

## A Pagan Wedding Ceremony

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Your Wedding Officiant in Indianapolis

### CIRCLE CASTING

*<<Everyone stands in a circle>>*

"We cast the circle of ancient lore;  
Waves upon a timeless shore.  
With no beginning, nor an end;  
It always knows a foe from friend.  
Oroboros, of legends old;  
Rings of power, forged in gold.  
Circle of Life, ring of stones;  
Cycle of creation, birth to bones.  
A ring around the silv'ry Moon;  
We cast you now, o ancient rune!"

### QUARTERS:

*<<Holds up crystal to the East>>*

"I call the Eastern powers of air,  
You whose breath of life we share,  
Bring understanding, kindness, care,  
And loving words, both clear and fair,  
Come bless this day our rite of love,  
As below then so above."

*<<Places Crystal to the East>>*

*<<Holds up crystal to the South>>*

"I call the Southern powers of fire,  
Whose light doth stir the poet's lyre,  
With love's bright spark our hearts inspire,  
Bring passion's flame, bring sweet desire,  
Come bless this day our rite of love,  
As below then so above."

*Places Crystal to the South>>*

*Holds up crystal to the West>>*

"Oh powers of the Western sea,  
Oh water's flowing unity,  
Bring feeling, warmth and empathy,  
That all our lives may blessed be,  
Come bless this day our rite of love,  
As below then so above."

*Places Crystal to the West>>*

*Holds up crystal to the North>>*

"Oh Northern powers of living Earth,  
Charge our souls from death to birth,  
On solid ground of rock and loam,  
Bring forth our food and build our home,  
Come bless this day our rite of love,  
As below then so above."

*Turns and returns to the circle.>>*

*Moves to the center of the circle>>*

*Worship Begins>>*

### Preamble

The circle in which you all stand is symbolic of the cycles of life, the womb of the Great Mother, a sacred place created for mortal and divine interaction, in which any negativity from the mundane world can be left outside and all the love and joy we feel for Bride and Groom contained within.

Although for many the sacred and the mundane meet and coexist as often as is humanly possible, marriage is very much a sacred union, for it is a union of souls in which the bride and groom pledge unto one another their higher selves and all that is divine within themselves. In the Earth based traditions it is considered the marriage of the God and Goddess within.

You will also hear an elemental blessing. All the worlds religions still

parallel the agricultural calendar, because the natural world speaks its lessons softly and constantly. In the blessing we simply ask to understand and be able to see the how the attributes of each element can help us on our journey

Almost all cultures and faiths have a sacred meal of communion with the divine. During a wedding it has the added meaning of feeding on and drinking in of the promises that a couple has made.

*rich* In a Greek Orthodox ceremony, the symbolic binding of the hands at the end of the service that inspired the terms "Bonds of Holy Matrimony" and to "Tie the knot" This custom has also been known the world over, through many different periods in history. During the Middle Ages to be seen in public holding hands was a sign that a couple was exclusive to one another. And while rings were for the very rich, love knows no bounds and a simple cord would do just fine.

### Welcoming of the Guests

"The bride and groom would like to take a moment to thank you all for being here with them today. They know that making the journey took considerable effort from you and for this they are deeply grateful. All of you are the most important people in their lives. All of the time and conversations that you have had with Bride and Groom before they even met helped to make them who they needed to be to find first themselves and then each other. You have shared in their best and their worst days, and you are an irreplaceable part of their yesterdays, their today and all of their tomorrows. So, as you can see you are never far from their hearts."

"I look out at you now and I see a rich and diverse weave of differing beliefs, lifestyles, ages and viewpoints. Yet you are all here celebrating your love for Bride and Groom, wishing for them all that they would want for themselves, rather than what your own hopes may have been. It sounds more like an ideal but it isn't, and it is in part what makes their life together a thing of such great beauty."

"There are many reasons that we share in life's celebrations with those we love. Ritual itself is designed to cause a change in our lives. The

promises that a couple makes must be practical promises that when lived by will actually help them to safeguard their future. Another important aspect of ritual is that in being here we somehow feel closer to the couple by being allowed a peek into their inner most thoughts and feelings at this intensely personal moment of their lives. It reminds the other couple here of when it was their special day and the promises they once made, and allows us all to somehow feel closer to one another as the community of family and friends that we truly are."

