

# Erecting the Temple

*[There should be drink in the Goblet. The Priest lights the Altar Candle and Incense. Priestess takes the Altar Candle and moves clockwise (deosil) around the circle lighting the Circle candles from the Altar Candle. She then replaces the Altar Candle on the Altar.]*

**Thegn:** The temple is about to be erected. Let all within this Temple be here of their own free will and accord, in Peace and Love.

*[Priestess takes her Seax (athame) and holds it with its point in the Salt.]*

**Priestess:** Salt is Life. Let this salt be pure and let it purify our lives, as we use it in these Rites, dedicated to Woden and Freya.

*[Priestess uses her Seax to lift three portions of Salt and drop it into the Water. She stirs the Salted Water with the Seax.]*

**Priestess:** Let the Sacred Salt drive out any impurities in this Water that together they may be used in the service of the Lord and Lady; throughout these Rites and at any time and in any way we may use them.

*[Priestess replaces her Seax in the sheath, then taking the Salted Water moves clockwise (deosil) around the Circle sprinkling it along the marked boundary. Replacing the Water on the Altar, she takes up the Censer and moves it around the Circle. She then replaces it on the Altar. The Priest should then take up the Sword and move deosil around the Circle re-enclosing the Temple. He then replaces the Sword on the Altar.]*

*The Priest then calls the names of all Male Witches, one at a time. When called, they move to stand in front of the Priestess. Taking the Salted Water, she then draws a pentagram on the Witch's chest. Witch and Priestess kiss and embrace. When all males have been consecrated, the Priestess calls the female Witches, one by one. Priest consecrates them in the same manner.]*

**Priest:** Let us now invite the Gods to witness these Rites we hold in Their honor.

*[Priestess takes up the Sword and holds it high. Holding their Seaxes high, all face the center of the Circle.]*

**Priestess:** Woden and Freya, God and Goddess, Father and Mother of all Life. Here do we invite you to join with us in our rites. Guard us and guide us within this Circle and without it; in all things. So be it!

**All:** So be it!

*[All kiss the blade of their Seax; Priestess kisses the blade of the Sword and replaces it on the Altar. Others sheath their Seax. Priest and Priestess take up the Goblet and spills some wine on the ground with these words:]*

**Priest and Priestess:** Woden and Freya!

*[Priest and Priestess take a drink and replace the Goblet on the Altar.]*

**Thegn:** Now the Temple is erected. Let none leave it, but with good reason.

**All:** So be it!

This ceremony should be performed before all rituals. It encloses and wards the area you are to be working in. After the Temple is erected, the rest of the ritual may proceed.

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# Clearing the Temple

This ritual takes place at the end of every meeting.

*[Priestess raises the Sword high and all raise their Seaxes.]*

**Priestess:** We thank the Gods for Their attendance. As we came together in Love of Them, and Love of each other, so do we now go our separate ways.

**All:** Love is the Law and Love is the Bond.

**Thegn:** So be it! The Temple is now cleared.

*[All kiss the blades and sheath them. They then kiss each other farewell.]*

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# Consecration of Items and Tools

Any of the items to be used in the rituals, the ones to be used over and over, should be consecrated. This is the ritual cleansing of these items. Thus, the candles and incense and other items that will be used up need not be consecrated. This need only be done once for each item.

This will be written as though a Seax is to be consecrated. The wording should be changed to fit any working tool.

**Gesith:** Mighty Woden and Lovely Freya, here is my Seax, a weapon in thine honor. Purify it for me, and help me to keep it pure in thy service.

*[Gesith places the Seax on the Altar between the Sword and censer. He dips his fingers in the Salted Water and sprinkles one side, then the other. He then holds it over the smoke of the incense, making sure it smokes all of the Seax. He then holds it high and says:]*

**Gesith:** Again here is my weapon. Symbolically I have washed away aught that is evil. I have covered it with the all-encompassing incense of all that I good. Let it always be pure in thy service. And let it keep and guard me from all harm, in all things wherein I shall use it. So be it, in the names of Woden and Freya.

**All:** So be it!

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# Self Dedication

*[The initiate should always be skyclad (in other words, nude) for this rite, wearing no jewelry or clothing of any kind. The Temple should be erected by the Ceorl and he should anoint himself with the salted water. Ceorl kneels before the Altar and meditates for three or four minutes on the Lord and Lady and the meaning of the Old Religion to him. Having satisfied himself that he is doing the right thing, the Ceorl raises both arms high and says:]*

**Ceorl:** Woden and Freya, hear me now!  
I am here a simple pagan holding thee in honor.  
Far have I journeyed and long have I searched,  
Seeking that which I desire above all things.  
I am of the trees and of the fields,  
I am of the woods and of the springs;  
The streams and the hills.  
I am of thee; and thee of me.

