

# Oakwise Circle

## The Acorn Newsletter Issue 2

Sponsored by: The Pagan Federation Prison Ministry

Welcome and Greetings to you all

It does not seem possible that Issue 2 is now distributed to all of you, and full once again with so many inspirational words. As you can see by the comments page, Issue 1 was a huge success, and has left you all wanting more. Again many of you have sent in your creations and it has been a pleasure to read them all.

This issue you will find artwork, poetry, and articles written by members, an interesting piece about The Elements kindly contributed by Sowelu, and a small article by myself on "How to do Ritual on Paper". Of course, we also have another article written by Emma Restall Orr, which I hope you will all enjoy. There has also been a contribution from a Writing Minister, and I feel you will join with me in thanking everyone for their support.

Spring Equinox is here once again, the beginning of the light half of the year, the energy is in balance, ready to grow and welcome in the Summer. May the seeds you sew this Spring, grow and blossom so you may reap the Harvest.

Many Blessings to You All

### Spirit Glade



Artwork by  
Dawn, Troy, USA

Please send all submissions to:  
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“.....excellent first edition” Steve, UK

“I have read your Acorn newsletter and let me say that there is a lot of talented people sending in their poetry and artwork....” Alfred, USA

“congratulations on the first issue of the Acorn.....quality Pagan literature is often difficult to find especially for inmates.....” Jayson, USA

“.... Thanks so much for issue 1 of the Acorn, it is nice to know that people still strive for Pagan togetherness and creativity.....” Pheonix Stormheart, USA

“While reading the newsletter, that by the way was most impressive for such few pages (which left me wanting) I stumble upon a piece that touched me dearly and would like to do my part. I am speaking of the Doncaster twins. I understand what it is like to be a Goth and the difficulties one can encounter, and/or endure. I spent much time in NYC underworld among them and will always consider these dark individuals my friends.....If it is appropriate..... please forward my information to them. I still write with a Goth mind and look forward to such an exchange.....”  
The Nocturnal Angel, USA

note: Sadly I have been informed that it is against Prison regulations, for Prisoners to write to each other, due to security. But would like to thank The Nocturnal Angel for his support and offer. Spirit Glade

“How wonderful it was to see my own words in print, it was a true gift.....I did extremely enjoy all the pictures, poems, letters and meditations, and am patiently awaiting the next issue.”” David, Texas, USA

“Acorn is great” Blakrose, Florida, USA

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## BOOKS

Circle, Coven and Grove: A Year of Magical Practice

Deborah Blake

0738710334 (Pp:216) 165 x 165 x17mm

Llewellyn Publications, US (first published: 30 Apr 2007) price: £10.99

Publisher's Synopsis

Green, Celtic, Alexandrian, Eclectic ... every circle, coven, and grove of witches is as unique as the magic they practise. No matter what kind of a Witch you are, High Priestess Deborah Blake's guide to group practice has something for you. An instruction manual, workbook, and Book of shadows all rolled into one. “Circle, coven and Grove” is an ideal tool for busy Witches, new groups, new leaders, groups sharing leadership, and Wiccans seeking inspiration for crafting rituals. Blake provides original – yet easy to modify group rituals for New Moons, full Moons and Sabbats for a full Wheel of the Year. There are seasonal spells, blessings, and rituals for celebrating holidays, increasing energy, giving thanks, healing, and more. Blake also discusses circle etiquette and the dos and don'ts of establishing a group or becoming a group leader.

Supplied from Daniel's Book list, UK

## Calling for Peace by Emma Restall Orr

In many modern Druid rituals, the proceedings begin with the Call For Peace. Often one of the participants will first face the east, lift a hand and call out, 'Let there be peace in the east', moving then to the other three directions in turn. In more traditional rites the Druid might raise his sword, slipping it a little from its sheath, and call, 'Is there peace?' When nobody contradicts him, he resheaths it declaring 'There is peace!' and walks to the next direction to ask again. Like a good deal of religious ritual, it is too often done with no real sense of what is truly being said, yet in a world so full of conflict it is such a poignant issue.

