



"Goddess in the Violets"
Original Art
by Sherry Lore

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Sherry Lore - Editor

"Violet"

- Samhain2005-

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...from the Collective

This month's From the Collective is a short one. Our first year in online formatting is coming up, so I'd like to thank everyone who has helped make this endeavor a success.

Thank you to all of the regular contributors such as Trish, Ari, Guinevere, Prarie Moon and Marsha. Your articles, rituals and ideas have brought such depth and diversity to **Weavings**, that each new article surprises me every issue.

Also, more thanks to the random authors such as Ursa, Merlin, Geoff, Tom and Elayne. I love new people! Even if it's just one article or poem that you were randomly inspired to write, I thank you for sharing your energy. Keep them coming as your muse conveys.

And as for others who have watched and read from your computer screens, timidly reading the issue and wondering if you could share as well: The answer is yes...

Do not think that the pages of this endeavor are untouchable by your words or would be marred by your energy. In fact, they are waiting for you to answer in kind and give as you, too, are inspired so. Your spiritually guided words, poetry, articles, ideas, thoughts and artwork could furnish these pages well, letting your inner muse be heard.

Our Yule issue will be the end of the rainbow... It is light and dark, all and none, the "Black & White" of it all. In the darkened season, the light is reborn. Send your submissions to submissions@ipan.org or write to us at IPAN: Submissions, PO Box 861, Iowa City, IA 52244-0861.

And, as always, we welcome your comments, concerns and ideas! If you have questions or would like to let us know how you feel about Weavings, please email us at ipan@ipan.org or send it as an editorial to submissions@ipan.org.

Have a wonderful Samhain and a great new year. I look forward to hearing from you!

*Samhain blessings,
Sherry Lore*



Original Photo Art by Trish



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IPAN Collective Meeting

Oct. 13th, 2005

Officer Reports

Web - No change. Issue available

Publications - Last issue went out. Next issue due soon! Yule issue is "Black & White." Send submissions to submissions@ipan.org. Thank yo to all who have submitted! Especially Ari, Trish, Marsha, and Guinevere who write such wonderful articles!

Mail - Not much...

Finances - We currently have (plus or minus a few dollars in transit) roughly \$1400.00 in the bank

Agenda

ICON: at the Zaza Clarion, opening ceremonies start at 6:00 PM on the 28th, 3:00PM closing on Sunday the 30th; Trish is in charge of rituals and will get them to us soon; will send Gino a number of people and names

Ari is bringing literature and info; Marsha is bringing color copies of issues;

Ari will send out questions to go through and divvy up

Weavings Topics: Paganism in the World; Yule issue is, "Black & White." Send your submissions to submissions@ipan.org.

Craft Circle: November - knitting at Trish's; Yule - Cookie exchange and heat pillows at Trish's unless we have other plans; January - stained glass at Marsha & Kirk's; please contact ipan@ipan.org for locations and details.

Samhain: Nov. 5th, 6:30 PM at Geoff's house, email for location and details; feel free to wear costumes or garb

Symposium: first choice is April 22nd, second is April 1st or April 8th; Prarie Woods is a possible choice as is Palisades Kepler

Classes: Geoff is doing a Gaelic pronunciation workshop at The Wishing Realm soon

For Next Meeting

Tax-Exempt Status

Symposium Locations & Details

ICON Rehash

Weavings Topics settled

Upcoming IPAN Events

Oct 28-30 - ICON; Cedar Rapids, IA

Oct 31 - Samhain: Halloween, All Hallow's Eve

Nov 5 - Samhain Party at Geoff's; email for directions and more information

Nov 10 - IPAN Collective Meeting: 6:30 PM Social Time, 7:00 PM Meeting; Terrapin Coffee Co in Coralville, IA

Nov 13 - Craft Circle ; Sock Knitting - 2 PM at Trish's in Iowa City, contact us at ipan@ipan.org for location and details.

Dec 8 - IPAN Collective Meeting: 6:30 PM Social Time, 7:00 PM Meeting; Terrapin Coffee Co in Coralville, IA

Dec 11 - Craft Circle: Cookie Exchange and Heated Relaxation Pillows - at Trish's in Iowa City, contact us at ipan@ipan.org for location and details.

