



THIEVES & BEGGARS: THE NEEDFUL SOUL

WORKSHOPS



The Arrows of Dark & Light

The ritual of the Arrows of Dark & Light is, in the truest sense, a ritual of exorcism. It involves the expulsion of the ghosts that overshadow the light of our destiny. Ghosts are understood as the secret and unresolved shadows of our histories. They hide the path that lies ahead and beckon us to always seek the path that has already been traversed. These unresolved shadows are the arrows that wound and trap us in the cycle of unresolved history. We do not recognise them, and they do not see us. In this ritual, we will learn to open our hearts to witness our ghosts, and to challenge them with the light that we had forgotten we are.



Drum Birthing

The drum is an ancient tool used by our ancestors throughout time. It is not simply about 'making music' but more about understanding the subtle language of Spirit. It is about learning to become fluent in this language. Everyone can benefit from 'tuning in' to the tones and harmonics of the medicine drum. The pounding sound of a drum can help us to take notice of our own heartbeat. Our heartbeats keep us alive and vital. Drumming can also be very therapeutic in getting in touch with our inner selves. A low, steady beat can create calmness whereas a stronger upbeat can stir us into action or frenzy.

This day long workshop begins this journey through the making and birthing of the Spirit Drum, underpinned by the story of the Grey Drummer

HEALING DAYS



Thieves & Beggars

This is an opportunity to come to a table of invitations to seek and find possibilities to embrace our hungry souls. It is a chance for us to discover the childlike gifts of wonder, joy, and expression. And to set our souls and hearts aflame once again. It is, perhaps, an enriching of the beggar and redemption of the thief: identities that we have all been trapped in.



Needful & Wanting

We are all beggars sitting on the roadside of life. We are hungry, we are thirsty and we are impoverished. We hover between begging and stealing. Like children, for in truth we are all children, we merely pretend to be something else. Truly, we are longing, hoping, or trusting that someone will notice us and set us free.



Soul Doll

In many traditional spirit traditions, the creation of an alter ego in the form of a doll is a way towards healing. It is a way by which spirits and humans can interact almost remotely. Such traditions have utilised the powerful, subconscious, externalised metaphor of the doll. In our ceremony we will create this sacred extension of ourselves. With its crystal heart, the doll carries the intention or 'magic' of the creator. It becomes a remote presence or application of some intention through its totemic application.



Blue Flame Ceremonies

Healing comes from the notion of being made whole, from which being 'holy' derives. The song which sings us may be fractured, discordant, out of tune, or just not as melodic as it should be. Holiness is a harmonising of that song. The song returns us, the instrument which plays that music. Here is an opportunity to allow such a retuning, through the ceremonies offered by the Blue Flame Initiates



Quest of the Labyrinth

The labyrinth is an ancient, and perhaps celestial, device to reach into the depths of our souls and hearts. The path of the labyrinth is a maternal journey into ourselves, and a paternal journey into the world. It represents the ancient nomadic journey from and to the stars. The labyrinth is, in a sense, a bridge between worlds.



Dispossession Ceremony

Possession from the Sagh'ic perspective, is more akin to an intrusion, an intrusion of spirit and on occasion spirits, and even more likely, ghosts.

In the most part these spirits are disembodied emotions, unresolved feelings, ghosts, lost in a sense of abandonment or ignorance.

This powerful ceremony uses the presence of the Hunter Spirits to seek out, exorcise and free our souls from these ghosts, which hold us back in life.

SOUL RIPPLES



Journey of The Fetish

"I bind you and carry you, that have bound and carried me, let the flames free us both".

Within us all are the fears and shadows of history. Guided by the spirits of nature and the dark places, a sacrificial victim comes to unburden us.

This intense and cathartic ceremony of construction and destruction provides the opportunity to be free from the bindings of history through the ancient animist ritual of the Fetish.



