



CUAPS Faerie Summer Solstice Rite
June 23, 2012

Faerie Summer Solstice Ritual 2012 - #9

Saturday, June 23rd at 8:45pm

Moonpath Chapter, CUUPS – Litha 2012

UUCFL, Fort Lauderdale, FL

by dragnfli D. ilfngard

Ritual Players:

Major Domo – Yen-Ching

The Bard – Ash the Silent

Serpent Dance Leaders – Chahanpi Melissae & Ruby

HPS – dragnfli

HP – Moon Dragon

Fire Master & Firetenders

(**NOTE: Firetenders** should be at their fire just before the ritual begins and throughout the ritual (except those at the Ritual Circle Entryway, you only have tiki torches). Please do not leave your lit fire unattended and be sure that it is completely extinguished at the end of the ritual, i.e. with water.

(Thanks for your attention. From the Fire Faeries!)

Fire Master/Main Fire – Fritter Man

Patio Fire – Count de Monie

Shrine Fire – Tomatoe Niteshade

Ritual Circle Entryway Guardians- Left/Moonday & Right/Shaper

The Elemental Quarter Callers/Helpers

(**NOTE: Quarter Callers** you will need to **create an appropriate Quarter Altar**. A table and candle to light when your quarter is called will be provided.)

East /Air – Muunpillo & Iasis & Green Willow

South/Fire – Ruby & Citrine & Luna

West/Water – Tara LeFey & Tigerlily & Diane

North/Earth – Chahanpi Melissae & Red Orchard & Sha'el

Drum Mistress – Sophia Linus

Drummers – whoever is interested that can follow Sophia's leadership

Techno Wizards – lighting & sound – Spelcastor & Count de Monie

RITUAL COSTUMES, RITUAL STAGING & PROPS

COSTUMES

Everyone, except the Bard, HP & HPS, should wear clothing appropriate for faeries of all sorts.

Quarter Callers & Teams please wear colors &/or costumes appropriate for your Direction.

Wingsies, elf ears, colorful & flowing robes, dresses, skirts, shirts, pants, and scarves, costumes, jewelry, and decorations and majikal tools of all sorts are encouraged.

Bard, please wear appropriate Robes or other dramatic outfit with accessories as you so will.

HP and **HPS** to wear green, red and gold robes and adornments

RITUAL STAGING & PROPS

Ritual Starting Point – The Church Patio Firepit Area

(1) hand-held torch (or some kind of lighting instrument) for the Bard

(3) Tiki Torches

Patio Fire

(1) "Doorway to the Faerie Realm" on the NE side of the firepit area

(this is a garden arch with draped fabric, greenery, etc. flanked by columns outside with sage)

(2) Cauldrons with Sage & Charcoal to smudge people as they enter the Land of Faerie

The Serpent Dance Route

(7) Tiki Torches along path, through Memorial Garden & Shrine, out to ritual circle

Shrine Fire

Boom Box with CD player – batteries & remote control (in Memorial Garden)

Ritual Music CD with Serpent Dance music

Main Ritual Circle

(2) Tiki Torches/Fires for NE Doorway to Ritual Circle

(10) Tiki Torches (2 for Main Altar, and 1 for the drummers, the quarters and cross-quarters)

Main Fire

(4) Quarter Altar Tables

(4) Quarter Colored (yellow, red, blue, green) Candles

PA/Sound System with CD player (next to Main Altar)

Ritual Music CD with the offering & closing music

(1) Music Stand for Ritual Script

(1) Table for Main Altar

(3) Altar Clothes

(2) Altar Candles

(1) Special Offering Candle

Incense for Altar

Bell

Ritual Tools & Elemental Items

(1) Flower Offerings Altar Table

(4) Large Baskets for Offering Stuffs (to be placed under Main Altar)

(4) medium Plates

(4) small Jugs

(4) Fabric Napkins

Faeire Cakes made by Marc

Nectar made by Moonpillow

(100+) small Paper Cups

Garbage Bags & Paper Towels

MUSIC

Loreena McKinnitt ***Mists of Avalon Sound Track*** – "The Mystic's Dream" 7:41 – **Song #1**

