



The Spring Rite

Written by Casey Giovinco

Roughly two weeks before you plan to Bury the Carnival, begin thinking about your petition, constructing a poppet in the shape of the Wild Man of the Woods, and collect any other ritual supplies that you might need to gather. Spring is the best time to focus on new beginnings, so plant the seeds of things you want to manifest in your life. During that two week period, do a thorough spring cleaning of your house and your wardrobe. Clean and declutter your home. Open the windows and let the fresh air in. Either throw out or donate clothing that no longer fits you, preserving at least one natural fiber garment to make your Wild Man and any garments you may choose to dress him in. If working in a

In addition to the normal Altar items, you will need a few necessary things for this seasonal rite:

- the altar should be strewn with sprigs of fresh flowers
- Wild Man poppet dressed in his rags, moss, and leaves
- violet flowers, other local springtime herbs, and the Corn Wolf from the previous year's Winnowing to stuff the Wild Man poppet
- oleum maleficis
- a terra cotta pot and enough soil to fill it, a spring bulb to plant in the pot (such as a crocus, hyacinth, or narcissus)
- wine
- cakes appropriate to the season
- a second pitcher of fresh water (called sweetwater): you might want enough to bathe the Wild Man and water the plant during the next night's rite
- a floral incense
- dried springtime flowers
- chamomile, spearmint, and passionflower for the bedtime infusion

coven environment, each witch may bring one item of his clothing (connected to one specific intention or seasonal petition) to dress the Wild Man in. Any time before the day of the ritual (do not do it the day of or the night before), pleasure yourself with thoughts of the thing that needs to begin anew within your life so that you may achieve your yearly goal. What new thing needs to sprout in your life to make that happen? Focus on seeing that successfully come to pass, and know that when it does, your yearly goal is not far off. After you have achieved release, anoint the garment and the petition written on it with your essence, called soma in Hindu mythology, in accordance with your intention. This creates the pearl towelette mentioned in Garbed In Green. Then secure the garment and/or Wild Man poppet in a green cloth and store these items in a dark place until you are ready to set up your ritual.

Burying the Carnival



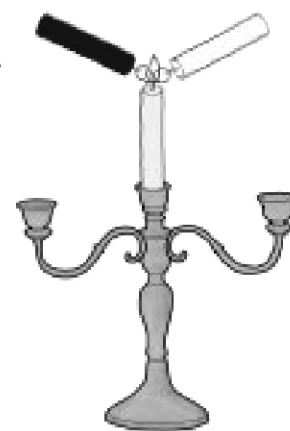
Altar Consecration

On the night before the Spring Rite, enter the sanctum and stand before the fully constructed altar. Ignite the pillars of severity and mercy with the sacred flame from the last ritual or spell. Once the sacred flame has been appropriately transferred, the old red, orange, or yellow candle may be placed in a candlestick and carried out of the sanctum after the ritual to burn out on its own.

Hold the pillar of severity in your left hand and the pillar of mercy in your right hand. Lift them up above your head and say:

"DEEP WITHIN THE PRIMORDIAL NIGHT, THE GODS DIVIDED IN A FLASH OF LIGHT."

Bring the candles down in front of you touching their flames together over the central candle to ignite the sacred flame when you say the word "light."

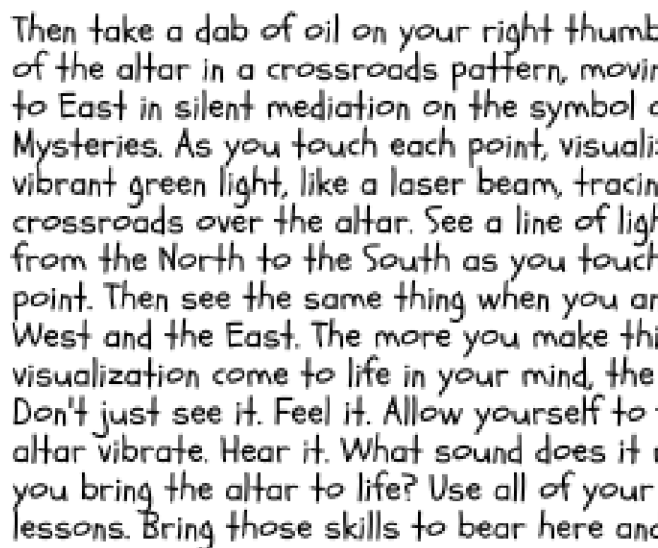


Pick up the bell and move to the East of the sanctum. Moving deasil to the South, West, North, and back to the East, ring the bell thrice saying:

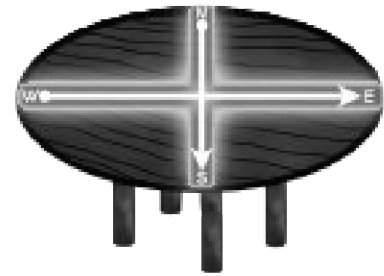
"SCATTER ON THE WINDS OF FATE, THE EVIL WOES AND THE BANEFUL HATE."

