

Spheres Of Light



Full Moon Circle — 19th April 2019

Veles



Full Moon in Libra (19/04/2019 9:12pm)

This is the second Full Moon in Libra in a month. This Full Moon is a time of culmination and the promise of fulfilment of that which was started at the New Moon. It can be an emotional time for some or a time of romance, fertilization, and relationships. At this circle we will be connecting to the Slavic God Veles, a serpent king who will be preparing our journey into the underworld as we approach the Southern Hemisphere's Samhain. We will be connecting to our dragon energy as we face our past lives and ancestors.

Veles – Slavic Serpent God

Veles (also spelled Weles or Volos) is a major Slavic god of earth, fertility, trickery, cattle, pasture, snakes, bears, wolves, medicine, music, magic waters, and the underworld. He was worshipped by farmers and shepherds as a protector of their cattle and crops. As a trickster god, he is considered to be the Slavic equivalent of the Indo-European deity Mitra as well as the Norse deity Loki.

Veles's symbols are the willow tree, the bear, the snake, the wolf, the owl, and the dragon. He is often depicted as a bear, a strong young man with horns, an old man with a white beard and a shepherd's staff, or as a dragon with a bear's head and drooping, hairy ears.

After the advent of Christianity, Veles was split into several different characters. As a god of the underworld and dragons, he, of course, became identified with the Devil. His more benevolent sides were transformed to several Christian saints. As a protector of cattle, he became associated with Saint Blaise, popularly known among various Slavic nations as St. Vlaho, St. Blaz, or St. Vlasiy. In Yaroslavl, for example, the first church built on the site of Veles's pagan shrine was dedicated to St Blaise, for the latter's name was similar to Veles and he was likewise considered a heavenly patron of shepherds.

In many Eastern Slavic folk tales, he was replaced by St. Nicholas, probably because the popular stories of the saint describe him as a giver of wealth and a sort of a trickster.



Myths – Battle of Veles and Perun

At the beginning there was an Egg, spinning in an empty space. When it cracked, it released endless primal Waters and Swaróg, the first god. Swaróg then created his sons – Perun and Veles, and left it upon the brothers to create the Earth. They did indeed create the Earth and plants and animals but while Perun wanted his creations to be good, Veles was more interested in the obscure. Perun created gentle animals and beautiful plants, Veles created poisonous plants and mushrooms and blood thirsty beasts. They designated the four directions with a stick, from which the Holy Tree grew, dividing the world into Nav (underworld) in its roots, Jav (the middle world) under the trunk, and Prav (the heavens) in its crown. Eventually, they created a human together – a being that would take care of Jav, be hard-working and intelligent but also possess a dark side to him. And so each and every one of their creations lived around the Tree.

Veles is the rival of the thunder god Perun (some sources refer to them as brothers). There are many legends surrounding their rivalry, in which Veles steals Perun's son, his wife, or his cattle (varies depending on the source).

One such myth describes the battle between Veles and Perun, in which Veles in the form of a giant serpent slithers up the trunk of the Slavic world tree and steals from Perun. Perun retaliates, attacking Veles with his lightning bolts. Veles flees but is ultimately caught and killed by Perun, and whatever he stole is released as rain falling from the sky.

Rather than a battle between good and evil, this battle is actually a metaphor for the changing of the seasons. The dry season is the result of Veles's thievery, while the wet season is Perun's triumph over Veles. It is a cyclical myth, repeating eternally. The rival deities represent the opposition of natural principles, with Perun as Air and Fire, and Veles as Water and Earth.

Samhain

As we are close to Samhain we will be working with Veles in his role as guardian of the Underworld. We will be calling upon him to guide and protect us while we go into the Underground to meet with our ancestors and perhaps see some of our past lives. As with all underworld journeys we will be asking our guides and totem animals to join us. We will be drawing an invisible symbol of Veles over our heart as a symbol of Veles protection.



(Right: Sigil of Veles)

The Ritual

Altar setup in quarter representing the season

Each person will add their dragon representation to the altar

Tools will be placed to represent the quarters e.g. Incense/wand – air, candle/Athame -Fire, Chalice -Water, Stone/salt -earth. Bowl for anointing. A large painting or picture of Dragon's eye to act as a gateway. A black mirror. A large candle in the centre of altar.

Veles Ritual Offering: a cup of wine and a bread roll.

By the power of the dragons may this circle be blessed cleansed and sanctified.

Person hosting the ritual stands in front of altar and bows.

Says:

I (Dragon Name) invoke the Dragons this night

Come, Dragons of the primordial waters

Come, Dragons from the primal source of creation

Come, Dragons of Lightness and Darkness

Come, Dragons of Chaos and Form

I invoke you to join us and impart your wisdom and ancient knowledge

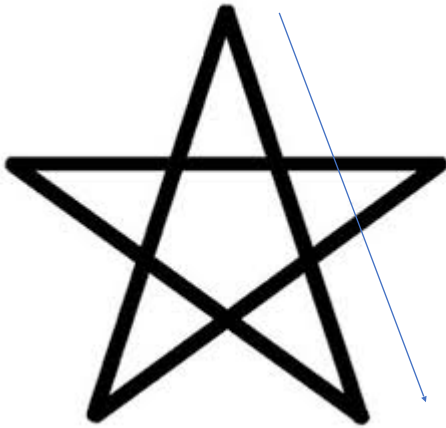
Guard and Protect us this night

As be your will

Take the anointing bowl and anoint each person on the third eye with the words:

