

Gurtih VII



Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing

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Libation Rite to the Great Mother

A Libation is the offering of Water. The following simple formulas can be used as a Rite of Libation to the Great Earth. It can be done as a simple rite in itself, but its original use was before and/or after any ritual feast shared by Companions of the Western Mysteries such as the early Guardians of Grace and Blessing. This simple Libation to the Goddess is placed upon the Earth.

The Ceremony

In this ceremony libations are made in turn to the Four Cardinal Quarters: East, South, North and West. There is a final salute either to above or to the Centre or to the East again. Libations should, if possible, always be made in the open air and onto bare earth, grass or other plants, not onto any paved or concrete surface, unless there is no other alternative. Those actually making the libation should be bare-footed; nudity is also allowed but certainly not required.

If the weather is extremely bad, then the libation can be made indoors. In this case, someone kneels on one knee before the Libator [one who makes a libation] holding in both hands a large shallow basin into which the offering is poured. A two-handled wok makes an ideal basin for this purpose. If there are many people and basins available, there could be someone kneeling at each of the Four Quarters, but usually it is enough if the Bearer of the Basin goes before, as the Libator moves from Quarter to Quarter, carrying the Cup from which the Libation is poured.

Whether indoors or out, the Libator should, if possible, be accompanied by two people, each carrying a flask. One containing Water and the other containing Wine. In the advanced mysteries of the Church other ingredients may be used, however these are only permitted as private practises within the Priesthood itself.

The priest leads the Libation procession, carrying a bowl of consecrated Water and an aspergillum. The aspergillum is a special brush dedicated for the purpose of sprinkling Holy Water. The priest sprinkles water to one side and the other. If there is another priest or lay member carrying incense, they should be at the rear of the procession.

Of course all this elaborate ceremonial can be ignored. Any lay member of the Apostolic Guardian Church can make the full Libation alone, by having a small altar at the centre of the grove or place where the Libation is to be made, on which are flasks of Wine and Water, and any symbol of the Great Mother which you feel is appropriate. However there are especial spiritual advantages of doing such a procession in a group lead by a priest of the Church.

In the ceremony that follows, Names of various Earth and Star Goddess are used.

The Libation Rite to the Great Mother

If the Libations follow a Feast of the Companions, a morsel of both Bread and Honey shall be place in the Cup, along with the Wine. The Priest/Libator together with any assistants and witnesses shall go to the Grove or Place of Libation.

Facing towards the East, the Libator shall make one small circle with the Cup, parallel with the ground; and shall pour the contents of the Cup onto the Earth, and shall say:

Hail, Holy Great Mother,
who is waiting to come to Life,
we salute Thee, by Thy Name Ishtar (please see notes at end)
who art the Goddess of Air and Light,
and with the aid of all Holy Beings who dwell in the East.

A small amount of Wine shall be poured into the Cup. Facing towards the South, the Libator shall make two small circles with the Cup, parallel with the ground; and shall pour the contents of the Cup onto the Earth, and shall say:

Hail, Holy Great Mother,
who is waiting to come to Life,
we salute Thee, by Thy Name Anahita (please see notes at end)
Who art the Goddess of Water and Life,
and with the aid of all Holy Beings who dwell in the South.

Small amounts of Wine and Water shall be poured into the Cup. Facing towards the North, the Libator shall make three small circles with the Cup, parallel with the ground; and shall pour the contents of the Cup onto the Earth, and shall say:

Hail, Holy Great Mother,
who is waiting to come to Love,
we salute Thee, by Thy Name Inanna (please see notes at end)

Who art the Goddess of Fire and Love,
and with the aid of all Holy Beings who dwell in the North.

A quantity of Water shall be poured into the Cup. Facing towards the West the Libator shall make four small circles with the Cup, parallel with the ground; and shall pour the contents of the Cup onto the Earth, and shall say.

Hail, Holy Great Mother,
who is waiting to come to Life,
we salute Thee, by Thine Name Miriam (please see notes at end)
Thou Who art the Goddess of Earth and Law,
and with the aid of all Holy Beings who dwell throughout the worlds.

Facing towards the East and the Centre, the Libator shall hold the Empty Cup aloft and shall say:

Hail, Holy Great Mother,
who is waiting to come to Life,
we salute Thee by Thy Most Secret Name.
Thou Who are most especially the Goddess of Spirit and Liberty,
(whisper) ISHTAR SHEKINAH EM - SHALOM

The Libator shall then empty the Cup and say:

Hail Holy Mother,
Who is waiting to come to Life,
I return to Thee those portions of Thy gifts which I have not used,
so that the Lords of Other Worlds
might restore them to their natures;
and they too can join again in the Eternal Dance of Life.

Ishtar Shekinah Em - Shalom

As the company return indoors, the Libator shall carry the Cup by its base, upside-down; to show that the Libation has been made. Inside the congregation should rejoice, dance sing and feast.

Notes: Circular motions made with the Cup are like the swirlings that one might make to cleanse a vessel with liquids. They remind us of the swirling cycles of the galaxies, stars and planets throughout the universe. There is more than one level of meaning in the phrase, 'The Mother who is waiting to come to life.' It will repay deep and attentive meditation. The names of the Great Goddess: Anahita is from Persia; Miriam is Mary (Mother of Jesus in Hebrew) Inanna and Ishtar is from the ancient Near and Middle East; while Shekinah is the name of the Feminine Divine Principle among the Hebrews. **Copyright** New Zion Inc. 1981, 1998, 2003. Apostolic Guardian Church 2004: This ceremony is an authorised Apostolic Guardian Church Libation to the Great Mother. It is similar to (but not the same) as a part within one of the Et Custosi Tutelae ceremonies.