes long and will include the following:*)

“Welcome everyone to this Yemaya Summer Solstice Celebration Rite and thank you all for coming. This evening we will be doing a ritual that is inspired by Yemaya, the African/Yoruban Ocean Mother Goddess, to whom I have been devoted and worked with for more than 20 years. My personal path is not, however, of the Yoruban traditions, I am an elemental, faerie shaman.”

“I’d like to give you a little background on this evening’s ritual and what we are going to be doing. First let me tell you about who Yemaya is.....”

1) Explain who Yemaya is: “Yemaya is the Mother of All, the Mother Orisha that created everything – the earth, the sky, the forests, the mountains, the ocean, the orishas, animals, plants and humans. She is the Mother of the Children of Fishes, an Ocean Goddess, Moon Goddess, and Protector of Women. She is a Queen in Her own right, very beautiful with a regal bearing and elegant dress she has the grace and compassion of true royalty. She is The Mother, a healer, comforter, savior and provider, giving of the treasures of Her Seas to Her children whom She loves very much.”

“Yemaya represents the ideal of Motherhood and she has been syncretised with the Catholic Virgin Mary, in many of Her aspects such as Our Lady of Regla, the Miraculous Mother and many others. As with all the Orishas, She has many Paths, called Avatars, that reflect the many aspects and expressions of the multi-faceted nature of Yemaya; just as we all have more than one hat to wear. So, this evening we will call on Yemaya Asesu, Yemaya Okote, Yemaya Olokun and Yemaya Majalewa, that for me represent the four elements and the cardinal directions also.”

“Yemaya has quite a few feast days, and is celebrated on the Summer & Winter Solstices, as well as February 2, September 7 and 9, my birthday, and others depending on the tradition’s practice. Her offerings typically include white flowers, soap, perfume, yams, grains, melons, shells, and jewelry. She is corresponded with the number 7, and Her colors are dark blue and crystal or white, and all shades of blue depending on the path.”

2) My Personal History with Yemaya – “I became involved with Yemaya in the summer of 1994, around the time of my first Saturn return, I was going through a divorce, moving cities & changing jobs, and I started going to Under the Stars, a metaphysical, religious supply store and botanica that operated in central Broward County for more than 20 years, and met the owner, Lady Demeter, my own goddess mother, who ultimately sent me to the UUCFL for further training before she passed away in the Summer of 2001. Yemaya was my goddess mother’s patron and I have devoted to her for Yemaya 21 years, & have been dedicated to her formally for 14 years of committed service, including founding the Sisterhood of the Temple of Ahel Adom – a women’s spirituality group who meets together monthly to support, socialize, do community service and educate ladies as well as the next generations of Priestesses in a Dianic Goddess tradition.”

3) A Brief Overview of African-diasporic religions – “The African-diasporic religions which inspired this ritual, including Yoruba, Santeria, Lukumi, Voodoo, Houdou, Candomble, Umbanda, Macumba, Winti, and many others, were brought to the New Worlds – especially to South American, the Caribbean, North America, and the Pacific Islands - with the advent of worldwide African slavery from the 14<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These slaves brought with them to their new countries the religious beliefs, practices and gods of their homes and ancestors. In order to continue to practice these beliefs that were forbidden them, they melded their spiritual beliefs and practices with that of their captors – namely Catholicism - and the indigenous peoples of the lands they ended up in. There are five basic commonalities amongst these different traditions including:

- a) a belief in a supreme deity, Olodumare/Olofi; and an honoring of the many Orishas/Gods and Goddesses, spirits of Kings & Queens, elemental and natural forces;
- b) honoring their Ancestors or Egungun (Eggun are spirits of the dead);
- c) respect for & honoring of the natural world and its elemental powers especially as represented by the orishas and spirits; and
- d) divination with various items such as coconut shells or Obi and cowrie shells or Diloggun.
- e) and, the ecstatic drumming and dancing that is so important to these religion’s celebrations, rites and rituals.”

