

## Sumble Basics:

A sumble may be held on it's own, or after a blot. It's the most frequent ceremony in Asatru in my experience, other than Daily Workings on the part of an individual.

### Supplies Needed :-)

A group of tru friends or friendly acquaintances

A vessel (usually a drinking horn, but may be a large mug or something) Mead, Beer, Ale or drink of choice.

Everyone get comfortable in someone's living room, or outside around a campfire. The one leading the sumble brings a horn full of mead and introduces the first round to a God or Goddess. Anything said over the horn must be true, this is a time to maintain frith, and be true to the gods and goddesses, yourself, and kindred.

The horn is passed clockwise, and each person Hails a god or goddess, which may or may not be preceded with a personal story or other relevant information to the god or goddess they Hail, then take a drink (for people who don't wish to drink alcohol because they're designated drivers, pregnant, or just to keep a clear head it's customary to kiss the rim of the horn or a carved symbol on the horn). Newbies, and oldies ;- ) who may not be skilled at weaving words usually quickly learn who \*is\* skilled at weaving words, and so try not to end up in a position so they're speaking right after a skilled skald.

During the above round there may be some local etiquette to observe.... some kindreds would consider it highly rude and wrong to hail Loki, while others have no problem with this. Kindreds may also allow friends who may not be Asatru to attend their sumbles, and these kindreds may vary on whether or not it would be considered rude to hail a god or goddess not of the Aesir or Vanir. When new and in doubt as to what local customs are, ask a kindred leader before the sumble, or keep it to the "respectable" Aesir and Vanir. And, almost everywhere, it is highly wrong to hail the Jotunar, as they are enemies of the gods.

Second Round: This is traditionally to "Ancestors and Heros" though the person leading sumble may announce a slight variation on that theme. I always have a hard time in this round (as my kindred members can attest) since I know very little of my ancestry. This round is the time to honor the dearly departed, an ancestor from however many generations back you may know. You can relate a story of heroism or strength of character demonstrated by one of your ancestors before you hail them at this time. As to "Heros" this can refer to heroes of the lore, or modern day heroes. I've heard many hails to our fighting forces in the Middle East, and to heroes associated with 9/11.

Third Round: Traditionally an Oath, a Boast or a Toast. If

you make an oath, this is big time serious as it's an oath to the gods and so you must follow through with what you say you will do. A Boast would be a tale of something you have accomplished, or something you will accomplish. A toast would be to anyone you feel needs a good toast, or a toast to one of the Nine Noble Virtues, to the Hosts of the Sumble, or to the Mead and/or person who supplied some good homebrewed mead.

Additional rounds: Three is the traditional number, but sumbles may go up to as many as ten rounds and well into the night. These rounds may be open, or may have a particular theme assigned them by the host of the sumble. I've heard of Song rounds, Joke rounds, ghost story rounds, prediction rounds, and others.

Okay, there are the basics of Sumble. Any comments, additions, or questions welcome. In Frith, Rachel Watkins