PRAISE FOR *PRAYERS FOR THE GODDESS*

What a lovely string of pearls are the daily devotions in these elegant pages, waiting to caress the soul with beauty and insight! Prayers to the Goddess is a rare gift to all who sense Her presence and answer Her call. I look forward both to using the prayers and to gifting others with this new volume.

~ Holli S. Emore, M.Div. Executive Director
of Cherry Hill Seminary, author of *Pool of Lotus*

This book, its meditations and prayers, sing to my heart. Every initiate or priestess of the goddess should have this book by their bed, and maybe a copy on their altar, and one in the car to that as they travel along they can to see what the moon on the horizon on the road ahead is up to. I love this practice. Thank you for the simple beauty of it and its truth.

~ Normandi Ellis, *Dreams of Isis and Feasts of Light*

Prayers to the Goddess: A Moon Cycle Devotion sources our deep longings and brings into words compassion, nurturance, comfort, wisdom while helping us be mindful of our deep connection with the mystery, beauty and regenerative powers held in the grace and presence of Great Mother. Together in these pages we lift up our voices in the collective and remember our sense of awe in being alive as we connect to our grateful heart. If you are seeking connection you will find yourself opening this book many times over as the moon waxes and wanes.

~ Alisa Starkweather,
founder of the Red Tent Temple Movement

SAMPLE

I thought this little book was glorious. I read it in one sitting, and it soothed me to read the prayers to the Goddess. The daily meditations and explanations were rich and valuable. It's a lovely devotional book.

~ Cristina Biaggi, *Activism into Art into Activism into Art: A Personal History of Feminist Art*

The incantations in this wonderful book evoke a matriarchal time when prayers to the Goddess of the Cosmos were part of our daily world and calling on guidance from the Moon was second nature. There is no better way to begin and end a day than with a prayer that empowers, blesses and connects us to the teachings of our Mother Moon in all her phases. I plan to keep my copy on my night table.

~ Sudie Rakusin, *The Coloring Book for Big Girls*

Reading *Prayers to the Goddess: A Moon Cycle of Devotion* is like doing private ritual with your closest sisters. Anne and Genevieve guide us to invoke the Moon through her every cycle, honoring each phase with prayer. Then, turning deeper into the Mystery, we summon the Goddess within, inviting that deep intimacy into our hearts through beautiful prayers of personal devotions. This book is like walking through the dark night and having the moon appear from behind a cloud, lighting your way when you most need it. It will become a regular companion in your ritual.

~ Kathryn Ravenwood, *How to Create Sacred Water: A Guide to Rituals and Practices*

SAMPLE SHEET

Prayers to the Goddess



A Moon Cycle Devotion

By Genevieve Chavez Mitchell
and Anne Key

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ABOUT THIS BOOK



This book is a daily devotional to help you connect with the Divine. We envision the Divine in Her feminine aspect, and we offer these daily prayers as a way to interweave your life with the Divine. This is a guidebook that speaks the language of Great Mother: acknowledging your precious life, inviting your deeper awareness, and celebrating your immense capacity for joy.

The daily devotions begin with the Dark Moon. For ideas on how to use this book and hints on following the daily practice, see "Ways to Experience this Journey."

Many blessings as you begin your journey.

~ Genevieve & Anne
Albuquerque, New Mexico
The Land of Enchantment

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Beginning the Journey

A Day of Preparation



As you prepare to embark on this Moon cycle, take a moment today to prepare. Along with this short morning and evening ritual, do whatever you can to clear the space for this journey.

Consider taking a ritual bath, or set aside time to create an altar with your intentions. If you have just a minute or two, try burning some incense or sage to smudge. If possible, finish an outstanding task. Do what you can to clear the space—outside and inside—to begin this Moon cycle.

SIMPLE SAMPLE

Morning Ritual



Take a few moments this morning of the Dark Moon. Light a candle and say these words:

Holy Flame
Ignite the fire within me.
May my heart-fire shine through the day.

Stay focused on the candle flame for a few moments, then close your eyes. Sit for a moment. Then snuff the flame, but carry its light within you throughout the day.

