

Earth Healing Ritual to Ala



By: Arlais

Tonight's earth healing ritual is to Ala, the earth Mother, the highest Goddess of the Ibo pantheon of Nigeria. She is responsible for many aspects of civilization, as well as guardianship of women and children in general.

Visualise the following with me. We stand together on a rolling African plain. Behind us is a typical village, the huts made from natural, locally available materials. We can hear the laughter and voices of the inhabitants. Before us, the plain stretches as far as the eye can see. Acacia trees, dot the landscape forming little oases of shade. Herds of zebra and wildebeest are grazing. A group of hyenas circles the herds, hoping for an easy meal, and below one of the acacias, a pride of lionesses relaxes in the heat.

By the powers of the four elements, our circle is raised. Let us work together within its bounds to bring healing to the Earth.

Guardian to the element of air, powers of the East, the glory of the sun rising above the African plains. We welcome you to our circle this night and ask you to share your powers as we work to heal the Earth. In love and trust we bid you Hail and Welcome!

Guardian to the element of fire, powers of the South, the strength of the noon-time sun shining down on the African plains. We ask you to join our circle this night and lend your power to our work. We bid you hail and welcome!

Guardian to the element of water, powers of the west, the life-giving drinking holes in the parched African lands. Come to our circle this night we ask, and lend your powers and emotion to our work. We bid you Hail and Welcome!

Guardian to the element of earth, powers of the north, the graceful silhouettes of the giraffes against the setting sun. Join us this night with our love, and lend your powers of healing to our work. With love and trust we bid you Hail and welcome!

Great Mother Goddess Ala, creator of the living and Queen of the dead; Lady of the Earth, we ask you to grace our circle with your presence this night as we raise power to heal the Earth. We bid you Hail and Welcome!

Ala is the Earth Mother Goddess of the Ibo tribe in Nigeria. She is Creator of the living and Queen of the dead, provider of communal loyalty and Lawgiver of society. The highest Goddess in the Ibo pantheon, She is the daughter of the High God and is considered to be the mother of all things. She is both the goddess of fertility and the goddess of death. She gives birth in the beginning and welcomes the dead back to her womb. She is the Divine Mother who gives life, provides all that is life sustaining, establishes laws, guides morality and finally claims her children in death. If her children live peacefully, there will be bountiful harvests from the earth and womb. She rules the Underworld, and it is believed that the souls of the dead rest within her sacred womb. Her symbol is the crescent moon and she is often depicted in works of art as a seated woman holding a small child in her arms. Each year her followers pay homage to her with an event known as the Yam Festival. In Nigeria, where she is still worshipped, she has temples situated in the centre of the villages, where she has a statue surrounded by the images of other gods and animals. She is one of the most popular Goddesses of the Ibo.

Come with me now to the Yam festival. Picture yourselves in the middle of an African Village way back in time at the dawn of civilisation. Before us stands the statue of Ibo, decorated for the day with garlands of flowers. Around us the people of the village are laughing and talking excitedly, busy preparing for the feast that will follow. Take a moment to understand the lives of these people, their closeness to the Earth, their affinity for the patterns of our world, the turn of the year, the cycle of the moon, their respect for the land around them.

A movement catches your eye. Where the statue of Ibo once stood is the living Goddess. She looks with pleasure at the festivities in her honour, and then she turns and smiles at us. She knows why we have come and it pleases her. She claps her hands, and all gather around her, including us in their circle, and we all begin to dance, moving gradually faster and faster around the Goddess Ala. Feel the happiness of the people, feel the power of the love of Lady Ala, feel the pure energy that we are raising in our dance and through our love for the land. Feel this energy as a pulsing band within our circle. Feel it grow stronger as we continue our dance. Mother Ala claps her hands again and as we end our dance we release this band of energy. See it rising now above us, a shimmering silver/white band pulsing with power. Send your love for the Earth into this band. See it grow brighter and stronger as it rises and grows until it circles the entire Earth. See it release its healing energies, restoring the damage caused by man. Hold this image for a few moments more and then turn again to the Lady Ala who smiles at us in love as she merges back with her statue.

Let us now thank the Mother Ala by offering a chalice of wine.

Lady of the living and dead, we ask that you accept this small gift as a token of our love and thanks. Blessed be!

Let us now start to close our ritual

Mother Ala, Lady of the Earth, we thank you for your presence this night. Let us part now in love till we meet again. We bid you Hail and Farewell!

Guardian of Earth, Lord of the North, we give thanks for your presence this night. As the full moon

Guardian of Water, Lord of the West, we give thanks for your presence this night. As the setting sun shines on the savannah we bid you hail and farewell.

Guardian of Fire, Lord of the South, we give thanks for your presence this night. As the noon sun burns down upon the African lands we bid you hail and farewell

Guardian of Air, Lord of the East, we give thanks for your presence this night. As the rising sun sheds light on the grasslands we bid you hail and farewell.

As we release the circle, let the excess energy return to the earth. Our circle is now open but never unbroken. Let us part in love till we meet again.

Blessed be!