“Yoruban traditions are initiatory, mystery paths that are predominantly an oral tradition passed on in person from godparents to their chosen godchildren; it is a shamanic tradition that understands the connections

between the physical and spiritual words. Now days it is easier to research these traditions as many books, journals and websites are available to instruct the non-initiate.”

g) “Ellegua is one of the main Orishas. And though this evening’s ritual is to honor and work with Yemaya, we must speak of and with Him before we begin. Ellegua, Eshu, Exu, Elegbara - is essentially the messenger of the gods and the Opener of the Way. He is associated with both fate and justice being met. He is the orisha that mediates between Olodumare and the other Orishas and humans. He is the Gate Keeper, the trickster and Opener of Doors and Roads. He is called upon first and offerings are made to Him prior to any rite beginning in order for him to open the way for the ritual’s purpose to be accomplished and the wishes of the participants to be heard by the other Gods and Goddesses & Olodumare, the supreme diety.”

4) Explain why we are doing this rite and what we will be doing in Ritual

- a) So this evening we are honoring Yemaya for a number of reasons:
  - i) this is Yemaya’s major Feast Day; and
  - ii) Yemaya, being an elemental goddess with her connection to water, to the number 7 and to mermaids for me connects Her with the faeries and hence to my beloved traditional Celtic Summer Solstice celebrations.
- b) The ritual itself is inspired by my devotion to my mother, Yemaya and my love of Her traditional Yoruban praise songs and dances, the inspiring modern songs to the Ocean Mother shared with me by my pal Red Orchard, and from my own unique form of faerie shamanism. This ritual has several segments, many of which you will recognize
  - i) Smudging, Grounding & Centering Meditation on the patio before we begin,
  - ii) Recognizing, Honoring & Making Offerings to the Egungun, the Spirits of the Dead, and Calling to Ellegua to join us.
  - iii) A walk out to the ritual space, stopping to sing praise songs and give ebos, that is offerings, to Ellegua. We will also call Yemaya to join us just before we enter ritual space.
  - iv) Creating Ritual Space – we will be creating ritual space together by walking mindfully into circle, as we are listening to music by Bjork and preparing ourselves & contemplating the rite to come,
  - g) We will be making Offerings to Yemaya and Singing Praise Songs to Her
  - h) Personal Block Cleansing Meditation with a Shell, the Mother’s first

gift to Her children, to a spoken work piece by Goddess Alchemy Project.

- i) Releasing our Blocks to success and Making a flower Offering to Yemaya to ask for what we need for personal growth, we can leave it to Her to decide what to gift us with if we don't know what we need with a more traditional Pagan song you will all know and can join in singing.
- j) African-style Trance Drumming led by Mitch & Karl and Trance Dancing led by the HPS and Chahanpi Melissae, the High Altar Attendant - this in itself is an act of love and an offering to the Goddess
- k) Finally, we will do a Grounding & Centering with a song by Devi Primal that is Yemaya's most used praise song. Please join in the singing. And we will Open the Circle, releasing ritual space back to its mundane purpose.

5) "PLEASE follow the directions of the HPS & Attendants closely so you will know what to do, there will be many stops and starts so paying attention will help you know what is going on, where you should be, and what will happen next in order to get the most out of this ritual."

***First Acts: Smudging, Grounding & Centering Meditation*** (still on the patio before our ritual starts.)

***SMUDGER:*** (During the Grounding & Centering Meditation, walks through the crowd with smoking Sage and then proceeds out to the ritual space to cleanse the circle and cleanse those who would enter the ritual circle)."

***HPS:*** "Let us begin our journey with a grounding and centering meditation. Please, gently shake out your body and then stand comfortable with your feet firmly on the ground hip distance apart with your hands relaxed and loose by your sides and your knees slightly bent....now close your eyes. **(Bell)** Slowly and gently breathe in deeply, filling your belly, and then your throat and mouth with air.....hold it for a moment and then slowly release your breath, from the bottom to the top...fully releasing your breathe.....now do this again seven times, slowly and gently ...Think only of your slow, deep, breaths as you breathe in and out through your nose."