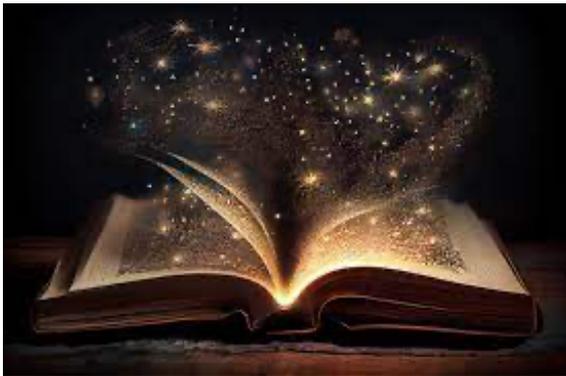
Weave & Flow of Gender

Genders were seen as integral threads in a tribal weave, with each thread supporting, contributing and guiding the integrity of the tapestry of the tribe in an interdependent collaboration. This meant that none survived alone without the weaving into and out of the definition of each other's diversity. Being woven together created a river which carried the tribe. In this ceremony, we will explore the threads and the resulting river which flows in each of us.



Shared Starlight

We all come from the stars, born of the same starlight which sings into the universe. We forget that all creation is the song expressed, displayed, and revealed. Each of us is reflecting the song in all things and each other. There is nothing in any one thing which is not waiting in the other and waiting in us. In the simplicity of drops of starlight we remember this connection, this presence.



New Story Ceremony

There are those moments, those days, when we look back at those chapters, those stories, in our lives, and they are not, were not how in hindsight we would have liked them to be. As thieves we took what we could get, and were left with the guilt and shame, regret and disappointment of having to make do, or wishing, dreaming for a better ending, and ending in which perhaps we could have been

the hero, or the one who lived happily ever after. As beggars and thieves, we accepted what was left or to be spared, or took what belonged to others. This ceremony helps us rewrite, and create new chapters to our stories.



Forgiveness of the Rain

This ceremony is to sing to the rain so that the waters may return. However, it is also to honour the waters above and the waters below, and the spirits that sing of such wonder. It is an expression of gratitude towards the spirits, which we do not often show this.

The spirit of the rain is primarily about forgiveness, receiving and giving.



G'ualsch Dearg Red Mountain Ceremony

The 'Wrap About' ceremony is an ancient ritual of cleansing, purification, and healing. It contains the elements of caring, intimacy, and mother energy. Its spirit is one of bringing us to a deeper appreciation and commitment of and to ourselves Red Mountain was an integral part of the nomadic journey to reconnect the wayward traveller to the safety of home. It is about the essence of the lost child, or the

weary warrior, returning to the welcoming arms of the mother and home.



Seal Vithr Dream Ceremony

The Forest spirit Seal Vithr is the spirit of dreams and time. For her old & young, forgotten & remembered, adults & children are all one and the same, for her life & death, past & future are but one song in the mists of the forest. Seal Vithr is the medicine of dreams, and in the smoke ritual we have the opportunity to

dream what we may with her.



Resonance for the Lost

We live in a world, a time, when so much is considered lost, out of reach, and distant. In this our hearts are stretched, sometimes to the point of breaking. We are assailed by the media with stories and images, which intensifies feelings of being unable to take any action. We are unable to

simply reach out, touch, soothe and pity the world we hear and see. In this ceremony we may not make waves, however, the ripples will change something, somewhere.



Ancestral Bones & Whispers

Our Ancestors are in our DNA, they flow in our blood. They are our bloodline. Each of all our alternative lives has Ancestors; in the quantum particles of our soul are all our Ancestors of all our lives. We come from the stars and from the same dust that the stars are fashioned from. Our

atomic structure is that of the Ancestors of all our star relations and lives.

Every Ancestor creates a magical connection, so that we are present in this moment now. If we listen, we can hear them whisper to us.



Milk & Blood

Our ceremony of release through compassionate awareness is to be the journey of the Hunt. Both Hunter & Hunted are to enter willingly, and with intention, The Dark Night in which She, the Maiden Moon, will gather us without comparison, or discrimination, into the ordered song of impossible love. The ceremony brings the waters of tears and forgiveness to be washed in wisdom and love. Whatever this gathering might

be, it will not test us too much. Under the moonlight we will once again find home.

ANCESTRAL DAYS

Celebrating the Sagh'ic New Year

The Bone Mother



For generations people have gathered to remember their ancestors and built shrines to create sacred places where they could be with these Ancestors. It is an ancient tradition in which a great mother spirit held and carried all those that had died, as well as all those waiting to be born.

