

Equinox Ceremony

Written by Babalosa Jodie (Eagle Wolf) Hart
Presented by the Gay Men's Medicine Circle at the
2010 CMG Spirituality Retreat in Malibu

Just as the basic structure of the (Catholic) Mass consists of four parts (two main parts and two framing rights), a basic Ritual / Ceremony is also considered complete when these four parts are included. These can be loosely stated as the Opening, the Message of Intention, the Sharing of Gifts, and the Sending Forth.

For the Sol-Lunar celebration of the Spring or Vernal Equinox (Etymology: Equi + Nox = Equal Night / Equal Day), it is the time when the Sun returns from his voyage to the Southern Hemisphere; i.e., the Season of Resurrection. The nighttime begins to grow shorter and the daytime begins to grow longer, when the fields are plowed and the seeds are planted.

At the 2010 CMG Spirituality Retreat in Malibu, we will be working within a 30-minute time slot and constructing a large canvas Mandala of the Sun, with the handprints of the Sun's Sons to indicate "Mitakuye Oyasin" (These two words are a Lakota Prayer that means "All My Relations" or "We are All Related".) Tempura paint that can be easily removed from the hands will be used. We will already have the basic yellow Sun circle painted on the canvas and will utilize either the four primary colors (of our Sacred Directions) or the spectrum colors of light.

The participants will be divided up into four Clans representing the four Solar Zodiacal Elements: Fire, Earth, Air, and Water – based upon their seasonal birthdays. (Think of Harry Potter and the Sorting Hat, but this time using the pouch of the Sacred Stork.)

Four Members of the Medicine Circle will address the four Clans – ***NOT*** as we would call the Cardinal Directions, but as Identifying and Naming their individual Clans as Sons of their Patron Animal.

(Fire) East – “You are the Sons of the Great Eagle who bears the Rising Sun upon its wings. **Bringing** the beginning of a new day to all of creation, filled with opportunities and possibilities. **Reminding** us that we are born anew with each dawn. **Teaching** us that we are like newborn children, to whom every experience is the very first time, from whose Wisdom we awaken to the sense of delight and discovery. **Showing** us how to live fully – in this VERY moment, bringing harm to no one, but only our love to our brothers who walk upon the Good Red Road. Will you accept your responsibility? If you do, come forward to add your ‘sign’. Blessed be the Sons of Fire!”

(Earth) South – “You are the sons of the Great Python who lives and crawls over Mother Earth’s skin. **Bringing** the awakening of a time of adolescence into our lives, and enriching the iron-rich soil so that the crops that feed all of nature can grow. **Reminding** us of our new-born sexuality and the discovery of our passionate attraction to one another – and of our love for one another. **Teaching** us that are the caretakers of the grapes that are beginning to ripen on the vine and the sap that rises in the trees, from whose Wisdom we embrace the summertime when the living is easy. **Showing** us our connection to the ancient symbols of fertility, of knowledge, and of healing. Will you accept your responsibility? If you do, come forward to add your ‘sign’. **Blessed be the Sons of Earth!”**

(Air) West – “You are the sons of the great Jaguar who rules the dark and mysterious night. Bringing us the mastery of our fears as we learn to use our Intuition. Reminding us of the dreams of our youth and of the knowledge of our Grandfathers. Teaching us that we can bravely face the challenges of maturity, from who’s Wisdom comes the greatest lessons of our lives. Showing us that it is the time for making a living, for finding a life partner, and starting a family. Will you accept your responsibility? If you do, come forward to add your ‘sign’. Blessed be the Sons of Air!”

(Water) North – “You are the Sons of the great Bear who completes the Wheel of Life. Bringing us the lessons learned by the Ancestors; thus helping us fill in the blanks to all of the yet unknown questions that we will inevitably face. Reminding us that when we seek their counsel, we then realize that we are never truly alone. Teaching us when it is the time to act, and when to wait until the ice thaws to venture forth. Showing us the great richness that is yet unexplored in the vast unknown of the deep, and to seek the Wisdom that is yet to be explored in our dreams. Will you accept your responsibility? If you do, come forward to add your ‘sign’. Blessed be the Sons of Water!”

“Spirit-Brother, this weekend began with a plain canvas, to which we added a basic drawing of the Sun. Then you came together as Brothers and added your unique Sigils in all of the various colors of your Clans. Between now and our Closing Ceremony, the Members of the Medicine Circle will complete the finishing touches, and we will present this Sacred Mandala to the CMG as a symbol of the special-ness of this very first CMG Spirituality Retreat. Take with you from this Ritual one of these Sacred Stones to remind you that indeed, you were here, representing all of your Ancestors from the beginning of time through the growing warmth of the Spring, going forward as Soldiers of Love, Light, Wisdom, Peace, Health and Prosperity as the days grow long. Blessed be the Sons of the Sun! Mitakuye Oyasin.”

You are welcome to contact me at jodiehart@aol.com if you have any questions or would like to see more from my codified “Ceremonies and Rituals Grimoire”. Onareo, Jodie Eagle Wolf Hart, Los Angeles, CA