Setting the bell back upon the altar, take up the oleum maleficis, hold it between your hands in a prayer position at your heart for at least three heart beats as you pay attention to your breath. With your eyes closed, contemplate the working that you are about to do, and take a moment of silent reflection to connect with your gods.





Then take a dab of oil on your right thumb and anoint the four cardinal points of the altar in a crossroads pattern, moving first North to South then West to East in silent meditation on the symbol of the crossroads within the Male Mysteries. As you touch each point, visualize a vibrant green light, like a laser beam, tracing the crossroads over the altar. See a line of light moving from the North to the South as you touch each point. Then see the same thing when you anoint the West and the East. The more you make this visualization come to life in your mind, the better. Don't just see it. Feel it. Allow yourself to feel the altar vibrate. Hear it. What sound does it make as you bring the altar to life? Use all of your psychic training from your earlier lessons. Bring those skills to bear here and now.



With the oleum maleficis, anoint the poppet with the Earth Invoking Pentagram starting at his third eye, then moving down to his left knee, his right shoulder, his left shoulder, his left knee, and back up to his third eye while saying:

"O DYING GOD OF EARTH, WILD MAN, ENVELOPED IN LEAVES AND MOSS, I GLORIFY THEE. I INVOKE THEE, I RENDER THEE THANKS FOR THY SACRIFICE. BLESSED BE."

The oil is then placed back upon the altar. Asperge the Wild Man with sweetwater, and, as you do so, say:




"WITH THIS BATH OF SWEETWATER, MAY THOU BE CLEANSED OF ALL FEEBLENESS, DECAY, AND IMPURITY AND MADE READY FOR YOUR NEW BODY THAT THIS EARTH MAY KNOW LIFE AGAIN WITH YOUR OWN DIVINE RENEWAL."

The candles are snuffed out in this order: the pillar of mercy, the pillar of severity, and the sacred flame. Any items not necessary for the next night's ritual are removed from the altar before leaving the ritual chamber in silence lit only by the light of the previous rite's sacred flame candle.

Seal the room off to await the next night's ritual, and then allow the last bits of the previous sacred flame to burn out on its own before going into your ritual the next night.





Operation

On the day when you are set to do the Spring Rite, enter the Sanctum about an hour prior to the ritual. Set the incense burning upon the Altar. Allow this charcoal to burn out before beginning the ritual.



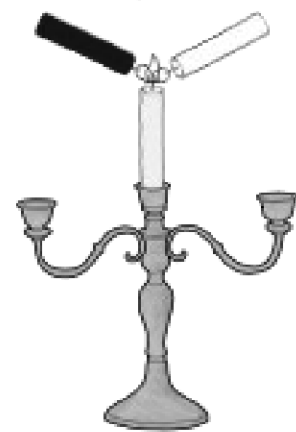
At the time of the ritual, enter the room in total darkness and begin moving widdershins to the altar in the center. Into the empty chalice, place a teaspoon of salt and say:

**"AND THE EARTH WAS BARREN WITHOUT GROWTH OR
LIFE.
ALL PERSEVERED AT PEACE AND IN DARKNESS."**

Ignite the pillars of severity and mercy respectively. Again, repeat the process of transferring the sacred flame from the night before when you performed the altar consecration. Take up the pillar of severity in your left hand and the pillar of mercy in your right, hold them up above your head and say:

**"DEEP WITHIN THE PRIMORDIAL NIGHT,
THE GODS DIVIDED IN A FLASH OF LIGHT."**

Bring the pillars down in front of you touching their flames together over the central candle to create the sacred flame when you say the word "light." During the rest of the ritual, all candles will be lit from the central sacred flame.





