

Notes to the Leader for Session 25– When a member is Leaving

This ritual is intended for when a member of the group is leaving, and is returning for a closing session . There is a separate ritual for use when the member has left, and will not be returning for a last session.

Preparation

In advance of the session, notify members that the person will be leaving, and ask them to think about one thing they would like to share with the group about that member's participation in the group. Use your own judgment based on what you know of today's content, your group and of the member, but this ritual should probably be done at the end of the session, so it is the last thing you do with the person who is leaving. If people tend to leave early or the content is likely to run late, have the ritual at the beginning of the session.

There should be a pile of something on the table that can be given to the individual who is leaving. This might be a stack of ribbons, a bowl of marbles, seashells... If possible, try to make it something that is specific to the person who is leaving. Distribute these to the group members before beginning.

Preliminaries

Distribute objects that you have chosen to the group members.

Ask the individual who will be leaving to lead the responsive reading.

Notice there is a word in the opening reading that is often mispronounced. Taoist is pronounced "dowist". (Dow rhymes with now.)