

# A Pagan *Carmina Gadelica*

by Mike Nichols

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Note: The original *Carmina Gadelica* was a collection of Celtic folk prayers, charms, rituals, and omens. They were collected in the late 1800's in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland by folklorist Alexander Carmichael and published in a six-volume set. Carmichael himself admits that many of these are Pagan in origin with only a thin Christian overlay. I have merely tried to restore them to something akin to their original charm, mystery and beauty.

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## PART I: ACHAINED (INVOCATIONS) ~[Index](#)~

### RUNE BEFORE A RITUAL (1)

I am bowing my head  
 In the eye of the Mother who gave me birth,  
 In the eye of the Maiden who loves me,  
 In the eye of the Crone who guides me in wisdom,

In friendship and affection.

Through thy gift of nature, O Goddess,  
 Bestow upon us fullness in our need.

Love towards the Lady,  
 The affection of the Lady,  
 The laughter of the Lady,  
 The wisdom of the Lady,  
 The passion of the Lady,  
 The blessing of the Lady,  
 And the magic of the Lady

To do in the world of Abred,  
 As the Ageless Ones do in Gwynfyd;

Each shade and light,  
 Each day and night,  
 Each moment in kindness,  
 Grant us Thy Sight.

### THE LADY WITH ME LYING DOWN (2)

The Lady with me lying down,

**The Lady with me rising up,  
The Lady with me in each ray of light,  
Nor I a ray of joy without Her.**

**Nor one ray without Her.**

**The Goddess with me sleeping,  
The Goddess with me waking,  
The Goddess with me watching,  
Every day and night,**

**Each day and night.**

**The Mother with me protecting,  
The Crone with me directing,  
The Maiden with me perfecting,  
For this time and for all times,**

**So mote it be!  
Goddess of Love,**

**So mote it be!**

### **INVOCATION OF THE CHARMS (3)**

~to a Bride on her Handfasting~

**I bathe thy palms  
In showers of wine,  
In the lustral fire,  
In the five elements,  
In the juice of the rasps,  
In the milk of honey,  
And I place the nine pure charms  
In thy fair fond face,**

**The charm of form,  
The charm of voice,  
The charm of fortune,  
The charm of goodness,  
The charm of wisdom,  
The charm of generosity,  
The charm of choice maidenliness,  
The charm of beauty,  
The charm of fair speech.**

**Dark is yonder city,  
Dark are those therein,  
Thou art the brown swan,  
Going in among them.  
Their hearts are under thy control,  
Their tongues are beneath thy sole,  
Nor will they ever utter a word**

**To give thee offence.**

**A shade art thou in the heat,  
A shelter art thou in the cold,  
Eyes art thou to the blind,  
A staff art thou to the pilgrim,  
An island art thou at sea,  
A fortress art thou on land,  
A well art thou in the desert,**

**Health art thou to the ailing.**

**Thine is the skill of the Fairy Women,  
Thine is the virtue of Brigit the calm,  
Thine is the faith of Danu the mild,  
Thine is the tact of the women of Kildare,  
Thine is the beauty of Emir the fair,  
Thine is the tenderness of Deirdre delightful,  
Thine is the courage of Maebh the strong,**

**Thine is the charm of Binne-bheul.**

**Thou art the joy of all joyous things,  
Thou art the light of the beam of the moon,  
Thou art the door of hospitality,  
Thou art the surpassing star of guidance,  
Thou art the step of the deer on the hill,  
Thou art the step of the mare on the plain,  
Thou art the grace of the swan swimming,**

**Thou art the loveliness of all lovely desires.**

**The lovely likeness of the Lady  
Is in thy fair face,  
The loveliest likeness that  
Ever was in the Three Worlds.**

**The best hour of the day be thine,  
The best day of the month be thine,**

**The best month of the year be thine,  
The best year of a lifetime be thine.**

**Ogma has come and Midir has come,  
Lir has come and Manannan has come,  
Morigan and Taitiu have come,  
The Dagda, all-beneficent has come,  
Angus the beauteousness of youth has come,  
Find the seer of the Tuatha Dé has come,  
Lugh the prince of the valiant has come,  
And Nuada the chief of the hosts has come,**

**And the Goddess of all has come,  
And her spirit of guidance has come,  
And her consort, the Horned One, has come,  
To bestow on thee their affection and their love,**

