**Beltaine 2014**

**Standard Bearer**:

The Standard Bearer raises the Order of Paladins banner and says:

*“In Hoc Signo Vinces!”*

**Constable**:

Constable raises the sword in a warding gesture and turns in a circle deosil, banishing negative energy, saying:

*“Avaunte! Avaunte! Maleficum defense! Honi soit qui mal y pense!”*

**Quarter Calls**:

**Constable**:

The Constable calls the east quarter:

*“Hail! Guardians of the East*

*Of the Land of Falias.*

*Elementals of Air.*

*Sylphs of the dawn sky.*

*Spirits of windy mornings in spring.*

*Yours is the Sword of Justice*

*The razor edged blade that cuts through illusions*

*I do summon stir and call ye up.*

*That you may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Let us be happy and hospitable in the name of Brigid.*

*By the sword of Nuada Argetlamh!*

*My Law is to will*

*Breathe of me deeply*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Standard Bearer**:

The Standard Bearer then calls the south quarter:

*“Hail! Guardians of the South!*

*Of the Land of Gorias*

*Elementals of Fire.*

*Salamanders of the midday sun.*

*Spirits of golden summer afternoons.*

*Yours is the Spear of Truth*

*The spear that pierces to the heart of the matter*

*I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That you may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Let us play music and share knowledge in the name of Grian.*

*By the spear of Lugh Lamfhada!*

*My law is to dream.*

*Live of me Fully*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Quartermaster**:

The Quartermaster then calls the west quarter:

*“Hail! Guardians of the West!*

*The Land of Murias.*

*Elementals of Water.*

*Undines of the sunset waters.*

*Spirits of misty Autumn evenings.*

*Yours is the Chalice of Passion*

*The Grail the strips away the veils.*

*I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That ye may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Let us teach and judge fairly in the name of Boann.*

*By the undry cauldron of the Dagdha Eochaid!*

*My Law is to dare*

*Drink of me Freely*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Sergeant at Arms**:

The Sergeant at Arms now calls the north quarter:

*“Hail! Guardians of the North!*

*The Land of Finias*

*Elementals of Earth.*

*Gnomes of the midnight mountains.*

*Spirits of silent Winter nights.*

*Yours is the Stone of Kingship,*

*The sacred altar that holds power, wisdom and destiny.*

*I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That ye may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Grant us strength and confidence in the name of the Morrighan.*

*By the stone of Lia Fail and the anvil of Goibhniu!*

*My Law is silence*

*Listen to me in stillness*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Marshall**:

*The Marshall then calls the center:*

*“Hail! Guardians of Meath! The Center.*

*Spirits of the Wheel of the Seasons.*

*Aes Sidhe of the Timeless Astral.*

*Dreams of the eternal Summerland.*

*Yours is the power of Spirit.*

*The mind which wields the elemental powers as one.*

*I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That ye may bring us unity, stability and balance.*

*Grant us healing and peace in the name of Danu.*

*By the eloquence of Ogma.*

*My law is unity.*

*Know of me always.*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Circle Casting:**

Seneschal casts the circle using the hand to hand technique.

**Grand Master**:

The Grand Master raises the sword and declares:

*“The circle is cast by air and fire;*

*The circle is charged by water and earth.*

*What is within the circle is between the worlds;*

*A place that is nowhere and everywhere.*

*A place of power.*

*What is between the worlds does not concern the world.”*

*Then everyone says together:*

*“But can change the world.”*

**Warrior’s Admonition**:

The Grand Master, Seneschal, Marshall and Under Marshall now recite the Warrior’s Admonition.

