

# Ostara Ritual – AWC Workshop 2008

for “Coven Of The Spring Phoenix”

by Blayze

Set up

8 golden cords. 1 cane hoop covered in vines. 1 small crystal egg. Sheet of gold tissue paper. 2 x tapers. Small cauldron. There is a large Cauldron in West full of water. In it float 8 flowers; Sunflower, Iris, Burgundy Rose, White Rose, Crocus, Oak Leaf, Bluebell, Elderflower. Also within the cauldron is a Chalice upon a small stand.

Upon the altar is a Flowered circlet for the Maiden, a Horned Crown for the Stag. There is also some anointing oil.

## Circle Cast

## Quarters

## Central Invocation

## Power Raising

Power raising is performed as a cord dance with 8 golden cords looped together in a wheel. The Maiden stands in the West with the Hoop.

The dance can be performed to the Witches Rune or preferred power raising chant.

At the end of the cord dance the wheel is lowered to the ground and then lifted back up after everyone has grounded. They still keep hold of their cords whilst this happens.

When they raise it back up the introductory poem is spoken

**PS1:** *The silver'd star on silken thread  
'twixt night and day doth swing  
But where O where will it come to rest  
When Winter turns to Spring?*

**PR1:** *For subtle is the journey  
Of the ash and feathered flame  
That drifts between the dusk and dawn  
In search of Sun's bright ray*

**PS2:** *The feather flies on scented breeze  
As silver'd star doth pause  
In seeking for the Golden Child  
With whom Solstice is reborn*

**PR2:** *For now the silver'd star doth swing  
beyond the Earth and Sea  
With mirror'd glimpse of other worlds  
Where bone becomes the seed*

**PS3:** *Where feathered flame consumes the ash  
As the firebird takes wing  
To land upon the crown of He  
Who heralds in the Spring*

**PR3:** *So seek now for the Golden Child  
Who with wing'd crown displays  
The changing seasons of the man  
The King who rules the Day.*

The priestess who will become the Maiden, then places the hoop over the wheel. Each covenor then binds their cord ends to the vine woven hoop.

**Maiden:** *Thus is story woven – blessed be! The Wheel Of Life is bound to the Journey of the Sun. And beneath the Sun's bountiful rays we shall bloom, as the land blooms.*

**HP:** *For we are told as of old, in the ancient mysteries, that from the ashes of the winter's hearth the earth will awaken and send forth her flowers.*

**HPS:** *The flowers of Spring's heady renewal and the flowers that mark our memory of the greening of the world. So mote it be.*

Now each covenor, in turn moves to the cauldron that is placed in the west. One at a time they spiral out from the Wheel and move to the West. As each person moves, the Maiden takes their place holding the wheel. The cauldron is full of spring water and floating upon the surface are flowers that have either ribbon or florist wire bound to them. There is also a chalice that sits on a small stand within the cauldron. It should be half in and half out of the water. The chalice is filled with either spring water or herb infused white wine or mead. Each covenor takes their flower or leaf from the cauldron and returns to bind it to the wheel.

**HPS:** *Red is the rose of beauty's first kiss.*

**HP:** *Strong is the oakleaf revealed in the mist*

**PR1:** *Power indeed has the flower of the sun*

**PS1** *And the elder has compassion when the berry is young*

**PR2:** *The Iris brings honour with a sovereign hue*

**PS2:** *Whilst humble is the flower of the bell so blue*

**PR3:** *The crocus is budded in laughter and mirth*

**PS3:** *And the white rose reveres the song of the earth.*

The Sun Wheel is complete and the Maiden having stood at each place on the wheel, now moves to the Cauldron.

**Maiden:** *Within the Cauldron of Cerridwen there are no flowers left that I may weave upon the wheel. It is the cup of the wine of life that remains.*

**HPS:** *Come priestess, it is you who bound the wheel to the Sun. You hold the essence of all of the flowers within you. Take up the Wheel woven by your brothers and sisters and make of it an offering from all of us here gathered.*

The Maiden takes the wheel and carries it from the East to the North to the West. When she arrives at the West she sprinkles it with some of the water from the cauldron and then spins it from the West to the South to the East once more. She places the Sun Wheel before the altar and spends a moment contemplating it.

Meanwhile the 8 covenors who have stood in the centre facing inwards, now spin to face outwards

and join hands upraised. They chant as the Maiden walks.

**All:**            *The moon goes round the earth, the earth goes round the sun, when day and night are equal, the greening has begun.*

When the Maiden places the Sun Wheel, the covenors in the centre drop hands and walk to the edge of the circle, where they turn around to face inwards.

The HPS goes to the Cauldron and takes up the Cup.

The Maiden moves to stand in the middle of the circle and is met there by the HPS with the cup.

**HPS:**            *Priestess will you drink from the Cup of the Wine of Life? It was not within the well without purpose. It has called to you from the depths of your dreams.*

**Maiden:**        *I will drink*

Maiden drinks.

PS1 comes forward and takes the cup. She places it upon the altar and returns to the circle.

