

Autumn Equinox

Purpose: Letting go. Harvest

Incense: Any

Herbs: Autumn leaves

Other: 3 Offering plates of grain, nuts and blackberries. A chalice of wine

Candles: One medium sized orange candle.

Deities: Bres/Balor, Lugh, Nuada and Danu

Time: Before dusk

Altar: North. Dressed in orange/red.

Ritual Components:

- 1.1 The Altar
 - A. Altar
 - B. The tools: 3 Offering plates
- 1.2 Opening Ceremonies:
 - C. Entering the Ethereal
 - D. [Not performed]
 - E. Consecration of the Four Treasures
 2. The chalice
 3. The sword
 - F. [Not performed]
- 1.3 The Ceremony:
 - G. *Raising the Temple
 - H. Consecrations
 - I. Sabbat:
- 2.3 Autumn Equinox.
 - K. The Prime Energies are Invoked.
 1. Drawing Down the Sun.
 - L. [Not performed]
 - M. The Great Rite.

Players: Ideal 3 Couples. Ritual for 6 Members.

HPL (EW) – Outgoing High Priest

HPN (Bress) – Incoming High Priest

HPS – The current High Priestess

NW – A female witch in charge of the North quarter

SW – A male witch in charge of the South quarter

WW – A female witch in charge of the West quarter

Preparation:

Nuada who is no longer blemished, having a hand made of silver by Diancecht is inaugurated as king. Nuada is now known as Nuada Argatlámh ('silver-handed')

The altar is decorated with pinecones, grain, acorns and autumnal flowers, fruit and leaves. Also, in the center of the circle are 3 offering plates filled with grain, nuts and blackberries. On the altar is the Chalice that contains a single ear of wheat or other cereal crop, covered by a cloth. The Coven, except for the HPL, HPN and HPS arrange themselves round the perimeter of the circle, facing inwards. The HPN stands on the Eastside of the altar dressed as Bress. The HPS and HPL are at altar.

After *C. Entering the Ethereal*. The HPL places the Chalice (it is covered and contains the ear of grain) and places it on the pentacle disc, laying his power hand over the Chalice he speaks...

HPL: *“Danu and Lugh deign to bless and to consecrate this hallowed Chalice that it may obtain the necessary virtues through you for all acts of power and protection.”*

The HPL sprinkles the Chalice with salt-water mixture. Then passes it through incense, it is replaced on the pentacle disc and the HPL speaks...

HPL: *“Danu and Lugh, bless this Chalice prepared in your honor.”*

The Chalice is then raised toward the West in welcome and he announces...

HPL: *“Behold the Cauldron of In Daghada!”*

The HPL then gives the Chalice (still covered) to the HPS, who will position herself in the center of the circle facing South with her back to the North. She places the Chalice in the center of the circle surrounded by the three offering plates. When the Coven is settled the HPL announces...

Curse of Cairbre:

HPL: *“Without food quick on a platter
Without fresh milk for a calf to grow on
Without lodging for a man when night prevails
Without sweetness for men of art – such is the rule of Bress
No longer is prosperity with Bress”.*

The HPN dressed as Bress enters from the North (Eastside of altar) in dark tattered clothing wearing a hideous mask, he walks widdershins around the perimeter of the circle facing the Coven members as he passes them. He then takes the covered Chalice and leaves the circle in the North. Resting the covered chalice on the edge of the altar as he exits. (Westside of altar)

[The HPN changes out of his costume.]

The HPN returns and sits between the South quarter and the Chalice facing the HPS (North) with his back to the South. The HPL then proceeds to consecrate the Sword. The other members of the coven remain around the perimeter of the circle. The HPL uncovers the Sword and places it on the pentacle laying his right hand on it and he speaks...

HPL: *“Danu and Lugh deign to bless and to consecrate this hallowed Sword that it may obtain the necessary virtues through you for all acts of power and protection.”*

The HPL sprinkles the Sword with salt-water mixture. Then passes it through incense. Replaces on pentacle disc, and then speaks...

HPL: *“Danu and Lugh, bless this Sword prepared in your honor.”*

The Sword is then carried to the South quarter where the HPL raises it in welcome and speaks...

