The Forge Scale Hallowing

A rite of grounding & binding for a hand forged wand



Your wand was born in fire. As it was heated and hammered at my anvil, thin flakes of its own outer skin cracked away and fell: the forge scale. It is the same metal as your wand, shed in the very moment it became itself. Iron scale is blue-black and will cling to a magnet as it once clung to the wand; copper scale is dark red and black, the colour of the metal in the fire. I gathered it from the anvil as your wand was made.

✦ ♂ ✦ ♀ ✦

Bionic Cat Blacksmith · Elland · West Yorkshire · Since 2015

Iron has been trusted to guard and to bind for as long as folk have worked it: nailed over doors, buried beneath thresholds, carried on long roads. Copper is the other half of the old craft, warm and bright and quick to carry heat, long sworn to Venus, to healing and to the drawing-in of good things. *Iron keeps out; copper calls in.* These are the bones of the rite. Speak it as written, or in words of your own.

☉ What you will need

- ✠ Your wand, and its pouch of forge scale
- ✠ A small dish, with a pinch of salt or earth from a place that matters to you
- ✠ A candle, and a little water in a cup
- ✠ A quiet hour. The new moon for beginnings, the full moon for strength; any hour chosen with intent will serve.

I · Clear the space

Light the candle. Wipe your wand from grip to tip with a soft, dry cloth, as if brushing the workshop from it. Breathe slowly until you are settled.

II · Earth, the grounding

Pour the scale into the dish with your salt or earth. Lay the wand across it, or touch its tip to the scale, and say:

> *From the earth you were dug, in the fire you were made. This is your own metal, shed as you took your shape. Be rooted, be steady, be whole.*

III · Fire, the birth

Pass the wand slowly above the flame, never in it, and keep copper moving. Say:

> *You were born in fire and you do not fear it. Carry its light and its warmth to my work.*

▽ IV · Water, the smith's quench

A smith settles hot metal by quenching it. Touch one drop of water to the tip, then dry it at once. Say:

> *As the smith cooled you and set you true, so I settle you. Be calm in my hand.*

⚓ V · Air, the naming

Hold the wand in both hands. Breathe three slow breaths along its length and speak your name aloud. Then say:

> *I breathe on you and name myself to you. From this day you answer to me alone.*

✠ VI · The binding

Pour a little scale into your open palm and hold it beneath the wand, so the wand looks down upon its own shed skin. Say:

I offer you the skin you shed to become your true self, so that you may see my true soul, and we are bonded eternally.

Close your hand over the scale, then open it. Return a pinch to the pouch and keep it with your wand. **Iron scale** may be laid across your threshold to keep ill things out; **copper scale** kept by the door or hearth to draw warmth, love and luck in; or bury a little in the earth, so the metal returns whence it came.

Give thanks to whatever you work with, put out the candle, and use your wand at once for something small and good.

Whenever your wand feels dull, or has passed through other hands, lay it upon its scale overnight to ground it again. Keep iron dry and waxed; let copper darken, or polish it bright. Keep the scale in its pouch, away from small children and pets.

Leon, Bionic Cat Blacksmith

bionicCatBlacksmith.com · leon@bionicCatBlacksmith.com · 07593 325089