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Evening Ritual



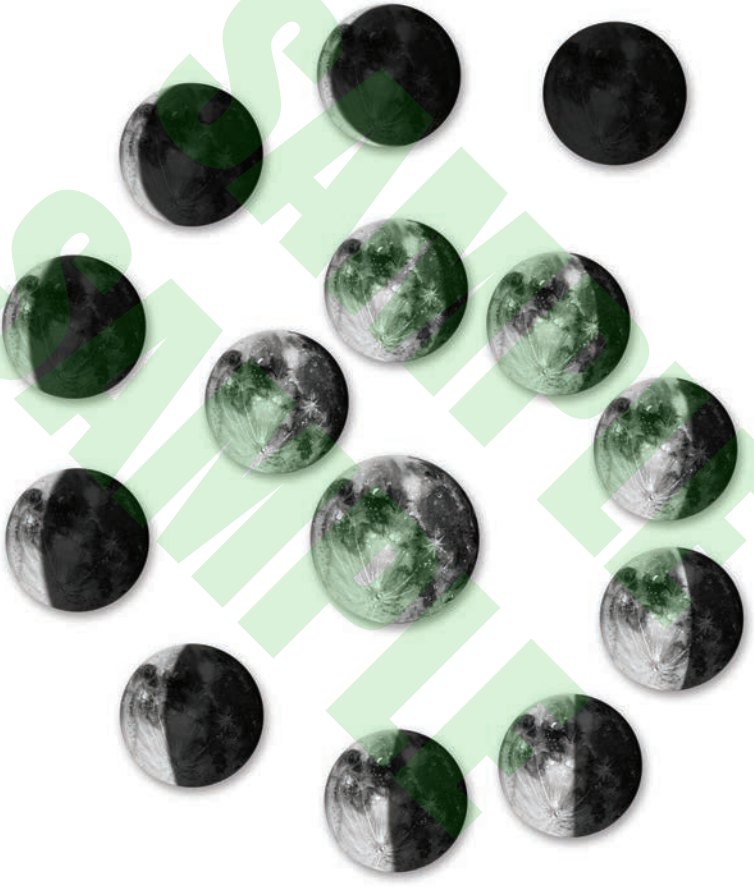
Take a few moments this evening of the Dark Moon. Light a candle and say these words:

Holy Flame
Cradle the fire within me.
May my heart-fire glow through the night.

Stay focused on the candle flame for a few moments, then close your eyes. Sit for a moment, then snuff the flame, but carry its light within you throughout the night.

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WAXING MOON CYCLE

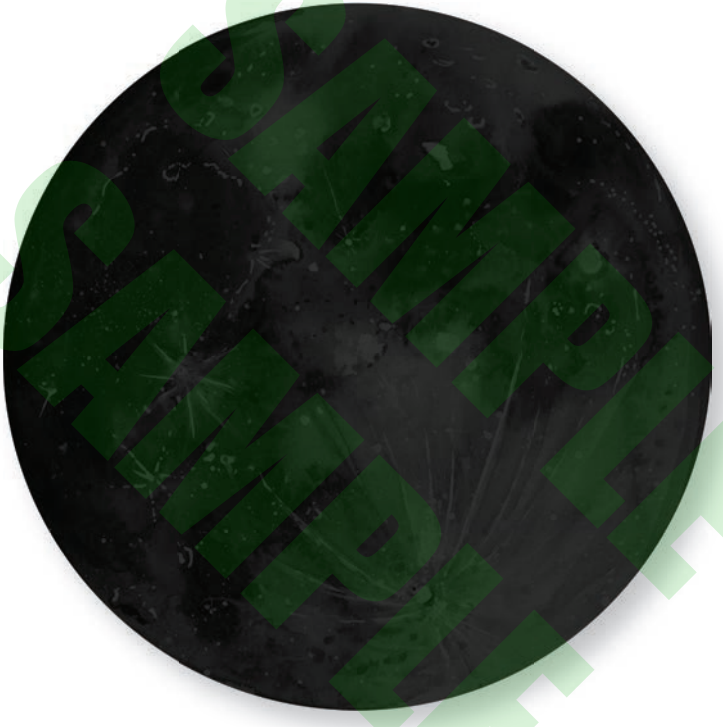


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WANING MOON CYCLE



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1

DARK MOON

The Dark Moon rises as the Sun rises, and it sets as the Sun sets, so the Moon and Sun are in direct alignment. The Moon is in the shadow of the Sun's glare, so it is completely obscured. The Dark Moon is the first Moon phase.