Dec 21 - Winter Solstice: Yule



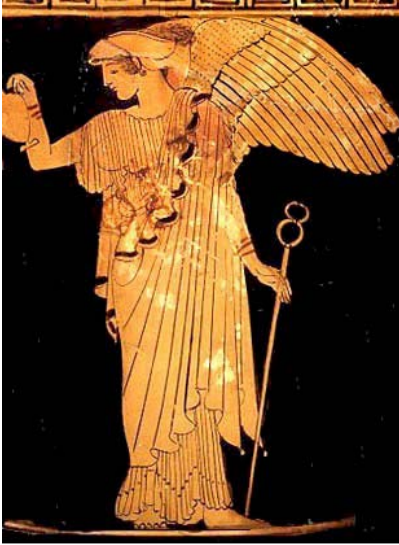
www.freeimages.co.uk

*"What skilful limner e'er would choose
To paint the rainbow's varying hues,
Unless to mortal it were given
To dip his brush in dyes of heaven?"*

~ Walter Scott

Iris: The Bridge Between

by Sherry Lore



Iris as depicted on a Vase, circa 480 BC shown at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design

In Greek mythos, Iris was the messenger of the Gods. Acting as the female counterpart to Hermes, she was said to be favored by both Zeus and Hera as a messenger. Daughter of the oceanic Titan, Thaumas, and an Oceanid (water nymph) named Electra; she was often depicted as the deliverer of messages to Poseidon and other gods.

Often shown with wings as well as winged golden sandals, Iris was said to be as swift as the storm-winds when delivering her messages. Shown also with a caduceus and a ewer, her swiftness was known well by those who had broken oaths or perjured themselves. If one was found guilty of such an act (primarily Olympians) she was ordered by Zeus to go to the river Styx and fill her ewer with the river's water that was said to put a near death-like sleep upon any who had committed such an act.

Although Iris was the bearer of Zeus' messages of justice, she was most often seen as primarily associated with Hera, being her personal messenger to the mortal world. It is said she would sleep under Hera's throne with her winged sandals still on her feet, always ready for the

next message to deliver. However, at least once she went against her favored Queen of Heaven by delivering a message that Hera would have preferred never given. When Leto, parent along with Zeus to the illegitimate (like most of Zeus's children) Artemis and Apollo, was pregnant and in labor, the angry Hera was said to have held the midwife goddess, Eileithyia, in Mt. Olympus till Iris was cajoled by Leto into secreting in a message to the midwife goddess of the mother-to-be's impending delivery.

Most often, Iris was depicted as taking human form when dealing with mortal men, often using the guise of another to deliver her message as she did in Homer's, *The Iliad*, by taking the form of one of Priam's sons to the Trojan camp.

According to other tales, Iris duties also included the leading of the souls of dead women to the Elysian Fields. The modern Greek tradition of planting purple irises on the graves of women is said to have come from this. In another Greek tradition, farmer's often paid tribute to Iris for delivering water to the clouds once again in order to rain down upon their growing crops.

Where Iris's association with the rainbow comes from, no one is sure. Although her name means in translation, rainbow, it wasn't until more modern times that she was ever depicted as causing, traveling on or creating rainbows or was even lent the attribute of a rainbow robe that traveled across the sky. Many scholars believe it is the association with the bridging of heaven and earth as she delivered her messages from the gods to mortal man that lent Iris her beautiful namesake.

References

Archaeonia: A Journey through Ancient Greece

<http://www.archaeonia.com/religion/deities/hebe&iris.htm>

Mythography

<http://www.loggia.com/myth/iris.html>

Theoi Project: Guide to Greek Mythology

<http://www.theoi.com/index.htm>

Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/>

The Flowers and the Weeds

by Sherry Lore

*Do not bear the beauty as the tulip or the rose
For they will be swept and kept within darkened houses
Behind closed doors and cut down for vases
Graces, displayed upon the pedastal to wither and be morned
This is the price of flowers*

*Bare, instead, the flaws of the violets or the dandelions
In rays and rains they make their way, shrieking and dancing wild
With winds and colors crashing over lush, green grasses
Masses, freely moving about from garden to blown seed
This is the prerogative of the weeds*

*Never withering, untouched and dried
But left unkempt, crushed and mused by bare flesh or souls
or overlooked, let to run far and rampant,
Spent in langorous company within the bosom of the wilds
Freedom is not for flowers, but the weeds*



Colors of the Rainbow

Violet: Correspondences and Inspirations

Crown Chakra (7th Chakra), imagination, transformation, communion with the Universe, divine order, help to bring order out of chaos, thought, use when studying the ancient mysteries, the Ether, esoteric or higher realms, diamonds, Virgo or Libra, healing, tranquility, releasing of tension, spiritual centering, industry/business success

The Crown Chakra

by Marsha



When the crown chakra doesn't open, we feel divided, separated from wholeness. We suffer from feeling a lack of purpose in our lives. We may try to compensate for these feelings by creating "busy-ness" in order to feel important and necessary in the world.