**"(Pause)** Take another slow, deep breath. Feel your feet touching the earth, keeping you solid and grounded. **(Pause)** Keep on breathing, and

focusing on how it feels to breathe deeply and slowly. It feels good - and you are relaxed and safe and fully present for this rite.....**(Bell)** Now gently open your eyes.....”

**HPS:** *(after the grounding meditation say the following):* “In the African traditions, the Egungun (the ancestors) are very sacred. So there is an altar to them and prior to any ceremony they are recognized, honored, consulted on the ritual to be done, and made offerings to, as I will do now. It is said that without the praises of the dead, we cannot be closer to the Divine or to the Orishas.” (<http://www.santeriareligion101.com/2012/11/the-eggun-egun/>) *(go to Egungun altar and rum & cigar offerings and say the following words):*

“To those who have gone before, we ask for your blessings. **Iku Lobi Ocha**, for the dead give birth to the Orishas. Ashe.”

**HPS:** *(raising the offering of cigar and rum high over head)* “We now call and ask Ellegua to be with us, to guard and guide us in our rite. Ashe.”

“Now please follow me out to the ritual space.” *(The **HPS** will now lead the **Participants** out to the ritual space, stopping at the entrance with her offering to Ellegua.)*

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** *(at the direction of the HPS play praise song ‘Obaluanche’ – track 1.)*

**ALL:** *(to walk out to the Ritual Space to music for Ellegua – praise song ‘Obaluanche’ – track 1.)*

**DRUMMERS:** *( to play with the music and then pick up the beat if we need more time before we reach the circle entrance and stop.)*

**Second Act: Make Offerings** (Ebbo’s) **to Ellegua** (of Rum & Cigar at entrance to the Ritual Circle), and, Participants **Make Offerings to Yemaya** (put offerings of flowers and food, & items to be blessed or consecrated on their respective altars as everyone walks all the way around the circle.)

**HPS:** (Before anyone enters the space, the praise song '**Moyugbacion Elegua**' - track 2 is to be played. Then, an offering will be made to Ellegua of rum and cigars. His candle and incense will already be lit.)

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** (PLEASE Do not start the second song until the HPS cues you at the Entrance to Ritual Space.)

**HPS:** (then to turn around and sing a Yemaya Praise Song before Participants enter the Circle)

"O mio Yemaya! Hail Mother of the Fishes, La Diosa Del Mar, Goddess of the Sea. We honor you and ask for your protection, guidance and bountiful gifts. Ashe."

"Now please follow me into this sacred space..."

### **CREATE RITUAL SPACE**

**SMUDGER:** (will be outside the entrance to the ritual space, smudging Participants as they enter).

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** (The following music track to be played at the direction of the **HPS**, as everyone begins to enter the Circle, '**Mother Oceana**' by Bjork - track 3, while everyone walks all the way around the circle and then finds a place. Allow the song to play in it's entirety.)

**EAST ATTENDANT:** (stand in front of the 'Ocean' and sprinkle everyone with sea water as they pass, to cleanse them of any negativity they are holding back, preparing a way for positive energy and desires. She will use a peacock feather and a clear blue bowl. Also, do not allow anyone to put anything in the 'Ocean' at this time.)

**SOUTH ATTENDANT:** (will be at the South to sprinkle everyone with sea water as they pass her. She will use a small whisk/broom and the clear bowl.)

**OFFERING ALTAR ATTENDANT:** (put Participants flower and food offerings onto the altar as Participants approach you.)

**HIGH ALTAR / WEST ATTENDANT:** (will be at the West to sprinkle everyone with sea water as they pass her. She will use the clear/cobalt bowl and use her hand to spurge everyone.)