Intriguing, isn't it, that at the moment the Moon is dark, the side of the Moon we never see (the Dark Side of the Moon!) is fully illuminated. Consider the Dark Moon as a time to welcome into your awareness of parts of you that you don't "see" or that you don't show others. It is a time to embrace your full self, opening to the complexity of being a human being,with the complete range of emotions—from the muck and mire of our angry, ungenerous aspects to the pure flowering of our love and compassion. All this we can know in the forgiving darkness.

This may seem hard now, but at the end of this Moon cycle, it will be easier. Take a moment to journal how you are feeling at this Dark Moon. Be honest, allowing the healing light of the Sun to touch all of the places within that are on the Dark Side of your Moon.

SAMPLE

HELD IN YOUR ARMS



Great Goddess
I see myself
Held in Your arms.
I see my family and friends
Held in Your arms.
I see my neighbors
Held in Your arms.
I see my city
Held in Your arms.
I see my state
Held in Your arms.
I see my country
Held in Your arms.
I see this hemisphere
Held in Your arms.
I see the world
Held in Your arms.
Everyone, everything, always,
Great Goddess, in Your arms.

SAMPLE

DARKNESS

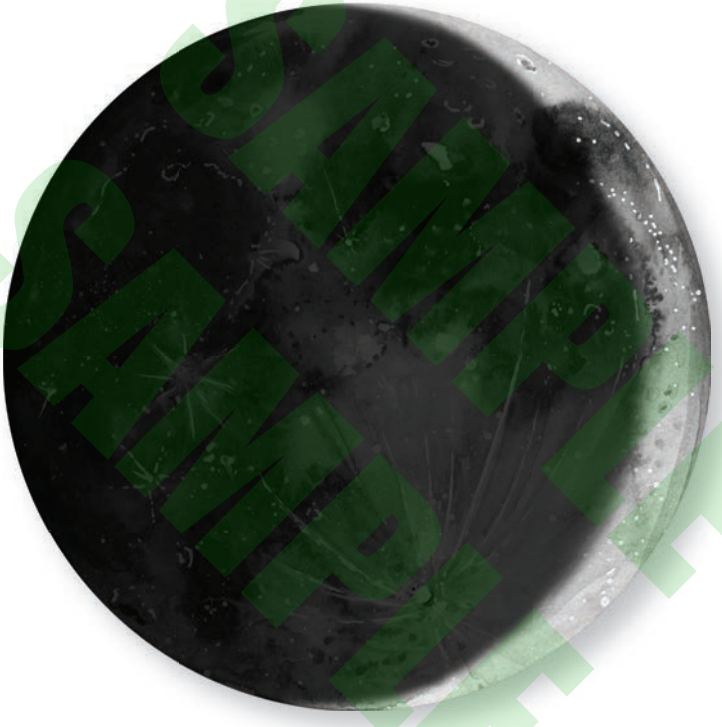


I seek the comfort of the night
But all I find are the thoughts of the day
Haunting my soul.

Dear Goddess,
Find me in the vast stretch of humanity
Reach your hand to mine
Envelop me in your arms
That the darkness may touch my dark places
That the darkness may nourish me
That the darkness may restore me.

Hear my call, dear Goddess,
and keep me through the night.
Let your love overpower my thoughts
Let your love infuse my dreams
Let your love hold me until the break of dawn.

SAMPLE


SAMPLE

2
New Moon

The New Moon appears as a faint thread of light. From the Northern Hemisphere, the light appears on the right side of the moon. You may be able to see Her in the evening, low in the western sky. This is a wonderful time to set an intention and focus on nurturing your spirit.

