

Charge of the Goddess



One of the most symbolic Wiccan texts, the Charge is the promise of the Goddess to all Witches that she will teach and guide them.

The original poem was written by Gerald Gardner, compiled from several different sources.

This version is credited to Doreen Valiente.

Listen to the words of the Great Mother, who was of old also called Artemis; Astarte; Diana; Melusine; Aphrodite; Cerridwen; Dana; Arianrhod; Isis; Brig; and by many other names.

Whenever ye have need of anything, once in a month, and better it be when the Moon be full, then ye shall assemble in some secret place and adore the spirit of me, who am Queen of all Witcheries.

There shall ye assemble, ye who are fain to learn all sorcery, yet have not yet won its deepest secrets: to these will I teach things that are yet unknown.

And ye shall be free from slavery; and as a sign that ye are really free, ye shall be naked in your rites; and ye shall dance, sing, feast, make music and love, all in my praise.

For mine is the ecstasy of the spirit and mine also is joy on earth; for my Law is Love unto all Beings.

Keep pure your highest ideal; strive ever toward it; let naught stop you or turn you aside.

For mine is the secret door which opens upon the
Land of Youth; and mine is the Cup of the Wine of Life,
and the Cauldron of Cerridwen, which is the
Holy Grail of Immortality.

I am the Gracious Goddess, who gives the gift of joy
unto the heart. Upon earth, I give the knowledge of the
spirit eternal; and beyond death, I give peace, and
freedom, and reunion with those who
have gone before.

Nor do I demand sacrifice, for behold I am the Mother
of All Living, and my love is poured out upon the earth.

Hear ye the words of the Star Goddess, she in the dust
of whose feet are the hosts of heaven; whose body
encircleth the Universe; I, who am the beauty of the
green earth, and the white Moon among the stars, and
the mystery of the waters, and the heart's desire,
call unto thy soul. Arise and come unto me.

For I am the Soul of Nature, who giveth life to the
universe; from me all things proceed, and unto me
must all things return; and before my face, beloved of
gods and mortals, thine inmost divine self shall be
unfolded in the rapture of infinite joy.

Let my worship be within the heart that rejoiceth, for
behold: all acts of love and pleasure are my rituals. And
therefore let there be beauty and strength, power and
compassion, honour and humility, mirth
and reverence within you.

And thou who thinkest to seek for me, know thy
seeking and yearning shall avail thee not, unless thou
know this mystery: that if that which thou seekest thou
findest not within thee, thou wilt never
find it without thee.

For behold, I have been with thee from the beginning;
and I am that which is attained at the end of desire.