Book of Secrets – "Dante's Prayer" 7:11 – **Song #2**

Elaine Silver ***Faerie Goddess*** – "By the Earth" 3:31 – **Song #3**

The Celebration Rite

CREATING RITUAL SPACE

The Scene

Picture the rear of the church including the patio, inside of the sanctuary and the entire rear yard of the church, will be in total darkness immediately before the Pre-Ritual Storytelling begins. The scene is one of ancient mystery and hidden realms. The sky will be dark with the waxing gibbous moon not visible, and the outline of the trees and clouds against the sky; the darkness enhances the thinness of the Veil, and the Mystery of the Place. It is a scene conducive to deeper thoughts and feelings, with access to the Divine, and deep inner workings becoming manifest through connection with the Old Ones, the Fey, the Faeries.....

PRELUDE

Seasonal/Ritual Story & Ritual Purpose

HPS & HP: (Take your places at the Main Altar.)

Sound Techno Master: (Take your place at the CD player in the Memorial Garden.)

Fire Tenders: (Take your places at your firepits.)

Serpent Dance Leaders: (Take your places at the "Doorway to Faerie".)

The Major Domo: (The **Major Domo** will turn out the lights and call to everyone to gather to hear the Stories of Old & to celebrate the Summer Solstice.) "Hear Ye, Hear Ye – everyone come to listen to the stories of the Bard. The Summer Solstice Ritual to follow." (Say it a bunch of times till everyone is gathered on the church patio.)

The Bard: (coming from around the Butterfly Island from out of the darkness, she lights the patio fire pit with her torch and begins telling the tales of the Summer Solstice. There will be a Doorway to Faerie [in the NE] into the Ritual/Majikal Realm [path to the ritual circle] and 3 torches around the fire pit area, which she will light one by one as she proceeds to tell the stories, myths, lore and observances of the season.):

"Long ago, in a time and place as different from now as day from night, the Summer Solstice was a time that stirred the Faerie folk to come and interact with the mundane world and the humans who inhabited Her. In the mundane world this is the longest day of the year, the 'beginning of the end' of the seasonal year. The Summer Solstice is the time of the year when the crops that were planted in the Spring, around Imbolc and Oestara, are beginning to ripen. This is the first summer celebration of the year; it is now Midsummer."

"In the majikal world, Summer Solstice is one of the three solar celebrations that remembers the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest, for this is the time when the days start to die, bringing the winter and death, a time of crossing-over. It is therefore a good time to deal with otherworldly matters. It is a nite when the Fey roam the land, for though they come and go as they please, they are still a part of the other realm and this is a particularly strong time for them to contact us."

"It is also the time of the year when the Green Goddess, the Initiatrix who teaches the God The Mysteries, is pregnant from the Beltaine nite rites. It is recognized that the Oak King has given way so the Holly King can reemerge, the Son and Lover of the Goddess, at Yule. It is in the summer,

when light is the longest, that they meet in union, and the strength of their passion sustains the world." (Starhawk, 1999, p53)

"But tonight (brief pause) tonight, we will be focusing our attention on our Faerie friends, those elemental beings, some would say divine messengers, who inhabit both the physical and the ethereal realms."

"There was once a time, very long ago, when the Faerie Folk roamed about freely and all could say that they had seen these beautiful and ugly, playful and tricky, otherworldly creatures. The Faeries had great wisdom to teach and joy to bring to the mortals, and there was a relationship between them, each believing in the other."

"It is a fact that when you believe in faeries, you encourage them to visit you. It is said that the more you believe in faeries the more often they will come to visit you and the bigger they will get. In olden days, some of the Fey were said to be much bigger than in modern times, larger than humans often. Today, however, most folks who are lucky enough to spot a faerie say they are smaller than us."

"There are many different religious and spiritual traditions worldwide who refer to the Old Ones, the elemental beings and nature spirits by various names and guises in their teaching, myths, folklore and art. From Africa to Asia to Europe and the Americas, all have stories recalling the spirits of nature, their ancestors, and the those from the other realms who have visited them and helped them, or stymied them."

"And as to their temperament, well of course a few of the Faeries are, some mortals would say, a little more mischevious than others, so care and consideration are always advisable when dealing with them. And, because there is no sense of human morality for the fey – they are AMORAL – they may do things we may consider mean, or bad, BUT we must remember not to impose our human ideas of right and wrong upon them. They operate under a different code of conduct. They appear to operate under a code of ethics that revolves around having fun, being truthful and honoring their word. As you can see, these are things humans sometimes have a hard time with."