Hold the chalice up in front of the three-branched candlestick and say:

"AND ONCE CAST, THE ETERNAL AND PRIMORDIAL
FIRE
RADIATED OUTWARD TO SPREAD HEAT AND LIGHT."



Light the charcoal in the thurible with the Sacred Flame (if it is not already lit), and, when glowing, place incense upon it. If you are just lighting the charcoal now, take this time for quiet reflection on the purpose of your ritual. Center and fully align yourself with your purpose. Pass the chalice through the incense smoke, saying:

"AND THE HEAT AND LIGHT CREATED VAPOR,
THAT ATMOSPHERIC AIR THAT MEDIATED LIFE."



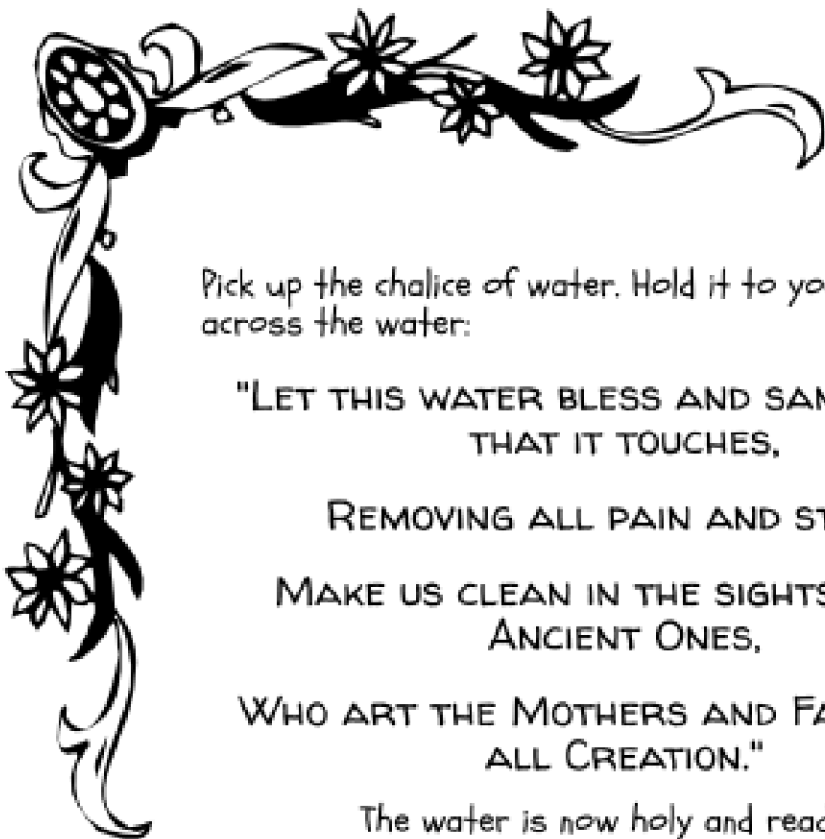
Pour water over the salt in the chalice and say:

"AND THROUGH HEAT AND VAPOR CAME
CONDENSATION,
WHICH BUILT UP AND FELL DOWN UPON THE BARREN
EARTH."



Sprinkle a little hyssop into the water and say:

"AND THIS WATER SHOOK THE EARTH AND CAUSED
ALL GROWTH TO RISE UP FROM THE SOIL,
REACHING UPWARDS TO THE SOURCE OF LIFE, THE
PRIMORDIAL FIRE."



Pick up the chalice of water. Hold it to your lips, and breath the incantation across the water:

"LET THIS WATER BLESS AND SANCTIFY ALL
THAT IT TOUCHES,

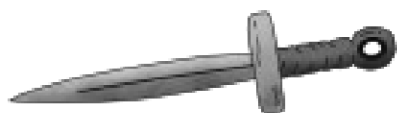
REMOVING ALL PAIN AND STRIFE.

MAKE US CLEAN IN THE SIGHTS OF THE
ANCIENT ONES,

WHO ART THE MOTHERS AND FATHERS OF
ALL CREATION."



The water is now holy and ready for use in your ritual.



Take up the athame. Moving to the North of the sanctum, point the blade to the ground and imagine creating a boundary as you circumambulate widdershins, moving North, West, South, East, and back to North again. Walk in silence, concentrating on the idea that you are slicing through the ether as you walk. In your mind, see the blue-gray mist of the astral light part for you.