HPL: *“I call upon thee lord Uscias, master of poetry from Findias, to evoke within our circle poetic inspiration. That our words may endow us with lordly rule. Behold the Sword of Nuada!”*

The HPL continues to walk clockwise to the North where he offers the Sword to the HPS with a kiss. The HPL returns to the altar. The HPS faces the HPN with her back to the North, and then speaks...

HPS: *“Now is the time of balance, when day and night face each other as equals. Yet at this season the night is waxing and the day is waning; for nothing ever remains without change, in the tides of Earth and Sky. Know and remember that whatsoever rises must also set and whatsoever sets must also rise.”*

The HPS presents the Sword to the HPN and then steps back. The HPN receives and holds up the Sword in salute. The HPN holds the Sword firmly with both hands (blade upward hilt toward the ground-middle of body). Kneeling the HPS anoints the HPN, right then the left foot and speaks...

HPS: *“Blessed be thy feet, that shall walk the earth.”*

Anoints right then left knee, HPS speaks...

HPS: *“Blessed be thy knees that shall kneel before the altar.”*

Anoints the Sword closes to the naval of HPN, the HPS speaks...

HPS: *“Blessed be thy phallus; without which we would not be.”*

Anoints right then left breast, the HPS speaks...

HPS: *“Blessed be thy breast, formed in strength.”*

Anoints the forehead of the HPN, the HPS speaks...

HPS: *“Blessed be thy mind always open and clear.”*

The HPS steps back; kneels and then speaks...

HPS: *“Deep calls up high, the Goddess on the God,
on he who is the flame that quickens her;
That he and she may seize the silver reins
And ride together in the twin horsed chariot.
Let the hammer strike the anvil!
Let the lightning embrace the earth!
Let the Sword meet the Grail.
Let the magic come to birth!”*

The HPS stands and invokes toward the HPN speaking...

HPS: *“In her name do I invoke thee, mighty father of us all – Nuada Argatlámh. Come in answer to my call, descend I pray thee in thy servant and priest.”*

The HPN stands for a moment with arms raised -Sword in right hand -then give the Sword to the SW with a kiss. The SW replaces the Sword on the altar then returns into the circle. With the HPS and HPN leading, the Coven dance slowly widdershins, hand in hand but not closing the ring head-to-tail. Gradually, the HPS leads inwards in a spiral.

When all the Coven members are close to the center and she is ready, the HPS halts and instructs everyone to sit in a tight ring facing inwards. The EW (formerly HPL) gets the covered Chalice with the ear of grain and replaces it in the center of the circle. The HPS says...

HPS: *“Behold the mystery: in silence is the seed of wisdom gained.”*

She then takes the cloth from the Chalice, revealing the ear of grain. All contemplate the ear of grain for a while in silence. When she is ready, the EW rises and goes to the West quarter and they face each other across the seated Coven. The HPS says:

HPS: *“Farewell, O Sun, ever-returning Light, the hidden God, who ever yet remains.
He now departs to Tír Na nÓg, through the gates of Death.
To dwell enthroned the judge of gods and men.”*

*The horned leader of the hosts of air.
Yet as he stands unseen outside the Circle.
So dwelleth he within the secret seed—
The seed of new-reaped grain, the seed of flesh;
Hidden in earth, the marvelous seed of the stars.
In him is Life and Life is the Light of man.
That which was never born and never dies.
Therefore the Wise Ones weep not, but rejoice.”*

The HPS raises both hands high in blessing to the EW, who responds with the same gesture. HPS and EW rejoin the Coven and lead them in a slow dance deosil, gradually spiraling outwards towards the perimeter of the circle. When she judges that the spiral movement has been sufficiently emphasized the HPS closes the ring by taking the hand of the last witch in the chain and speeds up the pace till the Coven are circling fast and joyously as they sing...

ALL: Eko, eko Azarak (repeat each line underlined—thrice.)

Eko, eko Zamilak

Eko, eko Nuada Argatlámh

Eko, eko Deanna

Darksome night and shining moon

East and south, west and north

hearken to the witches rune

here we come to call ye forth

Earth and water, air and fire

Spear and chalice and sword

Work ye unto our desire

hearken ye unto our word!

Cords and censer; Scourge and knife.

Powers of the witch's blade!

Waken all ye spirits to life.

Come ye as the charm is made!

Queen of wisdom, queen of the well.

Nuada Argatlámh with your might

Send your power unto this spell,

to work our will, by magic's rite!

In the earth and air and sea.

