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Aquarian Tradition: Dark Moon Ritual ‘C’” Unrestricted

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Aquarian Tradition

DARK MOON RITUAL

“C”

Unrestricted

Ritual presenters:

High Priestess (HPS)
High Priest (HP)

Maiden
Warder
Quarter Callers

Supplies:

On the main altar:

Hekate crown (sized to fit officiating HPS)
Cauldron & bowl with black stones (adult & child)
Hekate torch (optional)
Hekate image or symbol (optional)

By the altar:

Sword in scabbard
Prosperity cauldron

On the elemental altar:

Altar cloth
Four elemental symbols:
 incense in holder (already lit)
 candle lantern
 chalice with water
 cauldron with salt
Lighter or matches

At the gate:

Broom
Two bottles of anointing oil
Envelopes printed with [Dark
Moon] Call to Mystery
Sheepskin/protective cloth
for sword (on gate lintel)

*Let everything be cleansed and purified before the Gods. The **High Priestess** and **High Priest** and all facilitating the ritual shall perform their ritual ablutions, anointing, robing, and meditating before entering the circle.*

*When all are ready, they shall gather at the Circle in good time for the scheduled beginning of the ritual. The **High Priestess** shall instruct the **Warder** to give the First Call to Mystery 15 minutes before the ritual is to begin, and the Second Call 5 minutes before the ritual. At the second call, those who would attend should make their way up to the circle and wait outside. The ritual presenters shall gather inside for the Purification of the Temple.*

*The **HP** & **HPS** stand at the altar; the **HPS** wears a cloak covering the robe.*

*The **Warder** stands by the gate on the northern side.*

*The **Maiden** takes up the broom and stands on the other side of the gate on the eastern side.*

*The **Quarter Callers** stand at the quarters across the circle from the directions they are to call.*

– *PURIFICATION OF THE CIRCLE* –

Warder: *(to the assembled people)*

The temple is about to be erected. Let all who enter in be here of their own free will.
Pray all be silent while the temple is purified.

Maiden: *(takes up the broom and sweeps around the circle widdershins)*

All things which evil or malignant be,
Know this place is not for thee.
Be thou gone! Depart from me!
And by my will, so mote it be!

(now sweeping deosil)

Red spirits and black,
White spirits and gray,
Come ye, come ye, come who may.
Around and about, throughin and throughout,
The good come in, and the ill **keep out!**

Everybody stamps twice on last two words.

Maiden returns broom to the east side of the gate.

East: *takes up incense from altar, salutes the East, walks once around circle deosil censing, and stands in the West to call towards the East.*

South: *takes up candle-lantern from altar, lights it, salutes the South, walks once around circle deosil, and stands in the north to call towards the South.*

West: *takes up chalice from the altar, salutes the West, walks once around circle deosil asperging, and stands in the East to call towards the West.*

North: *takes up salt from the altar, salutes the North, walks once around circle deosil scattering salt, and stands in the South to call towards the North.*

HP: *(takes sword and begins at the East side of the gate, ending at the northern side.)*

Oh thou circle, I conjure thee,
Sacred area of mystery:
A shield against evil shall you be,
And contain within all energies.
All this we claim by the majesty
Of *Hekate!* – So mote it be!

With the **Maiden's** assistance, places the sword above the gate (on the sheepskin), pointing to the East.

Next, the **HPS** nods to the **Warder**, who leave the circle and goes to the fountain. As the **HPS** speaks, he demonstrates the ablutions and then leads the attendees through the gate once bidden.)

HPS: Children of the Goddess and the God, bless and purify yourselves.
Anoint your head, heart, and loins with the waters of life and come onto this circle of worship in peace.

As **Warder** returns through gate, the **Maiden** hands him one bottle of anointing oil, retaining the other. They take up their stations beside the gate and anoint the attendees as they enter, greeting each one:

Thou art God/dess.

As the people enter, the **HP** hands each one of the envelopes with the Dark Moon version of the Call to Mystery, and (if necessary) indicates that they should proceed around the circle deosil.

When all have entered, the **Maiden** takes the broom and sweeps the gate. The **Warder** brings the sword down from the lintel (retaining the protective wrap) and lays it on the ground, still pointing towards the **East**, to establish the closing of the gate. Once this is done, the **Warder** and **Maiden** turn to the **HPS**.

HPS: By the conjuration of the elements,
let this circle be warded.

East: (holding incense up towards the East)

Guardians of the East,
Element of Air,
Breath of life
And winds of inspiration:
Blow away the clouds from our minds
And give us true vision.

South: (holding lantern up towards the South)

Guardians of the South,
Element of fire,
Flame of self
And light of transformation:
Energize the life force in our bodies
And give us the power to make a change.