*[Lowers arms.]*

Grant me that which I desire.  
Permit me to worship the Gods,  
And all that the Gods represent.  
Make me a Lover of Life in All things.  
Well do I know the Creed:  
That if I do not have that spark of Love within me,  
Then will I never find it without me.  
All this do I honor above aught else.

*[Ceorl takes up Seax in right hand, kisses the blade, then holds it high.]*

Woden and Freya, here do I stand before you,  
Naked and unadorned, to dedicate myself  
To Thine honor.  
Ever will I protect you and that which is yours.  
Let none speak ill of you, for ever  
Will I defend you.  
You are my life and I am Yours.  
From this day forth.  
So be it!

*[Ceorl kisses the blade, then replaces the Seax in sheath. He takes up the drinking horn and pours the remainder on the ground.]*

As this wine drains from the Horn,  
So let the blood drain from my body  
Should I ever do aught to harm the Gods.  
Or those in kinship with their Love.  
Woden and Freya!  
So be it!

*[Now the Gesith she may meditate in the Circle as long as he will, or he may clear the Circle at this time. No other rituals should be performed at this time. The Dedication should be performed as a rite in itself, along with Erecting and Clearing the Temple.]*

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# Esbat Ceremony

*[Erecting the Temple is preformed. Priest and Priestess kiss.]*

**Priest:** Let us join in worship of Woden and Freya. Let us give thanks for all that we have; for the love we enjoy; for the kinship we share.

**Priestess:** Let us never forget what we owe to the Gods. For however our lives are shaped by Our Lady and Her Lord. Theirs is the watch to keep; they are the ones who lead us on our paths.

**Priest:** It is right that we thank Them for what we have. Yet also may we ask Them for what we feel we need.

*[Next is three or four minutes of silence, while each in his own way gives thanks or requests the help of the Gods.]*

**Priestess:** When Man was but a child  
Did the Gods watch over him.  
Our loving Freya, the Goddess, was Man's Mother;  
Whilst stern, strong, God Woden was his father.  
Man learned as he was taught,  
With patience and with Love.  
Naught did he receive for naught.  
But well was he rewarded for his pains.  
'As ye give, so shall it return;'  
And this he learned well.  
Give of yourself, your love, your life'  
And so will you gain immeasurably.  
Take that which is not yours to take,  
And you may find it not what it seemed.  
The Gods are just and all They do is with reason.  
Work well with Them and you will be rewarded  
More than you might dream.  
Our Lady is Love, Our Lord is Strength.  
As we need Them, They need us.  
Let us live and Love together  
All in Their sight.  
Love is the Law and Love is the Bond.

**All:** So be it!

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# Full Moon Rite

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss.]*

**Priest:** Now is the time when the Moon is full, signaling and lighting this night of our meeting. Let us call upon Woden and Freya to smile down upon us and pour forth their Love.

*[Priest and Priestess raise their Seaxes high.]*

**Priest and Priestess:** Woden and Freya!  
We honor you; we love you!  
All that you do  
We know you do for our good.  
So let all that we do  
Be for the good of Thee.

**All:** So be it!

*[Priest lowers his Seax and kneels in front of the Priestess. She keeps her Seax aloft.]*

**Priest:** Lovely Lady Freya,  
Known by so many names to so many men.  
As different times and in different places—  
Aphrodite, Bride, Cerridwen, Diana,  
Arianhrod, Ea, Melusine, Isis—  
All these and many more  
Were the names by which you were adored.  
Yet do we know you as Freya,  
And in that name is it meet that we worship you.  
We adore the spirit of you, and of your Lord,  
In Love and in grateful thanks.

*[Priestess lowers Seax and raises Priest, kissing him. She then kneels before him.]*

**Priestess:** Woden, Mighty God, Our Lord!  
All honor to thee, Consort to Freya.  
Let us, Your people, know you and love you.  
Guard us well and guide us in our lives.  
As Man needs Woman, so does Woman need Man.  
So it is with the Gods.  
Let us all be joined as one;  
At one with the Gods.

**All:** So Be It!

*[Priest and Priestess kiss after raising her to her feet.]*

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# Cakes and Ale

*[Covener takes goblets from the Altar and fills them with Ale. He hands one to Priest and one to Priestess. They raise them high.]*

**Priest:** As the Gods give to us, let us share with them. And let us give thanks for all the goodness they pour out upon the Earth. To the Gods!

