

Hella Blot

A devotional blot in honor of the Norse goddess of the dead

Aegir's Feast October 2004

Created by the Hella Called of Oakland, CA

In Norse tradition a blot is a feast or ritual in honor of a deity or set of deities. Sacrifices are made, blessings requested, and oaths taken. It is a time when we gather to thank our gods for all they provide and celebrate their presence in our life. Tonight we will invite Hella, goddess of the dead, to join us here in Midgard, to thank her for all she has done to care for our beloved dead.

Please be aware that there will be aspecting of the deity on the part of designated clergy only.

Persons

Blot Gythia:

Hella's Ward:

Hella's Gythia:

Fire Gythia:

Ice Godthi:

Assistants as needed:

Wardens:

Ritual Items

2 Horns

Hot glogg

Cold hard cider

"Fire" – candle

"Ice" – crystal

Altar & items

Hella candle

Bowl

Pre Ritual Notes

Words of import spoken ad hoc to the assembly by our Blot Gythia.

Warding

Modgud guardian of the path
Keeper of the way
Lend us your strength this night
Ward the Dark Lady, beyond her realm
And safeguard us in this place
Where we come to honor her
Hail Modgud!ⁱ

All: Hail Modgud!

Hallowing

The fire priest goes counterclockwise around the space, and the ice priest goes clockwise.

F: Fire thaws frost
I: Ice fixes flame
F: Waxed were the worlds in this wise
I: Fixing and flowing, all things form
F&I: So work we this world from the worlds.ⁱⁱ

F&I move to center with this line, and then put the fire & ice on the altar.

Invocation

Hella we call thee
From Helheim's depth fly the birds of prophecy
Goddess of Death and Silence we hail thee.
Daughter of Chaotic Nature,
Sister of the Monstrous Wolf and Midgard Serpent.
High are the gates of thy land,
Spread out beneath the roots of Yggdrasil
Lady of eternal patience, to whom all bow.
By thy grace do seers walk through Hel.
Traveling far, they seek wisdom for the living
And guidance from the dead.
Concealer, we hail thee.
Within thy hall dwells future's hope,
He who will rise again when the storm breaks at last.
Lady of icebergs and shadows
Goddess of the grave mound
We call thee.
Hail Hella!ⁱⁱⁱ

All: Hail Hella!

Rede

To honor Hella, and to better understand her ways and workings, we will read from the Saga's and the Lore.

Gythia

“Three roots do spread
in threefold ways
beneath the ash Yggdrasil
dwell etins 'neath one,
'neath the other, Hel,
'neath the third; Midgardh's men.”^{iv}

Gythia

"Ravens flocked
to the reddened sword,
spears plucked lives
and gory shafts sped.
The scourge of Scots
fed the wolves that trolls ride,
Loki's daughter, Hel,
trod the eagle's food.”^v

Godi

"There was a giantess called Angrboda in Giantland. With her Loki had three children. One was Fenriswolf, the second Iormungandr, the third is Hel... Hel [did the All-Father] throw into Niflheim and gave her authority over nine worlds, such that she has to administer board and lodging to those sent to her, and that is those who die of sickness or old age. She has great mansions there and her walls are exceptionally high and the gates great. Her hall is called Eliudnir, her dish Hunger, her knife Famine, the servant Ganglati, serving-maid Ganglot, her threshold where you enter Stumbling-block, her bed Sick-bed, her curtains Gleaming-bale. She is half black and half flesh covered - thus she is easily recognizable - and rather downcast and fierce looking.”^{vi}

Gythia

"The end is all.
Even now
High on the headland
Hel stands and waits
Life fades, I must fall
And face my own end
Not in misery and mourning
But with a man's heart.”^{vii}

Bless the Horn & contents

Blot Gythia: (intone Hagalaz)

Pass the Horn

Blot Gythia will explain the passing of the horn and its purpose. For those who desire a more personal connection with the Lady, they should feel free to approach her directly at any time to receive her blessing, to make a request and/ or make an oath.

Blot Gythia will then take one horn around the circle, allowing time for those in attendance to give thanks to Hella.

Hella's Gythia/Hella and Hella's Warder will remain in the center of the circle with the other horn. Hella will receive the various toasts, and bless those that come to her.

Once all have received the horn and toasted Hella, pour contents of horn(s) into bowl with final offering of thanks, etc.

Devocation

Lady of icebergs and shadows
Goddess of the grave mound
Hella we thank thee for thy gifts
Of silence and patience
Of sleep and dreams
Of watching over our honored dead
Hella we thank thee for thy presence here tonight.
Hail and farewell.
Hail Hella!^{viii}

All: Hail Hella!

Returning the space to normal use

The fire Priest takes candle sunwise, the Ice Priest takes crystal widdershins saying:

F: Fire thaws frost
I: Ice fixes flame^{ix}
F: What has been fixed, now flow.
I: What was in flux, now firm
F&I: Thus do we wind this world back into the worlds.

Return the elements to the altar.

Opening the wards

Modgud guardian of the path
Keeper of the way,
For the strength you have given us
For warding the Dark Lady, beyond her realm
For safeguard us in this place
We thank you.

Hail Modgud!^x

All: Hail Modgud!

ⁱ Modgud invocation by Jessica Munarolo (9/04)

ⁱⁱ “Fire and Ice” casting by David and Rebekah Filipello, date unknown.

ⁱⁱⁱ Hella invocation by Catherine Pennington (3/04)

^{iv} Grimnismal 31 (Hollander translation)

^v Egil's Saga, Chapter 60, verse 10 of poem (Bernard Scudder translation)

^{vi} Gylfaginning (translation by Anthony Faulkes)

^{vii} Egil's Saga, Chapter 78, last verse of the first poem in the chapter (Penguin Classics edition)

^{viii} Hella devocation by Catherine Pennington (9/04)

^{ix} These two lines were added to the devocation by Geoff and Kate (9/04)

^x Modgud devocation adapted by Catherine Pennington from the invocation by Jessica Munarolo (9/04)