**To bestow on thee their affection and their love.**

#### **A GENERAL INVOCATION (4)**

**O Gentle Goddess, listen to my rune,  
Bend to me Thine ear,  
Let my incantations and my charms  
Be heard. Come unto me,  
O Mighty Mother of us all,  
To protect me, your child,  
O Great Queen of Life,  
Together with the aid of  
The Lord of the Wildwood,  
Thy son and thy lover,  
To protect me with power,  
O Gentle Goddess  
Of purest fairest beauty.**

#### **LADY BE WITH US (5)**

**Lady be with us on this, Thy day,**

**Lady be with us on this, Thy night.**

**To us and with us on this, Thy day,**

**To us and with us on this, Thy night.**

**It is clear to be seen of us,  
Since we are born into the world,  
That we have recieved Thy blessing,**

**So mote it be!**

**Thy most precious blessing,  
O Mother of us all,**

**So mote it be!**

**Grant us thy bounty,  
Grant us thy continued bounty,**

**So mote it be!**

**Anything that is delightful to us,  
Or that may be helpful to us,  
Where we shall longest be,  
Illume it to us,  
Make it clear to us,  
Bring it forth to us,  
Bring to us our heart's desire,  
For this time and for all times,**

**So mote it be!**

### **LADY, THOU GATE OF LIFE (6)**

**Lady, thou gate of life,  
Attend to us,**

**So mote it be!**

**Lady, thou gate of death,  
Bring peace to us,**

**So mote it be!**

**Oh, with us and for us**

**Where we shall longest be,**

**So mote it be!**

**Be about the morning of our day,  
Be about the closing of our life,**

**So mote it be!**

**Be at the dawning of our life,  
And at the dark'ning of our day,**

**So mote it be!**

**Be for us and with us,  
Beautiful Goddess of all,**

**So mote it be!**

**Consecrate us  
Life and love,  
Thou Queen of the Gods,  
Thou Mother of all,**

**So mote it be!**

**Consecrate us  
Rites and spells,  
Thou Mistress of Magic,  
Thou Lady of Mysteries,**

**So mote it be!**

**Consecrate us  
Heart and body,  
Thou Cauldron of Life,  
Thou Womb of Nature,**

**So mote it be!**

**Each heart and body,  
Each day to Thyself,  
Each night accordingly,  
Thou Mother of Stars,  
Thou Lady of Night,**

**So mote it be!**

**SILVER LADY OF THE SKY (7)**

**Thanks be to thee, silver Lady of the Sky,  
Mother kind, ever-renewing, ever-fulfilling,  
For thy fertility, abundance and blessing  
That thou bestows upon us continually.  
Whatever good fortune befalls us as thy children,  
In our portion, in our lot, in our path,  
Give to us with it the rich gifts of thy guidance,  
And the joyous blessing of thy wisdom.**

**We are thy children, dear Goddess,  
In spirit, in heart, and in flesh,  
In thought, in speech, and in deeds,  
We are blessed in thy sight.  
Put forth to us the magic of thy love.  
Bring us to the starlight realm and  
Bathe us in the Cauldron of Immortality,  
Like the fire on the mountain, like the mystery on the lake.**

**In the spiral enchanted path of our calling,  
Be it easy or uneasy to our spirit,  
Be it bright or dark for us to follow,  
Thine own star of guidance be upon us.  
Be thou a shield to us from the wiles of deceivers,  
From all our enemies with doubts pursuing us,  
And in each secret thought our minds do weave,  
Be thou the hand upon the loom and the shuttle.**

**Though the Hounds of Annwn reive us from this world,  
Be Thou the mistress to the Master of the Hunt.  
Whatever matter or cause or propensity,  
That would bring to us grief, or pains, or wounds,  
Or that would bear witness against us at the gorsedd,  
On the other side of the door to the fairy mound,  
Oh! do Thou obscure it from our eyes,  
And from our hearts drive it for ever.**

**Now to the Mother who gave birth to each creature,  
Now to the Maiden who taught her people well,  
Now to the Crone, who comforts us in strength:  
Shield and sain us from every evil working;  
Be about the beginning and end of our days,**

**Be giving us to sing the mysteries,  
In peace, in rest, in the Land of Youth,  
Where no tear shall be shed, where death comes no more.**

**Where no tear shall be shed, where death comes no more.**

### **A RUNE (8)**

**O Goddess,  
In my deeds,  
In my words,  
In my wishes,  
In my reason,  
And in the fulfilling of my desires,  
In my sleep,  
In my dreams,  
In my repose,  
In my thoughts,  
In my heart and spirit always,  
May the blessed Maiden  
And the Silver Bough of Faerie dwell,**