**All:** To the Gods!

*[Priest and Priestess pour libations then drink. They then pass the goblets around the Circle. The last to drink replaces them on the Altar. Covener takes the plate of Cakes to the Priestess. She holds the plate aloft.]*

**Priestess:** Our thanks to the Gods for the foods they give us. Let us always see to it that aught we have we share, with those who have nothing.

*[Priestess offers cakes to Priest, who takes one. She takes one herself and passes the plate around the Circle for all.]*

**Priest:** Let us now sit and enjoy these gifts of the Gods. But let us never forget that without the Gods we would have nothing.

**All:** So be it!

*[All sit and individual goblets or horns are filled and cakes are distributed.]*

*[At this point, any that wish to speak may. There is general talk until the Clearing of the Temple.]*

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# Coven Initiation

This ceremony is being written as though the initiate is female. If the reverse is true, the props and person speaking some parts should be changed. It is believed that a male (meaning Priest) should initiate a female and the Priestess initiate a male. Make the appropriate substitutions to this ceremony.

*[Erecting the Temple is performed in the normal manner. The Horned Helm rests beside the Altar.]*

*Innate stands outside the Circle awaiting the summons. The innate is nude and wears no jewelry.]*

*[Priest puts on the Horned Helm.]*

**Scribe:** Recorded in The Tree is the progress of one who would join us.

**Priest:** What is her name?

**Scribe:** She is known as (name).

**Priestess:** What is her progress?

**Scribe:** Her Teacher here must advise.

**Teacher:** As her Teacher do I speak. (Name)'s progress has been true. She has love in her heart.

**Priestess:** Then should she join with us in the worship of the Mighty Ones. Sow say you all?

**All:** So Be It!

*[Thegn or Covener goes to the side of the Circle, near the Innate and sounds the Horn three times (or rings the Bell). Innate walks into the Circle and moves to stand between the Priest and Priestess. Thegn or Covener uses the Sword to "close up" the Circle where the Innate has passed. He remains where he is, facing inward.]*

**Priest:** I am he who speaks for Woden. What is thy name?

**Innate:** I am known as (name).

**Priest:** No longer shall this be so.

*[Priest removes the Horned Helm and places it on the ground next to the Altar. He then takes the Salted Water from the Altar and, dipping his fingers in, anoints the innate on the forehead, breasts and genitals saying:]*

**Priest:** In the names of Woden and Freya, may this Sacred Water cleanse you. Let it drive out all impurities; all sadness and hate.

*[Priest replaces the water on the Altar, then kisses the Innate full on the lips.]*

**Priest:** In the names of Woden and Freya may you be filled with the Love that should be borne by and for all things.

*[Innate kneels and Priest places his hands on her shoulders.]*

**Priest:** Now do I give you a new name. To your Brothers and Sisters of the Craft shall you be known henceforth as (Craft Name). You shall meet with us here in the Circle, or some other like spot, to worship Woden and Freya, and to learn and to love in Their sight.

**Innate:** So be it!

*[Priest kneels facing her and takes her hands in his.]*

**Priest:** What are the names of the Gods?

**Innate:** We know them as Woden and Freya.

**Priest:** Are these the Gods you wish to worship above all others?

**Innate:** They are.

**Priest:** Do you promise to faithfully attend the Rites held in their honor, so far as you are able?

**Innate:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you promise to defend Them from those who would speak ill of Them?

**Innate:** I do.

**Priest:** Do you promise to love and honor thy Brothers and Sisters of the Craft; to aid them when in distress; to care for them when sick; to protect and defend them from their enemies, of far as you are able?

**Innate:** I do.

**Priest:** Know then, that in all these things are we equal. In all things do we seek for the good of us all. Love is the Law and Love is the Bond.

**Innate:** Love is the Law and Love is the Bond.

*[Both rise and kiss.]*

**Priest:** Now you must meet your kindred.

*[Priest leads the Innate around the Circle and introduces her by her Craft Name to each Witch. Each kisses her in greeting. Priestess is the last to greet her. Priest raises the Goblet and slowly pours out the wine on the ground.]*

**Priest:** As this wine drains from the Goblet, so may the blood drain from your body should you ever do aught to harm the Gods, or those in kinship with Their Love. Woden and Freya! So Be It!

