

# ***YULETIDE CELEBRATION RITE***

***YULE 2013***

**LED BY MAX – LORD DARKSTORM**

**CAST:** High Seer (HS - White)  
High Priest (HP - Black)  
Bard (Turquoise)  
Fire Tender (Orange)  
Candle Keeper (Purple)  
Sage Anointer  
4 Quarter Callers & Minions  
(Green-Yellow-Red-Blue)

**PROPS:** 9 Rainbow Colored Candles  
100 Participants Candles & Paper Cups  
Torches for Main Alter, Quarters & Entryway  
Ruins or Divination Cards  
Sacred Yule Bonfire  
Salt, Water, Sage stick, Fire  
Shortbread (Cake) & Apple Juice (Ale)  
Powdered Creamer

## **GATHERING:**

***1. Purification of Self-*** Ground and center before joining the others

***BARD by UU Center Stage***

## **THE BARD REMEMBERS – Winter Solstice Tale- “The First Yule”**

**BARD:** “Hear Ye - Hear Ye. Be it known that The Ritual is about to begin.”

***(When all assembled)***

“Let none be here but of their own free will. Be it known that the practice of Our Ritual involves secrets. Even in this, The Outer Court, share with no one the names of those gathered here tonight. Some of us here prefer our identities remain private.”

“Please silence ALL Cell phones or answer to The God and The Goddess”

“Do you all enter this ritual space in Perfect Love and in Perfect Trust?”

***(Pause for a response)***

“Any Nay Sayers? Then, follow me down the mystic path this night and enter this Sacred Winter Solstice Rite!”

***(Play Music - Drummers drum something dark)***

***(Main Courtiers will lead the participants through the Garden of the Shadows (in NWSE order-cross quarters in front). Quarter teams will form an Arch of Pine and all who enter will be anointed and cleansed. Participants receive candles & cups as they enter the Circle. Bard will lead the participants around the circle as the HS and HP stand by the torches)***

***2. Purification of Space-*** Prepare the worship space (Sage the people as they enter – Anoint the people during the cleansing of the Circle )

## **CLEANSING OF CIRCLE**

**HS:** “As this Circle is cleansed, may it be cleared of any harmful and unwanted energy.”

***(Cleanse the site widdershins starting at the North.) (Use Torch and Sacred offerings)***

“Physical Ailments depart this Rite, Casting away demons into Darkest Night;

Banished you are - by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(north to west)*

“Emotional Woes depart this Rite, Cast away demons into Darkest Night;

Banished you are - by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(west to south)*

“Spiritual Doubts depart this Rite, Cast away demons into Darkest Night;

Banished you are - by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(south to east)*

“Mental Haze depart this Rite, Cast away demons into Darkest Night;

Banished you are - by torches light, Take this our offering and leave our sight.” *(east to north)*

***(Ring the gong three times slowly)***

## CONSCRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

HS: "It is time to leave behind all that troubles us in the old year. The Darkness has the power to draw it out and cleanse you. Focus now, as we clear this circle and all those present. We conjure ye, spirits of the four elements, by the powers of this sacred blade. Hear me now and attend."

HP: "Cleanse our Circle with Water and Salt."

*(HS places point of athame in salt and adds three portions of salt to the water and hands it to Attendant #1)*

HP: "Cleanse our Circle with Smoke and Fire."

*(HS lights cauldron of sage and lets it flame and smothers it. Attendant #2 takes up cauldron and both proceed around Circle.)*

*(Drummers drum)*

HP: "Let us chant the following."

Chant: "By Water and Salt, Cleanse this place,  
Join Smoke and Fire, Creates Sacred Space."

*(Attendant #1&#2 returns to Alter)*

HS: "Hear me Ancient Ones. We come before Ye on this most sacred eve to give homage and remembrance. We honor the return of the sun, who dwelled for a time in the great darkness and who will bring forth light on this – The Darkest Night."

*(Hand torch to Firestarter who lights the sacred fire)*

HS: "I call upon the highest to impart thy essence into this most sacred flame." *(Drummers drum wildly)*

HS and HP – *(Flip up Masks)*

HP: "And now, listen very carefully."

HS: "You are on a journey during the darkest of nights.

In a place that is not a place.

And a time that is not in time.

You have not arrived here by chance,  
but have put yourself on this Course long ago.