"There is a term that we hear often at events such as this with very little explanation. The term is "Perfect Love and Perfect Trust" or "Unconditional Love" In the case of a marriage, and in the case of all loving, caring, committed relationships the ideal that this speaks of is not about perfection, but of expecting and accepting imperfection and human frailty. For the divinely inspired desire to be together for a lifetime is indeed something well worthy of fighting for, and these dear friends are the promises that you have been invited to bear witness to this day."

### Elemental Blessing

"Since ancient times, people have communed with nature to learn more about themselves by example. Since it is within nature that we all do abide, we ask for Bride and Groom the blessings of Nature's Elements, Air, Fire, Water and Earth. We do this that they may fully come to understand the lessons each element has to offer. The attributes of which are examples of those aspects they mirror not only within divinity but within ourselves as well."

"We ask the spirits of Air to keep open the lines of communication between this couple. May their future be as bright as the dawn on the horizon. As Air flows freely to and from and through us all, may their hearts and minds and souls come to know the world and each other in this manner. Seeing not only with their eyes, may they together grow wise with wisdom."

"Spirits of Fire, we ask that Bride and Groom's passion for each other and for life itself remain ever strong and vital, fortifying each day with a vibrancy rooted in boldness, and courage. As Fire clears the way for

new growth, may they know that this power is theirs: to create change and bring about the richness and quality that comes with a true love of life."

"We ask the Spirits of Water, that their love for each other and the comfort of loved ones, like the serenity of the deep blue ocean, be the oasis that forever surrounds our bride and groom. May they be well loved, and love well, letting the surety with which Water makes its journey to the sea, flowing over rocks or around trees, even turning into vapor and riding a cloud, ever serve as a reminder that with love all is well and will endure."

"Spirits of Earth, we ask that you give unto those you see standing before you this day, the rock solid place to stand and fulfill his destiny. May their journey mirror the vast plains and fertile fields, expansive and alive. May they find the right seeds to sow to ensure a bountiful harvest. And when they look up at the Northern Star, may they know that it is as bright and constant as their love for each other as well as the love of the divine is for them."

"Father in heaven, whose presence is felt in all things and at all times we ask your continued blessings upon this couple, upon their union and upon their family and friends who have gathered here to celebrate this joyous event with them. May they become one in truth and forever revel in the magik that is love."

### Drawing Down the God and Goddess

"In the drawing down of the God and Goddess into the bride and groom, it connects them with the divinity within themselves, reminding us that in marriage it is our higher selves and the best that we have to give, that we offer to one another. As a sacred spiritual union to become the embodiment of the God and Goddess serves as a reminder that as above, so below, honoring the God and Goddess within themselves and their mate."

"Lady "Bride", I ask you to call upon

all that is divine within you,  
Let it come forth and shine.  
In you dwells the essence of the Great Mother  
and the divine feminine principle of the Universe  
You are She who has been worshiped and adored  
for centuries and throughout the ages  
You are wife, mother, lover, friend,  
prophet, and confidant  
In you is everything that any one  
could ever aspire to be and more.  
In you is strength and wisdom, perfection and peace.  
Shine dear one and show your true nature as Goddess."

"Lord "Groom", I ask you to call upon  
all that is divine within you,  
Let it come forth and shine.  
In you lives the essence of the Gods  
The active force that has sparked and powered all life  
You are He who has been worshiped and adored  
for centuries and throughout the ages  
You are husband, healer, protector,  
visionary, friend, and confidant  
In you is everything that any one  
could ever aspire to be and more.  
In you is strength and wisdom, perfection and peace.  
Shine mighty one and show to all the God within."

"Queen most Secret, touch with your grace and fill this woman with  
your beauty and strength in the unending cycles of growth and change  
that are the years and seasons of lives spent together in love and  
wonder. Share with her your fertile nature from which all abundance  
flows."

"Lord of light and life, touch with your power and fill this man with  
your knowledge and wisdom to guide him in this divine alchemy which is  
the union of two souls. Share with him the secret union of heart and  
mind upon which this union known as marriage must be based."

### Blessing of the Rings

"Son and Daughter will you now hold out the rings entrusted to you by your parents. Your hands beneath serve as a symbol of how Bride and Groom and their marriage are supported upon this earth by the love of their friends and family as blessed from above."

"Lord and Lady, guardians of all that is seen and unseen,  
Bless these rings and this couple who shall wear them.  
Keep them safe through adversity forever supported  
by your eternal blessing."