"Now the faeries of course love a good party, and the night of the Summer Solstice was a night when the faeries and the humans got together to celebrate the universal oneness of their being with dancing, singing, chanting, drumming, trance work, meditation, fires, divinations, rituals, and of course eating and drinking, especially good faerie mead and English beer! Tonight we will invite the fey to join us in our Summer Solstice Rites, we will invite them to participate with us in opening to the wider, wilder powers of the universe. We will be safe and happy and at one with Spirit in this rite, receiving and giving back to the Universe, and the Divine in ourselves, and in each other."

"Prepare now to dance the serpent dance into the ritual circle. We will be following the **Dance Leaders** through the Doorway to Faerie. (**Dance Leaders** to light the smudging sage in the cauldrons at the Doorway to Faerie). Please join in the chanting and singing if you wish. Now, in the Celtic Faerie tradition, we enter our ritual space having shaken off the pressures, burdens and emotions of our mundane lives, entering our communal ritual space in perfect love and perfect trust. So in this spirit I will ask you all to reply in unison, as the faeries like a good hurrah, first with a yeah, or, second with a nay, to my challenge: Do you all enter this ritual space in perfect love and in perfect trust? (PAUSE for a response) Any Nay Sayers? (pause, if anyone responds negatively, we ask them not to enter the land of faerie with us.) Then, please, follow me and enter now the path to Faerie and onward to this Sacred Summer Solstice Rite!"

OPENING RITUAL

Forming the Ritual Circle

Bard: (the **Bard** will lead Everyone out to the Ritual Circle, and should be the first to step through the Doorway to Faerie.)

Sound Techno Master: (begin the CD player with **Song #1** - "The Mystics Dream" Loreena McKinnett [7:41] as soon as the Bard steps through the Doorway to Faerie.)

Serpent Dance Leaders: (Meanwhile, the **Serpent Dance Leaders**, who have been in the Doorway to Faerie will follow the Bard, and begin to lead the dance as soon as the music **Song #1** starts to play.)

Bard: (will proceed to light the tiki torches on the Pathway to the Ritual Circle and the Shrine Firepit as she leads everyone to the NE entrance of the Ritual Circle. She will proceed inside the circle moving sunwise, back to the entrance, continuing to light the tiki torches as she goes, and forming the Ritual Circle. She will then hand her torch to the **HP**, who lights the Main Fire with it, and join the other celebrants in the Ritual Circle.)

Elemental Quarter Teams: (the **Elemental Quarter Teams** will help to lead all the people out to the Ritual Circle, please come forward and follow the Serpent Dance Leaders and help folks get in the dance line.)

Drum Mistress & Drummers: (the **Drum Mistress & her Drummers** will begin drumming as soon as she sees people coming out of the Shrine and will continue to play the drums until Everybody has entered the ritual circle, and all the **Elemental Quarter Callers** have reached their Direction, or the **HPS** cues her to stop.)

Quarter calls - Calling the Elemental Being (Directions)

HP: (Once everyone is in the Ritual Circle, the **HP** will light the main fire and begin): "We will now invite the Elemental Beings to our Rite. Let the drums sound."

Drummers: (drum while **Quarter Team** walks around the circle back to their direction to Call their Quarter.)

HPS: "Let the words be spoken."

East - "Sylphs, faeries and elemental beings of air, of wind, of breathe, of mind, of knowing. We do call upon and summon you to witness this rite and guard this circle. So mote it be." (Light Quarter Candle)

HP: "Let the drums sound."

Drummers: (drum while **Quarter Team** walks around the circle back to their direction to Call their Quarter.)

HPS: "Let the words be spoken."

South: "Salamanders and elemental beings of fire, of flame, of passion, of soul, of inspiration. We do call upon and summon you to witness this rite and guard this circle. So mote it be." (Light Quarter Candle)

HP: "Let the drums sound."

Drummers: (drum while **Quarter Team** walks around the circle back to their direction to Call their Quarter.)

HPS: "Let the words be spoken."