Energetically, the crown chakra is our center for spiritual growth. It is the point at which we receive divine guidance and inspiration. The crown chakra is the "prayer chakra", the place where spiritual awakening occurs. As pagans, we often end up choosing the "spiritual, but not religious" option on surveys and personal profiles. Religion is a group experience, and therefore gets its energy from the root chakra. Spirituality on the other hand, is individual and is driven by the development of the crown chakra. Most of us are far more interested in pursuing spiritual development than belonging to an organized religion. However, that is not to say that we cannot (or should not) learn from each other as we grow – spiritual growth does not need to be a lonely process. Rather, it is through all of our experiences, both group and individual, that our growth takes place.

The crown chakra is located at the top of the head opening upward and is associated with the element of prana and the color violet. It is represented by the 1000 petaled lotus. The crown chakra is traditionally said to govern our connection to the divine. Within the physical body, it is connected to those systems that connect the body – the central nervous system, the skin, and the muscular system.

Unlike the other chakras, the crown chakra cannot be blocked or overactive – it simply exists in stages of development. As the crown chakra develops, you will experience more and more often moments of synchronicity. You start to see the connections that create and maintain our world for what they are. It is said that at some point, those moments become your permanent reality, and this is the experience of enlightenment.

While the crown chakra cannot be blocked, it can fail to develop and therefore remain mostly closed.

As noted earlier, the fully developed crown chakra leads us to enlightenment. It is interesting to note that we each begin our lives in the same awareness of divine unity that enlightenment brings. Until the fontanel closes (between 9 and 24 months), infants live fully aware of divine union. We then spend the entirety of our lives trying to get it back. While this is true in general, it is especially true in the years of our lives that are multiples of seven (7, 14, 21, 28, etc). During these years, the crown chakra is especially active in its development. If you do not open yourself to the lessons that this chakra needs to develop, you may find yourself feeling uncertain about your path in life, unsure of your purpose. When you notice those types of feelings (a sort of divine tap on the shoulder), take them as a cue to look within yourself to find the lesson in your current experiences.

Finally, the crown chakra is also the center for uniting the energies of the entire chakra system. As it develops and opens, it has the power to dissolve blockages in the other chakras. These other chakras will then rise in vibrational energy to match that of the crown. It is through the crown chakra that all manifestation begins, and ultimately where it ends.

What experiences in your life have led to a spiritual awakening? What has led to a spiritual crisis? Do you have a daily devotional or meditative practice? Are you devoted to a specific spiritual path? How do you pray to your gods? How do they answer you? Do you try to bargain with them? How is that working for you? Do you look forward to or fear a closer connection to the Divine? Why? Let these questions guide your reflection on the development of your crown chakra and how it manifests in your life.

-Marsha, Certified Reiki Master
(Deeply influenced by “**The Chakra Handbook**” by Shalila Sharamon and Bodo J. Baginski and “**Anatomy of the Spirit**” by Carolyn Myss – both of which I’ve read so many times that I cannot separate my knowledge from their pages.)



Incense Recipes for the Crown Chakra

Stimulating Blend

10g frankincense resin
2g lavender petals
5 drops lotus oil
5 drops rosemary oil

Antidoting Blend

10g benzoin resin
1g basil herb(dried)
2 drops bergamot oil
3 drops black peppere

Use these recipes after going through a full seven (or more if that is your practice) chakra meditation.

After sensing all of your chakras, focus on opening or cleansing your crown chakra, found at the top of your head. Imagine it opening, like a blossom opening to the wind. As you breathe in the incense, imagine the beautiful violet light swirling 'round and outward like a pinwheel.