West: *(holding chalice up towards the West)*

Guardians of the West,
Element of water,
Waves of feeling
And oceans of meaning:
Wash away our anger and fears
And give us purity of love and trust.

North: *(holding the salt up towards the North)*

Guardians of the North,
Element of earth,
Fertile fields of sustenance
And mountains of treasure:
Manifest the dreams and feelings we toil for
And give us value in our lives.

HPS: *(takes a moment to feel the energy)*

The elements are in balance, which brings Spirit to the circle. *(pause for a beat in welcome and then address the people...)*

The temple has been warded, blessed, and sealed. If anyone feels they must leave before this rite is concluded, silently go to the gate where you entered and have the Warder give you exit. Do not break the circle.

*When she mentions him, the **Warder** steps forward slightly and raises an arm to be easily identified. He remains at the center of the gate, holding the energy, for the remainder of the rite.*

HPS: Let the Rite begin!

HP: Now is the time of the dark, when the light of the Lady hides. It is the time of deep mystery, of introspection, of going within. Let this ritual be a time of worship of the Dark Lady, Hekate, and of recognition of the depths of your soul.

Help me call her to this rite. Look to your sheets entitled ‘Call to Mystery’ and follow with me.

*During the Call to Mystery, the **HP** faces each of the quarters in turn, returning to the center for the final couplet. All attending, including the **Quarters**, the **Maiden** and the **HPS** join in the response lines.*

– CALL TO MYSTERY –

HP: *(to East)* We seek Hekate, Lady of the Night –

ALL: – give us true vision this magical night.

HP: *(to South)* Our hands and hearts empower this call –

ALL: – we find Her within, or not at all.

HP: *(to West)* Heart joined to heart and lip to lip –

ALL: – five are the points of fellowship.

HP: *(to North)* Sow the seeds deep in fertile ground –

ALL: – let the Wheel carry us round and round.

HP: *(returning to Center, joins HPS)* Harmony and balance are the way to power –

ALL: – we see this truth in every tree and flower.

The HP kisses the HPS' hand and assists her to kneel. The Maiden moves to the altar and takes up the crown, holding it over the HPS' bowed head, high enough so that it is visible. The HP invokes the Goddess.

HP: Hail, Hekate, Lady of the Night;
Goddess of the Dark, bless this rite.

O Hekate, your priestess willingly gives her body and heart so that you may walk among us in this circle of stars we have formed to worship you, goddess of the crossroads.
Come, o come, majestic Hekate: come unto this rite and begin again the mystery of the night.

(chants so that everyone joins in)

ALL: Hail, Hekate, Lady of the Night,
Goddess of the Dark, bless this rite!

As the chant repeats and builds in energy, the HPS draws down the Moon and invokes the Goddess. When sufficient energy has built up, she raises her head; the Maiden crowns her and draws the cloak from her shoulders. The Maiden, HP, and Warder all kneel. Others in the circle may kneel as they choose. The Quarters do not kneel.

HPS: Rise up, my children; look at me straight and true.

All rise. The Maiden returns to her station with the cloak.

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HPS: I am she who needs no other for support. I have been with you always. I am the Lady of the Crossroads and my torch illuminates. I am she who knows the secrets of your heart and the deepest depths of your soul. Look at me! Do not hide from me; for if you do, truly you are only hiding from yourself.

This is the time of the dark, the time of going within; and your soul cries out. Heed its cry and face yourself. Do not deceive yourself, for the light of my torch finds its way to the darkest corners of your spirit. I am the guide and I will aid you. (*picks up the cauldron of stones from the altar*)

Open your hearts and reach inside this cauldron. Do not hesitate! Let my words guide you. For all is – and **I am!**

Hands the cauldron to the HP, who repeats the words to begin the chant softly; all join in to follow the HPS lead.

HP: I am . . . I am . . . I am . . .

*Beginning with the **Maiden** and continuing deosil to end with the **Warder**, the **HP** presents the cauldron to each person. As the **HP** progresses around the circle, the **HPS** speaks over the chant, timing her words so that they end at the same time.*

HPS: I am the Wolf, but do not fear me;
I am the Hunter, but you do not hear me.

I am the Blind One, you cannot save me –
I am the Wild One, you will not brave me.

I am your path and you cannot find me;
I am your fear, but you will not bind me.

I am your pain and you cannot free me;
I am your shadow, you refuse to see me;

I am the Dark Pit and your soul will feed me –
I am the Gods and if you won't claim me,
Seal up your heart and never more blame me!

I am! I am! I am! I am! I am!

