

# SEF SABBAT Liturgy

*{Updated as of May 2008; all notes, directions, and parts are included below}*

**Set Up** - Create one main altar in either the North or the East

- Mark the other Quarters as appropriate with candles/altars
- Hang cloth or garland to block off entrance to the ritual space
- Designate the two HPs, the four Officers and a Cantor
- Set up boombox & music, with someone to wrangle it

## **Pre-Ritual Class**

### **Gather and Ground**

- All gather in an area adjacent to the ritual space. Officers will prepare for procession in the hallway by restrooms.
- A very brief grounding/centering is given by one of the Elders.

### **Procession**

- At the end of the grounding meditation, the Officers enter and process to the garlanded/curtained entrance to the ritual space.
- Officers move the garland/curtain to the sides
- HPs move to altar for consecration. Officers stay by opening.

### **Circle Set-up**

- HPs move to the main altar, standing behind it
- The participants remain waiting outside the ritual area

### **Circle Casting**

The first section of the Circle Casting is **chanted** by everyone either once - for small Circles -- or two times to allow the HPs to get around the Circle: This decision is up to the Cantor, who will lead the Circle Casting. All join in after the Cantor has begun.

O Circle, from the first swirlings of the cosmos,	]
We summon you!	]
O Circle, from the dance of the stars,	] X 2
We invoke you!	]
O Circle, from the spinning earth,	]
We call you!	]

**O Circle: Be for us a holy place,  
Be for us a shield and a defense,  
Be for us a temple to the Gods,  
Be for us a gateway of loving souls!  
In the names of the Lady and the Lord, So mote it be!**

### **Elemental Blessings**

*While performing the blessing, the first HPS says:*

**In the name of the Lady and the Lord,  
I consecrate this salt and this water to our use:  
Be Thou the blessed essence and blood of Life!**

*The HPS then mixes salt into the water, saying:*

**Earth and Water together shall purify the Circle. {Or: our Rites.}**

*While performing the blessing, the HP says:*

**In the name of the Lady and the Lord,  
I consecrate this incense and this flame to our use:  
Be Thou the blessed breath and heart of Life!**

*The HP then lights the incense, saying:*

**Fire and Air together shall consecrate the Circle. {Or: our Rites.}**

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### **Welcoming**

*The HPS, together with the Officers, take their Athames to the appropriate place in the room to cut a doorway in the Circle. One of the officers carries the salt/water and another carries the incense. After the HPS have cut the doorway, they trade their athames for the elements carried by these two officers, and asperge/cense all participants as they enter the Circle. The other two officers act as shepherds, guiding participants into the Circle, being sure all are evenly spaced, etc. When all are inside, the HPS trade the elements they've been using for their athames, and close the doorway. While the HPS are doing this, all the other officers should return to the main altar, pick up the symbols of their elements, and head to the center of the circle.*

## **Gathering of the Elements**

*[NB: The Gathering of the Elements may be skipped for very small Circles.]*

*Once all the Elemental Officers are in place, and have visually confirmed this with each other, one-by-one they walk from their Elemental direction into the Center of the Circle. Either they speak the lines below, OR an assigned Cantor speaks for them, but the speaking happens AS THE OFFICER WALKS. **Both** of the Officer's hands should be on the Elemental object, holding it raised up before them.*

*All present join in saying the following lines just after Cantor **chants** the first words:*

*East: **From the Breath of the Earth:***

***We bring the purifying winds.***

*South: **From the Heart of the Earth:***

***We bring the consecrating fires.***

*West: **From the Blood of the Earth:***

***We bring the cleansing waters.***

*North: **From the Bones of the Earth:***

***We bring the essence of life.***

### **3**

*When the Elements are gathered, the Officers raise them up together in the center of the Circle, still using both hands. After a few seconds, the Officers transfer their Symbol to their (still raised) **left** hands, and use their **right** hand to clasp the other Officers' right hands. Their left hands, holding the Elemental symbols, then reach out toward the perimeter of the Circle, thus drawing their bodies into a deosil facing position. At this point the Officers, as a wheel, "sweep" the Circle with the Elemental symbols/energies by walking – right hands together -- one complete revolution, and stopping in their original quarter. They then release their hands, turn East (or North, as appropriate), and return the Elemental symbols to the Altar, walking with dignity and organization. They pick up their athames and take their places back to back in the center of the circle. [NB If outdoors, they can stand in the direction OPPOSITE their quarter in order to be heard better.]*