West: "Undines, sprites and elemental beings of water, of healing, of emotions, of heart, of understanding, of imagination. We do call upon and summon you to witness this rite and guard this circle. So mote it be." (Light Quarter Candle)

HP: "Let the drums sound."

Drummers: (drum while **Quarter Team** walks around the circle back to their direction to Call their Quarter.)

HPS: "Let the words be spoken."

North: "Elves, gnomes, and elemental beings of earth, of nature, of sustenance, of body, of manifestation. We do call upon and summon you to witness this rite and guard this circle. So mote it be." (Light Quarter Candle)

INVOCATION OF THE GOD & GODDESS

HP & HPS: (to be standing near the Main Altar which will be in the North.)

HP: (PAUSE) *Prayer to the Great Mother*

"Lady, from you all things emerge,
and unto you all things return.
Please bless this work we do now,
That we may feel it flowing from your pleasure and bounty
And boundless intelligence.

Lady, from you all things emerge,
And unto you all things return.
So now we give this work to you.
For though all is yours,
It is possible to run from your love.
Instead we raise our faces, like the child's to the mother,
That we may live in your pleasure, bounty,
And boundless intelligence.
So mote it be."
(light left altar candle)

HPS: Prayer to the Lord of the Dance

"Most holy sacrament of Selfhood,
Who forever lifts His divine head
To be blessed and to bless,
Please be with us now.

You are Her chosen one, Her anointed one.
Bring us these mysteries.

It is all pleasures to love you.
Make us smile with these pleasures.

You see the futures our Mother breathes life into.
Bring us your vision.

You reside in us,
So that we shine with our own unique divinity,
And are in ourself and of ourselves God.

Bless this work.
So mote it be."
(light right altar candle)

HPS: (Everyone to anoint their own foreheads with "*spit & earth blend*" as ***HPS*** prays): "Everyone please follow our example for a self-anointing, while we say the prayer."

"Goddess, bring the body of God into our beings
that like Him we may shine and be loved by you.
Lend us earth and water, air and fire –
Fill us with these elements, these powers of creation,
That we may tend them because they are your garden,
And that we may be safe in this work,
And happy and one with you.
So mote it be."
(light "Faerie Candle" in center of altar together)

(prayers adapted from DeGrandis, 1999, 29-30)

STATEMENT OF RITUAL PURPOSE

HPS: (to explain the Purpose & Intent of the Ritual)

"The intent of this ritual is to celebrate the Summer Solstice, the ecstatic love of the Goddess for the God, and the universal oneness of our being with the Fey and Spirit. Now that the fey have joined us, they will assist us in opening to the wider powers of the universe. We will receive from and give back to the Universe, the Divine in ourselves, and in each other through the flow of universal energies. The following meditation includes breathing, listening, chanting and trance-dancing. Please join in as appropriate."

Seasonal Meditation

HP: (Slowly Ring Bell three times.) "Now, ladies and gentlemen, please relax as we begin the Meditation. (PAUSE) Close your eyes and take three deep breaths, in through the nose and out through the mouth. (PAUSE) Breathe in clean, new, energizing air; (PAUSE) and breathe out any negative, old, stale breath that holds you back. (PAUSE) Listen now, sisters & brothers, to the story of the season, a story of love, unity and ecstasy, also of endings and pain. Imagine how some version of this myth could be manifesting in your everyday, mundane existence. Allow its wisdom to open you to growth and empowerment." (PAUSE, ring bell once)

HPS: (steps to the center of the circle to read – be VERY DRAMATIC!)

"This is the time of the rose,
of blossom and thorn,
of fragrance and blood.
Now on this longest day, light triumphs,
and yet begins the decline into dark.

The Oak King grown embraces the Queen of Summer, the Green Goddess,
in the love that is death because it is so complete
that all dissolves into the single song of ecstasy
that moves the worlds.

So the Lord of Light dies to Himself,
and sets sail across the dark seas of time,
searching for the isle of light that is rebirth.

We turn the Wheel and share his fate,
for we have planted the seeds of our own changes,
and to grow we must accept even the passing of the sun."
(Starhawk, 1999, 205-207)

(PAUSE – Ring Bell Once - PAUSE)

"(Ecstasy) is the song, the energy and power that fills Unity. There is nothing else but that song – no voice to sing, no ears to hear, just the infinite and eternal song, the energy of which completely fills eternity and infinity. This rhapsodic song of bliss is what powers the cosmos and what gives it order and harmony. It is the song that holds the atoms together, the stars in their places, the galaxies in theirs (– it is what brings the god & goddess together). It keeps our hearts beating, and it is the love and trust that flows through them." (Froud & Macbeth, 2000, 54-55).

