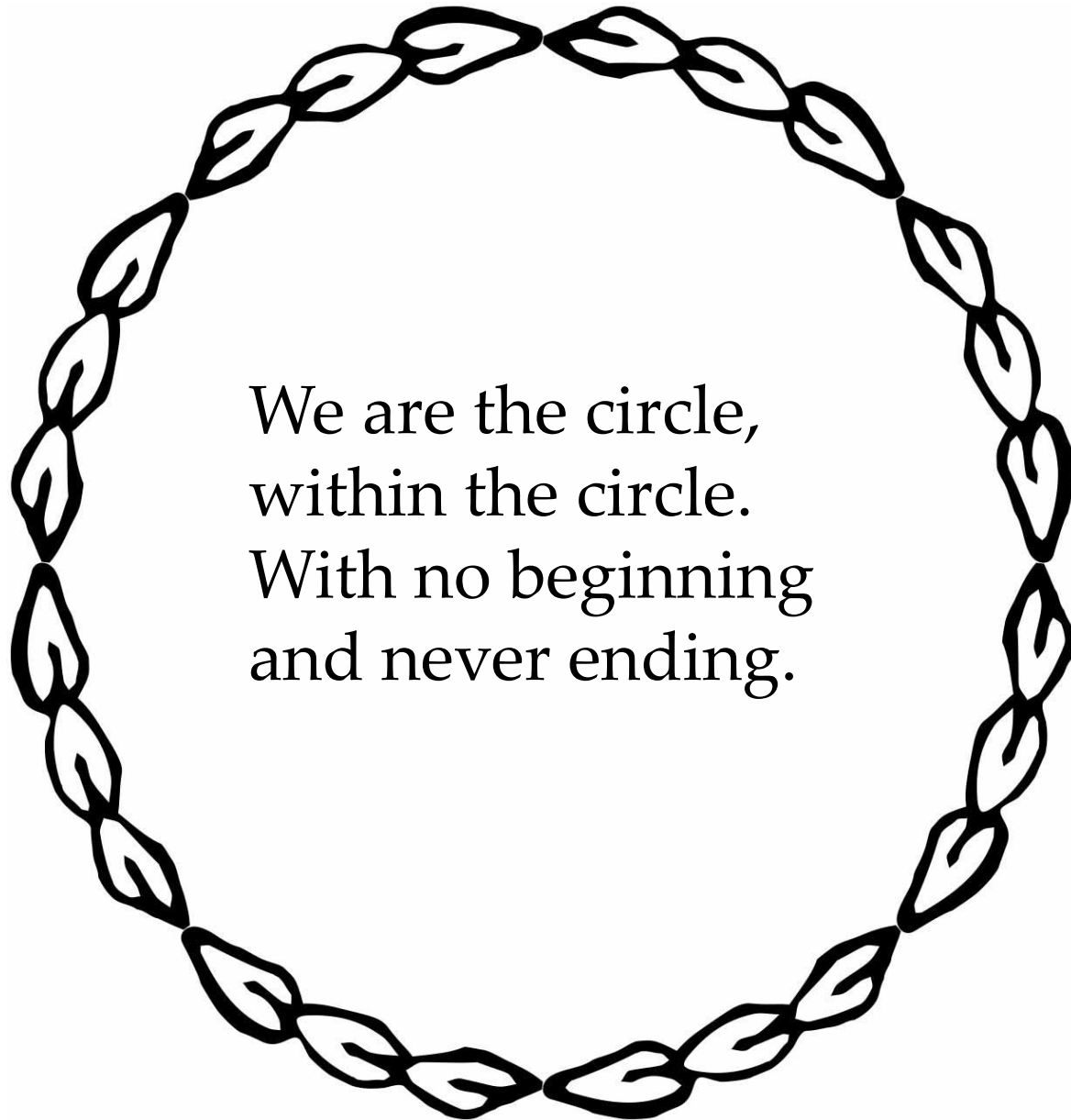


The place beyond time and space. On the ritual circle in British Traditional Wicca



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We are the circle,
within the circle.
With no beginning
and never ending.

Three main questions

1. When and where?
2. What for?
3. How?

When and where?

- when:

sabbats (Wheel of the Year), esbats – whenever a coven meets and needs

- where:

indoors or outdoors, prepared temple or a place in the bosom of nature

What for?

- isolation of the ritual space
- place “between the worlds”
- meeting place
- a safe bubble



22 The Magicians Room

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Gerald Gardner in the Magicians Room in Museum of Magic and Witchcraft on the Isle of Man (*The Witches' Mill Booklet*, geraldgardner.com)

How?

1. Cleaning of the chosen place
(sweeping, designing the circle)
2. Consecration of water and salt
3. Consecration of the coven members
4. Purification of the space
(water with salt, incense)
5. The actual casting
(with *athame*, sword, hand)

“We conjure thee, O Circle of Power,
that thou beist a boundary
between the world of men
and the realms of the Mighty Ones
a Guardian and a Protection
that shall preserve and contain
the power which we shall raise within thee;
in the most sacred and powerful names
of (the God) and (the Goddess).”

*Viviane Crowley, Wicca. A Comprehensive Guide to the
Old Religion in the Modern World, Element 2003, p. 61.*

“We conjure thee, O Circle of Power,
that thou beest a meeting-place
of love and joy and truth;
a shield against all wickedness and evil;
a boundary between the world of men
and the realms of the Mighty Ones;
a rampart and protection
that shall preserve and contain the power
that we shall raise within thee.
Wherefore do I bless thee and consecrate thee,
in the names of Cernunnos and Aradia.”

Janet and Stewart Farrar, *A Witches Bible. The Complete Witches Handbook, Part 1*, Malborough 1997, p. 38.

Interpretations

“During a Wiccan ritual, I think, one cannot sit in a corner and think about something different. (...) If someone enters the ritual space, it’s like leaving the everyday life behind the door. You need to try very hard to go back with your thoughts to the mundane routine. For me it’s a bubble of a different world, a world you enter for a certain time”

Wiccan priestess, 35 years

Interpretations

“We think that the ritual takes places in time beyond time and place beyond place. Sometimes it happens than you think that only 20 minutes have passed, you step out from the circle, look at your watch, blimey, it’s been two hours”

Sheila, Wiccan priestess, 29 years

Selected bibliography

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