Pay attention to the subtle messages that you receive from your environment. Listen for the unspoken communication of your friends and lovers, open to the delicate blessings of a kind word, a simple gesture. Know that the light of this New Moon is a signal of hope and love. Even if you can't see Her, remember that She is there. Embrace Her as a sign that you are ready to move forward.

SAMPLE

BREATHE ME



Breathe me, Breath of She Who Loves,
that I may love what You love.

Breathe me, Breath of She Who Gives,
that I may give as You give.

Breathe me, Breath of She Who Comforts,
that I may comfort Your own.

Breathe me, Breath of She Who Creates,
that I may create Your world.

Breathe me, Breath of She Who Births,
that I may birth a world of grace.

Breathe me, Breath of She Who Brings Peace,
that I may be peace.

Breathe me, Breath of She Who Loves,
that I may love what You love.

SAMPLE

KEEPER OF MY SOUL



As I enter this cave of darkness

I dwell in Her, Keeper of my soul.

I meet with the Ancient One
who knows my innermost being.

She breathes my breath and gives me life.

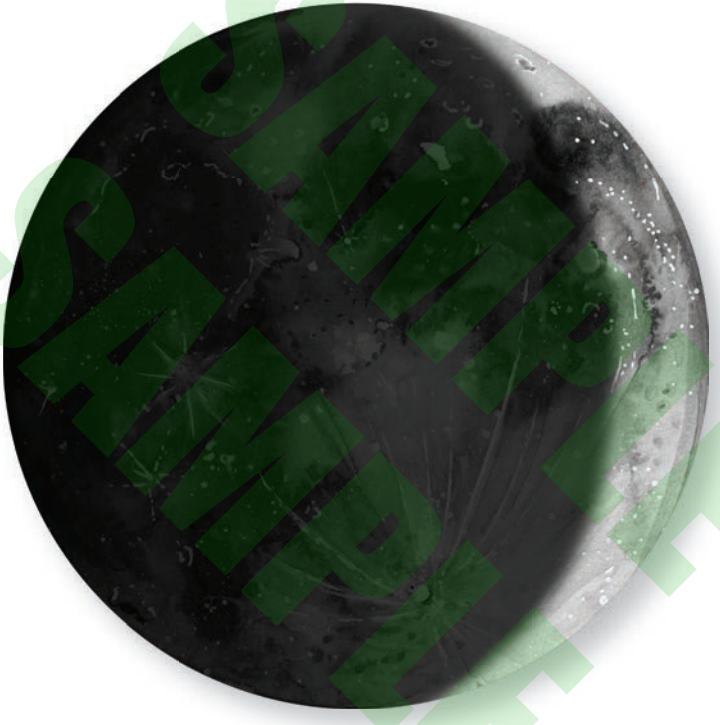
She lights the night with her Essence.

She protects me with Her Divine Grace.

She dwells in me,

I dwell in Her, Keeper of my soul.

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3

Young Waxing Crescent Moon

The Young Crescent Moon, with her tiny arc of light, rises in the daytime before noon and becomes visible in the day sky. Look for Her in the eastern sky in the afternoon, or try and catch Her in the western sky just after sunset.

In the winter in the Northern Hemisphere, the Young Crescent Moon may look like a "U." This shape mirrors the horns of a cow. As a giver of life, in the form of milk, cows have been revered throughout time as a symbol of woman's ability to nurture. You may remember in Marion Zimmer Bradley's book *Mists of Avalon* that the priestesses had a Crescent Moon tattooed on their foreheads.

The Young Waxing Crescent Moon brings the energy to ask: What is it you want to birth, to nurture, to lovingly bring to fruition? A task? A relationship? An exploration? Do you have something particular you want to manifest in this moon cycle? You may wish to follow this guide through the entire cycle, or you may wish to allow for further guides and illuminations, honoring your flexibility.

Leave yourself open tonight to hear the whisperings of the Stars and the gentle illumination of the Moon.