Most agree the origins of the Call for Peace to be in the work of Iolo Morganwg, the Welsh stonemason who was both student and forger of medieval Welsh poetry and tradition. Living in London at the time of the American War of Independence, the French Revolution and subsequent war with Britain, as Iolo put together the form of his Druid ritual these conflicts couldn't fail to influence his vision. In tune with other radicals, thinkers and poets of his time, he was a determined pacifist.

There are pacifists in Druidry today, and there are those eager to fight for justice: both stances are held with equal conviction and reasoning. I have stood in circles with people who have children or siblings deployed in the Middle East, and with those who have served in UN peacekeeping forces facing conflict more dangerous and barbaric than Iraq. There is violence within our own society. From a global perspective, there is not peace. As a result, for some the Call for Peace is not a declaration but a prayer to the gods.

Yet I feel this doesn't quite hit the mark: *we must find peace within ourselves.*

And what a glorious statement that is! How easily it can be said and how desperately hard it can be to achieve. After all, the great mystics and thinkers of our species have been pondering it for millennia in various religions, cultures and philosophies.

In Druidry, understanding peace is pivotal to our learning, and it is woven in with the focus on developing honourable relationship. Whether we are interacting with human beings or with any other part of the world around us, Druidry teaches that every decision we make must be based in honour. Of course, understanding honour, like love, is a lifelong journey, as we discover just what depth and grace can be found in respect, responsibility, loyalty, generosity, caring, patience, courage, honesty.

Such ideas are for another article. Here my question is: how do we know when we are close to truly honourable relationship? It is certainly not when we can successfully justify our behaviour, believing we are right. As Pagans, our spiritual practice must be more experiential than that. *Knowing* isn't only when something has found a settled place in our minds; it needs to sit in our belly as nourishment too, to guide our feet to feel the firmness of the earth, to tingle in our fingertips as inspiration, and be warm in our heart. It is the Pagan acceptance of the value of these visceral sensations that allows us to learn more deeply, not just from books or teachers, but from our own lives and memories.

So are we taught, in Druidry, how to *know* honourable relationship by the *sensation* it brings, and that feeling is peace. In other words, when we feel at peace with another, and we know they are a peace with us, it is likely that we are finding a connection based in honour.

At its very simplest (and in simplicity we learn so much, not least the first steps of any journey worth taking), we feel that sensation when we can sit together with another in quiet, with no awkward need to fill the space or break that quiet with words or actions. For we have found it when - at least in that moment - we need nothing of the other, when we ask nothing and expect nothing, yet know that should a need arise we would give all we could.

Peace, then, within ourselves, is found in a lack of *need*.

Life is perpetual change, and it is through a constant flow of needs that we survive, bodily, day to day, eating the food, finding the light, the stimulus, the exercise we need in order to achieve or retain our wellbeing. Yet as human beings, in truth, our real needs are both very simple and very few. Indeed, there is profound wisdom in realising that the simpler our lives are the greater our potential for wellbeing: peace isn't a result of having money or things.

Druidry teaches us, then, that peace comes through understanding the nature and simplicity of our own needs. When those needs have been met, what is left are opportunities for peace. So in Druid ritual, whether we are sharing that with others or crafting it alone, instead of calling for peace in the world around us, the power and its teaching is in knowing that, in that moment at least, we need nothing at all.

Am I the last one standing,  
Tonight I sit here wondering how did this take place,  
They have taken all from us including lives before our god's face,  
My goddess sheds her tears daily from besides the great master.  
Her tears become curses of blood as the land burns and dies faster.

What happened to our great land when we must run and hide,  
And the last ones fighting are condemned and broken inside,  
What happened that we no longer love our sisters and brothers,  
They are going hungry in this pollution and insanity like all the others.

What happened that we have begun fighting one another again,  
Sister against sister – brother against brother – men against men,  
When the true enemy wears white spreading lies within our homes,  
He is many and many are he and his army picks through our bones.

He speaks of this man called Jesus and other prophets in our streets,  
His words control the simple and manipulate the law with blood on their feet,  
Blood from all the brothers and sisters they have led to destruction and the kil,  
He smiles because he has won with his lies, smiles with the victory he loves and feels.