Light a Candle

by Tom Cobb

*You light my candle when mine's grown cold
When Gulag schools say hate must rule
Thy Love and Kindness choose my hand to hold
The tyrants demand tribute bestial and cruel*

*This lesson we learn from tears bitter and sweet
To share kind deeds, midst blood knee deep
That these small sums keep small flames alight
Tis what gives Life meaning, defines delight*

*This world tests our substance, refines us Or
Burning away the senseless, keeps the true score
We tread vapours so fine our senses ignore
So light other candles So in light we may live*



In the Beginning

by Elayne Cypher

*In the beginning
was a being,
powerful and wise,
creating life and all its essence,
forming woman and man
at the birth of time.*

*In the beginning
they called this being a woman;
She who gave life
and was the source of all wisdom,
She was the Queen of Heaven,
and women her priestesses.*

*In the beginning
thousands of years before Adam and Eve,
She was called Astarte and Isis, among others;
in the cradle of the world,
She was the mother of all,
a gentle, yet powerful, loving figure.*

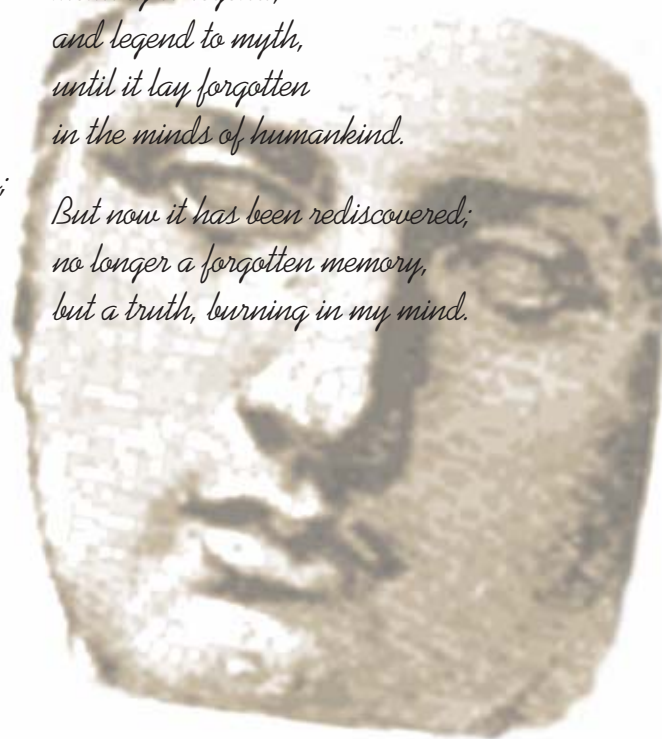
*In the beginning
our mothers shaped the world
and formed it in their likeness;
they were the source of life,
revered and ever respected,
they were at the forefront.*

*In the beginning
when love and its consummation
were shared among the people,
it was a sacred union and agreement,
not a shameful and sinful lust;
a taboo forbidden in dust-covered books.*

*So it was in the beginning
until people were conquered
and cultures suppressed;*

*And so occurrence turned to memory,
memory to legend,
and legend to myth,
until it lay forgotten
in the minds of humankind.*

*But now it has been rediscovered;
no longer a forgotten memory,
but a truth, burning in my mind.*



Magic & Ritual

Banishing and Blessing for a Sci-fi Convention

by Trish

Spirits of Air, of the mind, of communication, of thought
Save us from those who would break the fundamental laws of physics on our own planet
Spare us from alien languages that violate every rule of linguistics
Guard us against heroes who constantly repeat the same mistakes over and over and over and...
Be with us

Spirits of Fire, of passion, of heat, of creativity
Save us from heroes who get together only because they're the main characters
Spare us scantily-clad buxom cover girls who bear no relation to the heroine described within
Give us editors who can retain a story while making it readable
Be with us

Spirits of Water, of emotion, of fluidity, of intuition
Bring us characters we can care deeply about, who are more than superficial
Spare us plots that stagnate and go nowhere
Save us from psychics can only see the future when

it's convenient to the plot
Be with us

Spirits of Earth, of certainty, of mystery, of home
Spare us the notion that an entire culture can be represented in two hours or three hundred pages
Deliver us from xenophobia
Guard us against badly conceived tales of time travel
Be with us

All this we ask, for we believe there are many good stories to be told
tales that stretch our minds and lend us a new perspective
sagas that give us a vision of a better place
stories that remind us what it is that makes us human