Tonight we shall travel some of it together.

You are a Miracle, a Mystery, a Joy;

You are quicksilver, A distant sound

A fleeting shadow, your path has no bound

Beyond which you cannot pass

You live in music, A flash of color,

In the wind And in the sparkle of a star.

Glowing in brilliance and brightness

Following the cycles of Sun and Moon,

Growing in Divine Radiance."

*(Vibrating Gong increasing in volume)*

**3. Creating Sacred Space-** cast the circle and invoke the Guardians

*(Get sword from Alter)*

HS: "Let us now cast our Circle." *(HS holds sword above head)*

*(HP cast Circle with sword - Drummers drum)*

Chant: "We cast this Circle round and round, by its magick we are bound." *(HP returns to alter)*

HP: "We now proclaim to everyone that this, our Ritual, has begun." *(Drumming and Gong)*

## QUARTER CALLS:

**HP: "Let us now invoke the Elementals, starting in the North. Let the drums sound!"**

*(The North Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. North Minion approaches the main altar)*

**HS: "Let the words be spoken!"**

### **NORTH:**

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Earth

Join us in our Gathering of Mirth.

Northern elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this magical night.

**Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!"**

*(North Caller and troop return to their station)*

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**HP: "And now the East. Let the drums sound!"**

*(The East Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. East Minion approaches the main altar)*

**HS: "Let the words be spoken!"**

### **EAST:**

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Sky

Join us in our Holiday Cry.

Eastern elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this enchanted night.

**Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!"**

*(East Caller and troop return to their station)*

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**HP: "And now the South. Let the drums sound!"**

*(The South Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. South Minion approaches the main altar)*

**HS: "Let the words be spoken!"**

### **SOUTH:**

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Fire

Join us by our Yuletide Pyre.

Southern elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this sacred night.

**Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!"**

*(South Caller and troop return to their station)*

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**HP: "And finally the West. Let the drums sound!"**

*(The West Caller walks around the circle and up to the high altar. West Minion approaches the main altar)*

**HS: "Let the words be spoken!"**

### **WEST:**

"We call upon the Guardians who dwell in the Sea

Join us in our Festivity.

Western elements witness this rite

Protecting the circle, this mystical night.

**Hear me ancient ones, Hail and Welcome !!!"**

*(West Caller and troop return to their station)*

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*(Draw the Cosmic Lemniscate with the wand over the Alter.) (Set down wand and raise athame in both hands overhead)*

**HS: "Hail to the Elementals! We stand between the worlds with perfect love and perfect trust, ready to welcome the Lord and Lady to this rite. (Gong)"**

#### **4. Invocation of Goddess and God**

*(Ring the gong three times slowly)*

**HP: “We are here to conjure the essence of Jarilo (yah-REE-loh) “Master of Renewal” and Marzanna (mahr-ZAH-nah) “Mistress of nocturnal Prophecy”, Mighty spirits of the season, known within the legends of the World.”**

HS: “Jarilo and Marzanna, children of Perun, are both associated with the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Many Eastern European nations still celebrate this pagan rite by saying goodbye to winter and welcoming spring with straw effigies and other rituals that have their origins in the pre-Christian Era. Jarilo, a horse-like god, was the Slavic god of springtime and harvest. Marzanna appears as an old crone in white and is death and winter personified. This was customary as both the fire of the sun, and the rain waters were needed for the fertility of the crops. The Slavic name for Yule is “**Godowe Święto**” Korochun – The Feast of Mating. As we cast this offering into the fire, Devine Creator, please send us your Joy and Prosperity.”

*(•Marzanna appears dressed in white holding an effigy of herself. She is escorted to the edge of the village and thrown out. In Poland she was burned then "drowned". )*

*(•Jarilo appears as a beautiful, barefoot youth wearing a long white robe. His head is crowned with a wreath of flowers and he rides a white horse effigy. He is seen holding a bunch of wheat ears in his left hand. He is a god of youth and sexuality and holds a symbolic phallus in his right hand.)*

**HS: “Blessed are the Lord and the Lady who turn the mighty Wheel. Welcome The Yule for the turning point of Winter is here at last. The end of the old Solar Year has come, and a New Solar Year begins. The Dark God departs as the new Light God is born”**