**HPS:**            *Will you open your heart and your mind to the fullness of Spring, to the tides and the rhythms of the earth?*

**Maiden:**        *I will open my heart and my mind.*

PS2 comes forward with anointing oil. HPS anoints Maiden on heart and third eye. PS2 replaces oil upon the altar and returns to the circle.

**HPS:**            *Will you seek the mystery of transformation?*

**Maiden:**        *I will seek the mystery.*

PS3 comes forward with circlet of flowers. HPS places the circlet upon Maiden's head. PS3 returns to circle.

**HPS:**            *Then know this.  
All belief comes from within,  
and all truth is sought and found,  
in the Cup of the heart,  
and the Temple of the Spirit;  
in the deep places of the forest,  
where sunlight patterns the leaf-strewn floor,  
and there is only the song of the birds,  
to break the silence of the soul;  
there shall we find our gods,  
beneath tree and leaf and waving bough,  
beneath sky and cloud and in wind and rain,  
reborn of the ever-returning Sun  
like a Phoenix from the Flame.*

HPS kisses the Maiden and takes up the Wand from the altar. This she gives it to the HP with a kiss.

He and the three Priests arrange themselves around the circle with the HP facing the Maiden.

**HP Invokes:**

*I call to thee O Maiden of the Moonrise  
From beyond the silver'd sea  
reflecting starlight, rainbow hue'd upon the flood*

*I call to thee O Maiden  
By thy robes of girdled green  
that bind the sickle of the birth and of the blood*

*With the crown of many flowers  
bound thrice upon thy brow  
Thou art rising Queen of verdant blooming*

*Thou art winged in spirit's flame  
Seeking form within thy name*

*As the wheel is bestowed thy loving kiss*

*O Maiden of morning, rise up from ashes' dawning  
Send thy sickle to cut the winter's thread*

*Send thy mantle to enfold the land a-warming  
And thy steps to bloom the ground where 'ere thou tread*

*Descend we pray into the body of thy servant and priestess.*

The three Priests and the HP withdraw to the edge of the circle.

**Maiden:** *The tides of Spring are within me  
and the Sun shall dance  
when water merges with fire.*

*But where is the Sun?  
I see him not!*

Maiden begins to dance slowly around the circle.

**Maiden:** *I who am the beauty of the Green Earth  
and the white moon among the stars  
and the mystery of the waters  
and the desires of the heart of men  
call unto thy soul.*

*O Sun, arise and come to me  
For I am the soul of all nature  
who gives life to the universe.*

*From me all things proceed  
and unto me all things must return.*

*For before my face, beloved of Gods and of Men  
let thine innermost divine self be enfolded  
in the rapture of the infinite.*

The presumptive Stag (PR3) moves from the edge of the circle and begins to follow the Maiden around the circle as she dances.

The Maiden takes the Priest by the hand and spins him into the centre of the circle.

**Maiden:** *Why do you follow me?*

**Stag:** *I have heard your call*

**Maiden:** *You are but the shadow of the Sun I seek*

**Stag:** *But the shadow is the sovereign of the land of Dreams  
and I have dreamt of you My Lady.*

**Maiden:** *Are you then the shadow before the light is kindled?  
Are you the spark born at the longest night?*

*Tell me then your dreams...*

**Stag:** *Of all the Ladies that I know  
There's only one can please me so  
That all her Looks and all her Ways  
Make music for me all my Days.  
For life, I love her, and adore  
I only saw her once – not more.*

*But once I saw her, as I say  
But once, she crossed my Path, my way  
For ever. She will be my Queen  
Where did I see her? - in a Dream.*

**Maiden:** *I see your dream is true. The land itself tells me so*

*For the oak tree dreams of a God with Horns and knows no other King.  
I see the shadow of horns upon your head.*

*Are you willing to leave the shadow and take your place as the Sun?*

**Stag:** *I am willing.*

**Maiden:** *Then you shall be properly prepared.*

PR1 brings candle to the Maiden. She draws a sigil with the flame in front of the Stag.

She hands the candle back to PR1 who places it on the altar and returns to the circle.

**Maiden:** *Are you willing to drink from the Cup of the Wine of life?*

**Stag:** *I am willing to drink. For once long ago, my love  
when first we were young beneath the budding trees of springtime  
you gave me the Cup of Life to drink  
And gave me yourself in equal measure.*

PR2 brings cup from the altar. Maiden gives it to the Stag to drink from. She then hands it back to PR2 who places it on the altar and returns to the circle.

**Maiden:** *Are you willing to seek the mystery of transformation?*

**Stag:** *I am willing to be transformed.*

HP brings crown from the altar and gives it to the Maiden, who crowns the Stag. HP returns to circle.

The priestesses come forward and take up the Sun Wheel from the altar. They bind the Sun Wheel to the Stag as he stands in a star position.

The priestesses arrange themselves in an inner circle. HPS brings wand to the Maiden and moves to stand behind the Stag.