May this weekend bring us good stories,
both told to us, and created by us
May we share good times with good friends
And may we leave with only good memories

So mote it be

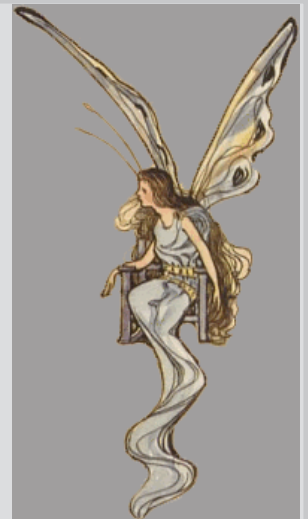
Closing Blessing for a Sci-fi Convention

by Trish

Spirits of Air, of Fire, of Water, of Earth
of the mind, of passion, of emotion, of home

We leave now with good memories
of good times spent with good friends
and good stories told to us, and created by us.
Grant us safe journeys home.

May we continue to dream,
to create,
and to share,
until we meet again.



Lost

by Sherry Lore

*I do not cry for you... Lost
for I Lost my way
before I ever Lost you*

*And all that remains is that hollow space in my heart
that was empty... lost
along with you
I remember it as being whole before you were gone
but now, I cannot forget those moments
gone to dark earth and deeper places
or forgive the loss of memories*

*I've forgotten my name,
of which you once reminded me...
Called daughter, mother, grandchild, sister, friend
I was once all or all at once
to you and to myself
And now I'm as Lost as you were before I was gone*

*I do not morn for you, for the quieting words
I must say to myself
now that my voice is the only one I hear
and now, here
I am as Lost as you and cried away,
forgotten, it seems, in the pain of it all*

*With tears I say good bye to you
So long, Lost
but ever held in my heart
with dreams of antique places,
dark earth and your voice calling,
I remember myself,
Lost no more*

*For my Grandmother, Jessie,
for her first Samhain offering*

*Blessed be those that were graced
in her knowing and held by her heart
Know you are missed*

*Love,
Sherry*

ELEMENTS OF RITUAL: Casting the Circle By Ariendel

ELEMENTS OF RITUAL

* GROUND AND CENTER

Midsummer 2005

* Banishing

Lammas 2005

* Casting the Circle

Samhain 2005

* Invoke Deity

* Purification

* Statement of Purpose

* Energy Work/ Storytelling

* Cakes and Ale

* Blessing

* CLOSING THE CIRCLE

Introduction

This is a series of articles based on the section of IPAN's Fundamentals of Paganism course, which outlined the elements of common public ritual. We'll be describing one aspect of ritual in each issue of Weavings.

Please note that this course was taught by someone with a primarily Wiccan background, so you may find that you wish to change the sequence of the stages of the ritual, add or remove components, or assign a different meaning to a stage than what is described here. That's perfectly fine! Ritual is a very personal experience—do what feels right for you and the people with whom you do ritual work.

Casting the Circle

Casting the circle is the step of ritual that allows you to define the space in which you will work, that slice of reality that you are going to make unreal, or in which you will suspend disbelief in order to succumb to wonder, magic, or listen to the rhythms within yourself that you usually don't take time to acknowledge. The circle is cast both as a protective (most often) bubble and a source to contain your energies as you work.

The protective aspect is generally created by calling upon guardians to watch those within the circle while you work or meditate. These are often the Western elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth in that order- starting in the East with Air, South for Fire, West for Water and North for Earth. Some people invoke Spirit into the center as the fifth element. Other options for guardians could be the Eastern elements of wood, fire, earth, metal and water. Or perhaps forego the elements for the guardianship of the archangels Michael, Ariel, Raphael, Gabriel; or work with archetypes as pillars of strength such as Intellect, Passion, Emotion, and Practicality. I've also worked with groups that prefer to sing in the elements with simple chants repeated an appropriate number of times, and I have been part of a ritual where the guardians were invoked purely in physical postures from yoga and tai chi.

Most often the invocations to the guardians are written as an entreaty for their presence within the circle and their protection as well as their inspiration and blessing on the work you plan to do within circle. The invocations are often lyrical or prose and the aspects of each element or deity that apply to the purpose of your ritual may be specifically mentioned. Below are two examples- the first is from Starhawk's *Spiral Dance* and invokes the concept of a watchtower for the element of Air and is intended as a basic invocation for any situation. The second is an invocation written specifically for a ritual to celebrate womanhood and sisterhood with an irreverent sense of humor for good measure.