## **Elemental Invocations**

*Officers may speak their part, but the Cantor should lead the participants in chanting the ALL part. The Officers draw the appropriate invoking pentagrams, beginning the figure with the All part.*

**North: All face North.**

**Guardians of the North, Powers of Earth:**

**Bearers of Grounding and Stability:**

**From mountaintops and valleys deep we call You!**

**All: *We invoke Your Presence into our Circle***

*To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!*

**East: All face East**

**Guardians of the East, Powers of Air:**

**Transmitters of clarity, discernment and focus,**

**From the whispering winds and fierce gale we call you!**

**All: *We invoke Your Presence into our Circle***

*To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!*

**South: All face South**

**Guardians of the South, Powers of Fire:**

**Bringers of passion, inspiration and will,**

**From animal heat and the molten core we call You!**

**All: *We invoke Your Presence into our Circle***

*To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!*

**West: All face West.**

**Guardians of the West, Powers of Water:**

**Maintainers of wisdom, intuition and compassion,**

**From the placid pool & the raging deeps we call You**

**All: *We invoke Your Presence into our Circle***

*To ask Your blessing upon our rite. So mote it be!*

The Officers move to their respective quarters. The HPS and HP move to the center of the circle, facing each other.

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### Invocation of Deity

High Priest:

**O most gracious and magnificent Lady:  
You who are the beauty and the strength  
of earth and moon and stars,  
You Who are our Source and our Return,  
We, Your people, are gathered in Your honor!**  
*All: We ask Your blessing and presence among us  
That we might celebrate Your rites  
In love and joy and truth. So Mote It Be!*

High Priestess:

**Great Lord, You who are the Sacred Spark,  
Defender and Sustainer of the fertile earth,  
You Who lead the Hunt,  
and rule the quiet lands of death,  
We, Your people, are gathered in Your honor!**  
*All: We ask Your blessing and presence among us  
That we might celebrate Your rites  
In love and joy and truth. So Mote It Be!*

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~ The main body of Sabbat ritual  
now takes place ~  
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### Cakes and Wine

*At the large Sabbats four cups and four plates will be used. These should be completely prepared ahead of time, and tucked some place safe. [Under the main altar, etc.] When the time comes for C/W, all the Elemental Officers go to the Altar and carry them to the HPs. After the HPs bless all cups/plates,*

*the Officers each carry one cup and one plate to their opposite Quarter. They stay in that Quarter, from there passing the cups/plates as is usual. Once the previous Officer's cup/plate comes to an Officer, it is returned to the main Altar. While there, each Officer will retrieve their athame, then go back to the center of the circle for the Elemental dismissals.*

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*Blessing over Wine:*

**As the Athame is to the Fires of Heaven...  
So the Cup is to the Depths of the Sea...  
And conjoined, they are One in Truth!**

*Blessing over Cakes:*

**Lady and Lord bless this food,  
Symbolic of Your Bounty,  
That in sharing it we affirm our Common Bond!**

## **Opening the Circle**

*Dismiss the Elements in each direction as below. Elemental Officers will stand back-to-back in the center, and will draw banishing pentagrams as appropriate. Each officer should direct the participants to face the appropriate direction.*

**Officer: Guardians of the [direction]**

**We thank you for your presence and blessing,  
And as you return to your holy realm  
We say "Hail and Farewell!"**

***All: Hail and Farewell!***

*After all dismissals are finished, the Officers put down/away their Athames, and take their place at the edge of the Circle. All present join hands, and led by the HPs all say:*

**HPS:**

**The Circle is open, but yet unbroken.  
Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again!  
So mote it be!**