**Oh, in my heart and spirit always,  
May the loving Maiden  
And the tinkling Silver Bough of Faerie dwell.**

### **RUNE OF THE 'MUTHAIRN' (9)**

**Thou Queen of the moon,  
Thou Queen of the waters,  
Thou Queen of the flowers,  
Thou Queen of the stars,  
Thou Queen of the earth,  
Thou Queen of the night,  
Oh! lovely Thy countenance,  
Thou silvery Radiance.**

**Two loops of silk  
Down by thy limbs,  
Smooth-skinned;**



**Yellow jewels  
And a handful  
Out of every stock of them.**

### **BLESS, O MISTRESS OF MAGIC (10)**

**Bless, O Mistress of Magic,  
Myself and everything anear me,  
Bless me in all my makings,  
And keep me safe for ever,**

**Keep me safe forever.**

**From every unclean spirit and sending,  
From every evil wish and cursing,  
From every wicked spell and glamour,  
From every star that frowns upon me,  
Save me till the end of my day.**

**Save me till the end of my day.**

**Let every nymph and faerie be my sister,  
Let every troll and brownie be my brother,  
Let every fairy-mouse and will-o-the-wisp befriend me,  
That they may keep me safe forever.**

**That they may keep me safe forever.**

### **THE SILVER LIGHT OF FAERIE (11)**

**Gracious Goddess, who brought me from the dream of last night  
Unto the light of a new day,  
Be Thou bringing me from the light of this day  
Unto the silver light of dream and Faerie,**

**Oh! from the light of this day  
Unto the silver light of Faerie.**

**A SPELL FOR GRACE (12)**

**I am bowing my head  
In the eye of the Mother who gave me birth,  
In the eye of the Maiden who loves me,  
In the eye of the Crone who guides me in wisdom,**

**In love and desire.**

**Shower down upon us in Abred  
The rich blessings of Thy abundance;  
Thou Queen of Caer Emrys,**

**Be Thou always close to us.**

**Grant to us, Thou Mother of the Universe,  
The laughter of the Lady, the love of the Lady,  
And the passion of the Lady to do in Abred at all times  
As the Ever-Young do in Gwynfyd;  
Each day and night give us thy peace.**

**Each day and night give us thy peace.**

**SPELL FOR PROTECTION (13)**

**My Lord Manawyddan, thou whom  
The Triads name as one of the Three Tribe-Herdsman,  
Tend Thou us to the cot and the fold,  
Sain us beneath Thine own glorious mantle;**

**Thou Shield of Dyved, guard us for ever.**

**Be thou a hard triumphant glave  
To shield us securely from every wicked spell,  
From unclean spirits and from unfriendly stars,**

**And from the lurid smoke of the cities.**

**My Lord Manawyddan, Thou Third Landless Prince,  
Be Thou at the helm of the boat of my spirit.**

**DANU WHO OUGHT TO BE PRAISED (14)**

**It is as easy for Danu  
To inspire the Aged  
As to give birth to the Young  
As it is Her will to do so.**

**Danu! Danu! Danu!  
Meet it is to praise you!**

**There is no plant in the ground  
But is full of your virtue,  
There is no form in the strand  
But is full of your blessing.**

**Danu! Danu! Danu!  
Meet it is to praise you!**

**There is no life in the sea,  
There is no creature in the river,  
There is naught in the firmament,  
But proclaims your abundance.**

**Danu! Danu! Danu!  
Meet it is to praise you!**

**There is no bird on the wing,  
There is no star in the sky,  
There is nothing beneath the moon,  
But proclaims your beauty.**

**Danu! Danu! Danu!  
Meet it is to praise you!**

**THE CIRCLE OF CIRCLES (15)**

**Within the Circle of Circles,  
The peace of Pwyll and Llew,  
Of Manawyddan and Math the Ancient,  
And of the two perfect words,**

**The two perfect words.**

**The peace of the Mother of Love,  
The peace of the Maiden of Beauty,  
The peace of the Crone of Wisdom,  
To ourselves and to our children,**