Having circumambulated the Circle, replace the athame upon the altar. Pick up the water and move widdershins back to the North of the circle. Asperge the ground with the holy water as you circumambulate North, West, South, East, and Back to North again. Then ceremoniously pour the holy water into the pitcher in the West, making the entire contents of the pitcher holy as you do so.

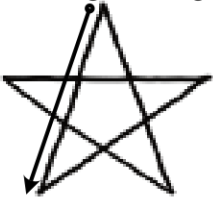
Replace the chalice upon the altar, and then carry the incense around the circle, starting in the North and circumambulating West, South, East, and back to the North. Replace the incense upon the Altar.





Quarter Calls

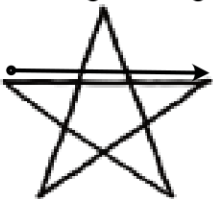
Pick up the salt, and move widdershins back to the North. Draw an Earth Invoking Pentagram with the Salt dish and say:



"I SUMMON, STIR, AND CALL THEE UP,
OH YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE NORTH, ELEMENT OF
EARTH."

Take a pinch of salt and drop it on the paten. Then place some salt on your tongue before replacing the salt dish back on the Altar.

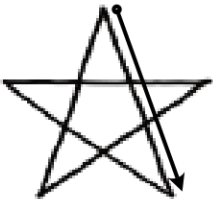
Moving to the West Gate, pick up the pitcher of water and draw a Water Invoking Pentagram with it and say:



"I SUMMON, STIR, AND CALL THEE UP,
OH YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE WEST, ELEMENT OF
WATER."

Now pour the pitcher of water into the basin. Make sure to empty it of all water.

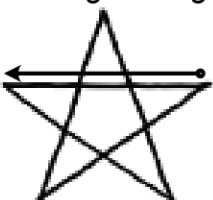
Pick up the sacred flame from the three-branched candlestick on the Altar and move widdershins to the South Gate. Draw a Fire Invoking Pentagram with the sacred flame as you say:



"I SUMMON, STIR, AND CALL THEE UP,
OH YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE SOUTH, ELEMENT OF
FIRE."

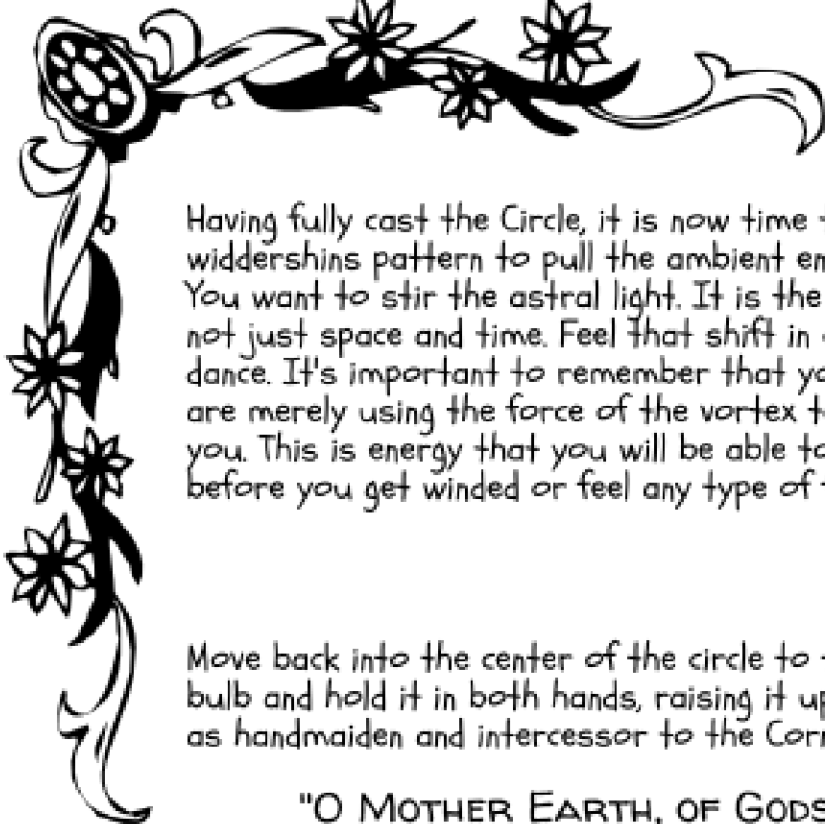
Light the fire candle in the South before placing the sacred flame back in its place upon the altar.