"The ring finger of the left hand, the side of the body that holds the heart, has been used for the wedding band because for centuries people believed that there was a vein that ran directly from that finger to the heart. They also believed that the words that were spoken during the placing of the ring would resonate over and over, like the circumference of the band itself, through to the heart and soul of both giver and receiver of the most monumental promise of all, the promise of a lifetime as husband and wife."

### Sword, Chalice and Ring Exchange

"Lord "Groom", if it is truly thy desire to become one with this with this woman: Then present unto her a symbol of thy pledge, and a token of thy love."

"Lady "Bride", you are the most gracious and lovely one that Groom has ever seen, for he understands the essence of thy true self. The beauty

which radiates around thee can only be rivaled by the beauty which radiates from within thee. The pledge of his sword is as the pledge of his soul. It is his prowess, his fire, his passion, his strength & courage, His ability to protect, defend and care for thee. With the strength of his blade and the endurance of its steel to represent what is in his heart, take from him now, as his beloved, the ring that rests upon it, and choose him to be your own."

<<

"I accept the pledge of thy blade and the eternal promise of this wedding band."

"For the boy thou were,  
For the man thee art,  
And for the Husband thou shall be to me,  
I do choose you to be mine own."

"If thou wilt now place this ring upon mine finger,  
I shall from this day forth,  
'till beyond the end of time,  
Take thee to be mine own."

"With this ring I thee wed. I take you as my friend, my lover, my wife

from this day forth and into the fullness of time where we will meet  
and remember and love again."

"Lady "Bride", if it is truly your desire to become one with this man:  
Then present unto him a symbol of thy pledge and a token of thy love."

"Lord "Groom", in the eyes of this woman thou art the only man in the  
world. Yours is the voice of sound reason and unwavering support. You  
the spark to the bonfire of her passions and yours are the arms in  
which she would have lay down to rest. The pledge of her chalice is the  
pledge of all that is within her, Her felicity and devotion. The place in  
her heart where two souls can be sheltered and nourished, that they  
may grow together, ever closer, and flourish as the leaves on the trees  
and the fruits of the vine. As the depth and bounty of her chalice  
foretell the richness of your future together, take from her now the  
band that lies there within, and do choose her as thy own."

"I accept the pledge of your chalice and the eternal promise of this  
wedding band."

"For the girl thou were,  
For the woman thou art  
And for the wife that thee shall be to me,  
I toast and drink to thee!  
And do choose you to be mine own"

<<Groom makes toasting gesture, drinks and returns chalice to Bride>>

"If thou will now place this ring upon my finger,  
I shall from this day forth,  
'till beyond the end of time,  
Take you to be mine own."

"With this ring I thee wed. I take you as my friend, my lover,  
my husband from this day forth and into the fullness of time where we  
will meet and remember and love again."

### Cakes and Ale

"As the Lord and Lady are separate yet one. so have your pledges made  
you. Drink now of one another's love and know that you will never again  
thirst in your heart or in mind, for what each of you lacks the other  
has to give and the well spring of love flows eternally for those who  
drink often of it's waters.

<<Bride and Groom sip from chalice>>

As food and drink nourish the body, so does love feed the soul  
of marriage. Feed now one another, feed forevermore the spirit of  
your union and be filled always

### Handfasting

"Is it also your wish today that your hands be fasted in the ways of  
old?"

Bride and Groom: "It is."

"Remember then as your hands are fasted, these are not the ties that bind..."

"The role already taken by the song your hearts share shall be now be strengthened by the vows you take. All things of the material world eventually return to the Earth unlike the bond and the connection your spirits share which is destined to ascend to the heavens.

"May you be forever as one in the passion and fire of you

You are now as your hearts have always known you to be,

Husband and Wife. You may kiss the bride!"

### The Broom, Sword and Shield

"Brooms are used for cleaning and sweeping. Therefore that they are used to symbolize the sweeping away the remnants of the past which no longer serve us is appropriate. The sword symbolizes the wielding of power and personal responsibility. Shields are used for protection. Therefore they are used to symbolize fortification and preservation. As the Bride and Groom jump they are reminded that remaining vigilant over these aspects of the day to day shall help them to achieve the quality of life that they aspire to. Christine, Nathaniel and Joseph, will you now lay down the Broom, Sword and Shield."

"Now putting the past behind you, and remembering always that the power to create the future ahead of you is your own, jump together into your common future!"

<<The couple jumps, kisses again, and exits to greet their guests as the circle is quietly broken down.>>