The great mother had secret places to care for the ancestors and descendants. Often under the ground, in caves, or at the edges of forests, she held all from beginning to end. The mother saw all the past and futures, and so many came to sit with her and ask for guidance and for peace. She was the one who held the souls of those lost, or those waiting for birth. She brings life out of death



bád ar an cailte; the Soul Boat

This traditional ritual is to help support the detachment of the living and the dead. It is to set sail any unresolved or incomplete bindings between the living and the dead. However, it is also used to support the transition of that which is incomplete and unresolved between the ancestors and descendants.



Death Moon Ritual

This is a First Fire ceremony of gathering together, both living and dead. It is a ceremony to unburden both ourselves and our ancestors. The Moon is the spirit which beckons us home. Though the journey is narrow, we must let go of anything which burdens us.



Honouring the Forgotten Dead

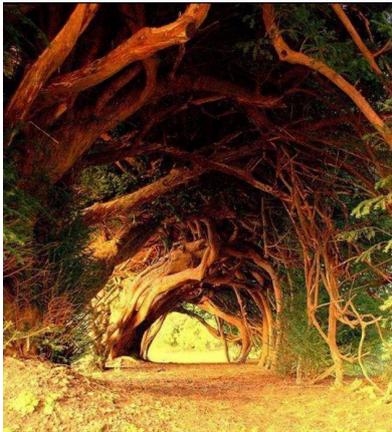
At this season of celebration, the closeness of the world of dreams and the world of waking, we have the opportunity to offer some consolation, some succour, some completion, for some dead. In this seemingly small ceremony, however, is the commitment and devotion that defines this intense conduction of soul. It is truly a celebration of the journey and continuance of life.



The Barq of Geoladair

When our hearts are caught in grief (personal, communal, or mundane), there is armouring. This is a keeping away and keeping with. And that which is lost becomes not just lost, but also forgotten. In this ceremony we will remember and carry the lost and

forgotten to the compassionate boatman, who will carry them to their rightful place amongst the stars.



The Walk of the Caterpillar

The ceremonial walk through the grove of the 13 ancestral trees is a quest of an ancestral spirituality just beyond our reach. It is a shedding, a letting go, of the wishes and dreams of others we are subject to. This ceremony will help us find the freedom to live our own dreams and wishes, our own true nature. Through journeys, personal quests and rituals, we can reach for the mountain of our sacred heart. It is a journey of life and death.



Na Chead Tinte na Sinear – First Fire

This was a time when fear itself was discarded. Such was the intimacy of this collaborative ceremony. Shadows and ‘demons’ were burdens to be disposed of and discarded. These were a sending home for the lost, the tormenting, and the tormented. Na Chéad Tinte (nu shard chu-nay), The First Fires, the Bone Fires, were the fires that were lit to burn all that could not be contained or used. These fires were lit to call the community together so that together they could share the minimum of requirements to survive the darkness of winter.



Day of the Dead Ceremony

As the nomadic journey turns back upon itself, so the living and the dead overlap. We remember and celebrate them as they do us. The ceremony addresses two notions:

1. to be aware of our fears, negative emotions, as well as our turning away from the wheel of life and death
2. to celebrate the journey of those who have died, those who have forgotten this dream, and have woken as Ancestral Spirits.



Cacao Ceremony

The spirit of the cacao is the spirit of resolution and reconciliation. Following the Red Mountain, this ceremony of the mountains (called Fire in the Blood) is a devotional celebration of the sacrifice of love, a ritual of the heart, and the letting go of all that keeps us apart



Fire Ceremony

The Fire is the Sacred Hearth where all ancestral spirits commune. It is where the family draws close so as to be with the ancestors and descendants. It is also where, in the cold of the night, we are enlivened and brought to sight. Fire is regarded as the First Ancestor, which promised to always stay close, light the path ahead, and take from us all that burdens us. The Fire is the dweller of the heart, and comes to gather us, warm us, illuminate us and free us. It is always a ceremony of celebration, and an opportunity to walk with or on the fire.

Morning and evening meditations



The morning wakes and calls us in its new day song, to share the adventure and exploration of the moment and the day ahead. In simple ritual we greet the sun and the world around us as they in turn greet us.

The evening unfurls its blanket of starlight, to gather us as children from the day's escapades, and wrap us in a lullaby of dreams. In a reflection of the morning ceremony, we allow the starlight to reflect the day and open the night for us.