SAMPLE

THE GREATEST GOOD



Nourish me Gracious Goddess:

Fill me

So that my tongue will only speak what is needed

So that my heart remains open to You

So that my thoughts will delight in You

So that I will have the grace

to know my shortcomings and correct them

to know when to speak and when to be silent

to know wisdom in my actions and kindness in my exchanges

to recognize a moment of service

for the greatest good.

SAMPLE SAMPLE

CRESCENT MOON



The Sun has set and the sky darkens

I surrender to the deep velvet of night once again.

As I turn my face toward the heavens

I see Your Crescent Moon,

A shining beacon,

I did not realize I was holding my breath;

I breathe You, and everything releases.

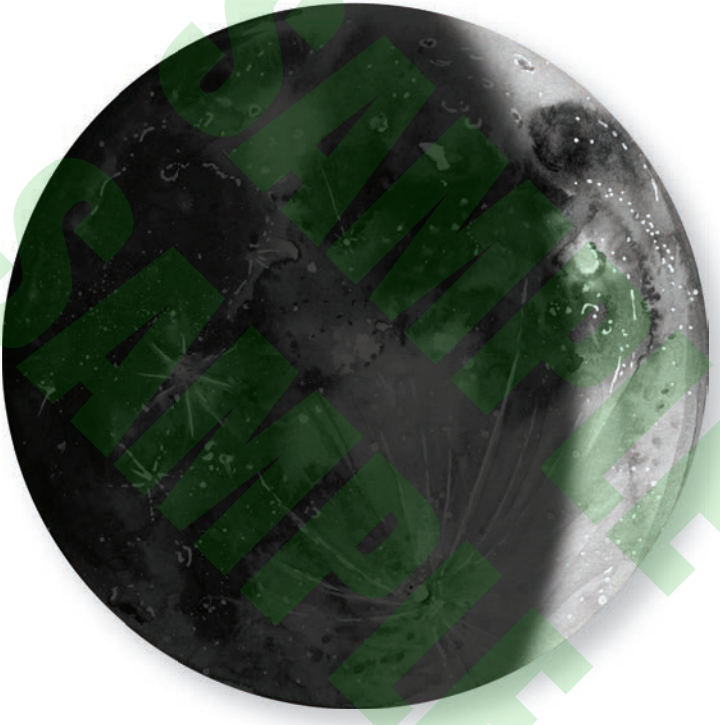
I am filled with hope,

My soul rejoices,

My heart sings,

And I know that the way is prepared.

SAMPLE
SAMPLE



SAMPLE

BEAUTY



Great Mother
Open my eyes to the beauty before me.

Great Mother
Open my eyes to the beauty behind me.

Great Mother
Open my eyes to the beauty above me.

Great Mother
Open my eyes to the beauty below me.

Great Mother
Open my eyes to the beauty within me.

Great Mother
Open my eyes to the beauty around me.

SAMPLE
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SURRENDER TO THANKS



Before I surrender to the nurturing arms of sleep,

I give thanks for the beauty of this day.

For the beauty of this existence

For the beauty of the natural world

For the beauty of the Stars and the Moon

I give thanks for love of this day.