Pick up the thurible with your right hand and move widdershins to the East Gate where the fan resides. Pick up the fan and clack it open. Then draw an Air Invoking Pentagram with the incense as you say:



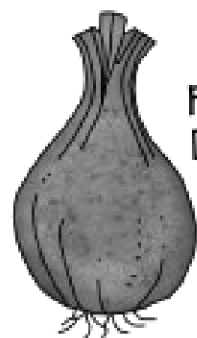
"I SUMMON, STIR, AND CALL THEE UP,
OH YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE EAST, ELEMENT OF
AIR."

Now fan the incense at the East Gate before replacing the fan (still open) back in the East Quarter of the Circle and the incense back upon the altar.



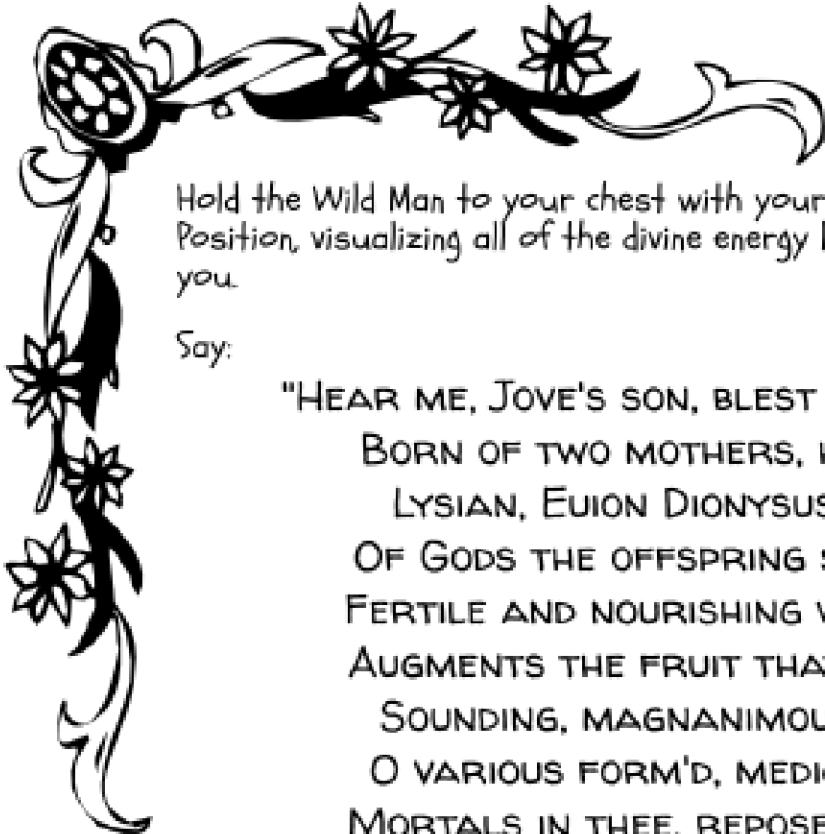
Having fully cast the Circle, it is now time to get it whirling. Dance lightly in a widdershins pattern to pull the ambient energies of Nature into your circle. You want to stir the astral light. It is the ether that you move through now, not just space and time. Feel that shift in consciousness take hold as you dance. It's important to remember that you are not yet raising energy. You are merely using the force of the vortex to pull energy into your circle with you. This is energy that you will be able to program with your intention. Stop before you get winded or feel any type of fatigue.

Move back into the center of the circle to the south of the altar, pick up the bulb and hold it in both hands, raising it up to the sky. Then beseech Hecate as handmaiden and intercessor to the Corn Mother with these words:



"O MOTHER EARTH, OF GODS AND MEN THE SOURCE,
ENDU'D WITH FERTILE, ALL-DESTROYING FORCE;
ALL PARENT, BOUNDING, WHOSE PROLIFIC POW'RS
PRODUCE A STORE OF BEAUTEOUS FRUITS AND FLOW'RS.
ALL VARIOUS MAID, TH' IMMORTAL WORLD'S STRONG BASE,
ETERNAL, BLESSED, CROWN'D WITH EV'RY GRACE;
FROM WHOSE WIDE WOMB AS FROM AN ENDLESS ROOT,
FRUITS MANY-FORMED, MATURE, AND GRATEFUL SHOOT.
DEEP-BOSOM'D, BLESSED, PLEAS'D WITH GRASSY PLAINS,
SWEET TO THE SMELL AND WITH PROLIFIC RAINS.
ALL-FLOW'RY DAEMON, CENTER OF THE WORLD,
AROUND THY ORB THE BEAUTEOUS STARS ARE HURL'D
WITH RAPID WHIRL, ETERNAL AND DIVINE,
WHOSE FRAMES WITH MATCHLESS SKILL AND WISDOM SHINE.
COME BLESSED GODDESS, LISTEN TO MY PRAY'R,
AND MAKE INCREASE OF FRUITS THY CONSTANT CARE;
WITH FERTILE SEASONS IN THY TRAIN DRAW NEAR,
AND WITH PROPITIOUS MIND THY SUPPLIANTS HEAR."

