

On a Dark, Dark Moon

Setup

- Pentagram on floor instead of circle:
 - Earth(East) – salt/root vegetables/anything that was grown or foraged by the participants.
 - Air(North) – fluffy bread/soda/bubble gum/marshmallows.
 - Fire(South) – Something spicy, chilis or horseradish
 - Water(West) – water/drinks/or seafood.
 - Intelligence(Above) – Mushrooms, herbs, alcohol.
- Patrons: Lilith, Babylon, and Cerridwen

Welcome, seating

- Participants are invited to place their items on the alter according to the directions and symbolic purpose of their items. Participants are not obligated to sit in position in the circle according to their ritual items, but they might want to.
- Invokers of each Goddess should be chosen. I believe Lilith is associated with Fire, Babylon is associated with Earth, and Cerridwen is associated with Intelligence.
- Light candles at each point of star
- Starting with Earth, pass the elemental items around the circle to share while discussing their meaning.
 - Earth: the physical reality of our bodies, our animal nature and our material needs.
 - Air: freedom, openness, independence
 - Fire: the passions, lust, wrath, ambition.
 - Water: Emotions, love, sadness, happiness, a depth of meaning.
 - Intelligence: Directed intentions, acting on the will.
- Pass around stationary/invite participants to write down:
 - One grievance
 - One goal
 - One thing she is grateful for
 - Generally make a list of things you want
- Invocation to Lilith
 - *"Tonight is the darkest of nights, and we are prepared to journey into the darkness. Lilith, ancient one, we invoke you to guide us into the darkness and introduce us to our most powerful selves."*
- Invocation to Babylon
 - *"Mystery, Babylon the Great, you are the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth. We are drunk with your wine, share with us from the cup of your abominations!"*
- Invocation of Cerridwen
 - *"Dark Goddess of the Cauldron, rebirthing us from conflicts of the past into the good night of the present, we call you to stand by us as we look into our souls and find the true purposes of our hearts. Hail and Welcome!"*

“I declare this circle open!”

Guided Meditation

You are walking alone in the wilderness, having been separated from your sisters during the hunt. The rocks on the mountainside are sharp and uneven, and it has been some time since you've seen a tree. Each step you take, you look in every direction for shelter from the heat, shaking your sweaty clothing trying to cool off. You think you see some trees in the distance, but your progress is slow, balancing on the slope and climbing over thorny shrubs and sharp rocks.

You reach the top of a small ridge and look down into the ravine below, smacking your dry lips pensively. You think you see an outcropping with a dark shadow beneath and you turn towards the shadow, hoping for a few minutes of relief in the shade, not daring to dream of water. As you move closer a breeze escapes from darkness, covering you in a cool relief and energizing you to move more quickly, right past the outcropping and into a dark, empty opening. You realize this is actually a deep cave, and you pause for a few minutes to let your eyes adjust to the darkness. You stare into the shadows but you can't see how far the cave reaches, so you take a few steps further. The cool breezes are washing over you and the deeper you step, the more awake you feel, blinking your eyes and taking in the dark cool environment around you. The cave begins to slope downward, and you climb deeper into the earth. After a while you hear the sound of running water, and you follow the sound to a still pool deep underground.

You think of your sisters as you take off your clothes to bathe in the pool. How did you get separated? Will you ever see them again? Who do you miss the most? What have you left unsaid? By now they must be roasting their kill over an open fire, together. Do you feel cheated? Is it your own fault you got lost, or did they ditch you somewhere? Do you feel better off without them, or are you preparing to find them again soon?

You fill your canteen with clear water, and leave your clothes folded neatly beside the stream and take your first step in. The water is cool but not cold, and each step takes you a bit deeper until you find yourself over knee-deep, bobbing a little bit in waves of your own making. You reach back to the shore for your clothes, rinse them off in cave water, wring them out, and lay them flat on the rocks to dry. Then you feel ready, face the deepest part of the pool, and dive the rest of the way in, coming up for air, then diving back under again. You turn over on your back, floating, relaxing completely in the cool, still water. Your mind wanders freely. You lose track of time for a while.

five minute silent meditation

Eventually you feel ready to go walking again and you climb back to your feet on the stone floor of the cave. Your clothes are almost dry, so you pace around in the darkness for a while drying off your skin before getting dressed. As you ascend the path back to daylight, you think you hear human voices, and you pick up your pace. When you reach the mouth of the cave you find your sisters have set up their camp fire in this exact spot, and there is a kill roasting already. You share your canteen of cave water with your sisters as you rejoin the group.

Sharing

- Circling the table counter-clockwise, participants should share a few aspects of what they wrote down earlier, sharing any insights they gained from meditation and snacking on any leftover ritual foods.

Final Invocation and closing

Invocation

"Sisters, we are together. Let us reach our goals, overcome all obstacles, and defeat our enemies. Let us be uplifted and empowered."

- The invokers should return.
- Lilith:
 - *"Let Lilith uncover our deepest desires."*
 - *Response: "Hail Lilith!"*
- Babylon:
 - *"Let Babylon enrich us with abundant treasures."*
 - *Response: "Hail Babyon!"*
- Cerridwen:
 - *"Let Cerridwen empower us with strength and knowledge."*
 - *Response: "Hail Cerridwen!"*
- *"And Hail us!"*
- *"And Hail us!"*

The circle is now closed.

Food and beverages can now be served.