**Our children and our children's children.**

### **THE LIGHTENER OF THE STARS (16)**

**Behold the Lightener of the stars,  
On the crests of the clouds,  
And the silver singers of the sky**

**Lauding him.**

**Coming down with acclaim  
From the palaces above,  
Harp and lyre of song**

**Sounding to him.**

**O Idris, bearer of my hope,  
Why should I not raise thy fame!  
Faeries and elves melodious**

**Singing to thee.**

**Thou son of the Goddess of Night  
Of exceeding white purity of beauty,  
Joy were it to me to play in the fields**

**Of thy tiny lanterns.**

**O Idris, my hope,  
O Idris of the celestial houses,  
At the dawn of eventide,**

**I will praise thee.**

### **THE PENTACLE OF THE GOD AND THE GODDESS (17)**

**The Pentacle of the God and the Goddess with me  
From the top of my face to the edge of my feet.**

**O Tegid mild, O Ceridwen wise,  
O radiant Taliesyn, chief god of bards,  
Preserve ye me in the middle world,  
The three preserve me on the old straight path.**

**Three preserve me with the Ancient Harmonies.**

**Preserve ye me in the Spiral Castle,  
Preserve ye me in the Four-Cornered Castle,  
Preserve ye me in the Isle of the Strong Door,  
The preservation of the three upon me tonight.**

**The three to shield me tonight.**

### **THE SPIRIT GUIDE (18)**

**Thou Spirit of Wisdom who guides me,  
From out of the Shining World to attend me,  
The shepherding kind of the fold of faerie kin  
To make round about me this night;**

**Drive from me every ill-will and danger,  
Surround me on the sea of the unholy,  
And in the narrows, crooks, and straits,  
Keep thou my coracle, keep it always.**

**Be thou a bright flame before me,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path beneath me,  
Be thou a kindly wind behind me,  
Today, tonight, and for ever.**

**And when I grow weary and I become  
A stranger in this land,  
Lead me to the Land of Promise;  
For it is time for me to go home  
To the court of Don, to the Land of Heart's Desire.**

**DESIRES (19)**

May I speak each day with thy eloquence,  
 Each day may I show thy counsel, O Gwydion;  
 May I speak each day according to thy wisdom,  
 Each day and night may I be at peace with my words.

Each day may I count thy blessings, O Gwydion,  
 May I each day give heed to the Ancient Harmonies;  
 Each day may I compose with thee a song,  
 Each day may I raise my harp to sing thanks.

May I each day give love to thee, Lady Don,  
 Each night may I do the same;  
 Each day and night, dark and light,  
 May I laud thy son and his guidance to me.

**LUSTRATION FOR JUSTICE (20-23)**

~for success in court, go by moonlight to a place where three streams meet, fill hands with water and dip face, saying charm~

I am bathing my face  
 In the nine rays of moonlight,  
 As Rhiannon bathed her Son

In the rich fermented milk.

Strength be in my heart,  
 Sense be in my head,  
 Dew of honey on my tongue,

My breath as the incense.

Black is yonder house,  
 Blacker those therein;  
 I am the white swan,

Rising above them.

All-seeing, all-hearing, all-knowing may the magic be,  
 To satisfy and to strengthen me;  
 Blind, deaf, and dumb, ever, ever be

**Those who condemn and mock me.**

**The tongue of Gwydion in my head,  
The eloquence of Mabon in my speech;  
The composure of Rhiannon falsely-accused**

**Be mine in the presence of the multitude.**

**I will travel in the name of the Goddess,  
In likeness of bull, in likeness of lion,  
In likeness of eagle, in likeness of spirit:**

**More victorious am I than all persons.**

### **BATHING SPELL (24)**

**A palmful for thine age,**

**A palmful for thy growth,**

**A palmful for thy throat,**

**A flood for thy speech.**

**For thy share of the dainty,**

**Crowdie and kail;**

**For thy share of the taking,**

**Honey and warm milk.**

**For thy share of the supping,**

**Whisked whey and cheese;**

**For thy share of the spoil,**

**With bow and with spear.**

**For thy share of the preparation,**

**The yellow eggs of Eostre;**

**For thy share of the treat,**

**The orange gourds of Samhain.**

**For thy share of the feast**

**With gifts and with tribute;**

**For thy share of the treasure,**

**With magic and with love.**

**For thy share of the chase,**

**Up the face of Bryn Aryen;**

**For thy share of the hunting**

**And the mustering of the hosts.**

**For thy share of palaces,**

**In the courts of kings;**

**For thy share of the Summerland,**

**In the courts of the Gods.**

**The part of thee that does not grow at dawn,**

**May it grow at eventide;**

**The part of thee that does not grow at night,**

**May it grow at ridge of mid-day.**

**The three palmfuls**

**Of the three Queens,**

**To preserve thee**

**From every envy,**

**Evil eye and death;**

**The palmful of the Mother of Love,**

**The palmful of the Maiden of Beauty,**

**The palmful of the Crone of Wisdom,**

**Triad**

**Of Magic.**



**SPELL FOR GUIDANCE (25)**

**Math, guide me with thy wisdom,  
Pwyll, guide me with thy strength,  
Lleu, guide me with thy inspiration,  
Manawyddan, guide me with thy justice.**

