

September 6, 2022

Dear Women of the Mycelial Mysteries,

It is with great joy that I introduce myself to you all as your guide through this unique and wonderful weekend, where we will be working with the oldest myth in the world, the myth of Inanna. In preparing for this incredible weekend, we have developed a ritual that begins with you receiving this letter. It is a beckoning to your deepest levels of self as we set this intention to make a little mycelial magic happen. Attached you will find a synopsis of the myth, which is broken into four episodes. It will give you just enough context to understand the elements of the opening and closing ritual, and to step into role-playing for the Saturday evening story time.

You will need to bring a few items to create the magic and deeper levels of healing. I am sure many of you feel the weight of all that is heavy in the world right now. This is a collective feeling as we sense and experience all the changes before us. In indigenous culture, when a large life-changing event happens, a naming, or wedding, the guests of honor hold a give-away ceremony and offer gifts to their guests, not the other way around. As you are a guest of honor at this conference, we invite you to bring seven items that you can pay forward to our community of wise women. These can be clothing items, books, herbs, art. Anything that you may no longer need that can be appreciated by someone else. Put some intention into your giveaway items. Maybe even link each item to something you need to let go of in your life, what no longer serves you. If you forget your items, objects from Nature can stand in.

Like the myth, there will be seven gates that you will enter as we open the conference. At each gate, you will be asked to leave an item for the giveaway. This is a process known as divestiture. In order to welcome in the new energy, new life, new dreams, we must let go of some of the old energy and ways of being. All of these items will be collected and organized on the stage of Artemesia Lodge. Each person is invited to receive seven items from the giveaway. What doesn't get claimed will be donated to a women's shelter.

In this way, we are becoming mycelial in our movement of energy, resources, and love. We will also be keeping sacred space with a fire that will be lit at the beginning of the weekend and stay lit until we end. This fire is our keeper as much as we are keeping her. You may wish to write yourself a letter or a list of the things you need to release which no longer serve your greatest good in your life. You may wish to bring letters from others, or pictures, to give to the fire. Once given to the fire, it is done. There will also be tobacco you use to make offerings and prayers. No garbage, please. This fire is our connection to the ancestral realms, so we only want to feed it with our love. If you are grieving this is a good place to give your grief. A sign-up sheet will be made available if you wish to help take a shift tending to this fire. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. You can reach me at [dr.shannon.sloan.spice@gmail.com](mailto:dr.shannon.sloan.spice@gmail.com)

In Service and Deepest Gratitude,

Shannon