**Innate:** So be it!

*[Priest replaces the goblet on the Altar.]*

**Priestess:** Now you are a Witch, and fully one of us.

*[Priestess gives her a belt and robe (if worn by the Coven), which she then puts on. Priest gives her a Seax. Others may give her gifts if they so desire.]*

**Scribe:** As a member of this Coven, I must ask you to place your name within The Tree.

*[Witch signs her Craft Name in the back of the book. Then follows Cakes and Ale leading to general discussion and celebration until the Clearing of the Temple.]*

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# Samhain Sabbat

**October 31**

*[Pronounced Sow-wane. The outer edge of the Circle may be decorated with flowers, branches, pinecones, small pumpkins, etc. There may also be flowers on the Altar. On the Altar rests the Priest's Horned Helm. Erecting the Temple is performed in the normal manner. If the Full Moon is on Samhain, then it is performed before the Sabbat.]*

**Priestess:** As Goddess-Summer draws to a close, So begin the dark months of the God-Winter. All praise to Freya and to Woden her consort.

**All:** All praise!

**Priestess:** [raising Seax] Gracious Goddess, we thank you  
For the joys of summer;  
For the crops, the harvest;  
For life, for love  
We love you, as we know you love us.  
Return again next year, when your time is come.  
When your companion-love, our Lord,  
Has led us safely through the dark.  
We love you and honor you.  
Freya, most beautiful.

**All:** Love!

*[Priestess sheathes her Seax and holds the Horned Helm high.]*

**Priestess:** Here do I hold the symbol  
Of Woden, the Mighty One,  
Lord of Life and of Death.  
As He will guard and guide us  
Through the months to come,  
So will his Servant, our Priest, here.

*[She places the Horned Helm on his head.]*

Now do you, (Priest's Name) represent Woden.  
For Him you speak; for him you act.  
Lead us, we ask you, through the hardships  
That lie ahead, that we may again see  
The glory of Spring, and the Love  
Of our Lady Freya.

*[They kiss.]*

**Priest:** As Lord of Life, of Love, of Death,  
Would Woden bid you have no fear.  
So be it!  
With my Lady at my side  
I shall know always there is light.  
I shall know always there is hope of life to come.  
I will lead you happily as I led those  
Who have gone before, yet are here now.  
So be it!

**All:** So be it!

*[Priest and Priestess kiss. Priestess leads others around the Circle, as Priest stands facing out from the Altar. Each male embraces the Priest, each female kisses him. When all are back to their place, Priest replaces the Horned Helm on the Altar.]*

**Priest:** Now is the time for celebration, to give us strength, to give us joy. Our loved ones return from the Summerlands to join with us. Let us greet them, and one another. Let us feast and make merry. Let us remember those who have gone on to the domains of the Mighty Ones. That they may return briefly to revel with us is good. This night is for merriment 'ere the hardships of Winter enfold us. Be happy all. So be it!

**All:** So be it!

*[Next is Cakes and Ale, followed by games and merriment. Nothing else should be done unless it is an emergency healing.]*

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# Yule (Winter Solstice) Sabbat

**December 21**

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss. On the Altar stands two unlit candles, one on either side of the Altar Candle.]*

**Priestess:** Now is the Sun well on its course through the long and dark months of winter.

**Priest:** Let us show our love for the Gods  
By sending strength where it is needed.  
Let us kindle here fresh fires  
To light our Lord upon His way.  
Fires to give Him confidence;  
To show Him our love burns forth  
Even though the hardships of Winter be upon us.

**All:** So Be It!

*[Priest takes up one unlit candle and holds it before him.]*

**Priest:** Let Woden bear the blessings of our Lady Freya  
As He guard us and guides us  
Through the long dark days ahead.  
May all our Power, Wiccans all,  
Be symbolized by this light,  
As it burns with steady flame,  
Aiding and strengthening that which is there.

*[He lights his candle from the Altar Candle and stands it alongside. Priestess takes up the other unlit candle.]*

**Priestess:** To that do we add a further prayer.  
One light to take Him into the Winter,  
Yet another light to lead Him back out.  
That my Lady Freya be ever with my Lord Woden  
Is good and right, and be it so.  
Let our prayers and thoughts go with Him  
For as he guards and guides us  
So do we love Him,  
And so have we trust in all things.

*[Priestess lights her candle from the Altar Candle and stands it alongside.]*

**Priest and Priestess:** Let these lights burn  
Till Imbolic time,  
When we shall know  
The worst of winter is behind us.

**All:** So be it!

**Priest:** And so here be the Love  
Of the God for the Goddess.

*[Priest kisses Priestess. Then shall follow Cakes and Ale, followed by games and merriment.]*

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# Imbolic Sabbat

**January 31**

*[Pronounced Im-ball-ick. Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss. On the Altar are the two candles from Yule. They are not lit. Each witch has an unlit candle tucked into his/her belt.]*

**Priestess:** Now has the Lord reached the zenith of His journey  
It is good that we rejoice for Him.  
From now till Beltane is the path ahead less dark,  
For He can see the Lady at its end.