**Rhiannon, fill me with thy fullness,  
Govannon, shield me with thy shade,  
Gwydion, fill me with thy grace,  
For the sake of the Three Worlds and their kings.**

**For the One who was stolen on Beltane's Eve,  
For the One who hides himself in the woods,  
For the One who stood on the rim of the Cauldron,  
For the sake of the Three that are One,**

**And that One who is lover to the Three.**

**So mote it be!**

**SLEEP BLESSING (26)**

**Be thy soft breast, O Branwen, under my head,  
Be thy light, O Arianrhod, over me shining.  
And be the pentagram of the five elements over me down,  
From the crown of my head to the soles of my feet,**

**From the crown of my head to the soles of my feet.**

**O Llew without offence, betrayed cruelly,  
Under bans of *geis* Thou wert slain,  
With one foot on the rim of day,  
And the other on the beast of night,**

**Only then does the spear of twilight free Thee.**

**O Thou King of the Summer Sunlight,  
Who now can say in what season  
The Lion, betrayed by the Virgin, on the point of Balance,  
Is transformed into the Eagle?**

**I journey with Thee into the Land of Darkness.**

**Be the runes of Gwydion and Math over me tonight,  
Be my spirit soaring on the wings of an eagle,  
Be my spirit shielded within your pinions, Brightness of the mountain.  
Valiant Llew, carry my spirit safely**

**To the light of a new dawn.**

**So mote it be.**

### **COME I THIS DAY (27)**

**Come I this day to the Mother,  
Come I this day to the Maiden,  
Come I to the Crone of Wisdom;  
Come I this day with the Goddess,  
Come I this day with the God,  
Come I with the Spirit of Nature.**

**Gods and Spirits and Elements,  
From the crown of my head  
To the soles of my feet;  
Come I with my vision,  
Come I with my magic,  
Come I to thee, my Lady--**

**Mother, shelter me.**

### **THE SPIRIT PLAINT (28)**

**O Rhiannon! tonight  
Thou Queen of three worlds,  
Thou guiltless Mother  
Who didst suffer full sore,  
By curse of the wicked,  
And wast dishonoured.**

**Save me from evil,  
Save me from harm,  
Save Thou my body,**

**Consecrate me tonight,  
O Rhiannon! tonight,  
Nor leave me.**

**Endow me with magic,  
Thou Queen out of Faery,  
Guide me aright,  
Guide me in thy wisdom,  
O Rhiannon! in thy love  
Shelter me.**

### **SLEEPING SPELL (29)**

**I am placing my spirit and my body  
In thy circle this night, O Mother,  
In thy circle, O blessed Maiden,  
In thy circle, O Crone of perfect wisdom,**

**The Three who would defend my cause,  
Nor turn their backs upon me.**

**Thou, Mother, who art bountiful and generous,  
Thou, Maiden, who didst return from Annwn,  
Thou, Grandmother of power,  
Be keeping me this night from harm;**

**The Three who would consecrate me  
Keeping me this night and always.**

### **THE GIFTS OF THE THREE (30)**

**Grandmother, give me of thy wisdom,  
Mother, give me of thine abundance,  
Maiden, give me in my need,**

**Beneath the shield of the Horned One.**

**I lie down tonight,  
With the Triad of Strength,  
With the Mother, with the Maiden,**

**And with the Crone of Night.****SLEEP PRAYER (31)**

**O Arawn of the Hunt,  
Lord of Annwn,  
Who wert sorely oppressed  
Under ban of the ardent,  
Shield Thou me this night**

**From Hafgan.**

**My spirit in Thine own realm, O Lord,  
Thou the King of the Country of Youth,  
And Thine in my own realm  
To guard my body as it lies sleeping in Abred.  
Thou it was who exchanged thy shape, O King,**

**With Pwyll, Lord of Dyfed.**

**Protect Thou me because of my fealty,  
For the sake of Pwyll, my Lord; and Rhiannon, my Lady; and I their  
child.  
And take me in safety tonight**