Are we to let them take away what's left of our land, our ways, our culture,  
Are we going to watch them kill our kind, destroy our mother with this pollution – torture,  
What happened to our hearts when we have let them place a halt to the mission,  
When we give their lies shelter instead of our kind and have drowned our truths and visions.  
The Nocturnal Angel, CO, USA

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#### IMBOLC

Imbolc means “within the belly”, which signifies that spring is about to be born. It is the time to begin searching for signs of spring. It is also a traditional time for initiations, and a time for celebrating your survival of winter.

The Goddess changes from her Crone aspect to her Maiden aspect. In the ancient Greek myth, this is the time of Persephone's return from the Underworld. Imbolc is associated with this return of light and life. It's the awakening of the earth, the promise of spring.

In ancient Greece, during the Eleusinian mysteries, people held a torchlight procession on February 1<sup>st</sup> in honour of Demeter. The torchlight was to aid her search for her lost daughter Persephone.

Celtic myths believe this to be the time when the young god began courting the maiden aspect of the goddess. And their passion for each other is what melted the snow and ushered in the springtime.

Shadowdancer, Florida, USA

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## NOTE from Spirit Glade

If anyone has any Pagan related questions that they are seeking the answers to, please let me know and I will print them in the next issue which will be Summer Solstice, to give the opportunity for other members to respond with an answer in a small article.

If anyone follows the Ancient Egyptian Way, any article with information would be appreciated, to help those that follow this Path, resources are scarce.

'ELEMENTAL CALLING ODE'

My circle cast in love, I call to thee,  
Gnomes, Sylphs, Salamanders and Undines,  
I call to you, Merry ye Meet, visit with me.

My dear friends, Kith and Kin,  
Join this circle, help this Wiccan.

May the Gnomes of our Mother take part,  
For without, I'd be with no grounding art.

Hoping the Sylphs join by wing,  
Bring a cool breeze and a dreamy verse to sing.

But without the Salamanders there'd be no life in my flame,  
Can't imagine a candle with no dance, just not the same.

And finally, my closest kin, The Undines,  
You are my blood, tears of joy, and closest friends of mine.

May you all join my circle, bringing love and life,  
I trust in you as one day I shall in my wife.

Together, you and I with our Mother Divine,  
May this circle be whole in Trine!

Thanks for greeting me,  
So mote it be!

By Pheonix Stormheart, Texas, USA

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Artwork by  
Daniel, Norton, USA

# Performing Ritual on Paper

By Spirit Glade (Jan 2008)

Due to your confinement, I can well imagine the difficulties you must have when it comes to performing a ritual: finding a quiet time, lack of space, lack of spiritual tools and harassment from non-pagans.

But I do know that you all will, most probably, have a piece of paper, something to write with and hopefully an eraser! And you can all use your creative imagination.

To perform a ritual on paper is simple. Once you are clear in your mind and have your ritual ready, find somewhere where you will not be disturbed. Lay your sheet of paper before you. Write North, South, East (on right) and West (on left), upon your piece of paper.

Prepare your ritual space upon your paper by drawing four candles (unlit) at each quarter, and if you wish, you can draw an oblong in the centre for your altar, and draw a chalice/cauldron, a candle (unlit), a pentagram, or whatever you wish inside the oblong/upon your altar.

Then when you are ready, put a flame upon your altar candle, and in your mind perform your ritual. As you cast your circle, draw the circle, using your pencil as your wand. Once the circle is cast (drawn) open the quarters, in your mind, and as you do so, draw a flame upon the candle at each direction.

Whatever you need for your ritual is obtainable by drawing it, you do not have to be a budding artist either, it is all at your fingertips.

When your ritual is completed and you close your circle, erase the flame from your candles at the directions as you close the quarters and give thanks, and then to un-cast your circle, erase anti-clockwise. To complete, erase the flame from the candle upon your altar.

Everything from a simple to a full festival ceremony can be performed, whatever you wish to use, can be drawn, and afterwards, you can fold your piece of paper and keep it in your journal/Book of Shadows with a note about your ceremony.

