

Preliminary reflections

1. What I am taking from [THIS] Place?

- learning what it means to be connected to the land
- being part of a community with my husband David (DT)
- a sense of home with DT
- deep knowledge of the truth that everything is impermanent
- greater compassion for others who have lost or will lose as much as I did

2. What I am leaving behind, positive and negative?

- a vision of what my life would be in retirement with DT aging in place
- many dreams and fantasies about what my old age would be
- proximity to many friends
- a place that is too big for me to take care of by myself
- further remediation of the land
- my and David’s anxiety about floods and fires

3. What has [THIS] Place given me? What are the gifts?

- a place to explore stone, carve it and place on the site
- a place to conduct rituals, esp. the 30-day ritual for my mother that involved carving and burying a stone for her there
- deep solace
- a place to learn about nature in all its manifestations, esp. ice, clouds, night sky+
- a place to establish a contemplative garden, paths, a medicinal garden, etc.
- an opportunity to write and publish a book about the site
- a site that I could build with DT

4. Structure

1. incorporate the 7-branch practice?
 - beginning, middle, end
 - outer, inner, secret
2. when to offer prayers?

5. What to bring?

- ✓ the 2 "wands" I have made + marble wand
 - tally stick of Palden Lhamo
- ✓ dice necklace: scope of karmic judgment, “throw the dice” -- fate
- ✓ marble (amor fati, love of fate)
- ✓ paper & journals
- ✓ candles and incense, matches
- ✓ David’s basket
- ✓ vase for living altar

- ✓ Toni’s lamp
- ✓ duct tape
- ✓ “Closing [THIS] Place” drawing, with brushes, gold and silver gouache
- ✓ map of Ivydell

6. Activities: How to honor this process?

- beginning: prostrate and offer; blessing and honoring the place
 - counter-clockwise sweeping and raking
 - perhaps circumambulate, to different perches: porch, Hope stone, Lot 97, crow’s nest, Coffin stone, far western corner, base of grandmother tree, rocks beside the water, under bridge, berm, up walkway to porch
 - pay homage to what was and what is now
 - think about lost stones and recite prayers for them
- middle: confess, rejoice, request; dropping, purging, grieving
 - pouring water, getting IN the water
 - throw rocks in the water
 - build earthen domes, wash with water
 - prayers of letting go
- end: dedicate and offer other prayers
 - what goes with me when I leave?
 - what to keep and grow on this new path
 - collect water used to destroy and take it back to new ground
 - write on, then burn paper near the water
 - dedication: And now as long as space endures and as long as there are beings to be found; may I continue likewise to remain, to soothe the sufferings of all those who live.

7. Timing & details

- conclude before Sept. 30
- multiple days
- the role of repetition or doing the ritual once? “Said twice means I mean it!”
- take time to see what unfolds and what “wants” to happen
- hang out in not knowing and see what arises

8. Misc. issues and questions

How to think about outer, inner, secret/innermost re: this ritual?

Consider the site as a mandala, E,S,W,N and center.