**Near to the Land of Promise,**

**And bring me in safety again**

**Back to the world of Abred.**

**RESTING BLESSING (32)**

**In the name of the Lady,  
And of the Awen of Inspiration,  
In the name of the Lord of the Wildwood,**

**I lay me down to rest.**

**If there be evil threat or quirk,**

**Or covert act intent on me,  
Then free me and encircle me,**

**And drive from me mine enemy.**

**In the the name of the Mother darksome,  
And of the four Guardian Spirits,  
In the name of the Lord of the Hunt,**

**I lay me down to rest.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**Please aid me and encircle me,**

**From this hour till the hour of my passing.**

### **SLEEP CONSECRATION (33)**

**I lie down tonight  
With fair Modron and with her Son,  
With pure-white Mabon,  
And with Branwen beneath her mantle.**

**I lie down with Magic,  
And Magic will lie down with me,  
I will not lie down with Cythraul,  
Nor shall Cythraul lie down with me.**

**O God of the Mound,  
Shield me this night,  
Open the secret door  
To thy treasure-house.**

**For the many deeds  
I have done for thee.  
For the many songs  
I have sung of thee.**

**Thou King under the Hills,  
Invite me into thy dwelling-place,  
While setting wards around my bed,  
And encompass me in thy hosting.**

**So mote it be.**

### **BED BLESSING (34)**

**I am lying down tonite as beseems  
In the company of the Maiden of ringlets,  
In the company of the Mother of plenty,  
In the company of the Crone of powerful aid.**

**I am lying down tonight with the Goddess,  
And the Goddess tonight will lie down with me,  
I will not lie down tonight with evil, nor shall  
Evil nor evil's shadow lie down with me.**

**I am lying down tonight with Magic,  
And Magic this night will lie down with me,  
I will lie down this night with the Triad of my love,  
And the Triad of my love will lie down with me.**

### **THE SLEEP BLESSING (35)**

**I am now going into the sleep,  
Be it that I in health shall waken;  
If passing be to me in the death-sleep,  
Be it that with thy Wild Ride,  
O God of the Hunt, I in gladdness shall waken,**

**Be it with thy hosting,  
O Gwyn ap Nudd, that I in mirth shall waken.**

**Be my spirit as a circle of stars  
Around your white neck, O Queen of Heaven;  
Thou it was who gavest me the gift of life,  
Thou it was who brought me from the Cauldron.**

**Encircle me this night, O Goddess,  
That no harm, no evil shall befall.**

**Whilst my body is dwelling in the sleep,  
My spirit is soaring in the shadow of Annwn,**

**Be the red-white Hounds meeting my spirit,  
Early and late, night and day,**

**Early and late, night and day.**

**So mote it be.**

### **SLEEP CONSECRATION (36-37)**

**I am lying down tonight,  
With Mother, with Maiden,  
With the Crone of Wisdom,  
Who shield me from harm.**

**I will not lie down with Cythraul,  
Nor shall Cythraul lie down with me,  
But I will lie down with the Goddess,  
And the Goddess will lie down with me.**

**Lady and Maiden and Sacred Crone,  
Within the Circle of the nine sacred flowers,  
Be protecting me as Three and as One,  
From the brow of my face to the soles of my feet.**

**I charge Pwyll, I charge Arawn,  
I charge Modron, I charge Mabon,  
I charge the trustful Hounds of Annwn,  
To preserve me from hurt and harm;**

**O from dying tonight!  
From dying tonight!**

**Thou Queen of the moon and of mystery,  
Thou Maiden, daughter of the Goddess fair,  
Thou Crone, mother of the ancient gods,  
Keep thou us from the house of grief and doom,**

**Keep us from the land of sorrow,  
From the house of grief and doom.**

**THE SPIRIT SHRINE (38)**

**Goddess, give charge to the blessed Sidhe,  
To keep guard around this stead tonight,  
A circle sacred, strong, and steadfast,  
That will preserve and contain this spirit-shrine.  
Safeguard, dear Goddess, this household tonight,  
Ourselves and our means and our fame,  
Deliver us from death, from distress, from harm,  
From the fruits of envy and of enmity.  
Give thou to us, O Goddess of Love,  
Reverence toward all thy children,  
To live in harmony in the Middle World,  
And to enjoy thy love in the Bright World.**

**SPIRIT-SHRINE (39)**

**Thou Spirit of Light who hast charge of me,  
From the fragrant Mother of all Nature,  
The gentle encompassing of thy Silver Circle  
To make round my spirit-shrine this night,  
Oh, round my spirit-shrine this night.  
Ward from me every distress and danger,  
Encircle my course over the ocean of life,  
I charge thee, place thy silver light before me,  
O bright beauteous Spirit on this very night,  
Bright beauteous Spirit on this very night.  
Be Thyself the guiding star above me,  
Illume Thou to me every reef and shoal,  
Pilot my coracle on the crest of the wave,**



