

The Rite of the Red Cord

Note: This Rite should be performed by all those who have been accepted as Devotees to the CoH, it can be performed at anytime of the lunar cycle, but should preferably be done between sunset and sunrise. You should use the red cord / thread or string you were asked to have on the altar during the *Rite of the Devotee* for this Rite. Once you have performed and completed this Rite you may refer to yourself as a 'Devotee of the Covenant of **Hekate**'.

Preparation:

Set up your altar and prepare yourself in the same way as you did for the *Rite of the Devotee*. Place the red cord/ribbon in the centre of your altar. You will additionally need a depiction of the Goddess **Hekate** (placed at the centre back), as well as small bowl containing some virgin olive oil and a copy of the Hymn you wrote and used for the *Rite of the Devotee*. When you are ready, proceed.

The Rite of the Red Cord

[Light candles]

[Place both your hands on your heart (three heartbeats), your forefinger and middle finger of your dominant hand to your lips (three heartbeats), and then to your brow (three heartbeats). Now enclose your thumbs within both your hands (in fists) and raise both your arms to the heavens. Open your hands and with palm upwards in your left hand, bring your right arm to your side palm facing downwards]

[Recite (or read) your personal Hymn to **Hekate**]

Cord Consecration:

Take the red cord or ribbon into both your hands and hold it out towards the depiction of the Goddess **Hekate** on the altar, blow onto it with your breath and kiss it with your lips and then say:

*This I dedicate as a symbol of my devotion to the Goddess **Hekate**.*

*I ask that **Hekate** and her **Iynges** imbue it now with the steadfastness and strength of earth, the passion and power of fire, the clarity and knowledge of air, and the compassion and dreams of water. [blow onto the item and kiss it].*

Thus it will be unto me from this moment a sacred object for the work I undertake in Her name [blow onto the item and kiss it].

[Hold it to your heart for three heart beats, then place it on or before the image of the Goddess on your altar]

Personal Consecration:

[Practical tip: For this part of the rite you may wish to loosen or remove clothing which might prevent you from touching the skin at your heart, and ensure that any clothing you are wearing will not be damaged by the use of the oil.]

[Take three deep breaths, in through your nostrils and out through your mouth, make sure you are comfortable, and repeat the breathing a few times in sets of three until you feel that you are balanced and ready to proceed].

[Dip the forefinger and middle finger of your dominant hand in the olive oil and in turn touch to the heart, lips and brow, proclaiming as you do:]

May my heart be pure [touch heart]

May my words be true [touch lips]

May my visions be clear [touch brow]

Hekate Soteira

Beginning and end

You who are first of all in power

Purify me with your soul-stirring rituals

[Take your cord/ribbon from the altar and tie a knot into it, as close as possible to the centre of it and say:]

*With this knot I now bind myself towards the fulfilment of my oath to the Goddess **Hekate** as a Devotee of the Covenant of **Hekate**.*

Closing

[Take your cord or ribbon into your hands and perform the closing as usual, ie.

Extinguish the flame, then place both your hands on your heart (three heartbeats), your forefinger and middle finger of your dominant hand to your lips (three heartbeats), and then to your brow (three heartbeats).]

[Open your palms reaching towards the heaven, then reach down and touch the Earth.]

Commentary:

You should now ensure that you store your cord or ribbon in an appropriate manner, you may for example make a small pouch or box to keep it in. It should always be present, when possible when you perform Covenant of **Hekate** related Rites and you may wish to keep it as a reminder of your devotion to the Goddess on your altar or shrine at all times. However, please ensure that it is kept safely as you will need it should you at a future date decide that you wish to remove yourself as a member of the Covenant of **Hekate** and release yourself as from the devotion you made.