



The Charge of the Goddess

One of Wicca's most beautiful pieces of liturgical material is called *The Charge of the Goddess*. The *Charge* is a poetic explanation of the nature of deity and our relationship to it. It is frequently read or recited when the Goddess has been invoked. Originally written by the late Doreen Valiente for Gerald Gardner, the *Charge* has been modified for most other Traditions. The version here was modified by Lady Garr.

Doreen Valiente wrote the *Charge* as an example of what the Goddess can express through her priestesses, not as a piece to be memorized and recited. Even so, many Wiccans do recite the *Charge*, especially at full Moons. However, if the Goddess inspires you to hear/say something else, then that will be your personal charge.

Listen to the words of the Great Mother, Who of old was known as Artemis, Astarte, Isis, Cerridwen, Diana, Brigid, and by many other names:

Whenever you have need of anything, once in the month, and better it be when the Moon is full, you shall gather together in some sacred place, and adore the spirit of Me, queen of all the Witches. You who would learn magic, but have not yet gained the deepest secrets, there I will teach you. There you shall be truly free.

Sing! Feast! Dance! Make music and love, all in My honor, for Mine is the spirit of ecstasy, and Mine also is joy on Earth. Love unto all beings is My law. Keep pure your highest ideal; strive ever towards it, and let nothing turn you aside. For Mine is the secret door that opens upon the Land of Youth, and Mine is the cup of the wine of life, that is the Cauldron of Cerridwen and the holy Grail of immortality.

On Earth, I give knowledge of the spirit eternal, and beyond death, I give peace, freedom and reunion with those who have gone before. Nor do I ask aught of sacrifice, for behold, I am the Mother of all things, and My love is poured forth upon the Earth.

Now hear the words of the Star Goddess, the dust of Whose feet are the hosts of heaven, and Whose body encircles the universe:

I, who am the beauty of the green Earth, and the white Moon amongst the stars, and the mystery of the Waters, and the desire in all hearts, call upon your soul. Arise and come unto Me, for I am the soul of Nature that gives life to the universe. From Me all things proceed, and unto Me all must return. Let My worship be in the heart that rejoices, for behold, all acts of love and pleasure are my rituals. Let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion, honor and humility, mirth and reverence within you. And you who seek to know Me, know that your seeking and yearning shall avail you not, unless you know the Mystery: that if that which you seek you find not within yourself, you shall never find it without. For behold, I have been with you from the beginning, and I am that which is attained at the end of desire.

The Charge of the God

There are also several versions of a *Charge of the God*. Echoing the history of Goddess and God worship, these were written later than Valiente's *Charge of the Goddess*. We have modified this one slightly. This one comes from one of the many Unknown Sources on the Internet.

Listen to the words of the Horned God, Who is son, brother, lover, and consort of the Lady, Who is the Guardian of all things wild and free, and Keeper of the Gates of Death, who guides us all.

I am the Lord of the Spiral Dance of Life, Death and Rebirth, the Gentle Reaper, the Winter Stag and the Spring Fawn. All things are of me, for I am of the Goddess, opposite, yet not opposing. I am both the sower and the seed; I am the grain that grows, and I am the reaper of the harvest in the Fall, and I am reborn in life that springs forth anew from the fields of the Mother.

I am the Guardian of the Gate between Life and Death. I am the King of the Underworld, where no living being may venture, and I am also the King of Rebirth, and make of the tomb a womb.

I bring love and strength, peace and passion, hope and joy, and I lead all that dies in the spiral dance that returns us all to life. I am the herald of all that comes from the Great Mother, the Divine Star Goddess. I am the fire within your heart, the yearning of your soul. I am the Hunter of Knowledge and the Seeker on the holy Quest; I who stand in the darkness of night am He whom you have called Death. I am the Consort and Mate and Son of Her we adore.

Heed my call, beloved ones, come unto me and learn the secrets of death and peace. I am the corn at harvest and the fruit on the trees. I am He who leads you home. Scourge and Flame, Blade and Blood, these are mine and gifts to you.

Call unto me in the forest wild and on hilltop bare and seek me in the darkness bright. I who have been called Pan, Herne, Osiris and Hades speak to you in your search. I lead all that dies in the spiral dance that returns us to life. Come dance and sing; come live and smile, for behold: this is my worship.

On swift night wings, it is I who lay you at our Mother's feet to be reborn. You who think to seek me, know that I am the untamed wind, the fury of storm and passion in your soul. Seek me with pride and humility, but seek me best with love and strength. Hear my call on long Winter nights and we shall stand together guarding Her Earth as She sleeps.



Valiente did not write, nor, as far as we know, did Gardner ask for, a *Charge of the God*. The various versions were all written much later, and more for the sake of symmetry than for Craft authenticity. This is why most of them correspond almost exactly to the *Charge of the Goddess*.



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