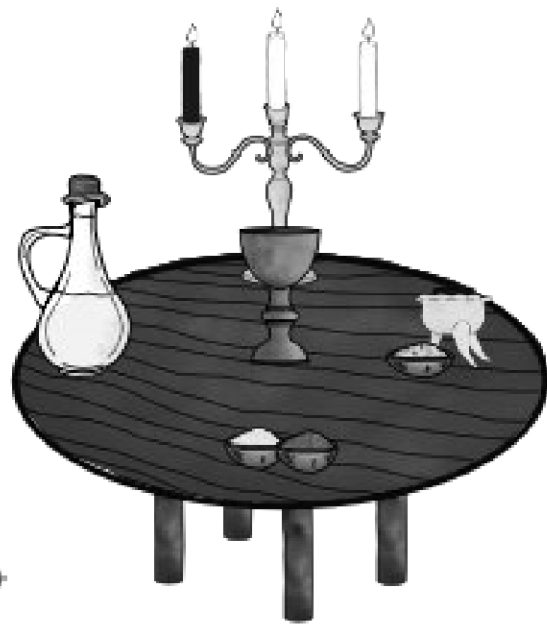


Holy Water

The standard way of making holy water is so heteronormative that it has always struck me as almost comical for Gay witches to use it. Placing the blade within the chalice is actually symbolic of heterosexual sex, and it is the sacredness of that sexual act itself that makes the witch's holy water. It was originally introduced into Wicca and witchcraft by Gerald Gardner, and he got the idea from Aleister Crowley's Gnostic Mass. I believe that there is a better way for Gay witches to make holy water that won't have them idolizing heterosexual sex.

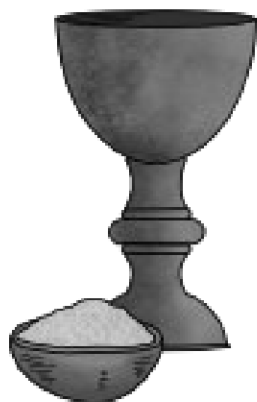
When we created Gala Witchcraft together, my teacher, Thorn Nightwind, his husband, and I actively decided to avoid reproducing those elements within our tradition. Instead, we turned to Sybil Leek's works (both public and private), Tarostar and the Sacred Pentagraph Tradition, and our own inspiration. The following ceremony is a joint effort between Thorn's inspiration and my editing. What I love about this rite is that it takes the witch back to the moment of creation.

Gala Witchcraft is not Germanic, Irish, British, or even European witchcraft. It was based off of British-style witchcraft, but we knew it had to embrace something more primal—a more archeytpal version of the witch. Here follows that simple ceremony.



Operation

First, you will need a chalice, a container of spring water, a silver spoon, a bowl of salt, a bowl of hyssop, the three-branched candlestick with the pillar of severity candle, the pillar of mercy candle, and the sacred flame candle, some charcoal, and an appropriate incense. (As a good standby, I also keep a blend of frankincense and myrrh at the ready.)



Into the empty chalice, place a teaspoon of salt and say:

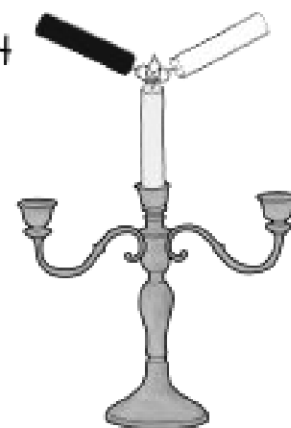
"AND THE EARTH WAS BARREN WITHOUT GROWTH
OR LIFE.

ALL PERSEVERED AT PEACE AND IN DARKNESS."

Ignite the Pillars of Severity and Mercy. Take up the Pillar of Severity in your left hand and the Pillar of Mercy in your right hand, hold them up above your head and say:

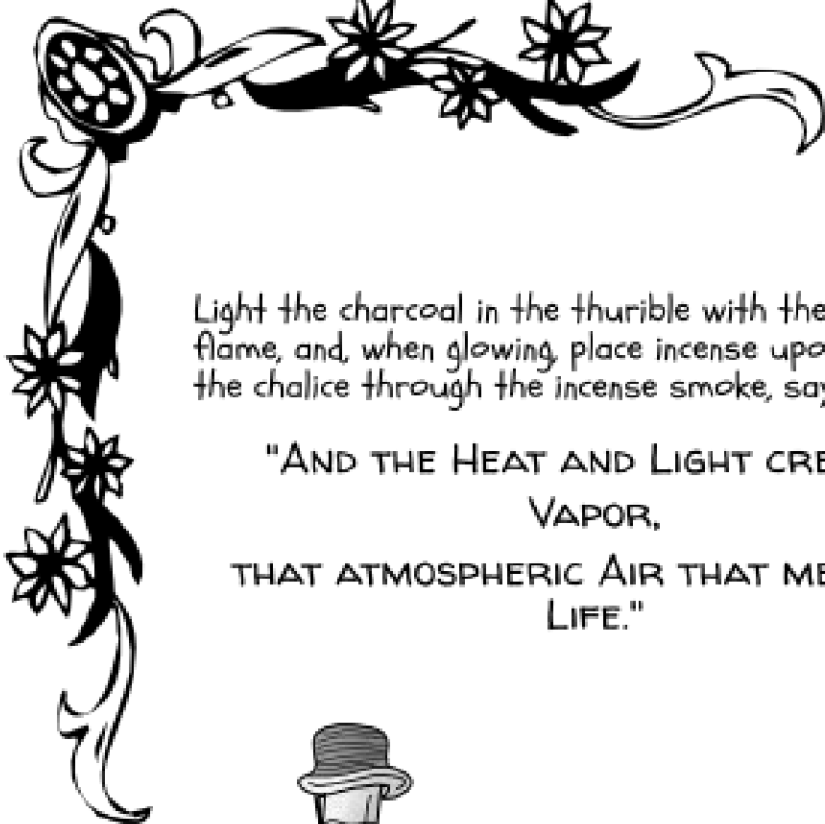
"DEEP WITHIN THE PRIMORDIAL NIGHT,
THE GODS DIVIDED IN A FLASH OF LIGHT."

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



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

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



Light the charcoal in the thurible with the sacred flame, and, when glowing, place incense upon it. 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 breathe 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.