**BLESSING & CONSECRATION ALTAR ATTENDANT:** (as the Participants pass the Blessing & Consecration Altar, you will put their tools or whatever they want blessed onto it. Let them know that they should come at the end of the ritual to retrieve them.)

**NORTH ATTENDANT:** (will be at the North to sprinkle everyone with sea water as they pass her. She will use a branch of a Pine tree with a white bowl.)

**ALL:** (We will Create Ritual Space by walking sunwise into the circle to the music 'Oceaniana' by Bjork – track 3 - following the **HPS**.)

### **Direction & Altar Attendants**

**PLEASE help to direct everyone into a circle as they pass you. And don't let anyone stand in front of the Main or Quarter Altars, or the Drummers.**

**Call Yemaya** (to be with us with the praise song 'Moyugbacion Yemaya' – track 4.)

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** (Please do not start this until the circle is complete and the **HPS** ques you.)

**Third Act: Shell Meditation - Cleansing from things that no longer serve us personally.**

**HPS:** "Yey Omo Eja' means 'Mother Whose Children are All the Fish,' reflects the fact that Her children are so numerous that they are uncountable. Omeo Yemaya."

"According to one legend or pataki, Yemaya's first gift to humans was a sea shell in which her voice could always be heard. We honor her when we hold a shell to our ear in order to hear her voice, the ocean. We listen to our Mother and make offerings of Praise Songs to Her in devotion."

## **Yemaya Praise Song**

*“Yemaya assesso, assesso Yemaya  
Yemaya olodo, olodo Yemaya.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXqpsebHE0s>

*“The Mother of the Children of Fishes is the Gush of Spring  
The Gush of Spring is the Mother of the Children of Fishes  
The Mother of the Children of Fishes is the Owner of the River  
The Owner of the River is the Mother of the Children of Fishes.”*

<http://greenhaventradition.weebly.com/litha.html>

*“Yemaya assesso, assesso Yemaya  
Yemaya olodo, olodo Yemaya.”*

**HPS:** “She Who Gives Birth to All of Life, Yemaya is aligned with the power of creation flowing through all that is. In this aspect, she assists with remembering, reclaiming and activating our own innate creative power, realizing our true and natural ability to create and experience magnificence within our life.

This Mother Goddess brings the blessings of new energy, new creativity, new opportunities and new experiences. Yemaya also lovingly assists and supports the rebirthing process, cleansing and purifying the old energy, releasing that which has served its purpose, allowing for renewal and new beginnings.

If invited, Yemaya will relieve the stress and strain of stagnation and will clear any blocked energy, bringing the blessings of smooth, fluid movement, providing realignment with the Divine Flow of the Universe. Within this energy, the Goddess helps us realize our natural flow, experience smooth, steady progress and as the river ultimately flows into the sea, we will naturally flow into the realization of ultimate success.

The Goddess Yemaya reminds us that to exist is to be in a constant state of change, everything is constantly adapting, changing and evolving. If requested, She will help remove resistance to change, helping us to adapt when necessary, helping us to embrace our natural evolution so that we may realize and experience the true essence of our ever ascending consciousness.”

Quoted directly from <http://www.eaglewingsofenlightenment.org/mother-yemaya.html>

### **Cleansing of Blocks to Success Meditation**

**HPS:** “We will now use a shell as a meditation tool, putting our problems blocks and woes into it to be given back to Yemaya with our flower offering.”

“So now, while holding your shell in your hand, we will meditate to release our blocks to clear flow and give them back to the Mother into Her ‘Ocean’ in the East.”

“Now once again get comfortable and relaxed, gently shaking out of your body and then standing comfortably with your feet firmly on the ground hip distance apart with your hands relaxed by your sides and your knees slightly bent....now close your eyes. **(Bell)** Slowly and gently breathe in deeply, filling your belly, and then your throat and mouth with air.....hold it for a moment and then slowly release your breath, from the bottom to the top, fully releasing your breathe....now keep on breathing naturally.....”

