

Spancel Hoop Spell

In the Boyhood Deeds of Cú Chulainn, it is called the Collar of Valor. He fixes an iron collar around a pillar stone and inscribes a message in Ogham for the sons of Nechtan as a taboo or warning for any warrior coming to the green to challenge anyone in single combat. He then throws the pillar stone in a nearby pool. He is effectively laying a geis or taboo telling those he wishes to fight that they cannot come any further.

When Medb's army first encounters Cú Chulainn in the Táin Bó Cuailnge, he makes a spancel hoop, or an oak sapling twisted into a ring, inscribes it with ogham, and fastens it to a pillar stone. In this story it is referred to as the Champion's Bond and the message indicates that no one can come any further unless they can make the same hoop with one piece. The druids call it an angry barrier against kings and according to the rule of war the royal host cannot come any farther without performing the task.

I want this work to also be small and practical, something that is easy to carry around and place. I am going to use it to set up a boundary of protection, an anchor to the doorway when I journey to the otherworld. I am not issuing a challenge for a fight although I do plan to build in an action to fight if it is necessary to maintain the boundary. I am going to use certain Ogham for the energy of what they represent. I am referencing Erynn Rowan Laurie's book Ogham: Weaving Word Wisdom for this portion of the work.

I encourage you to choose an intention that is important to you and to select Ogham that align with the energy of what you are trying to create. For this particular working, I have chosen three levels of Ogham: positive energy, protection, and reversal or containment. I want to bring in positive energy, then protect it, and then take action if the person who tries to cross the boundary does not stop. I am going to put the most positive Ogham on the outside of the ring to promote the flow of positive energy. I'll put the protection symbols in the middle, and the reversal and containment symbols inside the ring.

Here is a list of the Ogham I used:

- Tinne – Mastery, Flow, Wealth
- Gort – Fertility, Abundance, Growth, Assurance of ease in a situation, fosters a generous giving environment
- Lus – Magical Protection
- Fern – Physical Protection
- H'úath – to turn negative forces against themselves, call on the sharp edges of the hawthorn to drive the negative energy away
- Ciert – to bind, hinder, or entangle negative influences and cause it to retreat

Supplies:

- Stone – from your yard or a place in nature, about the size of a closed fist
- Oak sapling – be sure to ask for permission and give an offering
- Knife
- Incense or saining water

Steps to the Working:

- Cleanse the stone and oak sapling
- Cleanse Sacred Space
- Setup Sacred Space and Boundaries
- Prayer to Cú Chulainn
- Chanting and inscribing symbols and creating the ring
- Speak the intention, prayer, chant
- Close Sacred Space
- Cleanse Sacred Space

I will chant the Sid Co Nem Chant for cleansing. I will chant to Badb Catha Chant for the physical work. Both chants are recorded by the Coru Cathododua Priesthood and can be found on their website. <https://bansheearts.com/treasury/books/poems-of-the-morrigan/>

You'll notice in the picture below that I have the stone sitting inside of Finn's Window. Not much is known about it but it is something that Cú Chulainn is teaching me to use to connect with the energy of the Other World. What we do know of it comes from the Book of Ballymote.







PRAYER OF LONG LIFE (SHORT FORM)

Morpheus Ravenna

I call on the Mighty Great Queen,
who shapes the fates of her people.
May courage be granted to us as bright as bronze.
May our forms be exalted,
may our wills be ennobled,
may our strength be increased,
may our graves not be opened,
may we complete our journeys,
may our destinies be ensured to us.
May the serpent in the heart not
attack, nor the grey worming doubt,
nor the senseless fear.
May no hostile company attack us,
without our company of warriors.
May we have richness of time from the Mighty Ones.
May we know hundreds of truths,
hundreds of joys, each hundred after another.
I pray your great blessings;
may the fire of the Hero's Light strengthen us.
Your blessings, Queen, upon your people.