

## LESSON 5: Examples of Committal Blessings

### The Light of Love

Maud and Ivan, we give thanks for your lives: *for the enduring love and happiness you shared, for your every joy and your every kindness, and all of the love you gave.*

May the light of love shine on you now, on all those you care for, and those who care for you. May blessings of deep peace and understanding go with you, and may those same blessings remain with all those you now leave behind.

Your memory will be loved and cherished, and the lives you lived and the love you gave will continue to bless the lives of all those you held dear.

Maud and Ivan, may you rest in peace.

### Druid Committal - OBOD

Dear 'DECEASED's Christian name',

May your journey to the Isles of the Blessed, to the fields of Bliss, to the land of freedom and splendour, be swift and sure.

May the Light be your guide on the journey.

May the blessings of the Spirits of the Tribe and of the Ancestors, of Time and of Place and of the Journey be with you.\*

May the blessing of the Spirits of North and South, East and West be with you.\*

May the blessing of the Lord and Lady of the Animals and the Woods, the mountains and the streams be with you.\*

May the blessing of the Uncreated One, whose child is the Created Word, and of the Spirit that is the Inspirer, be always with you. (OR: May the blessing of the Gods/the Goddess be always with you.)

By the beauty of the fields, the woods and the sea, by the splendour that is set upon all that is, we send you our love and blessings, dear 'DECEASED's Christian name'.

*\*One or more of these lines may be left out if wished*

### Deep Peace

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

NAME, may you rest in peace.

### **Druid Committal**

As the sun rises in the East and sets in the West, so too are each of us born and so too do each of us die. But just as each evening brings with it the memory of the day before and the promise of a new day to come so too do we carry in our hearts the memories of a dearly loved *mother/father/sister/brother/aunt/uncle/cousin* and friend. In our minds we carry the lessons we have gained through knowing *Name*, and in our bodies and in how we live our lives the immortality of inheritance. Now, *Name* go safely, go well, go surely. Our hearts are with you. And you remain in our hearts.

(from [www.druidnetwork.org](http://www.druidnetwork.org))

### **Doreen Valiente's Pagan Committal**

Goddess of fire,  
sun's fire, lightening,  
flame on the hearth,  
fire that cleanses and destroys,  
fire that purifies,  
now take our beloved Doreen  
let her become flame and ash,  
from Doreen's spirit  
a pure flame will arise.

When we warm our hands  
at the fireside on Samhain's frosty night,  
let us join again with our loved one and remember  
the joy and knowledge she gave.

**Responses for a Cremation**

Into the freedom of wind and sunshine

**We let you go**

Into the dance of the stars and the planets

**We let you go**

Into the wind's breath and the hands of the star maker

**We let you go**

We love you, we miss you, we want you to be happy

Go safely, go dancing, go running home

**Responses for a Burial**

Into the darkness and warmth of the earth

**We lay you down**

Into the sadness and smiles of our memories

**We lay you down**

Into the cycle of living and dying and rising again

**We lay you down**

May you rest in peace, in fulfilment, in loving

May you run straight home in God's embrace

(both from *Saying Goodbye* by Ruth Burgess )

**Ecclesiastes 3, King James Bible**

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

### **Humanist Benediction**

Now the work is left to us, the living, to carry forth the beauty and joy of that life which has been taken from us. Where we weep, Hamish would have us laugh. Where we mourn, Hamish would have us rejoice. But we know that he will forgive us our grief, for to grieve is to love, to love is to cherish, and to cherish is to give praise and thanksgiving for the life which has blessed us all.

To that life we pray courage and strength, that our frailty be forgiven, our sorrows redeemed, the wounds of our loss healed, in the sure knowledge that life moves forward and does not tarry with yesterday, and that the life before us beckons to greater glory as the only memorial that is fitting and just.

Let us depart in peace and look to the morning, assured that tomorrow the sun will rise again. Life gives and life takes away:

Blessed be life, above all, forever.

### **Love's merciful keeping**

We have entrusted dear NAME

To love's merciful keeping

And we now commit her body to be cremated

Earth to earth, Ashes to ashes, Dust to dust

We let go of her body, but hold on to her spirit, which we know will live on in the hearts and minds of her loved ones forever.

### **Qualities of the deceased**

Family Member/Celebrant: On everyone's behalf I say

Tenderly and lovingly

We will now let go of Jenny's body,

We are glad that Jenny lived.

We are glad that we saw her face and felt the touch of her hand.

We especially cherish the memories of her words and her stories.

Our personal and unique times we had together.

Her special charm

Her vitality and creativity.

Her intelligence

Her challenges to us  
Her loyalty to her friends  
We acknowledge her courage during the difficult times  
Her care and concern for others  
For being such a brilliant Mum  
But most of all her love  
We are honoured to have shared in her life.  
We grieve that she has left us.  
Jenny, we say good bye.

**We surround you with our love**

We have committed the memory of Bill to our hearts.  
With tenderness and love and without fear we commit his body to the elements from which  
all life comes and to which in the end all life returns.  
*If you would like to, you are invited to repeat after me.*  
Bill, we surround you with our love  
We encourage your soul to fly.  
We leave you in Peace.