#### **5. Stating the Purpose**

**Statement of Purpose: Margret Poem with Max and Max Yuletide Poem.**

**HP: “This day is a new beginning and we send our power forth into union with the energies of the Cosmos adding our strength to the Sun which rekindles our strength as the rays warm the earth.**

**This new fire is lit to bid farewell to the Dark Lord of the Solar Night and greet the Lord of Light, seen in the rebirth of the Invincible Sun. May our power be added to the strength of the newborn Lord, and His to ours.”**

**“Hail to the God of Light and Joy! Hail to the movement of Time Eternal! The Lord of Light brings us gifts for all as symbols of His love. As a symbol of His gifts, we will now light the nine candles representing the diversity of Light, each having a gift to share with the world. Remember as each gift is given, one is also received. What we send, returns to us.”**

**HS: “The energy structure of man, which consists of nine basic energy centers or “STORMS”. These are more commonly known as chakras. The Indian System is based on seven, while the Slavic has nine added the yin and yang energy centers or storms. We now attune to these storms and channel their essence into our sacred flame. Candle Bearers if you will please gather at the Sacred Fire so it may bestow Lights’ divine gifts on you and in turn that you may than share it with us.”**

*(Drummers drum.)*

#### **YULETIDE RITUAL**

*(All candle bearers will proceed forward to the main bonfire with candles held high-drummers drumming softly. In unison, circle to the left and walk one full turn around bonfire. Red will lead the rest to the main alter lining up in rainbow order. Then each candle bearer will light their candle while reading their part before returning to their area and start to light the candles in their color group/area beginning with the person directly behind them)*

*(As each sections candle is lit, pass the flame from candle to candle until reaching the next color area At the same time Cups will be filled with water for the Divination)*

## **6. The Work, the Magick, Ritual Observance**

“We light the RED candle for RESPECT:  
We Respect the importance and dignity of every being  
Respect your World, Respect your Neighbor, Respect Yourself.” *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

“We light the ORANGE candle for OFFERING:  
We Offer our skills and assistance to those in need  
Offer your Help, Offer your Talent, Offer Yourself.” *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

“We light the YELLOW candle for YEARNING:  
We Yearn to improve our lives and well-being  
Yearn for Peace, Yearn for Happiness, Yearn to improve Yourself.” *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

“We light the GREEN candle for GROWTH:  
We Grow each day as we journey through life  
Grow within your Limitations, Grow within your Challenges, Grow within Yourself.”  
*(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

“We light the TURQUOISE candle for TRUST:  
We Trust in the strength of the immortal soul  
Trust your Feelings, Trust your Friends, Trust Yourself.” *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

“We light the BLUE candle for BELIEF:  
We Believe in the ability to change the future.  
Believe in Ideas, Believe in Dreams, Believe in Yourself.” *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

“We light the VIOLET candle for VALUE:  
We Value the kind and fair treatment to all  
Value your Freedom, Value your Life, Value Yourself.” *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

“We light the Black and White candles for LOVE:  
We Love the divine and the blessing that are given  
Love your Gifts, Love each Other, Love Yourself.” *(Drum and cheering-raising energy)*

## **Energy-channeling-releasing (Divination-Waves Of Light-Fire Dancing)**

### **7. Divination and Energy Raising**

HS: “Let us now focus our thought on the future. As you do let the wax drip into the cup filled with water”  
*(HS demonstrates how. “As the wax hits the water it creates a charm, later gaze at it and see what visions come to you)*

### **8. Channel the Energy**

HS: “Now, let us create in unison a wave of light, as I point to you, please raise and lower your candle-Slowly.”  
*(HS slowly circles the crowd sunwise and points to the crowd spiraling closer to the fire each time around)*

### **9. Releasing the Power**

HS: “Feel the essence in this holiday wreath of energy we have created. Let us raise it up and send it forth into the universe. Let us now dance around the fire. When you are ready, cast your candle into the fire and send out an intention for the New Year.”