For the love that I have found

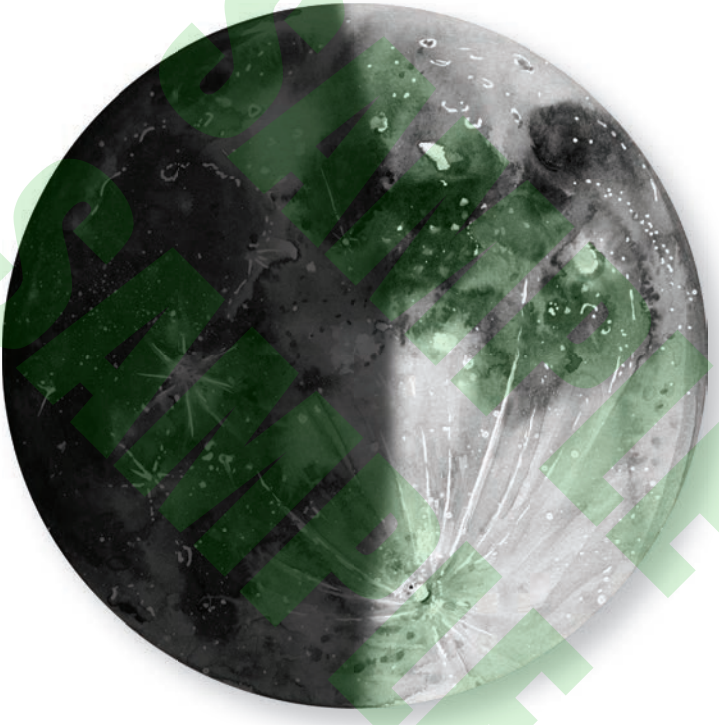
For the love that I have given

For the love that surrounds me

I give thanks

and surrender to the nurturing arms of sleep.

SAMPLE



7
Early First Quarter Moon

The first quarter Moon occurs at the moment the Moon has completed a fourth of its orbit around Earth, hence the name. It is also called Half Moon as we can see exactly 50% of the Moon's surface illuminated.

You can find Her overhead in the evening sky. Even just half-lit, She is bright! Consider that a lesson, reminding you that your periods of struggle or fatigue or sadness are just part of your precious life, to be cherished and learned from. Even in the moments when you don't feel fully there, or completely in your power—you still shine bright.

SAMPLE

LET THE WAY BE OPEN



Sing through my voice
Play through my hands
Let the way be open.

Sing through my voice
Play through my hands
Let the way be open.

Sing through my voice
Play through my hands
Let the way be open.

SAMPLE
SAMPLE

GREAT GODDESS



Great Goddess,
be in our mind and in our thinking

Great Goddess,
be in our hearts and in our perceiving

Great Goddess,
be in our mouth and in in our speaking

Great Goddess,
be in our hands and in our working

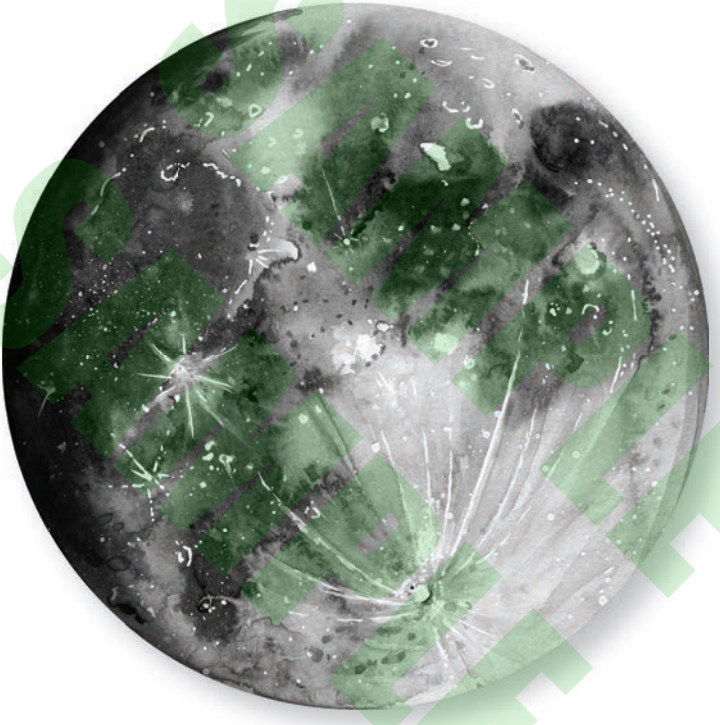
Great Goddess,
be in our feet and in our walking

Great Goddess,
be in our bodies and in our loving

Great Goddess,
be with us all the days of our lives and beyond

Great Goddess,
be with us now.

SAMPLE



13
Late Waxing Gibbous Moon

In the days prior to the full Moon, the nights are bright and beautiful. She glows in the night sky, bathing everything in Her soft light.

The Moon reflects the Sun's light, so in these days we can feel the invigorating light of the Sun for almost 24 hours. How does the Moon reflect the coming-to-fruition in yourself? Can you feel the infinite space of possibility that invites and enfolds you? What is being energized? What photosynthesis is taking place? What flower is on the verge of bursting into blossom?