**Priest:** I urge ye, Wiccans all,  
To give now your hearts to our Lord Woden.  
Let us make this a Feast of Torches  
To carry Him forward, in light,  
To the arms of Freya.

*[Priest and Priestess take up the extra candles off the Altar. Witches take the candles from their belts.]*

**Priest and Priestess:** Light now your flames from the Sacred Altar.

*[Females light their candles from the Priest's; males from the Priestess's. When all are lit they hold them high in their left hand, Seaxes high in their right.]*

**All:** To Woden. The Mighty one,  
Do we give our love and our strength.  
So be it!

*[All hold for a few moments, till the Priest and Priestess give the signal. Each kisses the blade of their Seax, blows out their candle-except for the Priest and priestess, who replace theirs, still lit on the Altar- and puts away their Seax.]*

**Priest:** Thus shall the journey be made through Beltane, renewed in Strength and happy in Love.

**Priestess:** As the Gods give us, so it is right that we should give to the Gods.

**All:** So be it!

*[Then followed by Cakes and Ale, followed by games and celebration.]*

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# Ostara (Spring Equinox) Sabbat

**March 21**

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss. There may be spring flowers on the Altar and around the Circle. On the Altar, next to the Sword, rest a Phallic Wand. Also on the Altar is a small bowl with fresh soil and, beside it, a large seed of some sort.]*

**Priest:** Wiccans all, harken to me!  
Awake! It is time to greet the Spring.  
Freya, Lady of Light, hear us!  
Woden, Lord of Life, hear us!  
We are here to celebrate both with you and for you.

*[Priestess raises her arms high.]*

**Priestess:** Welcome, welcome, beautiful Spring!  
Now let us join together, inspired by the Gods.  
Let us cast behind us the darkness of Winter,  
And look again forward to that which lies ahead.  
Now it the time for Birth.  
Now is the time for the planting of seeds.

*[Priestess lowers her arms. Priest takes up the Phallic Wand and holds it out, vertically, before him.]*

**Priestess:** By the power of the raised Wand  
Doth the Seed find the Furrow.  
Blessings be upon this handsome Wand.

*[Priest turns to face her. She kisses the tip of the Wand.]*

**Priestess:** All honor to it;  
May it ever be thus.

**All:** All power to it;  
All power!  
For Love is here.  
Blessed Be!

*[Priest and Priestess lead a dance around the Altar, Priest carrying the Phallic Wand. All sing as they dance. When they have danced sufficiently, they stop.\* Priestess takes up the bowl of Earth.]*

**Priestess:** Of old would we celebrate by together planting  
The seed, one with another,  
Yet here do we symbolize that act,  
In veneration of our Lady and our Lord.

*[Priestess turns to face the Priest and holds the bowl close, between her breasts. Priest takes the Wand and carefully makes a depression in the soil, in the center of the bowl. Priest replaces the Wand on the Altar and takes up the seed from the Altar, and holds it cupped in his hands over the bowl.]*

**Priest:** These Rites of Spring belong to all;  
To us and to the Gods.  
This is a joyous time.  
This is a time for planting.

*[He places the seed in the depression and covers it with Earth.]*

**Priest:** This seed I do place in the womb of the Earth,  
That it may become a part of the Earth,  
A part of Life,  
A part of us.  
Blessed be the Gods!  
Blessed are the Wiccans!  
Let Love abound!  
All: Love! So be it!

*[Priest and Priestess kiss, then the Priestess replaces the bowl on the Altar. All kiss one another.]*

*Then follows the ceremony of Cakes and Alt, followed by games and merriment.]*

\* This part may be done if moved by the spirit. The singing and dancing are optional.  
Other power-raising chants or rites may be done instead.

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# Beltane Sabbat

**April 30**

*[Pronounced Bell-tan-yah. Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss. There should be spring flowers spread around the Circle and on the Altar. Also on the Altar rests the Priestess's Crown. To one side of the Circle is a cauldron filled with kindling.]*

**Priestess:** With this night do we see  
The ending of the Dark Time.  
To bring us once more to the light.  
And to our Lady Freya.

**All:** Woden! Our thanks and our Love to Thee!

*[Covenor lights the kindling in the cauldron.]*

**Priest:** Now do we light the Beltane fires!  
To revitalize our Lord  
After his long journey.  
Welcome Woden!  
Welcome Life!

