

## ***The Name-giving of Marina Harley Motsenbocker***

Opening of the ceremony, Goði Beast calls the participants forward, with the mother carrying the child, and invokes the Gods, Ancestors, and wights to witness the ceremony.

Standing before the altar, with arms upstretched in the Algiz rune, Goði Beast invokes, with Hammer raised in his right hand:

*Divine Gods of Asgard, noble ancestors and those who have assembled here today, we welcome you to our sacred circle. We ask that you bear witness to the dedication of Marina Harley Motsenbocker, newly come to the realm of Midgard.*

Goði Beast sets hammer on the altar, and raises the horn of mead, toasting each god individually, drinking after each invocation:

*Odin, All-Father, we ask that you witness this rite, and grant us the wisdom to proceed.*

-drink-

*Frigg, Mother, keeper of the Hearth, we ask you to witness this rite, and show us your love of family.*

-drink-

*Thor, Protector of Mankind, we ask that you witness this rite, and grant your protection to all who are here.*

-drink-

*Freyja, goddess of Love, we ask that you witness this rite, and thank you for your generous gift of this child into our lives.*

-drink-

*Njord, God of the sea, we ask that you witness this rite, and bring the fertility of your abundance into this child's life.*

-drink-

*Rhiannon, Goddess of wealth and generosity, we ask that you witness this rite, and bestow upon this child the wealth of your wisdom, your compassion, and the generosity of your love.*

-drink-

Goði Beast sets the horn down on the altar, and addresses the crowd:

*Dedicating the children to the service of the Gods is a tradition passed down to us from the days of old, and chronicled heavily in our lore.*

*It says in Njal's Saga Chapter 14: So the maiden was sprinkled with water, and had this name given her, and there she grew up, and got like her mother in looks and feature. Glum and Hallgerda agreed well together, and so it went on for a while.*

*In Eyrbyggja's Saga, Chapter 11 it is recorded: "Thorstein Codbiter had a son who was called Bork the Thick. But on a summer when Thorstein was five-and-twenty winters old, Thora bore him a man-child who was called Grim, and sprinkled with water. That lad Thorstein gave to Thor, and said that he should be a gothi, and called him Thorgrim."*

*In Skallagrím's Saga, chapter 31: "Skallagrím and Bera had many children but all the older ones died in infancy. Then they had a son. They sprinkled him with water and called him Þórólfr."*

*Again, in Skallagrím's Saga, chapter 35, we are told: "Thora bare a child in the summer; it was a girl. She was sprinkled with water, and named her Asgerdr."*

*And in Eyrbyggja saga, chapter 11, we read: "Þórsteinn Cod-Biter had a son called Börkr the Stout. Then in the summer when Þórsteinn was twenty-five years old, Þóra gave birth to another son, who was sprinkled with water and given the name Grímr. Þórsteinn dedicated this boy to Þórr, calling him Þórgrímr, and said he should become a temple priest."*

*Today, we gather to do the same as our Ancestors, and sprinkle this child with water as a dedication to the Old Gods. This ceremony is not meant to "wash away the sins", as the Christians do, as for us there is no inherent sin. Rather, this symbolic watering is to hallow the child, and dedicate their life to the service of the Gods. This practice pre-dates the Christianisation of our religion and is distinctly different from baptism. In baptism, the water is to 'purify' the child, referred to in old Norse during the later Christian period as 'skirn', meaning purification. In the pre Christian ceremonies, the water was to 'hallow' meaning to bless or make sacred, essentially, a blessing from the Gods. Today we bestow those blessings upon this child.*

*Dilan, please take Marina into your arms, as a symbol of your accepting her into your family, bestowing upon her the rights of inheritance, and acknowledging her as a free person, under the Law.*

Dilan takes the baby from Celena, and approaches.

Goði takes up the sprig of cedar from the hlautbowl, and sprinkles Marina's head, in the sign of the hammer, and says:

*Hail to those who have sent this new soul into the world,  
And may all the world stand forth to greet her.*

*Marina Harley Motsenbocker, newly come to the realm of Midgard,  
We stand around you to welcome you into our Clann.  
May you grow strong in body as well as spirit,  
May you grow in beauty as well as knowledge,  
And may learning pass many-gifted into your hands.  
May you always have a warm hearth to come home to,  
A full cup offered to you,  
Ample food laid out before you,  
And a safe haven to rest your head.  
May the storms pass you by,  
The fires only serve to warm you,  
The tides only serve to bear you up,  
And the landvaettir be friends supporting your feet.  
May your ancestral Mothers offer you courage,  
May your ancestral Fathers offer you wisdom,  
And may your tale be one to inspire the many generations to come.*

*Hail to those who have sent this new soul into the world,  
And may all the world stand forth to greet her.*

Goði Beast takes the child, and lifts her to the gathered folk.

*Brothers and sisters, I am proud to present to you Marina Harley  
Motsenbocker, follower of the Old Ways! Come now, and present your  
offerings and gifts to her.*

Gathering forms a line, gives a blessing of their own, and leaves a gift.

Once all who wish to have made their way through the line, Goði Beast  
once again raises the horn, and thanks the gathering.

*Hail to you, Aesir and Vanir, Ancestors and wights, all of whom have  
gathered to witness this rite, we thank you! Hail! -drink- Go with our  
gratitude.*