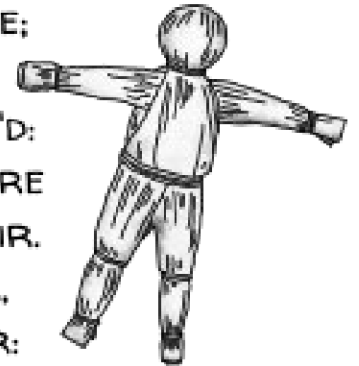
Replace the bulb upon the altar, and then pick up the Wild Man poppet.



Hold the Wild Man to your chest with your arms folded over it in the God Position, visualizing all of the divine energy leaving the poppet and entering into you.

Say:

"HEAR ME, JOVE'S SON, BLEST DIONYSUS, GOD OF WINE,
BORN OF TWO MOTHERS, HONOR'D AND DIVINE;
LYSIAN, EUION DIONYSUS, VARIOUS-NAM'D,
OF GODS THE OFFSPRING SECRET, HOLY, FAM'D:
FERTILE AND NOURISHING WHOSE LIBERAL CARE
AUGMENTS THE FRUIT THAT BANISHES DESPAIR.
SOUNDING, MAGNANIMOUS, LENÆAN POW'R,
O VARIOUS FORM'D, MEDIC'NAL, HOLY FLOW'R:
MORTALS IN THEE, REPOSE FROM LABOUR FIND,
DELIGHTFUL CHARM, DESIR'D BY ALL MANKIND:
FAIR-HAIR'D EUION, BROMIAN, JOYFUL GOD,
LYSIAN, INVESTED WITH THE LEAFY ROD.
TO THESE OUR RITES, BENIGNANT POW'R INCLINE,
WHEN FAV'RING MEN, OR WHEN ON GODS YOU SHINE:
BE PRESENT TO THY MYSTIC'S SUPPLIANT PRAY'R,
REJOICING COME, AND FRUITS ABUNDANT BEAR."




After a slight pause for personal reflection, place the flat blade of your athame over the Cakes and Wine. Draw an Earth Invoking Pentagram over the Love Feast, and say:



"HEAR ME, GRACIOUS GODDESS, LET MY HEART AND YOURS ALIGN. ANSWER ME, O BULL-HORNED DIONYSUS, GOD OF MAGIC, JOY, AND WINE. INCREASE THE BOUNTY OF THE EARTH AND FILL MY LIFE WITH JOY AND MIRTH."

Take a moment and commune silently with the Gods of your inner being. Use these Cakes and this Wine to accumulate the power of the elements within yourself so that you may channel that energy through the rest of this rite.

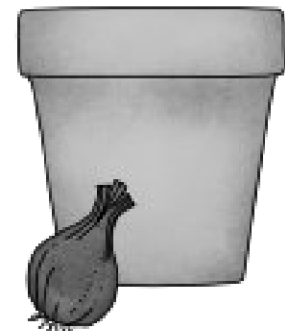


Add the dried petals of springtime flowers to the oleum maleficis. If you need to add more carrier oil to refresh your supply, do so now. Then spend a moment focusing on how your own seed from the Winter Rite (your yearly goal) is now beginning to flower, to take form and shape upon the earthly plane. As you hold that good thought firmly in your mind, anoint yourself, drawing an Earth Invoking Pentagram on your forehead as you say these words:



"FROM THE HEIGHTS OF HEAVEN TO THE LOWEST
ABYSS,
GRANT ME THY DIVINE GRACE SO THAT WHAT I
CONCEIVE IN MY MIND,
I MAY ACCOMPLISH IN MY WORK."

