

Self-Dedication in the Druidcraft Tradition

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For any beginning practitioner, the passage of self-dedication is a vital step in your journey of awakening and discovery. It is no less an exercise in personal discovery as it is a declaration of faith and intent to the Gods. Ours is an intensely transpersonal, wisdom-based tradition involving a fellowship and a communion that transcends personal experience and taps into interconnection of all existences. Taking the first steps into a process of awakening that will ultimately bring the us into an intense, physical as well as spiritual awareness of the essence of all of life and the Divine presence with us, should rightly be a very special and holy rite. Such a rite should always culminate in a declaration of our faith, and a vow to continue to learn and better ourselves in our chosen path.

Part One: Blessing and Charging Your Altar and Magickal Tools



Like the sacred space in which your altar is central, the altar itself and the magickal tools you place upon it need to be purified, blessed, and even 'charged'. Charging involves imbuing an object or a place with energy from the spiritual plane, which gives the object or the place its power.

The following is a suggested ritual that you might use to consecrate your altar and charge your magickal tools.

Pro tip: for any ritual you're going to perform, take the time first to meditate deeply on your intent. Then spend a good amount of time obtaining—or crafting—the materials and tools you will need. Indeed, the care and preparation that you put into your magickal workings are just as meaningful as your intent.

Preparation

Your altar should be complete at the time you set out to perform this rite. All of your materials and magickal tools should be arranged upon the altar, and one should dress it with symbols and decorations representing the Wiccan and Druid traditions in general:

- A black candle, representing the Goddess; a white candle, representing the God, and a red or white candle in the center of the altar, representing your spirit.
- A sprig of oak leaves (preferred), or any other type of leaves available in your area, which are held as particularly sacred within the Druidcraft tradition such as Ash, Apple, Beech, Birch, Hawthorn, Hazel, Maple, Rowan, Willow, or even a sprig of Ivy, Heather, Holly, or Honeysuckle.
- For purification, you might obtain some Lavender or Elder Berries.
- Incense blended for cleansing and purification is appropriate.
- Your chalice should be filled with water, with a small container of sea salt nearby.
- An essential oil blended for blessing and purification.

Once everything is in place and you are ready to proceed, light your candles.

Grounding and Centering

It is good practice to begin any ritual with grounding and centering. This accomplishes two things:

1. It helps you to focus on your intent by clearing your mind of other thoughts and distractions.
2. It invites positive energy into your body and drains off the negative.

If you already know and practice a form of grounding and centering that you find useful, by all means, do that here. For those with less experience with this, drumming and or chanting in combination with a simple visualization can be an easy and effective form of grounding and centering.

Blessing the altar and the space

Once you have grounded and centered and you feel ready to proceed, light your incense. At this point, it is fitting to say a prayer communicating the intent of your rite. This prayer should be from the heart. An example of such a prayer is to raise your hands to the heavens saying,

"THIS ALTAR HERE PLACED IN MY HOME'S TRUE CENTER,
BE IT A GATEWAY FOR ONLY GOOD TO ENTER;

ERECTED TO THE GODS AND MY SPIRIT'S STRENGTH,
HAVING SYMBOLICALLY NEITHER BREADTH NOR LENGTH;

FOCAL POINT IN A CIRCLE OF POWER,
A MIGHTY LENS FOR EVERY TOWER;

SACRED TO THE GODS, THE ANCESTORS, AND SIDHE,
BE IT HERE TO HONOR THESE HOLY THREE;

RESTING PLACE OF MAGICKAL TOOLS,
LET FAITH AND LOVE BE MY ONLY RULES;

A TOOL OF WILL, POWERFUL, AND FREE,
AS IT IS WILLED, SO MOTE IT BE!"

Take up the incense and waft it throughout your sacred space, blessing both yourself and your altar. Waft the incense in each of the four directions, North, East, South, and West, and around the base and top of the altar. You might additionally choose to bless the entire room in which your altar rests.

Add three pinches of sea salt to the water in your chalice. Take up the sprig of leaves and dip them into the chalice. Using a tossing motion, sprinkle the water over the altar and in each of the four directions.

Charging your magickal tools

Beginning with your athame, take up each ritual implement in your hands, and raise it to the heavens saying:

"BLESS 'O MIGHTY ONES THIS (*NAME OF TOOL*). MAY IT BE A WORTHY IMPLEMENT OF WILL AND MAGICKK, FOR THE GOOD OF MY BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT, AS I SEEK TO WALK THE ELDER WAYS. SO MOTE IT BE!"

With the object in your hands still raised to the heavens, visualize yourself glowing with ethereal white light, pouring down from above and welling up within you. Visualize and feel the energy traveling up through your body, up your arms, into your hands, and finally into the tool itself, until the tool is glowing with the ethereal white light. Do this for as long as it feels right to do.

Bless the tool with the four elements by passing it through the incense, sprinkling it with the water from your chalice, passing it through the flame of your candles, then touching it to the salt.

Finally, take the essential oil and anoint the object with either the symbol of Awen; three rays, thus: /|\ ...or a pentacle: ⬠

Part Two: Self-Dedication

Invitation to the Powers

Contemplate the step you are about to take. Consider that you are about to present yourself to the Gods and ask for Their blessing in your spiritual journey. It is important to approach this step with a pure heart, and with certainty in what it is you aim to dedicate yourself to. When you are ready to proceed, raise your hands to the heavens and invoke the Mighty Ones (Gods, Ancestors, and Spirits) saying:

"HAIL MIGHTY ONES! FROM WHOM ALL CREATION AND INSPIRATION FLOWS, BY THE RAYS OF AWEN I SEEK THY DIVINE BLESSING UPON MY JOURNEY, THROUGH THE CAULDRON OF REBIRTH I COME UNTO THIS LIFETIME, SEEKING TO BECOME THY CHILD, A CHILD OF THE EARTH, THE GREAT MOTHER. BE PRESENT HERE AND ACCEPT ME TO INTO THY FELLOWSHIP, AS I SEEK TO WALK THE ELDER WAYS."

