



A Balancing Act:

A Discussion of Gender Roles within Wiccan Ritual

Elizabeth Shuler
University of Wyoming
Advised by Dr. Quincy Newell



Wiccan Ritual

The liminal space of Wiccan ritual modifies practitioners' gender identities by inscribing both masculine and feminine identities upon the individual to create balance.

Turner's Theory of Liminality

- “Liminality may perhaps be regarded as the Nay to all positive structural assertions, but as in some sense the source of them all, and, more than that, as a realm of pure possibility whence novel configurations of ideas and relations may arise” (1967: 97).

Turner's Theory of Liminality

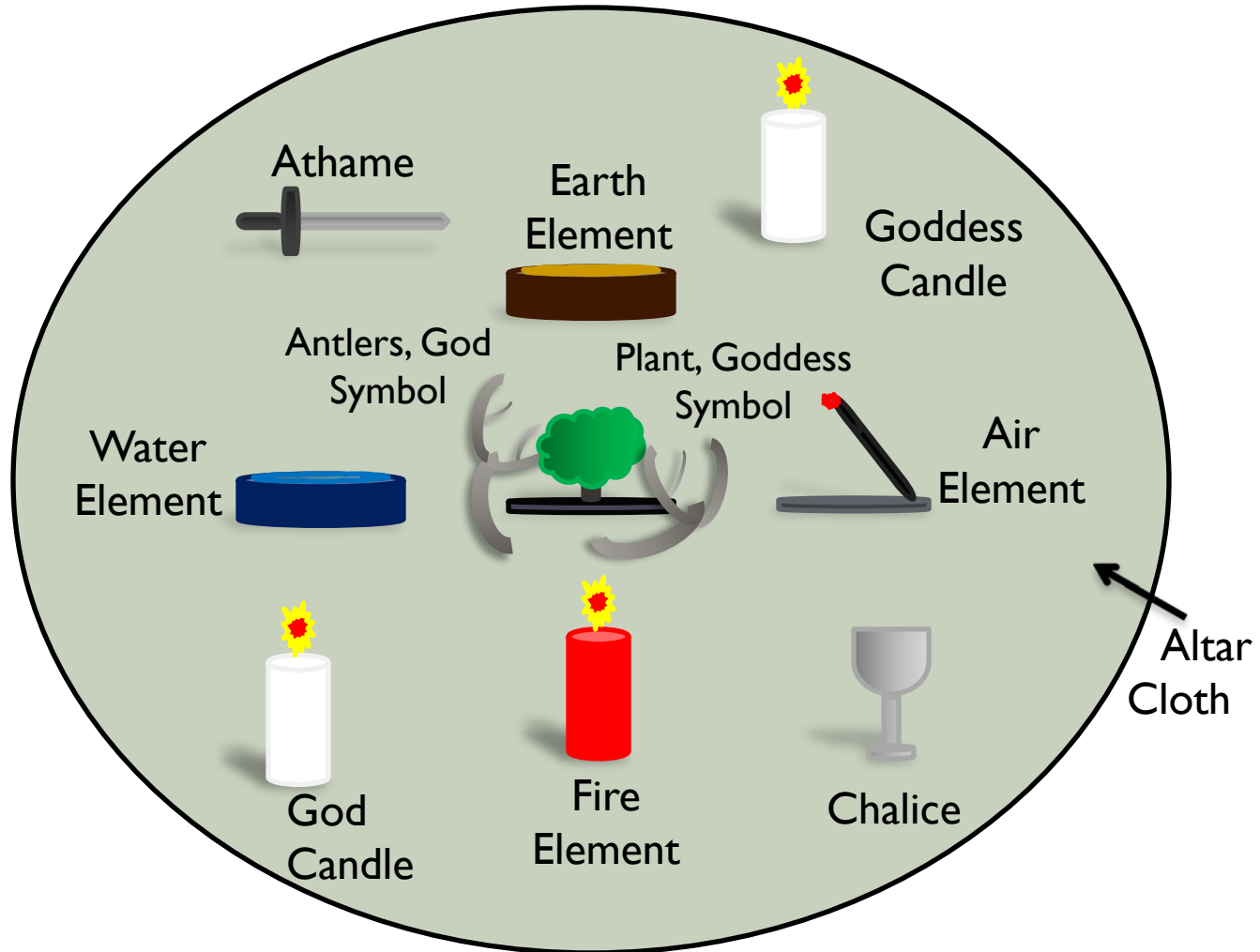
- “No status, insignia, secular clothing, rank, kinship position, nothing to demarcate them structurally from their fellows” (1967: 98).

The Ritual

The Circle Casting helps to create liminal space



The Altar





The Ritual

The Closing of the Circle brings the practitioners back to everyday life.



The Great Rite

The Great Rite is a performance of the union of the god and the goddess.



The Great Rite

“The couple enacting the Great Rite are offering themselves, with reverence and joy, as expressions of the God and Goddess...”(Farrar 1996, 49).

The Symbolic Great Rite



Conclusion

Whether the liminal space, with its propensity towards equality and unity, gave way to the belief of balance or whether the belief happened to fit into the liminal space of ritual, it is clear that Wicca is a religion of balance.

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