Try it! It works! Let your creative imagination flow, and ENJOY your ritual on Paper.

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New Book on the Wiccan Faith due to be published February 2008  
CRAFTING WICCAN TRADITIONS; CREATING A FOUNDATION FOR YOUR  
SPIRITUAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Raven Grimassi

073871108X

Llewellyn Publications, US

LIST PRICE: £11.99

PUBLISHER'S SYNOPSIS:

Eager to blaze your own Wiccan spiritual trail? Ready to express your own form of Divinity by crafting a tradition that's all your own? Raven Grimassi's comprehensive guide will help you merge your core Wiccan beliefs into a cohesive and transformative spiritual practice, a personalised path to the Divine. Handpick a pantheon of harmonious deities. Customise your own rules and rituals. Incorporate existing myths or create your own. Perform magyk? Choose a patron deity? Work with egregores? Keep a traditional "Book of Shadows"? It's up to you! Grimassi explores all modes of Wiccan worship and maps out key elements – Gods and Goddesses, ritual structure, religious/philosophical views, magical practices, coven structures, training, laws – to guide you through this soul-searching process. Both solitary and group practitioners will discover how to anchor their new, eclectic tradition to a sound Wiccan foundation.

Daniel, Staffs, UK says it looks an interesting book, so I shall recommend this one.

# How to Calculate The Lunar Phases

By Keith, Texas, USA

From ancient times into the current high tech age, the Moon has been central to the practice of Pagan religion and magical craft. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to know the dates upon which her phases fall. Although these phase-dates are readily published in newspapers, almanacs, calendars, computer programmes, internet web sites, and other various ephemerae, the information therein is usually dedicated to a time within the near-future, whether it be a day, a week, month, or year. Yet not everyone, such as the indigent incarcerated Pagan, has instant access to these resources.

In the absence of a published guide, there exists a simple formula utilising nothing more than basic mathematical skill, whereby one may determine accurately the Moon's phase, or age, for any desired date in the Current Era, past, present, or future.

## Step 1

Divide the given year by 19. Multiply the remainder by 11. Divide the result by 30. That remainder will be the Epact number for that entire year.

Example:

$$\begin{aligned}2008/19 &= 105 \text{ remainder } 13 \\13 \times 11 &= 143 \\143/30 &= 4 \text{ remainder } 23\end{aligned}$$

The Epact number for 2008 is 23.

## Step 2

### Table of Constants

January = 0	May = 2	September = 7
February = 1	June = 3	October = 7
March = 0	July = 4	November = 9
April = 1	August = 5	December = 9

To the Epact, add the day of the month, and the constant for the month from the above Table of Constants. Divide the result by 30. The remainder is the Moon's age, or phase.

Example: (Assume the day and month, 31 October) :

$$\begin{aligned}23 + 31 + 7 &= 61 \\61/30 &= 2 \text{ remainder } 1 \text{ day}\end{aligned}$$

The Moon is 1 day old, making it a New Moon for Samhain.

Note:

A remainder of 0 or 1 equals a New Moon; 7 or 8 equals a waxing 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Moon; 14 or 15 is the Full Moon phase; 21 or 22 equals a waning 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Moon.

Many Blessings!

## “Peace Chant”

Circle made, circle cast,  
Light the candles sure and fast,  
A chant of love, chant of power,  
Feel the magic rise this hour,  
Friends of fire, friends of air,  
Please join me, gentle and fair.  
Friends of earth, friends of water  
In perfect love, always with laughter  
I welcome thee, come and sing with me,  
The circles open to my kith and kin, you see.  
Now lets begin, we have a spell to cast,  
Peace find all, banish the hate at last!  
Let this spell grant those spirit sight,  
A vision, we are of the same divine light!  
To hurt another is to hurt yourself,  
To hurt yourself is to hurt all else.  
Peace is the way, love is the truth,  
Kindness, a helping hand, this is the proof!  
So mote it be, the spell is cast,  
Thanks to my kith and kin, our time is past.  
Circle closed, the spell is done,  
Three, Two, One .....  
The power has gone.