“Hail, Guardians of the Watchtowers of the East, Powers of Air! We invoke you and call you, Golden Eagle of the Dawn, Star-seeker, Whirlwind, Rising Sun, Come! By the air that is Her breath, Send forth your light, Be here now!”

“Powers of the East, Women’s sense of foresight and willingness to think things through, Quest for knowledge that allows us to ask for directions when we’re lost, Inspiration that allows us to create with our hands, Breath of life that we pass on to those not yet born, Come, take your place in this circle of women tonight.”

The invocations are generally done at the compass points of a circle, and the presence of the guardian is often signified with an altar at the quarter (and center) which can hold a simple white candle that is

element may choose to face the cardinal direction for that element and speak to the exterior of the circle, or if the invocation is more of an aspecting, or drawing down of that element they may face inward and speak for the element as they join the circle.

An example of aspecting would be “I am the breath of the goddess, the wind whispering over the treetops, and the force of the whirlwind that destroys. In all aspects I am Air, I join you now.”

Many invocations will end with “So Mote it be” or “Blessed Be”. It is often expected that the rest of the participants will echo back “So Mote it be” or “Blessed Be” at this point. After the first element is invoked the power is passed on along the circle to the next quarter and this is where the casting of the circle is begun. Some groups will draw the arcs of the circle on the ground with a sword or athame,

wand, or broom; sometimes flower petals, seeds, or sand are dropped on the ground to mark the circle; hands may be clasped around the circle to draw the line, or it may be left to the imagination of each participant. Each quarter is cast in a similar manner until the circle is complete and the end points are joined. The Center, or

Casting the circle is the step of ritual that allows you to define the space in which you will work, that slice of reality that you are going to make unreal, or in which you will suspend disbelief in order to succumb to wonder, magic, or listen to the rhythms within yourself that you usually don’t take time to acknowledge.

lit as the invocation is completed or it can be built up of a colored candle appropriate to the guardian as well as symbols of the aspects of that guardian. Continuing with the example of the Eastern quarter the candle could be yellow or purple¹, and you might place feathers, dream catchers, images or statues of birds, insects, flying mythological creatures, fairies, a wand or sword for intellect, appropriate tarot cards or runes, or even a patron god or goddess for that quarter upon it. The person who invokes the

spirit is generally invoked last when it is included in circle casting, and may take the place of calling on a deity within circle (more on this next sabbat.)

The saying “The Circle is cast, we are between the worlds, in a place that is not a place, and a time that is not a time²” is applied to the completed circle indicating the separation between everyday reality and a place dedicated to spirit or magic. This is another step in the preparation to open your mind to new experiences.

So- what does casting a circle *feel* like? This is my favorite part of ritual as I have a particular fondness for invoking the elements and it's also a chance to be poetic and dramatic before the actual work of ritual begins. When I call upon the elements I usually include physical sensations in the words of my invocations and I make an effort to recreate those sensations in my mind; breezes teasing tendrils of my hair, sunlight dappled on my face, mist from a waterfall or squelching my toes in river mud, the rich smell of earth or dirt under my fingernails.

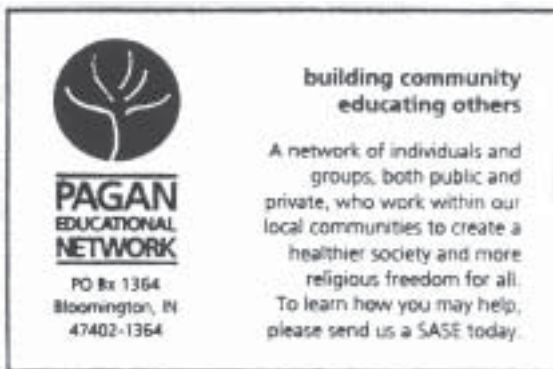
And to me the call to the elements is a real entreaty and a chance for me to reconnect with the spirits that are around me at all times which I take for granted. As each element is called I feel their different energies as appropriate to their natures – air is soft and questing about my head and shoulders; fire is strong and hot in my torso, barely contained; water is cool and tugging about my knees and ankles; and earth is solid and dense beneath my feet. Spirit, when invoked, is a manifestation of aura that intertwines them all. In my mind's eye I see the circle being drawn along the ground as blue-white light, akin to a sparkler at first which settles to a glow after a few moments and as the final quarter is called and the circle's end runs into the beginning it snaps up and down to form a sphere above and below.