**All:** Welcome Woden! Welcome Life!

*[All now dance around the Circle, jumping over the flaming cauldron if they wish. They dance either singly or in pairs. Priestess remains at the Altar, and says, while the Coven dances;]*

**Priestess:** The year is a mighty wheel  
And the Sabbats are its spokes  
As the Circle is also a wheel  
Made up of we Wiccan folks.  
Ahead lies now the Sun-  
Lord Woden still shining down-  
Whilst our Lady has begun  
To spread her springtime gown.  
With bud and twig and leaf and tree,  
We welcome Freya so merrily.

*[Priest alone stops dancing.]*

**Priest:** Welcome indeed to our Lady Fair.  
Welcome, thrice welcome, we fill the air  
With our love and devotion for Freya!

*[Others stop dancing.]*

As our Lord Woden steps back  
So does our Lady Freya move forward,  
To guard and guide us  
Through the Summer time.

*[He takes up the Crown.]*

Let this be my Lady's crown,  
As our beloved Priestess (name)  
Wears it proudly.

*[Priestess kneels and Priest places the crown on her head. He then raises her up and kisses her. All then move round the Circle to kiss the Priestess and say "Love".]*

**Priestess:** The word is "Love" and happily do we say it;  
The word is "Love" and happily do we make it;  
The word is "Love" and happily do we feel it;  
For we are Love.

*[Next is Cakes and Ale followed by games and merriment.]*

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# Litha (Midsummer or Summer Solstice) Sabbat

**June 21**

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss.]*

**Priestess:** Now is the summer sun on high,

Yet living goes ever on.  
With hope in our hearts  
Let us spread happiness about us.  
Cease all sorrows!  
Cease all strife!  
The day is for living—  
For living this life!

**Priest:** On high the Sun never casts a shadow.

So shines down the love of the Gods-  
Of Woden and Freya-  
Shining upon us all alike.  
No more on one than on another.

**Priestess:** As the sun moves along its path,

Acknowledging all along its way;  
So move we for the Mighty Ones,  
To show our love and affection.

*[Priest and Priestess move deosil around the Circle, hand in hand, and kiss each Witch on the way. Returning to their original position they kiss each other.]*

**Priestess:** We Wiccans give thanks to the Mighty Ones,

To Woden and Freya,  
For the richness and goodness of life.  
As there must be rain with the sun,  
To make all things good;  
So we must suffer pain with joy,  
To know all things.  
Our love is ever with the Gods,  
For though we know not their thoughts

Yet we do know their hearts-  
That is all for our good.  
Woden and Freya, bless us now.  
Keep us faithful in thy service.  
We thank you for the crops;  
For life, for love, for joy.  
We thank you for that spark  
That brings us together-and to you.  
Help us to live with Love  
And with Trust between us.  
Help us to feel the joy of loving you  
And of loving one another.

**All:** So be it!

*[Next is Cakes and Ale followed by games and merriment.]*

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# Lughnassdad Sabbat

**July 31**

*[Pronounced Loose-nah-dah. Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss.]*

**Priest:** Summer is the season for celebration and for caring.  
Flowers come forth; later to give way to fruit.  
Now is the time for us to review all things-  
That which is to remain, and that which must  
Be pruned away, for the goodness of growth.  
Growth in all things; in plants and in ourselves.

*[Priestess raises her arms.]*

**Priestess:** Almighty Mother of us all,  
Bringer of Life and of Love,  
We thank thee for all the goodness  
We have raised from the soil;  
The promises of fruits to come.  
Help us in our decisions and in our judgments.  
Let us have the wisdom of the Mighty Ones  
As we handle our problems  
Both great and small.

**All:** So Be it!

*[She lowers her arms.]*

**Priest:** My Lady of the Silver Crescent-  
And the Golden Orb, your Consort,  
We praise you and love you.  
Look down upon us and guide us  
In our rites and in our lives.

**Priestess:** As the Moon reflects the Sun  
So let our lives reflect the love you have for us.  
Help us to love and honor one another;  
To have respect and , most of all,  
To have that understanding that brings  
True love and peace.  
Woden and Freya, we Pagan folks are yours;

In Love most perfect  
And with trust in all things.

*[Priest and Priestess kiss, then lead a dance about the Circle. All dance until the Priestess signals a stop. Next is Cakes and Ale followed by games and merriment.]*

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# Mabon (Autumn Equinox)

**September 21-23**

*[The Altar and surroundings should be decorated with autumn flowers, leaves, pumpkins and squash, as well as pinecones, leaves, and boughs around the Circle proper. Once the Temple is erected, the Priest and Priestess join in front of the altar and kiss.]*

**Covenor:** Now that the season of plenty draws to its close, let us listen to the words of Freya as she speaks through her Priestess, \_\_\_\_\_ here.