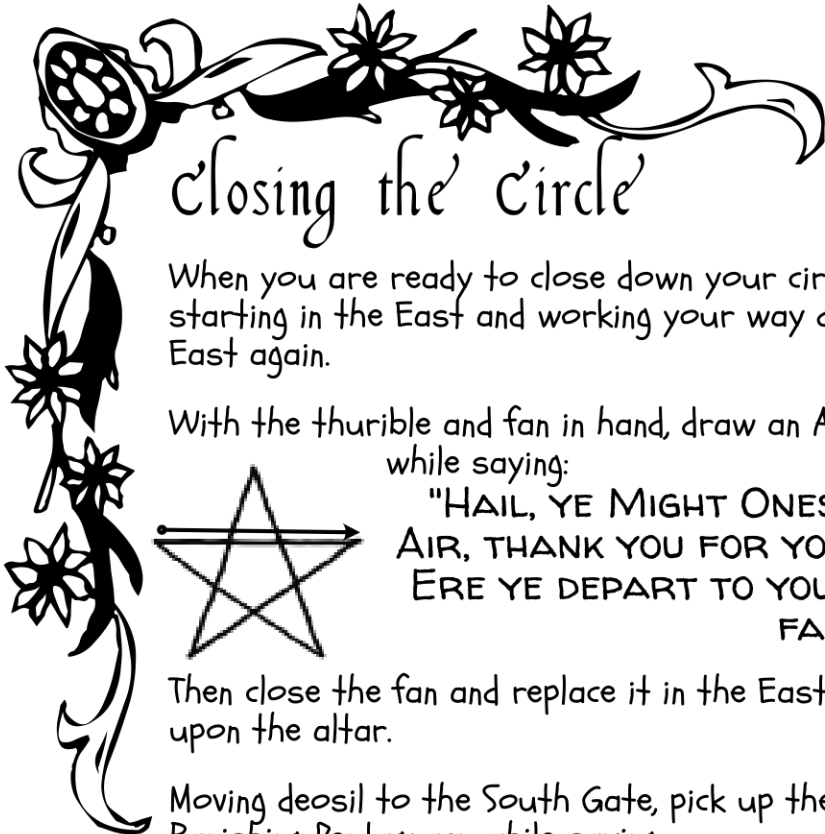
Remove the garment(s) (pearl towelette) from the Wild Man. Burn them to ash, and place them in the pot, mixing them with the soil. Place the naked Wild Man back down on the altar before burying the bulb within the pot and watering it.



Pick up two sprigs of fresh flowers, which decorate the Altar, and begin the Circle Dance moving lightly and lithely widdershins. As you dance, chant:

"WE ARE BRINGING THE SUMMER BACK,
THE SUMMER AND THE MAY,
AND ALL THE FLOWERS GAY."

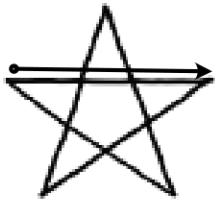
When you feel that the energy has peaked, stop and fall to the ground, turning inward again as you catch your breath and meditate on what life will be like when your petition comes to pass. Do this to increase the power of the dance.



Closing the Circle

When you are ready to close down your circle, reverse the order of casting by starting in the East and working your way deosil around the circle back to the East again.

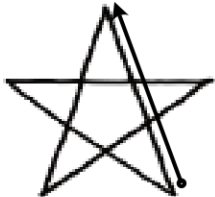
With the thurible and fan in hand, draw an Air Banishing Pentagram in the East while saying:



"HAIL, YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE EAST, ELEMENT OF AIR, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS RITE. ERE YE DEPART TO YOUR LOVELY REALMS. HAIL AND FAREWELL."

Then close the fan and replace it in the East Quarter. Place the thurible back upon the altar.

Moving deosil to the South Gate, pick up the fire candle and draw a Fire Banishing Pentagram while saying:



"HAIL, YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE SOUTH, ELEMENT OF FIRE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS RITE. ERE YE DEPART TO YOUR LOVELY REALMS. HAIL AND FAREWELL."

Blow out the fire candle before replacing it in the South of the circle.