Illuminate your outward path of projects and responsibilities, giving support to lovers and friends, standing up courageously for what you believe, tending to children and to all beings in need, participating joyfully in the dance of life.

SAMPLE

MORNING BLESSINGS FROM THE GREAT MOTHER



The Sun rises
Blessings from the Great Mother

Bird song fills the air
Blessings from the Great Mother

Petals unfurl
Blessings from the Great Mother

Gentle wind ruffles my hair
Blessings from the Great Mother

My heart opens to the day
Blessings from the Great Mother

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NIGHT BLESSINGS FROM THE GREAT MOTHER



Sky deepens
Blessings from the Great Mother

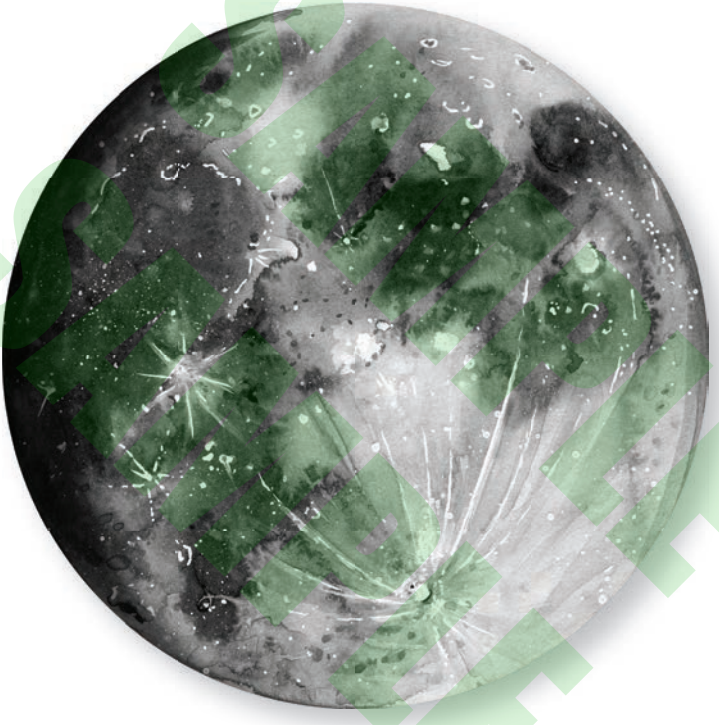
Everything stills
Blessings from the Great Mother

The body relinquishes the day
Blessings from the Great Mother

Cares fall away
Blessings from the Great Mother

Dreams await
Blessings from the Great Mother

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14
ALMOST FULL MOON

The Moon rises in late afternoon and sets very early in the morning, so you have a chance to bathe in Her glory even before She is completely full. The light and energy of the Moon can heighten your emotions, feelings, and dreams. This is a wonderful time to do a Moon bath. Sit in a spot—inside or outside—where you are covered in the soft light of the Moon. If possible, try this "sky clad" (without clothes!).

Close your eyes and let Her light awaken every cell within you. If you are manifesting something, imagine it held in your hands, and lift it up to Her light. If you are writing, put your pages under her Moonbeams. If you are healing, open your heart and soul to Her restorative gaze.

SAMPLE

ILLUMINE ME



As Your light brings life to this day,
Illumine me

As the dawn breaks
Awaken my heart with joy

As the refreshing dew waters the Earth
Water my soul with Your Grace.

As the Sun warms my face
The edges of my lips curve upward
And I smile.