"HAIL 'O BLESSED SHINING ONES! ELDER WISE ONES WHO HAVE TRAVELED BEFORE ME, YOU UPON WHOSE ALTARS BURNED THE FIRES OF ENLIGHTENMENT, BE PRESENT HERE AND ACCEPT ME TO INTO THY FELLOWSHIP, AS I SEEK TO WALK THE ELDER WAYS."

"HAIL 'O KINDRED OF THE EARTH! HALLOWED SPIRITS OF THIS PLACE, BLESSED KINDRED WHO DWELL UPON THE LAND, IN THE SEA, AND IN SKY, BE PRESENT HERE AND ACCEPT ME TO INTO THY FELLOWSHIP, AS I SEEK TO WALK THE ELDER WAYS."

Now in quietness, you should wait, listen, and watch. Whenever one seeks the immediate presence or attention of the Divine or spirits, it is wise to wait for a sign that indeed you have Their attention and that They are present with you, and have blessed your undertaking. Experienced practitioners might at this point cast an omen to seek the sign. Such an omen might be cast with Runes, Oghams, or other forms of divination. To accommodate the inexperienced practitioner, however, the Mighty Ones often have ways of making their presence known; an unusual noise, a glimpse of something 'otherworldly' out of the corner of your eye, a strange light, or a pet who makes an unusual gesture or sound, etc.

When you feel you have received the sign, light the central candle on your altar from the flame of the God and Goddess candles, symbolizing your immortal soul receiving its light and power from the Gods. Then give your oath of self-dedication. Your own words are most appropriate here, but, as an example, you could say something like:

"O' MIGHTY GODS, GRACIOUS LORD AND LADY; BLESSED ANCESTORS WHO IN TIMELESS MEMORY DWELL; AND SPIRITS OF THIS PLACE, TO THEE I PLEDGE MY FULL AND ETERNAL DEVOTION. I VOW TO SEEK, TO LEARN, AND TO PRACTICE

ALL THE ELDER WAYS THAT HONOR THEE, AND TO IMMERSE MYSELF IN THY
MAGICK AND MYSTERIES. BLESS, O' MIGHTY GODS, THIS, MY DEDICATION.
GRANT ME POWER AND MAGICK TO DO MY WILL UNDER YOUR CARE AND
PROTECTION, BE IT IN YOUR HONOR AN' IT HARM NONE. SO MOTE IT BE!"

Conclude by anointing yourself with the symbol of the pentacle over the third eye and top of each hand with the essential oil, then do the same with the symbol of Awen using the water.

Thanking the Powers and releasing the energy

You should conclude any magickal work by thanking the Powers and releasing the energies you have raised.

With hands raised again to the heavens, thank the powers saying:

"HOLY GODS, BELOVED ANCESTORS, GREAT SPIRITS WHO HAVE AIDED IN MY
PURPOSE, I THANK THEE! AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING AND IS NOW UPON THE
END, LET ALL BE AS IT WAS. SO MOTE IT BE!"

Finally, lower your arms and hold them down beside you and stretch out your fingers to touch the ground. Once again visualize yourself glowing with the ethereal, white light as before. Slowly release the energy from your body by visualizing the light draining from you into the ground, through your fingertips.

Remember that when releasing energy, you are only draining the *excess* energy from your body that you raised for your magick. This is energy that you would not normally carry with you in your daily life. You are not draining any of the normal energy you would use to function, you are only releasing the metaphysical energies which you now no longer need.

That said, do not be alarmed if after performing a magickal working such as this, and releasing the energies from it, you feel physically tired to some degree. This is common, particularly after long or intensely energetic uses of your metaphysical ability. Your strength and vitality should return to you, and people often find it returns to them in greater quantity than they had before. Many practitioners report a brief period of fatigue, followed by a period of feeling "totally energized" and "on top of the world". This is due in no small part to remaining residual levels of metaphysical energy now coursing through your body.

Notes on the work

Remember that all the wording offered in this guide is only a suggestion. At all points throughout this magickal working, you may use your own words entirely, mix and match, or go with what's written. It's entirely up to you and what you're most comfortable with.

The order in which you perform the charging of your tools is unimportant, save that you should charge your ritual implements before you charge any personal objects. Traditionally, the athame or ritual blade is the first object to be blessed and charged. You should perform this rite for every object that rests upon your altar and even items that don't, but that you may carry with you to draw power from. Among such objects that you would charge but that don't rest on your altar might be symbolic jewelry such as a medallion or a ring. There is also no limit to how many times it is appropriate to perform this rite, even for the same object.

The charging of a magickal tool does not have to include the consecration of your altar. Once your altar has been consecrated once, so long as it has not been moved, you should not need to perform that part of the rite again. The two rites, consecrating your altar and charging your implements, are actually separate workings but are presented here in combination as important first steps in your magickal journey.

It is ideal to perform this rite on the evening of a full moon, as magick is believed to be more powerful then. It is also entirely fitting that after your ritual, you take your charged tools and personal items outside and let them bathe in the light of the full moon overnight and place them back upon your altar the next morning.



Congratulations on your self-dedication and Blessed Be!

On Self-Dedication: Additional resources

Video:

Raymond Buckland's [Witchcraft: Yesterday and Today](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5puNQasAr8&list=PLslGfsRkLW-YSCU6lG5LVBgyHi7syd4eA&index=1#t=45m18s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5puNQasAr8&list=PLslGfsRkLW-YSCU6lG5LVBgyHi7syd4eA&index=1#t=45m18s>