By the light of Moon or Sun

as we do will...so will it be.

Chant this spell and my will be done.

Eko, eko Azarak

Eko, eko Zamilak

Eko, eko Nuada Argatlámh

Eko, eko Deanna

After a while she cries “**Down**” and everybody sits.

The WW replaces the Chalice holding the ear of grain on the altar. She stays near the altar prepared with the HPN athame. [Awaits the HPN call.]

The HPS lies in the center of the circle, in the form of a five-pointed star. Her head is to the North, left arm and leg are to the West, her right arm and leg to the East. The HPN calls to the WW or female-assistant that holds the HPN athame and stays at arms reach to the West. The HPN calls to the EW or male-assistant that holds a chalice filled with wine and stays at arms reach to the East. The HPN covers the HPS with a veil of colored cloth from her breast to her thighs, the HPN then speaks...

HPN: *“Assist me to erect the ancient altar, at which in days past all worshipped; the great altar of all things. For in old times the woman was the altar, thus was the altar made and placed in the center of the sacred circle. As we have been taught from old, that the point in the center is the origin of all things, therefore should we adore it; whom we adore we also invoke. O’ circle of stars, where of our father is but the younger brother. Marvel beyond imagination, soul of the infinite. Before whom time is ashamed, the mind bewildered and the understanding dark, not unto thee may we attain unless thine heart be true. Therefore; by seed and root, stem and bud, leaf, flower and fruit, do we invoke thee. O’ queen of space,—jewel of light. Continuous one of the heavens; let it be ever thus that we speak not of thee at all, since thou art continuous, for thou art the point within the circle, which we adore; the point of life, without which we would not be. In this way truly are erected the holy twin pillars in beauty and strength.”*

The HPN removes the veil, then the HPS rises up and kneels facing the HPN. The HPS takes the chalice from the EW or male assistant then the HPN speaks...

HPN: *“Altar of mysteries manifolds, the sacred circle’s secret point—thus do I sign as of old, with kisses of my lips anoint.”*

The HPN then kisses the HPS on the forehead then the chalice and continues speaking...

HPN: *“Open for me the secret way, the pathway of knowledge, beyond the gates of night and day, beyond the bounds of time and sense.”*

The HPN then takes the athame from the WW or woman assistant, raises it above head toward the West and speaks...

HPN: *“Behold the mystery aright—the five true points of fellowship...”*

The HPN lowers the athame into the chalice of wine, held by the HPS, the HPN continues speaking...

HPN: *“Here where, the Sword and Grail, man and woman, God and Goddess unite and create the greatest force of wonder, beauty and pain. From this sacred union comes new life. Thee force of creation; forever to be revered and not reviled!”*

The HPN hands the athame to the EW or male assistant. Places both hands around the hands of the HPS and the chalice. HPN kisses the HPS and says...

HPN: *“Blessed be”*

The HPS drinks from the chalice. HPS kisses HPN and says...

HPS: *“Blessed be”*

The HPS then rises and gives the chalice to another man with a kiss and says...

HPS: *“Blessed be”*

The man drinks from the chalice, then passes in to another woman with a kiss and says...

MW: *“Blessed be”*

The woman drinks from the chalice, then passes it to another man with a kiss and says...

FW: *“Blessed be”*

...and so on. Till all have drunk from the chalice, the HPS will replace the chalice in the center of the circle when it has gone around the circle once.

The HPS takes athame and the HPN kneeling before her holds up the dish of cakes. The HPS draws the invoking pentagram of earth in the air above the cakes with athame while the HPN speaks...

HPN: “O’ Queen most secret, bless this food into our bodies; bestowing health, wealth. Strength, joy and peace and fulfillment of love which is perfect happiness.”

The HPS lays down her athame, kisses the HPN and takes a cake. HPN then rises and passes the dish to another woman with a kiss. The dish is passed in this way round the whole coven, man-to-woman and woman-to-man (each time with a kiss), until everyone has taken a cake.

After the wine and cakes comes the Candle Game.

The men sit in a ring facing inwards; close enough to reach each other and the women stand behind them. The men pass a lighted candle deosil from hand to hand while the women (without stepping inside the ring of men) lean forward and try to blow it out. When a woman succeeds she switches place with the man, the man then stands behind her and tries to reclaim his position by blowing out the candle when she holds it.