“Radiate Perfect Peace to all”

Phoenix Stormheart, Texas, USA

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One thing, Please remember that I walk in the Light in all ways, always – though part of my poem speaks of a “dark master”. It is important to me that you understand and realise this, even though I wrote this during a very dark period of my life. I am the lore of the shadows – hence my name – Shadow Lore.

Time is passing it’s slipping away,  
My life is gone it’s running astray,  
In fear we’re born in death we recede,  
In total panic we breed.  
But now my time has come to end,  
The Grim reaper’s has come to claim his revenge,  
But though my body may wither in pain,  
All is not lost in vain.  
I call upon the great powers of the night,  
Dark master aid me with all thy might,  
From the call of death is too powerful and great,  
And a summons must be made to stop my fate,  
But alas .....too late!  
Shadow Lore, Ca, USA

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Peace be to earth and to airy space!  
Peace be to heaven, peace to the waters,  
Peace to the plant and peace to the trees!  
May all the powers grant to me peace!  
By this invocation of peace may peace be diffused!  
By this invocation of peace may peace bring peace!  
With this peace the dreadful I now appease,  
With this peace the cruel I now appease,  
With this peace all evil I now appease,  
So that peace may prevail, happiness prevail!  
May everything for us be peaceful!

ATHARVA VEDA XIX sent in by Raven, Writing Minister

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It is Spring,  
A time for new beginnings,  
A time when young Persephone has returned,  
And the earth starts to shed the cold.  
Blanket that is winter.  
The Earth Mother begins her celebration,  
It's a time of new hope.  
A time of fresh magic.  
Soon we will dance around the maypole,  
The flowers and bees, birds and trees,  
Start their annual dance of renewal and re-awakening.  
The spirits dance and the Faeries fly.  
This is a time of love and devotion.  
It is Spring!  
What else needs to be said?

Raven, Texas, USA

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Herne the Horned Lord  
Herne of the Forests deep  
Part man and part beast  
Of countless names and countless faces  
Lurking in the dark mysterious places.  
At home in an awesome cave  
Candles and torches lit ablaze  
In your kingdom upon a throne  
Or exploring the Forest in a robe.  
Moving like a shadow in the moon light  
Collecting fresh herbs to fill your pipe.  
Your Ogham sticks in a leather bag  
Hunting for meat to bring back  
Moving silently behind the trees  
When in your realm I know your watching me.  
Was that real what I just saw  
Two sharp horns moving though the fog  
You must be waiting until I leave  
To come take what I offer thee.  
Priests of the Forests changed with the years  
But its still you above others who's most revered.  
Silent wise and crafty  
No mercy when you go hunting  
Sharpening your knife by fire light  
In the wild you cant lose a fight  
Picking ripe juicy berries for your wine  
For you there's no such thing as time.

Nathaniel, Ca., USA

An article particularly caught my attention, in the first issue of the Acorn, the piece on “Honouring the Ancestors” by Emma Restall Orr was excellent. Living in the US, its frustrating to hear people say they have a “connection to nature” because they are 1/32 Cherokee or whatever tribe. For the most part, people in this country who are European descent (75% of the population) have no idea that their own forbears were every bit as “connected to nature” as the Native Americans or any other indigenous peoples were. Unfortunately two forces severed our European Ancestors connection to nature and thus the gods as well.

The first of these was the conversion to Christianity, a long bloody process that lasted well over a thousand years. The monotheistic desert faith eventually squashed our people’s natural tendency to see the world around them as being alive and sacred, something that we should live in balance with rather than “have dominion over”.

The second force was the Industrial Revolution. Whereas Christianity cut us off spiritually from the land and our ancestors, industrialisation physically removed us from nature and into the “urban jungle” of the cities. While we have reaped many benefits from the cultural change (I don’t believe a lot of us would prefer to live without indoor plumbing or electricity), we’ve also lost a part of our soul in the bargain. The return to the heathen spirituality of our ancestors is (or should be) an attempt to recapture what we’ve lost, to understand our relationship with the earth, and to restore balance – both with our environment and within ourselves.

