**Honoring + Offering Ritual for Your Ancestors and the Dead**

***Modify this text so it best fits with how you would like to perform this ritual,***
***and the words you wish to speak. Print.***

**Preparation and Opening**

Now is a good time to anoint yourself with any oils or sprays designed to enhance [contact with the deceased](https://sphereandsundry.com/product-category/series/hermanubis/) or [increase psychic sensitivity](https://sphereandsundry.com/product-category/series/moon-neptune-in-pisces/). The incense you burn on your ancestral altar can also be designed for that purpose, or you can use your deceased mom's favorite.

Light the main candle of your altar and the incense. If you have candles representing individual relatives, wait to light theirs until you call them individually.

Sit for a moment, centering yourself, becoming receptive, and attuning to the altar. You don't have to use a psychopomp to connect with your ancestors or the dead, but I do find that it helps. If you don't want to use one, just skip it and lay the offerings out now.

**Calling the Psychopomp**

Hermes Chthonius can be used for a general underworld Mercury ([here](http://www.theoi.com/Text/OrphicHymns2.html#56) is the orphic hymn), or use an appropriate underworld road-opener you have a pre-existing connection with, such as Baron Samedi or Hekate.

I use Hermanubis and keep a [statue of him](https://sphereandsundry.com/offerings/hermanubis-statue-opening-the-mouth-and-eyes-ritual-set/) on my ancestral/ dead altar. My invocation is something along the lines of  —

*Hermanubis, Hermanubis, Hermanubis, I call! Come to me, here and now, in this space I occupy, which will serve as a crossroads and meeting place for myself, the living, my ancestors, and dead.*

*Act as a door and guiding light for those I seek. Make me understood by them, and ensure I understand them in turn. Rend the veil between this world and that of the deceased — the underworld, the realm of Amenti. Fetch whom I call, from wherever they may be, and see to it that they receive my words, gifts, and intent.*

*Accept these offerings of fire, light, incense, (water, wine, bread, etc.) for your services. Disseminate these offerings to the dead I call and invite to partake of them, and see to it that no uninvited intruder finds their way to this altar.*

*Praise be unto you, Hermanubis!*

Make sure these words are heartfelt. If you have a statue or image representing your psychopomp, bathe it in incense smoke or anoint it with oil. If you have it, spray the [Dead-Drawing elixir](https://sphereandsundry.com/offerings/elixir-for-drawing-the-dead/) around the altar.

Place the offerings on the table, also running the plates and glasses through the incense smoke. Make a "partake!" gesture toward them, with your hands and heart.

**The Matrilineal Call**

Now, you can make things "easy" and just say "I call the spirits of my matrilineal line", or you can perform a more complex, but more effective call. I recommend doing the full version at least once to see how much more powerful it is before cutting corners.

Invoke the most recently deceased, skipping over anyone who is alive (or who you don't wish to include), tracing backwards. Use full names if you know them, or just identify them by relation. Go at least 3 generations deep, up to 7. If you have a candle representing any of the names you say, light it as you call them. In this case, the mother is deceased but the grandmother is alive and is therefore "skipped", it goes —

*I call, here and now, the honored and well-intended dead of my matrilineal line. My mother, (say full name), my great-grandmother (say full name or the last name), my great-great grandmother, her mother, and so on!*

*Every woman who birthed a woman who birthed a woman who birthed a woman, whose blood runs through my veins!*

*Come to this altar, and accept my heartfelt thanks for the sacrifices you made for our family. Accept these offerings of (food, drink, scent, and fire), along with my love and gratitude. May they take the form that most please you!*

Bow to them in appreciation and make a "partake!" gesture toward the offerings. Spend a moment talking and connecting with them, or take care of any communications or business with your matrilineal side before moving on.