**To the restful harbour of the waveless sea,**

**Oh, the restful harbour of the waveless sea.**

### **I LIE IN MY BED (40)**

**I lie in my bed  
As I would lie in the faery mound,  
Thine arm beneath my neck,**

**Thou Lady (Lord) of the Sidhe.**

**Shining Ones shall watch me  
And I lying in slumber,  
And Bright Ones shall guard me**

**In the sleep of the mound.**

**Pwyll shall be at my back,  
Llew shall be at my feet,  
Manawyddan shall be before me,**

**And Math shall be at my head.**

**The Lady shall be with my spirit,  
The bright cauldron of my love!  
And Amaethon the Physician  
Shall put the glamour to my eye,**

**The Physician of the Bright Ones  
Shall put the glamour in my eyes.**

### **MORNING RUNE (41)**

**Thanks be to thee, my Lady, for  
Bringing me from the beauty of night  
To the gladsome light of this day,  
To win love and knowledge and power,  
Through understanding your deepest secrets.**

**Praise be to thee, gracious Goddess,  
For the blessings thou didst bestow on me--  
My thoughts, my speech, my works, my desires.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**And I charge thee  
To shield me from harm,  
To ward me from hurt,  
To sain me from evil,  
To teach me thy mysteries,  
O Goddess of all mysteries!  
Grant me thy wisdom along with thy magic.**

**May the Shining Ones claim me,  
And protect me on sea and on land,  
And lead me on from step to step,  
To the counsels of the Four Cities,**

**The magic of the Four Cities!**

### **THE DEDICATION (42)**

**Thanks be to thee, my Lady, for  
Bringing me from the beauty of night  
To the joyous light of this day,  
Courage, generosity, and beauty  
To earn for my spirit  
With good intent.  
And for every gift of faery  
Thou bestowest on me,  
My thoughts, my words,  
My deeds, my desires  
I consecrate to Thee.  
I honour Thee,  
I ask of Thee  
To keep me from ill fortune,  
And to shield me tonight,  
For the sake of my devotion,  
With thy teaching of mysteries.**

**RESTING RUNE (43)**

**O Powerful Goddess,  
 Ward the house, the fire, the animals,  
 And everyone who dwells herein tonight.  
 Shield myself and my beloved Coven,  
 Preserve us from violence and from harm;  
 Preserve us from foes and evil intent,  
 For the sake of She who stands at the crossroads  
 And He who hides himself in the hilltop fire,  
 In this place, and in every place wherein they dwell tonight,**

**On this night and every night.**

**COVEN PROTECTING (44)**

**Goddess, bless the world and all that is in it.  
 Goddess, bless my bed-mate(s) and my children,  
 Goddess, bless the eye that is in my head,  
 And bless, O Goddess, the handling of my art;  
 What time I rise in the morning,  
 What time I lie down at night,**

**Bless my rising in the morning,  
 And my lying down at night.**

**Goddess, protect the Coven, and the Covenstead,  
 Goddess, consecrate the Children of the Mother,  
 Goddess, encircle the flocks and the young;  
 Be thou after them and tending them,  
 What time the flocks ascend hill and wold,  
 What time I lie down to sleep,**

**What time the flocks ascend hill and wold,  
 What time I lie down in peace to sleep.**

**BLESSING OF HOUSE (45)**

**Goddess, bless the house,  
From site to stay,  
From beam to wall,  
From end to end,  
From ridge to basement,  
From balk to roof-tree,  
From found to summit,**

**Found and summit.**

### **TO WHOM SHALL I OFFER OBLATION (46)**

**To whom shall I offer oblation  
In name of the Leanan Sidhe?  
I will give some of my means  
To the forsaken illustrious Ones.**

**Because of all that I have seen,  
Of thy magic and of thy mystery,  
Call my spirit unto thee, O Daughter of Manannan,  
Nor leave me ever.**

**Remember me in great Belgata,  
Within thy cloak encircle thou me;  
Sweetheart of the Fair Ones, do not forsake me.  
My wish it were ever to be near thee.**

**Give to me the handfasting garment,  
Be Fair Folk conversing with me in every need,  
Be the holy Watchers protecting me,  
The fair Danu and thou, Aine of grace,**

