**Council Fire Opening Ceremony #4**

**The Sun Father Story**

**Overview:** Council Fire Openings set the stage for a great and memorable council fire for your program. It is written to be used at the beginning of a Longhouse council fire gathering. Featured here is the story of the Sun Father who brought fire to the people in ancient times.

There is just one central that is planned to be lit “magically” by electronic or chemical means. A “Fuel” sacrifice will be added to the burning fire at each of the 4 Directions in the form of colored sand, sawdust, feathers, or sticks with colored plumes/fluffies. Colors for each direction as follows:

East – Yellow

South – Green

West – Red or Orange

North – White

A combination of all colors will be used as the final sacrifice to the fire.

**Participants:**

* Chief
* Medicine Man, Sachem or Elder (one or more) serves as Story Teller
* Others as desired

**Relevant Ceremonial Pieces:** You may wish to incorporate this ceremony with other ceremonial components to form your full ceremony. The following are basic suggestions. Your creativity is your limit.

* Parade to Ceremonial Location
* Inductions
* Officer Inductions
* Special Awards
* Ceremonial Closing

**OPENING CEREMONY**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | *(The method in which the main fire is to be lit is pre-determined and will happen magically when summoned by the Story Teller extolls the fire to appear...)* |
| Story Teller(s) | Known that in ancient times, all the earth was covered with forests and thickets and the people lived among the beasts & creatures. To ward off the cold blasts from the North wind, they were forced to huddle with their fellow man in the black and dismal caves of the world. Body warmth was their only means of survival, since they did not have fire. |
|  | The Sun Father, seeing the people in this poor condition, had compassion upon them and from the skies, sent down to the earth, a Son. The people did not believe he was the child of the Sun Father. But when the child was seen, he was so brilliant that it was not hard to believe that he had come down to them from above. |
|  | The Child of the Sun told the people to revere the Sun Father for he would do good to the whole world, giving light that the people may see, making them warm when they are cold, brightening their fruits and increasing their flocks, watering the land with dew and bringing fine weathers and proper seasons. |
|  | The people talked among themselves that they might have fire and light. Many attempts at prayer were made, but without success. Then they turned to the Child of the Sun and asked him to pray on their behalf. The Child of the Sun had great powers. He raised his hands to the heavens and prayed aloud:  Long Life Fire, appear!  Moon Fire, appear!  Darkness Fire, appear!  Dawn Fire, appear!  Sun Fire appear!! |
|  | (the council fire magically comes to life) |
| Story Teller | Long Life Fire has appeared, Happiness fire has appeared, Sunlight fire has appeared! |
| Chief / ALL | *(Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |
| Chief | *(Walks to the East point of the fire)*  To the fire of Emergence, we sacrifice the delicate hues of Spring  *(tosses Yellow sacrifice into the fire)* |
|  | *(Walks to the South fire)*  To the fire of Emergence, we sacrifice the Green colors of Summer  *(tosses Green sacrifice into the fire)* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Chief | *(Walks to the West fire)*  To the fire of Emergence, we sacrifice the bright colors of Autumn  *(tosses the Red/Orange sacrifice into the fire* |
|  | *(Walks to the North fire)*  To the fire of Emergence, we sacrifice the snow colors of Winter  *(tosses White sacrifice into the fire)* |
| Chief | To the fire of The Long Life of Happiness, we offer this sacrifice of all these colors of seasons as a sign of thankfulness to the Sun Father, our Great Spirit.  *(walks a complete circle slowly around the fire, casting the mixed colors of the sacrifice into the fire)*  A great gift of fire had been bestowed on the people of ancient times as it is bestowed upon us here tonight. The people rejoiced with good reason as the darkness was gone and the brilliant radiance of the Son had brought warmth and happiness So too must we rejoice in thankfulness to all the Great Spirit has given us. |
| Chief / ALL | *(Chief shouts the Longhouse salutation, then all repeat/shout in approval)* |
|  |  |
|  | **CONTINUE WITH CEREMONY** |
|  |  |

Contributed by: Unknown