

NINE RAVENS: Rite of Passing

Time – Sunset

Setting – A circle with a small altar in the center. A ceramic vessel filled with red wine, dark cloth and a vessel with ashes of the deceased are on the altar.

Offering to the Earth Mother – offering of oats sprinkled in the center where caldron will be place, in north where altar will be placed and around the boundary of the circle

*“First in my prayer before all other gods
I honor the Earth, primeval mother of all.
Yea, summon Earth, who brings all things to life
And rears and takes again into her womb.
May my eyes be opened to the sacredness of this place and time.
May my heart be brought into pace with your heartbeat.
May I give honor to you this night.
Hail Earth, primeval mother of all.”*¹

Casting the Circle

Salute the altar by raising right arm, hand of which is a fist with thumb between forefinger and middle finger, to an angle of 45 degrees, left hand flat on left breast. Then, hands returned to side, take three steps forwards, bow low from the waist, straighten, go to altar and ignite candle, saying:

*“From fire above to fire below,
From fire within to fire without,
May Michael’s spear from there to here
Make the magic fire appear.
Above, below, within, without –
Appear, fire appear!”*

Walk deosil around the altar saying:

“Round and round about this Temple I draw a magic circle, a magic circle of light.”

Draw a circle from up to right to down to left to up, saying:

“Round and round about this Temple I draw a magic circle, a magic circle of light.”

Draw a circle from down to front to up to back to down, saying:

“Round and round about this Temple I draw a magic circle, a magic circle of light.”

“Three magic circles have I drawn, that of space, that of time and that of events. Without are other worlds, but this is mine. This is mine! I am its creator. I am its ruler. And so mote it be.”

Raise hands in salute:

¹ adapted from and inspired by verses found in Aeschylus's Eumenides and Choepori as found in A History of Pagan Europe by Prudence Jones and Nigel Pennick

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*“Holy art Thou, Creator of the Universe!
Holy art Thou, whom nature hath not formed.
Holy art Thou, the vast and the mighty Ones.
Rulers of the Light and of the Darkness.”*

“Atoh malkuth ve geburah ve gedulah le olem, amen”

Statement of Intent

“Today I celebrate the life of my father, Edward Franklin Roberts. Dad, your life and mine are intertwined in so many ways. I will always carry a part of you within my heart. I have also come to say good-bye so that we may both travel our respective paths. Ancestors, both named and unknown to me, your place is among the stars. I honor you this night. I will never forget those of you I have known. I will carry your memory forward in my heart.”

Burning of Personal Items

Sing “How Great Thou Art!”

Read poem “I Believe”

Returning to the universe

Lift the vessel of wine:

“Our bodies are the vessel for the energy of the universe that moves through all living things. Edward Franklin Roberts has left his vessel to join the spiral dance of the Gods. We all take part in this dance.

Return to the Earth. May you go forth and nourish the bodies of all who live in this world.

Return to the Air. May you go forth and nourish the breath and voice of all that is and will be.

Return to the Fire. May you go forth and nourish the light so that others may find their way.

Return to the Water. May you go forth and nourish the lifeblood and tears of all who feel.

Dance with joy and vigor. I love you. I wish you well on your soul’s journey.”

Drink the entire contents of the vessel. Place vessel on altar and cover with a cloth:

“All that are born must die so that others may live. The cycle of life continues.”

Break vessel with small hammer:

“The vessel is broken and the spirit is free. I honor you. May we both be at peace. Blessed be.”

Ending the Rite

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“Atoh malkuth ve geburah ve gedulah le olem, amen”

Intone HUA three times.

Sign of Silence. “To will, to know, to dare and to keep silent. Love is the law, love under will.”

Circle three times widdershins. Bow, extinguish candle. Back up three paces. Salute altar.
The casting the circle and ending of the rite were taken from the ritual form compiled and written by the teacher of my parents, Clifford Bias, as set forth in his Ritual Book of Magic.