Prayer:                    “Yemaya, Blessed Mother of the Seas,  
                                  Let Your Sacred Waters wash over us.  
                                  Mother, embrace us, Your humble children.  
                                  Cleanse us, Nurture us, Sustain us.  
                                  Yemaya, Beautiful One.  
                                  You Who wears the Seven Skirts of the Seven Seas,  
                                  Swirl around us and create a flow of energy  
                                  that can wash away all bane.  
                                  Yemaya, Mistress of the Moon,  
                                  Shine Your light on us,  
                                  And fill us with Your magic.  
                                  Help us to accomplish our goals  
                                  Yemaya, Healing Ocean Mother  
                                  We ask You to fill us with Your Healing Energy  
                                  Let Your Cleansing Waters wash over us  
                                  Heal us with Your Regenerative Powers.  
                                  Ashe.”

Adapted from the prayer at <http://craftychickscuppacoffee.blogspot.com/2010/05/my-yemaya-shrine-prayer-yemaya.html>

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** (Play ‘**Listen**’ by Goddess Alchemy – track 5 - for this meditation. Watch for the **HPS** to que you to play this track. Play this track to the end.)

**HPS: (bell)** “Now slowly come back and open your eyes....gently stretch your arms up and shake out your legs. (pause) We will now be taking our shells and returning our challenges and burdens to Yemaya.”

### **The Ritual Continues - Making Flower Offering and a Request for what you Need for Personal Growth**

**HPS:** “we will be releasing what no longer serves us into the ‘Ocean’. Then using a white flower upon which to contemplate, you will make an **Offering of it and a Request** for anything you feel you need for personal growth and healing, or you can leave it up to Yemaya if you are not sure what you need. This is a time to look at where we came from, and see if we are staying on task, or if we need to adjust our course for smoother sailing.”

“Our Quarter Attendants will hand out the flowers for the offering, so please turn to face the East and make two lines by the Attendants with baskets. Once you have made your offering please go back to stand in circle. Ellegua’s Servant and I will go first. Please feel free to chant and sing with the music.”

**HPS, ELLEGUA’S ATTENDANT AND PARTICIPANTS:** *(to get into two lines by the East & South Attendants in front of the ‘Ocean’ [pool] to make a wish. They will be given a flower and will be asked to contemplate upon it for their wish, or to ask the Goddess to decide what they need if they don’t know what to ask for.)*

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** *(when directed by the HPS, play “Born of Water” - track 6, as everyone gets their flower & releases their wish shells and flowers. Allow “Ocean Sounds & Instrumental” – track 7 - to play if necessary. Watch the HPS for direction.)*

**EAST & SOUTH ATTENDANTS:** *(will hand out flowers, in two baskets by East Altar.)*

**HPS & ELLEGUA’S SERVANT:** *(to make their requests first.)*

**NORTH & WEST ATTENDANTS:** *(will stand on either side of the ‘Ocean’ and direct people on when to go, perhaps allowing 7 seconds between Participants.)*

**DRUMMERS, OFFERING & BLESSING ALTAR, AND DIRECTIONAL ATTENDANTS, GATE KEEPER:** *(to throw in their shells and make their requests last.)*

**Forth Act: Yemaya Trance Dance Meditation & Drumming Celebration**

**HPS & Main Altar Attendant:** (when everyone is finished with offerings and are back in their places, we will have a brief intro to the dancing, and then we will begin the chanting and dancing using '**Iya Mabinu**' by Lazaro Ros – track 8. After a couple of minutes, everyone to be invited and encouraged to chant, dance or drum.)

**HPS:** "Now that we are feeling clean, free and blessed, it is time for some ecstatic dancing and drumming to honor Yemaya. The High Altar Servant and I will begin the dancing and we will invite you all to join us when it is time. Just get ready for some trance dancing and drumming. Join in the chanting and singing if you like as well." (que Techno Attendant to start music.)