*[The Priestess spreads her hands toward the people.]*

**Priestess:** My love is ever with my Pagans.  
Although the season of plenty draws to a close,  
Think not that I forsake you,  
For I am with you always.  
I watch over you, as does my Consort, The Horned One.  
When the dark months descend  
Then will Woden hold vigil over you;  
As you will over him.  
For know you that as Man needs the Gods,  
So do the Gods need Man.

*[Priestess takes up the Salted Water. The Priest leads the coven members in a dance around the Circle, the Priestess sprinkles them with the water as they pass her. They dance around three times. Priestess replaces the water on the altar.]*

**Priestess:** To the good seasons that have already passed, and to those that are yet to come.

**All:** Woden and Freya give blessings.

**Priest:** To the beauty of Autumn and to those good friends we treasure.

**All:** Woden and Freya give blessings.

**Priestess:** To Woden and Freya, who bring peace, joy and love to the world.

**All:** Do we give our blessings.

**Priest and Priestess:** So be it!

*[The ritual of Cakes and Ale should follow. Eventually, when everyone is partied out, the ritual of Closing the Temple should follow.]*

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# Hand-Fasting

This ceremony is best performed during the waxing of the Moon. The bride and groom should be skyclad. It is traditional for the pair to exchange rings. They should be silver and have their Craft Names inscribed in runes. The rings should be on the Altar.

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss.]*

**Thegn or Covener:** There are those in our midst who seek the bond of Handfasting.

**Priestess:** Let them be named and brought forward.

**Scribe or 2<sup>nd</sup> Covener:** (Groom's name) is the Man and (Bride's name) is the Woman.

*[Bride and Groom come forward to stand facing the Priest and Priestess. Bride before the Priest and the Groom before the Priestess.]*

**Priestess:** (to Groom) Are you (name)?

**Groom:** I am.

**Priestess:** And what is your desire?

**Groom:** To be made one with (Bride) in the eyes of the Gods and of the Wiccans.

**Priest:** (To Bride) Are you (name)?

**Bride:** I am.

**Priest:** And what is your desire?

**Bride:** To be made one with (Groom) in the eyes of the Gods and of the Wiccans.

*[Priestess takes up Sword and raises it high.]*

**Priestess:** Woden and Freya, here before you stand two of your folk. Witness, now, that which they have to declare.

*[Priestess replaces the Sword on the Altar. Taking up her Seax, she holds the point of it to Groom's chest. Groom repeats the following line for line.]*

**Priestess:** Repeat after me: I, (Name) do come here of my own free will, to seek the Partnership of (Bride's Name). I come with all love, honor and sincerity, wishing only to become One with her whom I love. Always will I strive for (Bride's Name)'s happiness

and welfare. Her life will I defend before my own. May the Seax be plunged into my heart should I not be sincere in all that I declare. All this I swear in the names of Woden and Freya. May they give me the strength to keep my vows. So be it!

*[Priestess lowers her Seax. Priest raises his Seax and, in turn, holds it to the breast of Bride.]*

**Priest:** Repeat after me: I, (Name) do come here of my own free will, to seek the Partnership of (Groom's Name). I come with all love, honor and sincerity, wishing only to become One with him whom I love. Always will I strive for (Groom's Name)'s happiness and welfare. His life will I defend before my own. May the Seax be plunged into my heart should I not be sincere in all that I declare. All this I swear in the names of Woden and Freya. May they give me the strength to keep my vows. So be it!

*[Priest lowers his Seax. Any vows the Groom and Bride wish to share should come now. Priestess takes up the two rings and sprinkles and censes both. She then hands the Bride's ring to the Groom, and the Groom's ring to the Bride.]*

**Priest:** As the grass of the fields and the trees of the woods bend together under to pressures of the storm, so must you both bend when the wind blows strong. But know you that as quickly as the storm comes, so equally quickly may it leave. Yet will you both stand, strong in each other's strength. As you give love, so will you receive love. As you give strength, so will you receive strength. Together you are one, apart you are nothing.

**Priestess:** Know you that no two people can be exactly alike, no more can any two people fit together, perfect in every way. There will be times when it will seem hard to give and to love. But see then your reflection as in the woodland pool: when the image of you looks sad or angered, then is the time for you to smile and to love (for it is not fire that puts out fire). In return will the image in the pool smile and love. So change your anger for love, tears for joy. It is no weakness to admit a wrong; more is it a strength and a sign of learning.

**Priest:** Ever love, help, and respect each other. And then know truly that you are One in the eyes of the Gods and of the Wiccans.