“May you Awaken to the power of the Dragon”

Take the Athame from the altar and trace out the invoking pentagram at each quarter



I open the Eastern gates of Air
Come forth with your mighty winds
Circle us with your power and inspiration
I call you to come forth and protect and charge this circle.
As be your will

I open the Northern gates of Fire
Come forth with your fiery breath
Circle us with your strength and power
I call thee to come forth and protect and charge this circle.
As be your will

I open the Western gates of Water
Come forth with your power of the primordial ocean
Circle us with the power of connective energy
I call thee to come forth and protect and charge this circle.
As be your will

I open the Southern gates of Earth
Come forth with your protective force
Circle us with the powers of manifestation
I call thee to come forth and protect and charge this circle.
As be your will

Before invocation to Veles

Light Candle, point its light to the corners of the altar saying: Khors Dazhbog, shining sun, bless this place. Set it aside from the rest of the world. Tether it to the heavens, the home of your father.

Invocation

Veles, come to us tonight and receive our gift. Wandering bear, god of the dead, grandfather of music and magic, hear my call. Glory to you, serpent, who fights thunder without fear. Glory to you, Veles.

Offering

(Place gift on altar) I give this wine and bread to you, Veles. Please accept it and enjoy.

Intention

Veles, I thank you for hearing our prayer and accepting our gift. I ask that you share your knowledge of the underworld tonight. Help us to connect us to our ancestors and past lives tonight. Show us something that we need to bring back with us to this life to help with our journey. Guard and protect us from any harm.

Activity

Start slow drumming. As we are drumming visualise that we are shifting our perspective and are moving through the veil venturing to the threshold of the Mountain doorway. Stopping to wait for Veles to guides us on the downward journey into the underworld. Drum for approximately 5 – 10 minutes.

Meditation

You are now standing at the threshold of this world and the underworld. A large iron door imbedded in the mountain side is the only pathway down into the underworld. You call upon your guides and totem animals to journey with you and to keep you safe. The door is locked so you have to use the large door knocker and as you strike the door you hear a large sound reverberate down a long passage way. You wait what seems like ages, but eventually the door slowly opens and a man wearing a cloak with the hood obscuring his face beckons you to come through. He has a flaming torch to show the way and as you start to follow him he cautions you to keep to the path.

There is only the sound of your footsteps as you move down the long winding pathway, as you move down you notice dark openings to the side of you and scurrying sounds in the distance. Your guide reminds you to keep to the path and you keep following the flaming torch.

The deeper you go into the darkness the thicker the atmosphere becomes. It seems like you have been walking for hours. You start to become aware of a sweet smell wafting in the air which is followed by misty smoke that seems to swirl around you. You guide now stops and turns to you and says "It is time to meet your ancestors who are eagerly waiting for you. You may also see yourself in a past life just accept what you see. You can talk to your ancestors but do not go beyond the chamber.

I will now introduce myself and at that the man removes the hood revealing the horned God Veles. I am here to assist you and for a short moment you see Veles in all his forms, the bear, the snake, the wolf, the owl, and the dragon. Which form do you prefer?

Once again Veles proceeds to direct you and as you turn the corner you move into a large chamber with a fire pit in the centre. Your ancestors are all gathered and cheer when they see you. You are overwhelmed with emotion and they all gather around you to greet you.

Veles reminds you he is here to protect you and to offer you guidance. Take the time to to connect to you ancestors and when it is time Veles will guide you safely home.

It is now time to return and you bid your ancestors farewell, you now follow Veles up the winding pathway to the threshold. Once again Veles cautions you to follow him up the path. Eventually you reach the top and Veles open the iron door. You thank Veles for his protection as you move through the door Veles gives you a gift. What is it.

You turn around and you find yourself immediately back in the circle, back in your chair. When you are ready wriggle your finger and toes and then open your eyes.

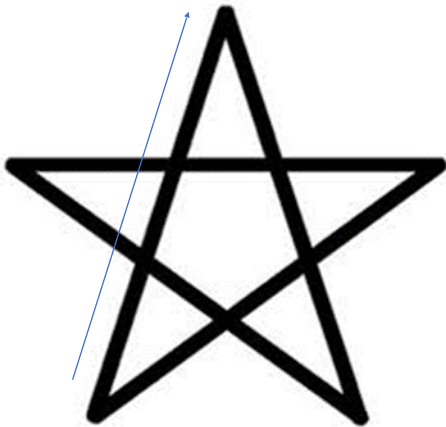
Discuss your experiences. When you are ready close the circle is the usual way.

Closing

Veles

We thank you for your presences here tonight,
for hearing our prayer and accepting our gift,
and for sharing your knowledge of the underworld.
Thank you for helping us to connect with our ancestors
and for guarding and protecting us from harm.
Hail and farewell.

Close quarters with banishing pentagram



I close the Southern gates of Earth
Thank you for coming forth, witnessing this rite and protecting this circle.
May you dwell within our hearts
So shall it be

I close the Western gates of Water
Thank you for coming forth, witnessing this rite and protecting this circle.
May you dwell within our hearts
So shall it be

I close the Northern gates of Fire
Thank you for coming forth, witnessing this rite and protecting this circle.
May you dwell within our hearts
So shall it be

I close the Eastern gates of Air
Thank you for coming forth, witnessing this rite and protecting this circle.
May you dwell within our hearts
So shall it be

By the power of the Dragons this circle is closed.