**The Patrilineal Call**

Say "I call the spirits of my patrilineal line" or perform the same extended call, lighting any dedicated candles as you say their name. In this case, the father is alive and all other grandparents are deceased, so it goes —

*I call, here and now, the honored and well-intended dead of my patrilineal line. My grandfather, (say full name), my great-grandfather (say full name or last name), my great-great-grandfather, his father, and so on!*

*Every man who sired a man who sired a man who sired a man, whose blood runs through my veins!*

*Come to this altar, and accept my heartfelt thanks for the sacrifices you made for our family.Accept these offerings of (food, drink, scent, and fire), along with my love and gratitude. May they take the form that most please you!*

Bow to them in appreciation and make a "partake!" gesture toward the offerings. Spend a moment talking and connecting with them, or take care of any communications or business with your patrilineal side before moving on.

**The Extended Family Call**

*I now call the well-intended, honored dead of my extended family, my deceased aunts, uncles, cousins, and relatives, whose blood runs through my veins!*

*Come to this altar, and accept my heartfelt thanks for the sacrifices you made for our family.Accept these offerings of (food, drink, scent, and fire), along with my love and gratitude. May they take the form that most please you!*

**Two Roads Diverge**

If all you are doing is bloodline ancestral veneration, you can skip the next steps and move to the closing portion.

**The Chosen Dead Call**

Remember earlier how I mentioned you can work with specific dead, or classes of dead by profession, art, interest, etc? This is the portion where you can call them to the table.

*I now call (name; name; — any deceased, non-relative you wish), and the well-intended, sympathetic and the honored dead of (astrology, painters, architects, demonologists, what have you)! Those who spent your life honing your craft, who have much to teach.*

*Come to this altar, and accept my heartfelt thanks for the sacrifices you made for your (profession, art, passion, etc.). Accept these offerings as a token of my appreciation for your works and knowledge. May they take the form that most please you!*

**The Anima Sola Call (Dead Charity)**

The Anima Sola are the "lonely souls"; ones who are in purgatory and haven't found their way to where to the next stage. I also put ghosts and restless dead in a broader form of this category, outside the strictly Catholic construct.

This portion is essentially charity for such souls, wherein they are fed and our psychopomp is asked to assist them in finding their way, the offerings we've already given paying the toll, or you may deposit at least two pennies on the altar. Performing this type of charity can bring unexpected boons, and it can also be done in graveyards — but that's for another article!

*I now invite the well-intended Anima Sola. Any unfortunate, deceased souls who have not found their way to their next stage or resting place, so long as they wish me well, are welcome to partake of the offerings my family and honored dead will share.*

*Come to this altar, warm yourself upon this candle. Let this fire invigorate your spirit, and have it light your way. Quench your thirst with this water, and nourish yourself with this bread. Be comforted by our human connection, and then be delivered by Hermanubis to your next destination. Be well, and be at peace!*

**Closing Portion**

Spend as much time in communion with the dead you have called as you wish. The dead appreciate sacrifices of your time and devoted attention as much as anything else. You can talk to them — tell them about your days, your ambitions, your worries. Listen to music, read, or make art and let them share space with you for a while. You can also try some automatic drawing or scrying, pivoting into more necromantic territory.

When you are ready to close the ceremony, something like this can be said —

*Thank you to all of my ancestors and the dead who have come to commune with me this night. I pray that you enjoyed your offerings and had your fill! Continue to aid and protect me in my life and works, and know that I am grateful.*

*You are given license to depart. Return to the resting places you belong, do not linger unduly, and come swiftly again next you are called. My love and gratitude are with you, always!*

*Hermanubis, see to it that all of the souls who were called here today are delivered to where they ought to be, and help the lost souls find their way. This Rite is now closed.*

Clap your hands, ring a bell or gong, and blow out the candle. You may wish to spray the area with [Asclepius water](https://sphereandsundry.com/offerings/water-of-asclepius/) or do some other form of banishment if the license to depart was insufficient, depending on how much energy you put into the calls and procedure.

Remove offerings before they rot. It is best to dispose of them in nature, at crossroads or burial grounds, or the edge of the woods.

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