

Sacris Matera: Preparing Statuary And Other Icons For Use



Statues, images, symbols and other representations of deities are beautiful, but their power is much more than aesthetic. Icons are beacons to connecting with the gods and goddesses. Properly activated, these objects serve as a portal to communicate with the deity. Offerings are often left in front of icons as a sign of veneration.

Through the process of vivification, an icon becomes attuned to the energy of the deity. In some traditions part of the deities' energy becomes ensouled within the object, while in other approaches, the representation serves as a conduit.

Cleansing

Iconography should be cleansed, protected and activated. In general, I recommend using a wash that is specific for sacred work. Khernips can be adapted for this use, with two wash basins being used.

The Khernips Ritual is in a separate file. Follow the same procedure for cleansing of self and space, then use the second bowl to purify the representation.

Vivification



Vivification refers to the process of activating a representation, linking it to your chosen deity. It includes petitioning the deity to bless the icon, the owner, and to activate it as a means for connecting to her. Ensouling a statue or other object directs the energy of the spirit into it. Petition the chosen god or goddess to apotheosize, to deify, an object. It's like they leave their imprint, creating a portal to connecting with them.

Prepare an appropriate offering to make as you petition their blessing on the icon.

Anointing is usually done with oil, although dirt and smoke can be used to vivify objects not amenable to liquid anointing.

As for the anointing, gods and goddesses can have different requirements. Representations of Chthonic deities, like Hekate, Persephone and Hermes, would be apotheosized working from the head down, finishing with the Under World that is their principle domain.

Sacris Materia: Anointing and Activation Ritual

The chosen oil should be made of a fixative (base oil) and botanicals that are sacred to your chosen deity. Suitable for chthonic deities is the deathwalking oil, and for all deities the sovereignty oil can be used as it acknowledges their power and your own.

One round for protection, one for their blessing and the final for activation. You can re-vivify an existing icon or use a new one. You can recite something like the following, as you do each of the three rounds.

Suitable for all Sacris Materia (Holy Objects).

Hail _____

I honor you with this _____

Attend me now,

Protect this _____

Bless it with your _____

Pour your spirit into it,

Rendering a connection between me and you.

I pledge to honor you.

Hail _____,

I give you this offering as a token of my sincerity.

I am grateful for your powers bestowed in this _____.

Recharging

Iconic objects can become depleted of their power. Cleansing can be done using the botanicals from earlier in this lesson.

Dressing statues and images is another way to honor your deities. Placing botanicals, ribbons, bones, charms and more on icons is a form of veneration.