All: So be it!

*[Bride and Groom place the ring on the other's finger and kiss. Then they kiss the Priest and Priestess across the Altar and move about the Circle to be congratulated by the others.]*

*The shall follow Cakes and Ale followed by celebration.]*

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# Hand-Parting

Before the ceremony the couple should sit down with the Priest and Priestess and work out a fair division of property and make arrangements for the care of any children. The Scribe would make note of this, then the record would be signed by all.

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss.]*

**Thegn:** (Husband's name) and (Wife's Name) stand forth!

*[Husband and Wife stand before the Altar, facing the Priest and Priestess, Wife before the Priest and vice-versa.]*

**Priestess:** Why are you here?

**Husband:** I wish a handparting from (name).

**Priest:** Why are you here?

**Wife:** I wish a handparting from (name).

**Priestess:** Do you both desire this of your own free will?

**Husband and Wife:** We do.

**Priest:** Has a settlement been reached between you regarding the division of property and (if appropriate) care for the child(ren)?

**Husband and Wife:** It has.

**Priest:** Has this been duly recorded, signed, and witnessed?

**Scribe:** It has.

**Priest:** Then let us proceed, remembering that we stand ever before the Gods.

*[Husband and Wife join hands.]*

**Priestess:** Together, Repeat after me: I (name), do hereby most freely dissolve my partnership with (Spouse's name). I do so in all honesty and sincerity, before Woden and Freya, with my brothers and Sisters of Wicca as witness. No longer are we One; but are now two Individuals, free to go our separate ways. We release all ties, one to the other, yet ever will we retain respect for one another, as we have love and respect for our fellow Wiccans. So be it!

**Priest:** Hand-Part!

*[Husband and Wife release each other's hands, remove their wedding bands and give them to the Priestess. She sprinkles and censes them saying:]*

Priestess: In the Names of Woden and Freya do I cleanse these rings.

*[She returns the rings to the couple.]*

**Priestess:** Now are you Handparted. Let all know you as such. Go your separate ways in Peace and in Love- never in bitterness- and in the ways of the Craft. So be it!

**All:** So be it!

*[Then follows Cakes and Ale and Clearing the Temple.]*

If one person cannot be present due to illness or relocation, then a Witch of the appropriate sex can be there for Proxy. There should be a signed Proxy statement along with the ring.

Best performed on the Waning of the Moon.

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# Birth Rite

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss.]*

**Scribe or Covener:** There is an addition to our number. Let us give him/her due welcome.

*[Parents move to stand across the Altar from the Priest and Priestess. They hold the Baby.]*

**Priest:** What is the name of this Child?

*[Parents give the child's name. This is the name it will be known by until old enough to choose its own name.]*

**Priest:** We welcome you, (Name).

**Priestess:** Welcome, and much love to you.

*[Priestess dips her fingers in the Salted Water and gently wipes them over the baby's face. Mother then passes the child through the smoke of the incense.]*

**Priestess:** May our Lady Freya and her Consort Woden  
Smile ever upon you.  
May they guard you and guide you through this life.  
May they help you choose that which is right  
And shun that which is wrong;  
That no harm may befall you,  
Or others through you.  
So be it!

**All:** So be it! Welcome!

*[Next comes Cakes and Ale.]*

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# Death Rite

*[Erecting the Temple is performed. Priest and Priestess kiss. Thegn sounds a long note on the horn.]*

**Thegn:** The horn is sounded for (Name of Dead Witch).

**All:** So be it!

**Priestess:** That today, (Name) is not with us, here in the Circle, saddens all. Yet let us try not to feel sad. For is this not a sign that s/he has fulfilled this life's work? Now is s/he free to move on. We shall meet again, fear not. And that will be a time for further celebration.

**Priest:** Let us send forth our good wishes to bear him/her over the Bridge. May s/he return at any time to be with us here.

*[All take their Seaxes and point them at a spot behind the Altar, facing the Priest and Priestess. They imagine the Dead Witch standing in that spot, looking as they best remember him/her. They concentrate on sending Love, Joy, Happiness, from their bodies, along the line of the Seax, into the imagined body. This continues for a few moments. Priestess signals the end by replacing her Seax and saying:]*

**Priestess:** We wish you all the Love and Happiness we may.  
We will never forget you;  
Do now forget us.  
Whenever we meet here, you are always welcome.

**All:** So be it!

*[All now sit and any present may speak of the dead, if they wish. If no one else, then at least the Priest and Priestess should speak of the Dead Witch. Then shall follow Cakes and Ale.]*

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