

Alban Arthan

The Winter Solstice and the longest night of the year

also called

Yule

The Red Oak Grove Ritual



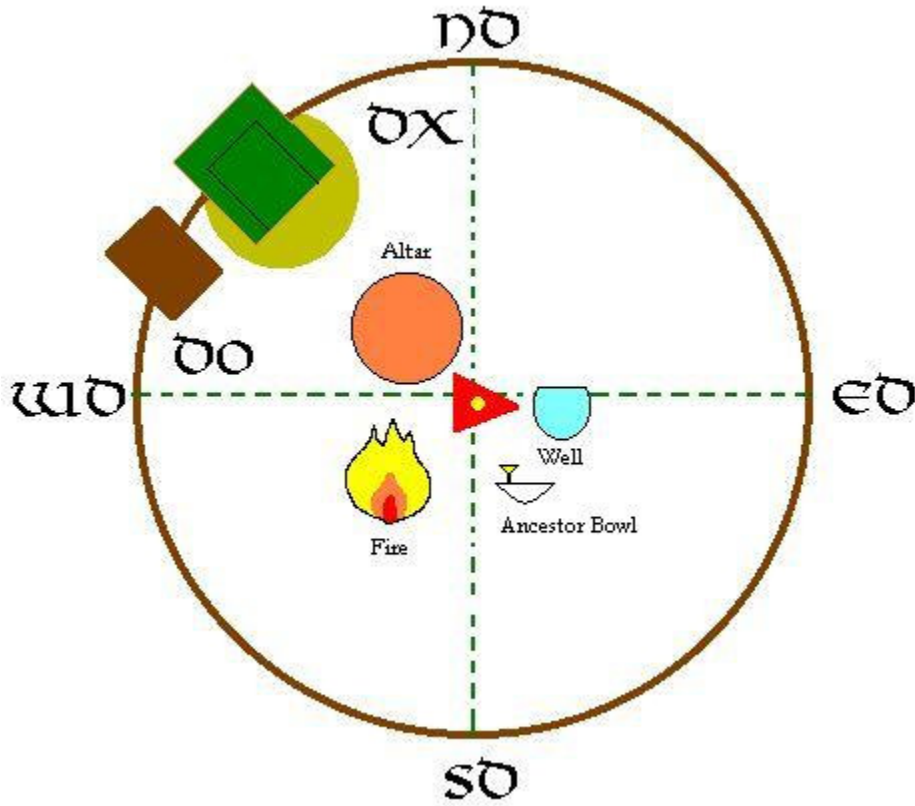
Alban Arthan Ritual Outline

Location:

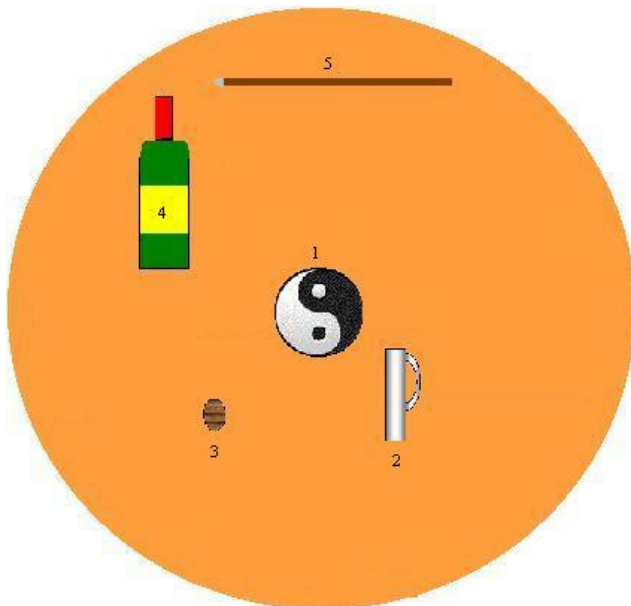
	Sunset: Musical Signal
	Procession Outside
	Call to Worship
	Return indoors for Meals
	Midnight: Outdoors
	Call Mising and Nature Spirits, Acknowledge Outsiders
	Call Ancestors, Purpose & Precedent
	Return indoors
	Bardic Inspiration
	Purification of the People & Fire Urn
	Gather at Table for Unity Chant
	Honor Don & An Dagda
	Call Kindred
	Brigedd is Called
	Lleu is Called
	Rhiannon is Called
	Math is Called & channeled
	Robe and Crown are placed on Rhiannon
	Math is welcomed and offered hospitality (beverage & seat)
	Math is given a chance to talk freely
	Praise Offerings are presented to Rhiannon & Math
	Final Sacrifice
	Rhiannon & Math bless the Waters of Life
	Waters of Life are shared with the people
	Ask Math to pronounce the blessings
	Thank Math and ask Him to leave
	Channeler comes back / Remove Robe & Crown
	Give Channeler something grounding to eat and drink
	Return to hourly cycle
	Dawn: Gather at table for end of rite
	Thank Rhiannon: Farewell & Bright Blessings
	Thank Lleu: Farewell & Bright Blessings
	Thank Brigedd: Farewell & Bright Blessings
	Thank Math: Farewell & Bright Blessings
	Thank Kindred: Farewell & Bright Blessings
	Thank Mising: Farewell & Bright Blessings
	Thank Don & An Dagda
	Ending Chant
	Final Benediction
	End Rite, followed with sunrise toast.