**Grand Master**:

*“Your body is your temple: Care for it!*

*Do not engage in useless activity.*

*Listen to the Goddess.*

*Help thyself.*

*You create your own reality.”*

**Seneschal**:

*“The Warrior’s path is creativity.*

*A serene path to enlightenment.*

*Know thyself.*

*Master thyself.*

*Create your own reality.”*

**Constable**:

*“Nurture the ability to perceive the truth in all matters.*

*Perceive that which cannot be seen with the eye.*

*Learn from your mistakes.*

*Teach thyself.*

*Create your own reality.”*

**Marshall**:

*“Do not be negligent, even in trifling matters*

*Grace and guilt do not exist:*

*Strive for responsibility.*

*Honor thyself.*

*Create your own reality.”*

**All four together**:

*“Never disgrace the Goddess, the God, nor Wicca.*

*Do not harbor sinister designs*

*Harm none, do what thou wilt.*

*Master thyself.*

*Create your own reality.”*

**Calling on Divinity**

The Grand Master and Seneschal now call upon aspects of the God and Goddess.

**Ancestors**:

The Marshall now announces a moment of silence for fallen ancestors. At the conclusion of this moment of silence, the Marshall will call upon the participants to direct their thoughts to Pagans now in the field serving and guarding their community. This remembrance is concluded by saying:

*“They are remembered.”*

**Song of Paladins**:

Each of the members present calls out their “I am” phrase in turn. This is immediately followed by all present reciting together the following final lines adapted from the Song of Amergin:

*“Who spreads light in the gathering on the hills?*

*Who knows the ages of the moon?*

*Who but I knows the dark secret of the dolmen not yet hewn?*

*Who knows where the setting sun rests?*

*Who took the cattle from the house of the war crow?*

*Who pleases the war crow's cattle?*

*What bull, what god created the mountain skyline?*

*The cutting word, the cold word*

*I am the womb*

*Of every hold*

*I am the blaze*

*On every hill*

*I am the queen*

*Of every hive*

*I am the shield*

*To every head*

*I am the spear of battle*

*I am the ninth wave of eternal return*

*I am the tomb to every bone.*

*I can be your ally,*

*Yet I can be your worst fear.*

*I am a Paladin.”*

**Eostre Sabbat:**

The theme of this Sabbat is rebirth of your identity or restarting your life, since so many of us lately have done either or both. Grand Master leads the participants through a flowering tree exercise called “Blowing in the Wind” to help them imagine themselves manifesting new dreams and objectives as flowers that will bear fruit.

**Agape**:

The Grand Master and Seneschal take a platter covered with cakes from the altar and together hold a wand over them, saying the following lines from the poetry of Sappho:

“*I am a fountain in the sun;*

*I am a fragrance in the night;*

*I am a fire beneath the skin.*

*Of earth and air we eat,*

*And are made complete.”*

They share a cake, and the Seneschal passes the plate to the east, where it the plate is passed deosil around the Circle. As each person passes to the next, they say:

*“May you never hunger.”*

The Grand Master and Seneschal then face each other and hold a full chalice between them. The both hold the athame point down over it and lower athame point-down into the cup, saying:

*“Be it known that man is not greater than woman, nor is woman greater than man, but when joined, become one in truth, for there is no greater magick in all the world than that of love.”*

Both then sip from the cup before passing pass it to the circle of participants, starting in the east. As it is handed to each person, the person handing the chalice says:

*“May you never thirst.”*

The cup continues around the circle with the same greeting.

**Order Business**:

This is the stage in the ritual where we make announcements about scheduling and member’s achievements and so on.

**Grounding**:

At this time we ground out any surplus energy created during the ritual. You can find grounding techniques in my book *Magickal Self Defense*.

**Taking Leave of the Deities**:

The Grand Master and Seneschal thank the deities that they have called upon and take their leave of them. They use their own words for this.

**Quarter Closing**:

The persons who called the quarters now dismiss them in turn.

**Marshall**:

*“Guardians of the Center.*

*Guardians of Spirit.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Sergeant at Arms**:

*“Guardians of the North.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Quartermaster**:

*“Guardians of the West.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Standard Bearer**:

*“Guardians of the South.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Constable**:

*“Guardians of the East.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Closing**:

The Grand Master concludes the ritual, saying:

*“The Circle is open, yet unbroken. The Circle is ended, but never the trust within. Go forth now into the world and run straight for whatever you fear the most. Maher Shalal Hash Baz! Be glorious!”*

All: *“Merry Meet, Merry Part, and Merry Meet Again.”*