While I am not suggesting we roll back the clock and erase technology, we can start by casting off the shackles of a foreign faith and begin to see the world as our ancestors did.

Jayson, Texas, USA

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### Artwork by Maria,, Troy, USA



## The Elements – A Basic Guide By Sowelu

The four elements are fundamental basics to any pagan spiritual path. Earth, Air, Fire and water are the building blocks of the universe and as such we use them in the ritual circle (the universe in miniature) where they correspond to the four directions.

Earth = North Air = East Fire = South Water = West

They can also be arranged around the symbol of the pentacle, with the fifth element Spirit at the top point. The elements are found within other things we use in our magical practice, for example in tarot where each of the four suits is associated with an element, or astrology where each of the star signs is assigned an element.

It is important as pagans to experience the elements and understand the effects they have on us. The simple way to do this is to get outside. For example you can stand in the rain or watch the flow of a river, lay on the ground, stand at the top of a hill to feel the wind or light a bonfire. But that isn't always an option so remember that the elements are indoors too: water in the plumbing, the air we breathe, and things are manufactured from earth often using fire.

A good exercise is to write a list of things you associate with each element, this can include animals, plants, deities, colours, ritual tools, even weather conditions – whatever comes to mind.

Each of the four elements is also associated with an aspect of the human personality. Air corresponds to our intellectual side, water to the emotions, fire to passion and creativity, while earth is associated with our practical skills and common sense.

The spiritual ideal is to have each of the elements in balance within yourself. But the reality is that the world would be a rather boring place if we were all in perfect balance. Take some time to think carefully about your own emotional balance. Which element is strongest within you and which is the weakest. It is also interesting to ask someone else for their opinion, they often give a very different perspective. Are you mainly water, intuitive and compassionate perhaps at times a bit over- emotional and over- sensitive? Or mainly air with your head buried in a book but in danger of getting lost in the clouds? Are you fiery, passionate and creative, perhaps with a temper on a short fuse? Or the earthy type, happy to be doing practical tasks and sometimes finding it hard to let go and follow your intuition?

Of course things are rarely that clear cut, we all have a mix of elemental influences but once you are aware of your own elemental makeup you can learn more about yourself and your own strengths and weaknesses. Identify your weakest element, it may be something you find frightening (burning or drowning fears are not uncommon) or simply something you have neglected. Then get out there and experience that element in nature, in your living quarters and surroundings, meditate on it. Consciously strengthen the influence of that element in your life, and try to conquer any fears. Also be aware that your strongest element is an asset, but can be a problem if you let it get out of your control. For example, if water is your strongest element and you find yourself getting over-emotional you can use earth energy to balance yourself. And this technique can also be applied to other people, you can use your understanding of the elements to help someone if they are having problems, or resolve a difficult situation like a heated argument. See if you can think of anyone you know who is influenced by one element in particular and whether that is a strength or a weakness for them.

Meditating on the elements will also help you develop a deeper relationship with them. A good starting point is "Element Balancing" within Vivianne Crowley's book "Wicca".

It is useful to have objects you have made or found to represent the elements on your personal shrine or in rituals. You don't need anything fancy – a feather, stone, cup and a candle will do – something to focus on when calling the elemental guardians to your rites. If you can't get hold of objects then a small drawing will suffice, you don't have to be an artist, just a simple symbol for each of the elements. The elemental guardians are sometimes known as the Lords of the Watchtowers. They are the essence of each of the elements, very powerful beings who should be treated with respect. You might also become aware of the minor elements who will often interact with humans: gnomes (earth), sylphs (air), salamanders (fire) and undines (water).

It is usual to call the elemental guardians during a circle casting starting with East and then clockwise to North. As you call each quarter you visualise an image of the relevant element to bring the energy into the circle. You should be able to sense their presence once the circle is cast. To give a personal touch to rituals it is nice to create your own elemental calling which can be varied according to season, location or the aim of the rite. There are various styles so choose the one which suits you.

It is important to remember to bid farewell to the elements as part of your circle closing when the rite is completed.

I hope this article has been helpful, let us know if you have had any powerful experiences with the elements that could be included in a future newsletter.