**Maiden then invokes:**

*I call to thee O Horned One  
From beyond the silver'd shore  
that lies within the darkness' sweet embrace*

*I call to thee O Horned One  
By thy golden ray of flame,  
That bears the spear of kindred's summoned fate*

*With the crown of many tines  
bound twice upon thy brow  
Thou art rising sovereign to the Stars and jewelled sky*

*Thou art Winged in spirit's fire  
Seeking form within desire*

*As the wheel spins again from dusk to dawn*

*O Horned One rise up from Winter's ashes  
Send thy spark to match the amber birth anew*

*Send thy spirit to enchant the greening forest  
And the magic of the land to be renewed!*

Maiden then steps forward and kisses the Sun Wheel at its centre. She then matches his stance and kisses him upon the lips with the Sun Wheel held between them.

**Maiden:** *Thou art reborn of the ever returning Sun  
Like a Phoenix from the flame.*

Maiden steps back. The Priestesses unbind the Sun Wheel and return it to the altar.

**Stag:** *I am as old as time;  
for I sprang forth from the first breath taken;  
yet have I aged not;  
for I am born anew with each gust of wind  
and every gentle breeze.*

*Let us kindle the fires together my love, so that the ashes of my renewal may be  
carried far upon the sweet scented breath of Spring.*

**Maiden:** *It shall be so.*

PR1 takes up small cauldron and places it between Maiden and Stag.

PR2 takes up one candle and lights it at the God flame

PS1 takes up crystal egg and hands it to the Maiden

PS2 takes up tissue paper and hands it to Stag

PS3 takes up the other candle and lights it at the Goddess flame

**HPS:**            *Oh Lord and Lady, take from our hands the egg that holds our dreams*

**HP:**             *And enfold it in your mantle of gold*

**HPS:**            *That by the flames of your passion newly kindled  
our dreams may be given flight.*

Maiden and Stag wrap the egg in the paper and place it into the cauldron.

PR2 gives his candle to the Stag

PS3 gives her candle to the Maiden

Covenors step back.

Maiden and Stag light the wrapped egg.

**Maiden and Stag:**    *From the ashes of the fire  
The Phoenix is reborn  
And out of death comes forth new life  
Though in another form*

Wait for the fire to die down and the ashes to settle around the egg.

The cauldron is then taken up by the Maiden and Stag. They take it to each covenant who in turn takes a small amount of ash and blows it from their fingertip.

The Maiden and Stag can speak inspired blessings to each person as this happens.

After they have walked the circle they take the cauldron back to the centre.

The HPS and HP then take the Chalice and the Pentacle to the Centre.

They give the chalice to the Maiden. The Stag take his blade and holds it above the chalice.

The HPS and HP kneel on either side holding the pentacle above the cauldron.

**Maiden:**        *You have passed beyond the gate  
of knowledge and form,  
Found erect the Tower of Truth*

*You have journeyed with the Sage  
through the calm and the storm  
to become One with the Temple Of Youth*

**Stag:**            *You have passed beyond the gate  
of inspiration's kiss.  
Found fertile the Cauldron and Flame*

*You have journeyed with the Crone  
through the Valley of Mist  
to become One with the Hidden Name*

**Maiden:**     *O Mystery of Mysteries  
O thought and desire  
Open our hearts to the kindled fire*

**Stag:**        *O Mystery of Mysteries  
Beyond flesh, beyond bone  
Open our minds, beyond tree, beyond stone*

Stag plunges the blade into the Chalice.

**All:**           *Two become One by the Circle and Sword  
The endless re-union of our Lady and Lord  
The spiral entwines the Lance and the Grail  
Beyond Sun, beyond Moon,  
Beyond Starlight pale.*

The Maiden and Stag share the cup and then pass it to the HPS and the HP. They in turn take the cup and the pentacle around circle so that each covenor may drink.

The HP and HPS take the cup and pentacle back to the altar.

The HP goes up to the Maiden and says:

**HP:**            *O Maiden of Spring, we thank you for your presence here this day.*

The HPS goes up to the Stag and says:

**HPS:**           *O Stag of Renewal, we thank you for your presence here this day.*

HP and HPS take the Maiden and Stag to the South

**HPS**            *O Lord and Lady  
We will honour thee in the South  
When beneath the earth thou dwell*

HP and HPS take the Maiden and Stag to the East.

**HP:**            *O Lord and Lady  
We will honour thee in the East  
When thou riseth upon the dawn*

HP and HPS take the Maiden and Stag to the North

**HPS:**           *O Lord and Lady  
We will honour thee in the North  
When thy flame it at its height*

HP and HPS take the Maiden and Stag to the West.

**HP:**            *O Lord and Lady  
We will honour thee in the West  
When thee we must farewell.*

HP and HPS assist Maiden and Stag to remove their crowns. The crowns are left in the West.

Maiden and Stag now join the rest of the circle.

HP and HPS bless the cakes and take them to the Maiden and Stag first. They then take the rest of the cakes around the circle.

Perform standard farewells and close the circle.