Once within the circle there are various schools of thought on the etiquette of crossing the circle. Your best bet is to stay inside if you're in while it's cast and outside if you weren't. If you have a need to enter or leave you are generally expected to cross in the East and have a gateway opened for you either by cutting a portal with an athame or having the guardian part the energies for you. It is also said that cats and small children can cross the barrier with impunity- in truth; I believe anyone can cross anywhere without destroying the energies of the circle but out of politeness it's best to do so only at great need. Unless you are very familiar with the people you are working with and know their views on the sacredness of the circle the harm you could cause would be to break their faith in the protection of the circle or disrupt their visualization and upset their ritual experience.

Notes

¹Most books on ritual magic will include tables of correspondences for each element, and you will find many lists of correspondences on the internet as well. As always, choose the associations that speak to you personally, don't feel bound to follow a list if something doesn't fit into your personal world view.

²This is a phrase I picked up along the way that currently seems common to many practices and I couldn't find a clear attribution source, though I see it most commonly used in Reclaiming rituals. There is no intent to slight the original tradition or author by not identifying them.



Invocations to the Elements (Western)

by Ariendel

I look to the East where the rising sun peeks through the clouds, over the treetops and on high plains. The winds caress me, bringing inspiration, wisdom and clear thought on a breath of Air.

I look to the South, the noonday sun bakes down upon the deserts, the plateaus, and the volcano's mouth. In the heat I am consumed by passion, filled with energy, healed and reborn by Fire.

I look to the West, I see the reflection of the setting sun on the lakes, the rivers, and the seas. The Waters swirl around me, shifting emotions, perceptions, ever changing and renewing.

I look to the North, to the mountains, the caves and the ravines hidden in darkness. The Earth is solid beneath my feet, I am filled with the energy of growth, of fulfillment, of permanence

I look within, to my center and the center of the universe where deity resides. I see within myself to the Spirit that compels me, that drives me to seek and learn, to share my soul in communion with the world around me.



The Story of the Rainbow

Author Unknown

Once upon a time the colors of the world started to quarrel: all claimed that they were the best, the most important, the most useful, the favorite.

GREEN said: "Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was chosen for grass, leaves, trees—without me, all animals would die. Look out over the countryside and you will see that I am in the majority."

BLUE interrupted: "You only think about the Earth, but consider the sky and sea. It is the water that is the basis of life and drawn up by the clouds from the deep sea. The sky gives space and peace and serenity. Without my peace, you would all be nothing."

YELLOW chuckled: "You are all so serious. I bring laughter, gaiety, and warmth to the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower, the whole world starts to smile. Without me, there would be no fun."

ORANGE started next to blow her temper. "I am the color of health and strength. I may be scarce but I am precious for I serve the needs of human life. I carry the most important vitamins. Think of carrots, pumpkins, oranges, mangos, and pawpaws. I don't hang around all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you".

RED could stand it no longer. He shouted out: "I am the ruler of all of you! I am blood! Life's blood! I am the color of danger and of bravery. I am willing to fight for a cause. I bring fire to the blood! I am the color of passion and of love, the red rose, the poppy and the poinsettia. Without me, the earth would be as empty as the moon!"

PURPLE rose up to his full height. He was very tall and spoke with great pomp: "I am the color of royalty

and power. Kings, chiefs, and bishops have always chosen me for I am a sign of authority and wisdom. People do not question me, they listen and obey".

Finally, **INDIGO** spoke, much more quietly than all the others, but with just as much determination: "Think of me. I am the color of silence. You hardly notice me, but without me you all become superficial. I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep water. You need me for balance and contrast, for prayer and inner peace."

And so all the colors went on boasting and quarreling, each convinced of their own superiority. Soon, their quarreling became louder and louder.