## Wrong Turns

Travelling life's path by moon light shade,  
Ignoring fate's outstretched lending hand,  
Free will led to any mistakes once made,  
Razor wire and concrete are now my land.

Nature's sky now tainted by cameras glare,  
My body now trapped by these four walls,  
The sands of time pass by as I sit and stare,  
Only my spirit is free to roam as night falls.

Past lives lived through countless dreams,  
All is shattered by the sun's inevitable rise,  
Reality floods in as light through window streams,  
This life I made I have to now realise.

Hard lessons learnt down the wrong turns made,  
Longing once more to be under nature's gaze,  
Many years I will have to remain in the shade,  
Life's journey put on hold as I count the days.

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Steve, Durham, UK

## Winter Solstice

Winter appears on time, in its time  
In which there are many signs,  
Bare trees, leaves they do not hold  
Occasionally the mysterious mistletoe.  
Your breath is seen in the air  
A sure sign that it is cold  
Wind cleanses the trees of their dead  
Darkness and cold the time of end.  
All of nature has its reason  
The year wheel of opposite seasons.  
Winter snow and chimney smoke  
A kiss under the mistletoe  
Fallen leaves and pinecones  
Now is the time of the Crone.  
The animals are in hiding,  
The storms do not scare me,  
I go out to see,  
What winter has to offer me.  
Snow crunching under your feet  
From up above its falling  
The instinct to play in it,  
One of the joys which winter was meant.

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Muinn, California, USA

For who am i,  
without my shame?  
an essence of Spirit's breath.

I am the center of the Universe,  
I am all of Creation,  
and then i return to nothing.

Without shame,  
there is my breath.  
Without shame,  
there is my vitality.

Beloved God,  
Lord of the Hunt,

Beloved Goddess,  
Mother Gaia,  
show me the way,  
The way.....  
to Peace.

The howling of a wolf,  
the searing pain connected to my shame,  
I pray Mother,  
may my soul know Peace,  
when it comes a knocking.

As the blackbird soars,  
show me how to be myself.  
Let me be the Phoenix rising  
up out from it's own ashes.

As sure as the Sun will shine,  
I hear the sweet voice  
of Source of All  
Re-assuring me  
I am an innocent child.

Dive within,  
be cleansed!

May there be Peace in the North,  
May there be Peace in the West,  
May there be Peace in the South,  
May there be Peace in the East,

May there be Peace Within!  
Bless You!  
Blessed Be!

RAVEN , Writing Minister

# OAKWISE CALL FOR PEACE

By Spirit Glade (Jan 2008)

Let us unite as one beneath the heavens, in the light of the full moon, and radiate Peace to the world.

On every full moon, (starting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, Spring Equinox, and then every 28 days thereafter).

Before retiring to sleep, visualise all the members of the Oakwise Circle united as one and feel their presence as we all stand together beneath the full moon.

Concentrate on your breathing, until you feel calm and relaxed. Then breathe in love and light, and breathe out peace to the world.

Visualise the peace radiating out, joining with the energy of your fellow members and reaching to all the far corners of the world.

If you wish, when you are ready, you can recite, three times, the Druid Prayer, and unite with Druids worldwide who are also performing a Peace Ritual on each full moon.

“We swear by Peace, and love to stand,  
Heart to heart, and hand in hand,  
Mark O’Spirit, and hear us now,  
Confirming this our sacred Vow.”

MAY YOU ALL BE ABLE TO WALK IN PEACE.

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## A few Closing Words

I do hope that you have all enjoyed this issue of The Acorn, and that you have felt some sense of community sharing with fellow Pagans in similar circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for sending in their creative works, for without these, the issue would be incomplete. Remember the newsletter is written for you and by you, so please keep sending your wonderful words of inspiration, and lets make the third issue of your newsletter a success also.

I sit here during the Spring Equinox, feeling the energy around me, and within me, I truly hope that you also can feel the balance and harmony that this energy is bringing. May your inspiration flourish and grow throughout the light half of the year. May your journeys be filled with light, warmth and joy.

Many Blessings to you All,

**Spirit Glade**