A. ARRANGEMENT

The layout of the Nyfed:



The Altar:



- | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lamp of Dôn and An Dagda 2. Olive Oil 3. Hazel Nut 4. Whiskey 5. Wand of Math |
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Alban Arthan Ritual

B. BEGINNING

SUNSET

1. BD'S MUSICAL SIGNAL TO ESTABLISH CLEAR-CUT BEGINNING

2. THE PROCESSIONAL & CHANT

All the Celebrants, led by DX with Lantern:

By the Land beneath us,
By the Sea surrounding us,
By the Sky above us,
We come unto the Gods.

3. CALL TO WORSHIP

They walk to outdoor location, TBA

People of the Oak, Friends of the Earth, Children of the Mother,
Faithful Followers of the Old Ways,
We call you all to join us now in Sacred Worship.

4. RETURN TO MAIN TABLE TO BEGIN HOURLY CYCLE OF SMALL MEALS.

C. CALLING THE KINDRED

BEGIN MIDNIGHT OBSERVANCE

1. ALL REMOVE TO OUTDOORS, BRING ANCESTOR OFFERINGS AND THE WELL.

2. CALL NATURE SPIRITS & ACKNOWLEDGE OUTSIDERS

NS addresses forest, offers tobacco

Misingkaulekuan, Mighty masked dancer of the woods,
We call you and all of the Spirits of Nature,
We thank you for allowing us to spend this time in your home.

To all our Nature Spirit allies we welcome you,
We offer you this gift of tobacco, and ask you to watch over us.
Keep us safe and undisturbed while we are here.

To those who are not our allies
We ask you to be silent for a while and leave us alone,
With our loving thoughts, words and deeds.

2. CALL ANCESTORS & STATE RITUAL PURPOSE & PRECEDENT

AS walks to Lake and offers food & whiskey, exchanges water

Honored Ancestors! Old Ones! Ancient Druids!
Grandmothers, grandfathers, ancient heroes, elder wise ones,
We offer you this bread and whiskey and we Call to you to flow up through the Gates.
We feel you in the sacred wells that flow beneath us,

We see you in your many works that surround us,
We hear you in our thoughts and in our hearts.
We read your words, we feel your presence, we remember your ways:
Today we celebrate Alban Arthan....

Details about the season & the Deities & special Rites of Passage, etc.

3. PEOPLE RETURN INDOORS AND GATHER AT THE FIREPLACE.

3. PURIFY PEOPLE, OPEN GATES, CALL GODS, & ASK BRIGEDD FOR BARDIC ASSISTANCE

BD walks to the Well with a flower

BD: I walk to the Sacred Well
Hallowed with the water of 9 sacred Rites
May this Holy Water cleanse this place and these people.

BD sprinkles water in air with flower. FT hands old Ancestor Torch to BD

FT/GS: I light a Sacred Fire to be a gateway between the worlds *<place Torch in Urn>*
Lord Cernunnos: May this Gate be opened wide
And may the Gods walk through it into our midst!

