

Notes to the Leader for Life Ritual 84 – When the Shooting Starts

Context

If you are using this ritual, it means that American troops have been engaged. This is a life ritual intended to give people an opportunity to stop for a moment to acknowledge the inevitable grief over entering war. This is not an opportunity to discuss reactions in details: there is a full-length session, G85, “A Time of War”, which will facilitate that discussion.

Session Preparation

Set up the altar with a bowl of water (a clear one if it is available) and a floating candle. (Floating candles are available at the church.) Have small stones or marbles of some sort on the table around it, plus a few in the bottom of the bowl.

The poem in this session is not an easy one to read. You will want to rehearse it and read it yourself, or give it to someone in your group ahead of time to prepare.

At the end of this ritual, blow out the floating candle: these do not burn for long enough to last for the entire long session to follow.

Preliminaries

Choose candle lighter, reader. Instead of sharing, only persons affected name names.

Timing

Opening	1 minute
Reading	3 minutes
Silence	5 minutes
Singing	2 minutes
Closing	1 minute
Total	15 minutes