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** (when quered by the **HPS**, start the music - "Iya Mabinu"-track 8 - as HPS & High Altar Attendant begin to dance and sing. **Please watch the HPS for direction to start and then to lower the volume of the music to nothing if the energy wanes before the song.**)

**DRUMMERS:** (Drum to the music. Watch the **HPS** for direction.)

**HPS & Main Altar Servant:** (will sing & dance here, followed by **Drumming & Dancing** with everyone joining in. This ecstatic dancing is in and of itself an offering to Her.)

**Final Act: Grounding & Close the Circle** (to '**Yemaya Assessu**' by Devi Primal – track 9)

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** (Play '**Yemaya Assessu**' by Devi Primal – track 9 - for the final grounding meditation. Watch for the **HPS** to que you to play this track. Play this track to the end.)

**GROUNDING & RELEASING THE ENERGY**

**HP:** (to say a few words about the end of the ritual and the **Grounding we are doing.** ) "Now that you have merged with the Mysteries, and now that you have freed your Loving Energies, reach your hands up to our Father, the Sky, and then place them upon our Mother, the Earth, grounding yourself and your energies, keeping what you need for yourself and letting go of the rest. Keeping open to the flow of the Universe and its possibilities." (Ring bell three times to bring everyone back and pause.)

***HPS: Final Praise Songs for Ellegua and Yemaya, and Closing Words  
The Final Blessing***

**HPS:** “Ocean Goddess, Surging wave and hand of the tide, Nurturer of the ebb and flow of life, Grant us the wisdom, To see the rhythm and the current, Wash clear our eyes, In your waters, So that we may see, Your timing and Your gifts, Of opportunity and change, Awaken us, To the inevitability of life’s movement, So that we might embrace lightly, And never cling, To what might or might not be, But live fully, In the moment.”

“Goddess of the deep, Enighten us, To the mysterious wells, Of our souls, Plunge the depths, And awaken, The strong, wise, heart deep inside, Enabling us to see clearly, The power of love, The courage of people, The strength of being, & The light of life, In the darkest of times, Give stability and wisdom, To maintain the balance, Of the dance of life. Ashe.”

(adapted from a prayer by Raiwvynn)

“Ellegua, we thank you for opening the way for us. We bid you farewell. Ashe.”

”“As the tide returns to the sea, this circle is opened. Go free!”

<http://greenhaventradiation.weebly.com/litha.html> Thank you all for joining us this evening for this Summer Solstice Rite in honor of Yemaya, it is now ended. Merry Meet & Merry Part & Merry Meet Again. So Mote It Be. Now everyone please hug as this is our tradition.”

***The Ritual is Finished - The Final Act***

**TECHNO ATTENDANT:** (play the following music as everyone is exiting the circle and for the Clean-up:)

Brazilian Woman’s Group Song by ???- 5:58 – track 11

“Yemaya” by Lazaro Galarraga - 7:44 – track 12

Love is an Ocean by ??? - 3:27 – track 13

**Please stay and help with the clean-up, especially of the area you are responsible for as well as the Feasting area, on the patio, in the sanctuary and kitchen.**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR A SUCCESSFUL RITUAL!**  
**IT COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED**  
**WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND ENTHUSIASM!**  
**ASHE!**

## **RESEARCH, REFERENCES & RESOURCES**

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### **INTERNET RESEARCH:**

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## **MUSIC**

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(Brazilian Woman's Group of unknown origin) - Track 10 – "(*Yemaya* chant/song)" 5:58

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Goddess Alchemy Project. (????) – Track 5 - "*Listen*" 3:03

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Track 3 - "*Moyugbacion A Yemaya*" 0:24  
Track 8 - "*Iya Mabinu*" 13:37

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("Love is an Ocean" by Unknown Artist) – Track 12 – 3:27

(Ocean Sounds and Instrumental by Unknown Artist) - Track 7 - 5:24