(PAUSE – Ring Bell Once - PAUSE)

Bard: (to lead the **Chanting x 7**)

"She walks in Brilliance of the Moon!"

"He strides in Solar Splendor!" * (*chant created by Ash the Silent for the first performance 2003*)

HPS, HP & Quarter Teams: (to begin chant with Bard, **CHANT x7**)

Drum Mistress: (play a simple accompaniment to the chant – the chant tempo goes “da-da da-da da-da da-da! Da-daa da da da da-da!” [8 counts, 7 counts] She-walks in-brilliance-of the-moon! He-strides in So-lar Splen-dor!)

(When the chanting has ended, **Drum Mistress** start the **trance drumming and dance** for about 5-10 minutes as the energy seems to be flowing. **Drum Mistress**, please end the trancing by slowing down and bringing folks back gently.)

HPS: (Once Everyone has stopped dancing and drumming, PAUSE and Ring Bell Once.) "In this time of Awareness - of Self, the Fey and Divinity – allow yourself to be open to the flow of the Universe and the ways in which you can experience new avenues of consciousness in your life. What are your hopes and dreams? In this time of Love, be aware of the energy flowing within this Circle and, if you can, focus on allowing yourself to free these Loving Energies, making them available to yourself, your brothers & sisters, the Earth and the Spirits that inhabit Her." (PAUSE)

GROUNDING & RELEASING THE ENERGY

HP: (ring bell three times to bring everyone back and pause) "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." (PAUSE)

OFFERINGS & LIBATIONS

HPS: (Signal the **Quarter Teams** to come forward now.) "In many traditions there is a sharing of food and drink, representing sharing with and partaking of the God and Goddess within the sacred spaces created. It is also a good way to ground yourself after a trip to Faerie. With this in mind, the **Elemental Faerie Helpers** will now pass out Faerie Cakes and Nectar to Everyone."

(PAUSE) "Please wait for a moment before you partake until everyone has their Offering. Also, after I have done so, please libate into the fire. A libation is an offering of a portion of your food and drink to the God and Goddess, a sharing, in turn, of yourself with the Divine."

Sound Techno Master: (to begin the CD player with **Song #2** – "Please Remember Me" Loreena McKinnett [7:11], as soon as the HPS has finished speaking.)

CLOSING RITUAL - Closing Statement

HP: (when **Song #2** has ended): "Thank you for participating in this ritual to honor the Oak King, the Green Goddess, the Summer Solstice and the Fey. It is hoped that you feel more connected to the Gods, to the fey and to each other. Faeries are here and they appreciate all acts done to honor Them."

The Blessing:

HPS: "And now, please close your eyes and open yourself to the Blessing." (PAUSE)

HP: "Holy Mother, thank you for your gifts and blessings. Blessed be." (put out the left altar candle)

HPS: "Lord, thank you for your presence and love. Blessed be." (put out the right altar candle)

HPS: "We pray the Mother keep us mindful, and stay with us in the union of all things. So mote it be."

Releasing Elemental Energies & Diety

HP: "Elements of Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Spirit — we thank you for attending this rite. Stay if you will, or go in Peace. Blessed be."

HPS: (put out the Offering Candle)

The Elemental Quarter Callers: (put out elemental fires in order N, W, S, & E.)

Close Ritual Space

Sound Techno Master: (to begin the CD player with **Song #3** – "By the Earth" Elaine Silver [3:31], as soon as the Offering Candle is extinguished.)

Bard: (as soon as **Song #3** is over, the Bard will step forward and end the rite): "Let it be known that this rite is ended. Merry Meet and Merry Part, and Merry Meet Again. BLESSED BE!!! SO MOTE IT BE!!!"

POST RITUAL

Everyone to assist with the putting away of tables, techno-stuff, props and tools, extinguish fires and tiki torches, and generally CLEAN-UP!!!

Thank You Very Much for Your Participation.

May the Goddess & the God, in their many forms, bless you always! So Be It!!!

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