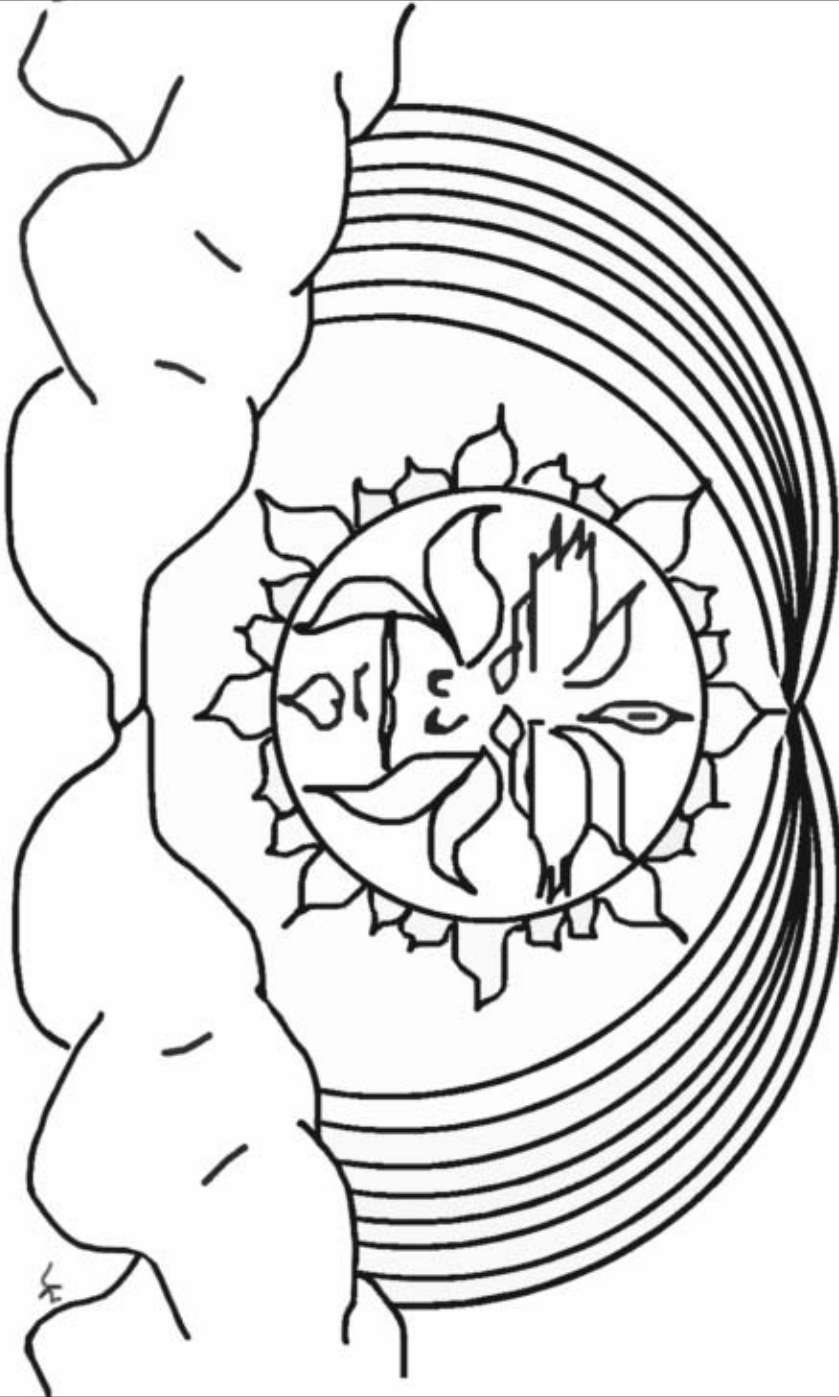
Suddenly there was a startling flash of bright lightning! Thunder rolled and boomed! Rain started to pour down relentlessly. The colors crouched down in fear drawing close to one another for comfort.

In the midst of the clamor, RAIN began to speak: "You foolish colors, fighting amongst yourselves, each trying to dominate the rest. Don't you know you were each made for a special purpose, unique and different? Join hands with one another and come to me."

Doing as they were told, the colors united and joined hands. The rain continued: "From now on, when it rains, each of you will stretch across the sky in a great bow of colors as a reminder that you can all live in peace. The rainbow is a sign of hope for tomorrow".

And so, whenever a good rain washes the world, and a rainbow appears in the sky, let us remember to appreciate one another.

This story is based, according to multiple sources, on a Native American legend. The author of this adaptation is unknown.



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