BD: Dearest Brigedd, Matron of Poets, inspirer and healer,
Send us your Blessed Awen
Let us uplift our hearts with Your words.

D. DEVOTION

1. GATHER AT MAIN TABLE, UNITY CHANT

2. HONOR DÔN

DO lights a long match from Lantern and then lights green Lamp on left side. Spread arms and look toward the Earth

Glorious Dôn, our First Mother,
Queen of Annwfn, Earth's Delight,
Child's Nurse and Womb of Wisdom,
Gentle comforter of the Night.
You are represented here by Brigedd's Well,
Charged with Water from nine sacred Rites.

DO picks up a Hazelnut from Altar

I offer you this gift of a Hazelnut
to represent the Wisdom that you send us,
And to thank You for being with us, as always.

DO puts Hazelnut in Well

3. HONOR AN DAGDA

DX lights a long match from Lantern and then lights red lamp on right side. Spreads arms and looks toward the Sky, and says:

Great An Dagda, our First Father,
King of Annwn, Heaven's Might
Druid's Master, Seed of Wisdom
Glorious, Mighty, God of Light.

DX picks up bottle of oil from Altar

I offer you this gift of rare Spanish olive oil
To feed your fire and burn it bright
And to thank you for being with us, as always.

DX pours oil into Fire. DX & DO return to their places

4. CALL BRIGEDD

ED faces east

Please face the East

I, _____descendent of _____, hold the Chalice of Brigedd.
Brigedd the Healer, Brigedd the Inspirer, Brigedd the Hearth-keeper.
Join us Brigedd, and fill us with Health, Inspiration and Love!

5. CALL LLEU

SD faces south

Please face the South

I, _____descendent of _____, hold the Sword of Llew.
Llew Llaw Gyffes -- the Bright One with the Deft Hand,
Llew the Many Skilled, Llew the Long Arm,
Join us Llew and fill us with Passion, Skill and Joy!"

5. CALL RHIANNON

WD faces west

Please face the West

I, _____ descendent of _____, hold the Sickle of Rhiannon.

Rhiannon, the Great Mother, mother of Pryderi,

Rhiannon, the Harvester, Rhiannon, Goddess of Fertility.

Join us Rhiannon, and fill us with abundance, security and sensuality!

6. CALL MATH

ND goes to Altar and picks up the Wand of Math, and faces north

Please face the North

I, _____ descendent of _____, am the Wand of Math.

Math ap Mathonwy, Master Magician

Brother of Dôn and Uncle of Gwydion.

Join us Math and fill us with Wisdom, Sight and Magic!

Place wand on altar, helper picks up robe and then torc.

E. AWEN O'DUWIAU OF MATH

1. CALLING MATH INTO CHANNELER.

Chanting of Awen. When Math has entered the channeler, the selected people will robe him and place the torc on him. Make sure the tape recorder is on, and ask whether Math minds being recorded. DX offers hospitality, conducts interview.

2. OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES

DO: Welcome to the Shining Gods and Goddesses of Nyfed Ddar Goch!

Welcome to the Noble Ancestors and the Mighty Tylwyth Teg!

Welcome to all those Called by these people.

Welcome to all of you: Family, Friends and Guests!

To all those who have gathered by our Fire,

we invite you to join us now in worshipping our Matrons and Patrons

of this holy Rite with gifts of our labor, our love and our praise.

Let's lift up our voices in praise

and let the Fire, the Well and the Tree carry our gifts to our Beloved Kindred!

Anything intended for Lord Math may be presented to him directly.

Nod to the person standing to your left

3. FINAL OFFERINGS, PRAYER FOR ACCEPTANCE.

DX: Are there any other praise offerings?

4. THE WATERS OF LIFE

DX takes the goblet from Math.

DX: May I borrow your goblet?

DX prepares Waters of Life

DX: Everyone, please direct your energy and love into this goblet

Take the Awe you hold for Nature
The honor and respect you hold for your Ancestors
And the Worship you hold for your Gods
And pour them into this Goblet.

Math, you have received our gifts and praises. We offer our gifts unconditionally. We also ask you to convey our praises and offerings to the other kindred.

DO: And yet you have taught us that a gift begets a gift and that you Bless us when we Praise you. Therefore, we ask you to share your Blessings with us, especially through these Waters.