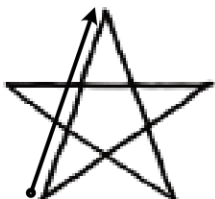
Moving deosil to the West Gate, take up the empty pitcher and draw a Water Banishing Pentagram while saying:



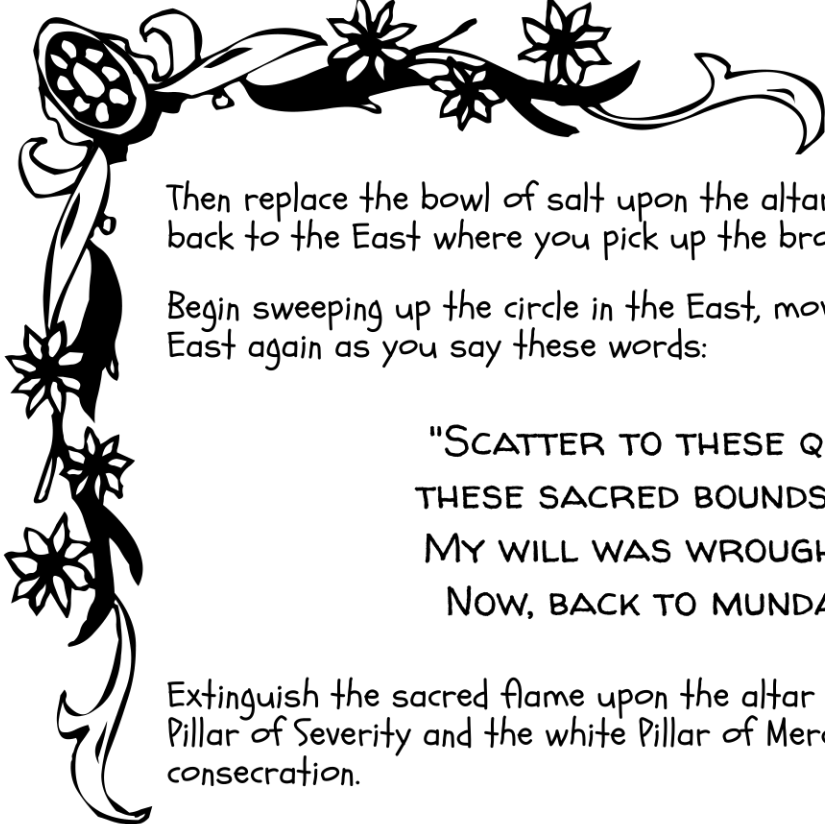
"HAIL, YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE WEST, ELEMENT OF WATER, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS RITE. ERE YE DEPART TO YOUR LOVELY REALMS. HAIL AND FAREWELL."

(If performing outside, it might be appropriate to dump the basin of water upon the ground.)

Moving deosil pick up the bowl of salt as you circumambulate to the North Gate, then draw an Earth Banishing Pentagram while saying:



"HAIL, YE MIGHTY ONES OF THE NORTH, ELEMENT OF EARTH, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS RITE. ERE YE DEPART TO YOUR LOVELY REALMS. HAIL AND FAREWELL."



Then replace the bowl of salt upon the altar in its place before moving deosil back to the East where you pick up the broom.

Begin sweeping up the circle in the East, moving deosil South, West, North, and East again as you say these words:

"SCATTER TO THESE QUARTERS FOUR,
THESE SACRED BOUNDS EXIST NO MORE.
MY WILL WAS WROUGHT. THIS I KNOW.
NOW, BACK TO MUNDANE LIFE I GO!"

Extinguish the sacred flame upon the altar and preserve it to light the black Pillar of Severity and the white Pillar of Mercy during the next ritual's altar consecration.

Take the lifeless Wild Man poppet to the river and say these words before ceremoniously tossing it into the flowing waters:

"DEATH SWIMS UPON THE WATER,
SUMMER WILL BE HERE SOON,
DEAR SPRING, WE BID YOU WELCOME,
GREEN GRASS, WE BID YOU WELCOME."

After the ritual is over and just before you go to bed, you will want to brew a strong herbal infusion made from chamomile, spearmint, and passionflower to help with your evening's night flight or astral journey. (Make sure you are not allergic to any of the ingredients. Consult a qualified medical professional if necessary.) Mix this infusion with honey, a slice of lemon, and a dash of nutmeg. While drinking it, think about the Wild Man and his role as the dying god. Consider his connection to the werewolf, and the role that the male witch as werewolf has played throughout history. Let these themes permeate your subconscious as you drift off to sleep and unleash your own inner Wild Man. When you wake up, write down any revelations, insights, or wisdom you may have gained from tapping this primal part of yourself during your nightly journey.



THE SABBAT HAS BEEN KEPT!