*(Dance music and drumming)*

HS: “May this Yule Fire bring light to all the world. Good Health, Good Cheer and Good Fortune in the coming year!  
That as We will, So Mote It Be!” *(Lots of Drumming and cheering)*

HS: “The God of Light comes to us; let us hold His promise in our souls. Through the stages of life, death and rebirth are we shown the Mystery, for there is no death, only passage, and the God holds the torch to light the way for us. God of Light and Joy, held within the Mother’s arms, the radiance of thy face lifts our spirits in the dark of Winter, and brings us comfort and peace.” *(Ring the gong)*

## **10. The Feast**

### **CAKES & ALE**

HS: “We affirm the joy of the Divine Union and acknowledge Their blessings unto us. We know our needs and offer our gratitude to that which sustains us. May we ever remember the blessings of our Lady and our Lord of whom both dwell within us.”

HS: & HP:

“I am He and I am She;  
We are One, who dwell in thee,  
Lord and Lady, live or dead;  
Light and Dark, bound and wed.

Call us Earth, or Call us Sky;  
Male or Female, live and die,  
Call us Moon, or Call us Sun;  
Symbols of the seasons run.

Grace and Power is our name;  
We are two, and yet the same,  
Eternal essence, start to end;  
Dance apart and then re-blend.

Rites of passage mark the way;  
Human souls in earthen clay,  
Birth through life, and then beyond;  
Swimming round the spiral pond.

Life to life and on it flows;  
Energy learns and then it grows,  
Souls with need may be reborn;  
Time is timeless in our form.”

HS: “As this **Cup** is to the Chalice;”

HP: “So is this **Knife** to the Blade;”

HS & HP: “Sacred is this union; We both have made.”

*(HS holds the chalice. The HP places his athame in the goblet) (The bell is rung three times)*

HP: “And now it is time for cakes and ale. Quarter teams please approach the altar.”

*(Cakes are distributed by Quarter Teams. Each team concentrates only upon their own quarter)*

HS: “Great Lady, our thanks to you.

We give you back what is your due.” *(HS pours a small amount of ale onto the earth)*

HP: “Great Lord, our thanks to you.

We give you back what is your due.” *(HP picks up one cake from the altar and crumbles it to the ground)*

*(HP picks up a cake in each hand and feeds one to HS.) (HS shares the Chalice and separates the goblet)  
(Both salute the visitors and drink)*

HP & HS: “Eat, drink, and be merry, as delighted as we.  
Share and give thanks. So mote it be.”

*(Drumming. HS & HP steps to fire. All toss cups into the fire)*

HP: “Paper cups into the fire!” *(More Drumming)*

## 11. Thanking the Deities

HS: It is now time to bid farewell to our Holly Day Spirits.

HP: Spirits, Thank you for joining us with your presence here in our Circle this evening. STAY if you will, GO if must.  
(Drums wildly !)

HS: WHAO !!!

## 12. Opening the Circle- Hug those near you, for they are your fellow travelers.

HP: And now, it is time to bid farewell to the elementals, starting with the North.

HS: **Let the drums sound!**

*(North Caller and troop circle to high altar)*

HS: Let the words be spoken!

**(North Caller)** "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Earth,  
We thank you for attending our Gathering of Mirth.  
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,  
Blessed be to all attending this rite.  
So mote it be! "

*(North Caller and troop return to their station. West Caller and troop circle to high altar)*

HS: Let the words be spoken!

**(West Caller)** "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Sea,  
We thank you for adding to our Festivity.  
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,  
Blessed be to all attending this rite.  
So mote it be! "

*(West Caller and troop return to their station. South Caller and troop circle to high altar)*

HS: Let the words be spoken!

**(South Caller)** "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Fire,  
We thank you for warming our Yuletide Pyre.  
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,  
Blessed be to all attending this rite.  
So mote it be! "

*(South Caller and troop return to their station. East Caller and troop circle to high altar)*

HS: Let the words be spoken!

**(East Caller)** "Farewell, Guardians who dwell in the Air,  
We thank you for attending our Joyous Affair.  
Go if you will, stay if you must this night,  
Blessed be to all attending this rite.  
So mote it be! "

*(East Caller and troop return to their station)*

HS: "The Slavic Goddess of the season is named Koleda which translates "To Sing" or "To Carol". Whichever path you are on, please join us in our closing "Seasonal Carol" or should I say "Koleda" - "Share the Light".

*(Start DVD for backup video)*

HS: Merry did we meet, merry do we part, and merry will we meet again.  
The Circle is cleared and This ritual is at an end!  
Blessings have been given, and blessings have been received.  
So Mote It Be!

HP: Merry Yule to All and to All a good night.