Hand goblets to Math, who blesses the goblets.

DX: Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!
Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!
Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

DX: (*with joy*) Wele Ddŵr Bywyd! Behold the Waters of Life!

DO: The Waters of Life!

DX gives to DO - She drinks - gives back - He drinks

DO: This is pure water, charged with the water of nine sacred Rites. Wele Ddŵr Bywyd! Behold! The Waters of Life!

DX: The Waters of Life!

DO gives to DX - He drinks - gives back - She drinks

DX: When we share a drink with the Gods we remind ourselves that we are always sharing their Blessings. Accept their Blessings in Love and Gratitude!

Share the Waters of Life

5. OMEN OF RETURN: ASK MATH WHAT HIS BLESSINGS ARE.

6. FINAL CHAT WITH MATH, ASK FOR HIM TO BRING BACK CHANNELER.

XD assists Channeler, provide water and carrots for Channeler.

7. HOURLY CYCLE RESUMES UNTIL DAWN.

E. FAREWELLS

APPROACHING SUNRISE

DX leads all (with lantern) outdoors to release the renewed light, observe and toast the infant sun. At or after sunrise, people return to main table.

*ND walks to the Central Altar, picks up the Wand of Math, then faces North
Please face the North*

I face the North, oh Master Math,
Sharp and crisp as Winter's night.
Lead me down your magic path -
Teach me how to guide my Sight.
At Midnight with no light to see,
Beliefs create reality.
Guide my Soul and set it free,
I'm filled with Spirit's mystery.

Lower Wand and face the Altar

WD faces West

Please face the West
We face the West, Oh Great Rhiannon,
And Autumn's rich abundant land.
We're thankful for your precious prizes.
You cut down life, new life arises.
As day is done, with jobs complete,
Projects finished or cut short
It's time to stop and gather up,
We're grateful for your gifts to us.

SD faces South

Please face the South.
We face the South, Oh, Skillful Llew.
The Summer's sunshine is your gaze.
Your bright, hot fires ignite our passion.
Like a well-made Knife, joyfully used.
At midday now, we feel your joy,
For jobs to do, rewards to earn,
To do our best and better still,
We're happy now to play and learn.

ED faces East

Please face the East.
We face the East, oh Brilliant Bri
The kiss of Spring is your sweet daughter.
Your healing love pours over us,
Like a Cup of cool, refreshing water.
As new day dawns we feel your love,
With promises of new beginnings,
New ways to serve and new rewards,
We're filled with fresh anticipation.

5-7. THANK THE KINDRED

GS takes a step toward center of Circle and says:
Bright and Shining Gods and Goddesses
Thank you for attending our Rite.
We bid you Farewell and Bright Blessings!"

All: Farewell and Bright Blessings!

AS takes a step toward center of Circle and says

Honored and Noble Ancestors,
Thank you for attending our Rite.
We bid you Farewell and Bright Blessings!"

All: Farewell and Bright Blessings!

NS takes a step toward center of Circle and says
Mising, and all the Spirits of Nature
Thank you for attending our Rite.
We bid you Farewell and Bright Blessings!"

All: Farewell and Bright Blessings!

8 & 9. HONOR AN DAGDA & DÔN

DX & DO pick up the Oil Lamps

DX: Forceful Father

DO: Receptive Mother

Both: We are One.

Blow out Lamps & Hug

Both: Felly y Bydded!

All: Felly y Bydded!

10. ENDING CHANT: "WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE OAK"

We are the people of the Oak
Gathered by the sacred tree.
Nature's great Spirits we invoke
All your Blessings growing free.

We are the children of the Dead
Joined here by the Sacred Well
Honoring everything you've said
Guided by the words you tell.

We are the servants of the Gods
Praying by the Sacred Fire
Holding our sickles and our rods,
Sending our praises ever higher.

11. FINAL BENEDICTION

DX: People of the Oak, Friends of the Earth, Children of the Mother,
Go now, in peace and with the blessings of the Kindred.
The Rite is ended! Felly y Bydded!

All: Felly y Bydded!

11. BD: MUSICAL SIGNAL

END OF RITUAL

The ritual is then usually followed by a sunrise toast to the sun.