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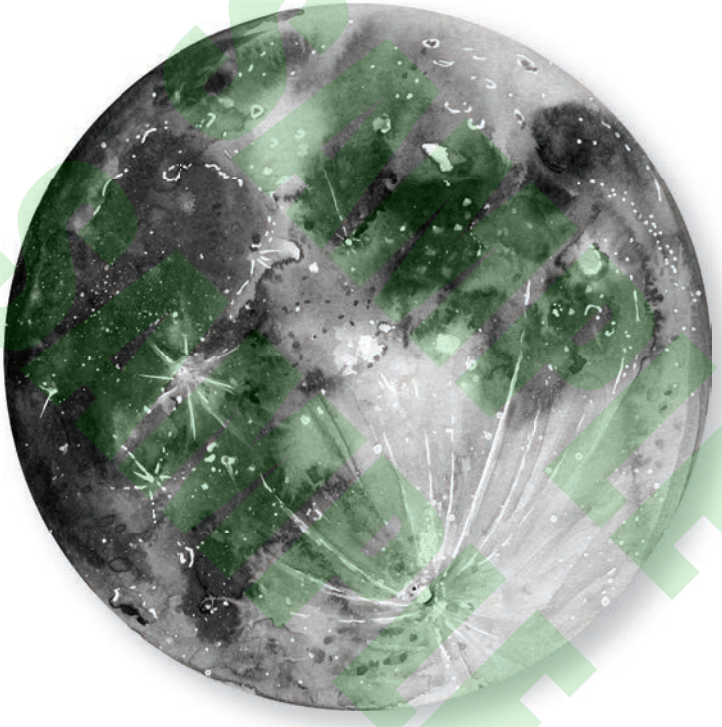
GOODNIGHT BELOVED ONE



Goodnight Beloved One
I thank You for Your blessing.
Goodnight Beloved One
I thank You for this day.
In Your full glory I will stand in awe
At dawn on the morrow.

Now, held in Your sweet, dark embrace,
I say
Goodnight Beloved One
I thank You for Your blessing
Goodnight Beloved One
I thank You for this day.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Genevieve Chavez Mitchell is a student of Divine Mystery. She studied and practices naturopathy, homeopathy and herbal healing and has been active with the Women's Ordination Movement, advocating for women in priestly ministry. She has followed her own spiritual path which includes connecting with the Divine Feminine, celebrating ritual with family and community, and using her resources to create a more just, sustainable and life affirming world.

A priestess, photographer, a wife, mother and grandmother, Genevieve is a partner with the independent press Goddess Ink. She lives with her husband in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Priestess, instructor, writer and dancer – Anne Key was Priestess of the Temple of Goddess Spirituality Dedicated to Sekhmet, located in Nevada, from 2004-2007. She lived intimately with each moon cycle, leading rituals and sleeping

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under Her light. In *Desert Priestess: A Memoir* she details her time at the temple and her journey to know Sekhmet. Anne is also co-editor of *The Heart of the Sun: An Anthology in Exaltation of Sekhmet*, a unique book which has both historical information and devotee's personal encounters with the Lady of Flame.

Co-founder of the independent press Goddess Ink, Dr. Key is the co-editor of *Stepping into Ourselves: An Anthology of Writings on Priestesses* and author of a second memoir, *Burlesque, Yoga, Sex and Love: Life under the Albuquerque Sun*. With Veronica Iglesias, she leads Sacred Tours of Mexico and co-created *The Jade Oracle: Deities and Symbols of Ancient Mexico*. Anne resides in Albuquerque with her husband, his two cats, and her snake.

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SOURCES OF INSPIRATION



"Beauty" (morning prayer day 6) inspired by Navajo "Prayer of the Fourth Day of the Night Chant" found in *The Sacred Journey: Prayers and Songs of Native America* by Sargent and Streep, pg. 52.

"Goodnight Great Goddess" (evening prayer day 14) inspired by Zuni "Sunset Song" found in *The Sacred Journey: Prayers and Songs of Native America* by Sargent and Streep, pg. 35.

"Glorious" (morning prayer day 15) is inspired by "Morgenglanz der Ewigkeit," Christian Knorr Rosenroth, 1684. Tr. J. F Ohl, 1915.

"Let the Way Be Open" (morning prayer day 7) by Abigail Spinner McBride. Hear this sung by Abigail: https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/asmcbride2

"Radiant Heart" (morning prayer day 16) inspired by the "Golden Sequence" from the Mass for Pentecost, Veni Sancte Spiritus.

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