*The **HPS** builds the chant to a peak and grounds it. She may then go around the circle, blessing the attendees as they chant.*

HPS: Now it is time for me to return. Look to the sky at night and honor the Dark. Know thyself. I will be there.

My blessings to you all. Let the mystery of this circle live on in the days and nights to come. Farewell.

*Kneels to the ground by the altar and devokes. The **Maiden** replaces the cloak on the **HPS'** shoulders, removes the crown, and replaces it on the altar, directing the energy to the altar as she does so. The **Maiden** returns to her station.*

HP: *(assists the HPS to rise and offers her some of the sacrament from the altar)*

Rise up, my priestess, and accept this sacrament of she whom you have served so well.

HPS: *(takes a bite of the sacrament and then shares a piece with HP)*

Thank you, my priest. And I would share with you. For in honouring each other, we honour the gods.

*(to the **Maiden**)* The rite is done. Release the circle.

– CLOSING OF THE CIRCLE –

Maiden: *(to North quarter caller)* Undo the wards! Begin at the ending and end at the beginning!

North: *(raising salt to North as before)*

Guardians of the North, element of Earth,
We thank you for the wealth you have provided.
Go back to your realms with our blessings in peace.
Hail and farewell!

West: *(raising chalice to West as before)*

Guardians of the West, element of Water,
We thank you for the meaning you have given to us.
Go back to your realms with our blessings in peace.
Hail and farewell!

South: *(raising lantern to South as before)*

Guardians of the South, element of Fire,
We thank you for the fires you have kindled within us.
Go back to your realms with our blessings in peace.
Hail and farewell!

East: *(raising incense to East as before)*

Guardians of the East, element of Air,
We thank you for your inspiration and vision.
Go back to your realms with our blessings in peace.
Hail and farewell!

HP: *(begins announcements)*

*Announcements will typically include upcoming events, classes, festivals, etc. The **HP** is not required to make all the announcements himself, but should be supported by the **HPS** and call on others in the circle as needed.*

Upcoming events will always include mention of future Diana's Bow, Full Moon, and Dark Moon rituals, with encouragement for anyone interested to talk to the ritual presenters about becoming more involved.

*The **HPS** and other suitably qualified people will make themselves available at the Hekate shrine after this ritual, to assist people in interpreting the messages they have received and otherwise discussing the meaning and impact of the ritual.*

*The announcements conclude with the usual reminder that the ATC needs support of all kinds, including monetary; the use of the envelopes for cauldron donations is explained, with a reminder that donations are tax-deductible, and an admonition not to put any **empty** envelopes into the cauldron.*

*The cauldron is to be handled in circle only by the **HPS** and the **Maiden**. The **HPS** leads the blessing; all others are welcome to join in, in which case the **HPS** directs their energy to magnify with her own.*

HPS: This is the blessing of prosperity:
Threefold, sevenfold, ninefold, more –
All you give to the cauldron,
Seed-time to harvest,
So shall you receive!

*Gives the cauldron to the **Maiden**. Anyone may make contributions at this time; after the circle is opened, she hands the cauldron off to some other trustworthy woman, to take it down to the*

Retreat House. It is placed on the kitchen counter for the duration of the evening so that people who wish may contribute later.

Warder: *(Takes the sword from in front of the gate, releasing the circle. Goes to the center of the circle, raises the sword and gestures widdershins.)*

The circle is open,
But never broken,
Merry meet, and merry part,
And merry meet again!

*The **Warder** returns the sword to the **HP**. After the attendees have left, the presenters gather at the altar.*

All: O spirits whom this circle has drawn,
We thank you and ask that you now be gone.
Go back to your realms with our blessings in peace:
As we do will, so mote it be.
With points drawn down, we make the slash,
Each to their own, from first to last!

*They ground the remaining ritual energy. The ritual implements are packed up and returned to their places in the Hecate shrine and the Retreat House; all presenters assist in carrying things down as needed. The **HPS** checks the circle and the shrine (or delegates this to the **Maiden**) to make certain all is in order for the next ritual.*

Unless further work is needed in the circle, or further consultation in the shrine, all return to the Retreat House to eat and socialize. Any newcomers should be located after the ritual and given a chance to ask questions, provide feedback, be offered encouragement, reassurance, support, etc.

Ritual authorship:

<i>Original Diana's Bow ritual:</i>	<i>Bert Dudley (Blacksun)</i>
<i>Maya chant:</i>	<i>Blacksun and Shadowhawk</i>
<i>Alternate ritual:</i>	<i>Debbie Hudson, Barb Lauderdale</i>
<i>Prosperity chant:</i>	<i>Louise Owen</i>
<i>Alternate Maya chant:</i>	<i>Barb Lauderdale</i>