**The fair Danu and thou, Aine of grace.**

### **HAIL, BRIGIT (47)**

**Hail, Brigit! hail, Brigit!**

**Queen of healing, Mother of poetry,**

**Hail, Brigit, forge of our vision,**

**Fount of our knowledge, source of our joy.**

**To thee we, night and day,**

**Hidden children of the Goddess,**

**Lift our voices in reverence,**

**In mirth and gait and laughter.**

**Bestow upon us, thou candle of gladness,**

**Since thou art the flame of knowledgable crafts,**

**The healing art of Dian Cecht, the poetic art of Oghma,**

**And the art of making of Goibhniu.**

**Vouchsafe to us, thou silver branch,**

**An island in the realm of peace,**

**Safe from the waves of peril and stress,**

**Beneath the shade of thy scented apple trees.**

### **HAIL TO THEE, DANU (48)**

**Hail to thee, Danu, Mother!**

**Thou ancestress of Gods,**

**The Old One of the Mound was thy Consort,**

**Blessed be thy feet that have brought thee in these ways,**

**Blessed be thy womb without which we could not be,**

**Blessed be thy paps formed in beauty,**

**Blessed be thou, Queen of the Earth,**

**Thou blessed Danu, mother of the Gods,**

**Remember me, your child of love and laughter,**

**On this day and on all days of the seasons,**

**All the days of the seasons.**

**THE BATTLE TO COME (49)**

**Morrigan, thou Crow of Battle, I call on thy name,  
And on the name of Badb, and the name of Macha,  
And on the names of all the spirits in the red domain,  
To shield me in the battle to come,**

**To shield me in the battle to come.**

**When the mouth shall be closed,  
When the eye shall be shut,  
When the breath shall cease to stir,  
When the heart shall cease to beat,**

**When the heart shall cease to beat.**

**When I put my foot into the barque  
That shall take me to that distant shore,  
O Morgan, priestess of Avalon, shield thou my spirit,  
O Elaine the fair, pillow my head in your lap.**

**O Nimue, wisdom's daughter, guide my spirit craft!  
The Three Queens to accompany my departure!**

**THE SEINING BLESSING (50)**

~three drops of water are placed on the infant's forehead, to guard it from ill omen and mischievous sprites~

**Thou Beings who inhabit the earth,  
Imprint thy blessings betimes,  
Remember the child of my body,  
In the name of the Mother of blessings;  
When the druid of the King  
On her (him) puts the water of meaning,  
Grant her (him) the blessing of the Three**

**Who are One.**

**The blessing of the One**

**Who is Three.**

**Sprinkle down upon her (him) thy gifts,**

**Give thou to her (him) beauty and strength,  
 Give thou to her (him) power and compassion,  
 Give thou to her (him) honor and humility,  
 Give thou to her (him) mirth and reverence,  
 Sense and reason void of guile,  
 Faery wisdom in her (his) day,  
 That she (he) may stand without reproach**

**In the world of the Bright Ones.**

**She (he) may stand without reproach**

**In the world of the Bright Ones.**

### **THE DEATH BLESSING (51-53)**

~the one who chants the blessing is called the 'soul-friend', and is held in special affection by the friends of the dying person ever after~

**Goddess, initiate this woman (man) into thy Grand Coven, remember  
 The many blessings which she (he) in the body cast,  
 That we cannot this night enumerate.**

**The many blessings that she (he) in the body cast,  
 That we cannot this night enumerate.**

**Be this spirit to thy hand, O Lady,  
 Thou Queen of the realm of Faery,**

**So mote it be.**

**Since thou it was, O Lady, who did birth this spirit,  
 Be its peace in thine own keeping.**

**So mote it be.**

**And be the strong Nuada, high king of the Tuatha,  
 Preparing the path before this spirit, O Goddess.**

**So mote it be.**

**And be the strong Lugh coming to meet the spirit,  
 And leading it home, to the Land of the Ever-Living Ones.**

**So mote it be.**

**THE NEW MOON (54)**

~this charm is said upon first seeing the new moon, while making a bow or curtsy; it is also customary to turn a silver coin in your pocket or the rings on your fingers while making a wish~

**Oh! in the name of the triple Goddess who shields us in every need,  
If well thou hast found us tonight,  
Nine times better mayest thou leave us without harm,**

**Thou bright white Moon of the seasons.  
Bright white Moon of the seasons.**

**May thy laving lustre leave us**

**Nine times still more blest.**

**O moon so fair,  
May it be so,  
As seasons come,  
And seasons go.**

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