

Creation of Sacred Space/ Altar (Dambana Teachings from Ifugao/Ilokano Traditions)

Protocols of Honoring the Sacred Space:

- Be aware and honor that this is a doorway for the Ancestors- each time you approach the Dambana be respectful and just as you greet it, leave it with a recognition of departure so Spirits will not follow.
- The Sacred Space should face the West, this is where the Sun Sets and so it is facing the doorway to the Underworld.
- If it is on a table top, you should not store anything under the Dambana Space.
- Keep it clean and clear of any disruption.
- Do not place items/photos that are of the living on the Dambana Space - we will have a separate Dambana for this so as not to confuse the living with the dead.

Dambana Teachings from Ifugao/Ilokano Traditions

Compiled by Jana Lynne Umipig

with guidance from Mamerto “Lagitan” Tindongan and Nena Caldetera

| <i>Items</i> | <i>Meaning</i> | <i>Specificities of placement on Dambana</i> |
|--|--|--|
| Sacred Cloths for table top | In connection to the peoples that you are wishing to connect to. Can also just be to help beautify the space for the liking of the Ancestors | Cover entire Dambana |
| Flowers | Again used to beautify the space, but also colors can be connected to different moments and rites of passage. White is a color that is connected to calling in Ancestors- in the Philippines we use Sampugita (Arabian Jasmine) to call them in. Dehni Flor also suggests that roses are the gateway to Spirit & represents divine love. | Throughout the Dambana |
| Ataang Plate (Good to have- Betel nut and/or betel leaf Cooked Egg, Rice, Sticky Rice Cake, Palm Leaves- Sugar Cane/ Banana Leaves) | Food offering for the Ancestors | Should be central, and if it is for specific ancestors, place objects for that ancestor near the food specifically for them. |
| Taro | Earth - Taro is the first domesticated plant eaten by man, so it connects us to our common ancestors. | Northern Orientation on the Dambana |
| Tobacco that will represent And bowl | Air - (creates sacred smoke when burnt). Tobacco is also used by the Native Americans as offering when seeking knowledge from an elder | Eastern Orientation on the Dambana |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A bowl of Water | Water - Water is life, connected to the flow of life and death - where we begin and we close our journey. Also connected to the Divine Feminine power. | Western Orientation on the Dambana |
| Lighted Candle Holder / Plate (Possible Electric Candles) | Fire - A connection to creation, (creation of man and the divine) and the Sun/Light of living that energizes, feeds and warms all of life. Also connected to the Divine Masculine. | Southern Orientation on the Dambana |
| A bowl of Wine (Rice Wine preferably) | Spirit - An offering, sacred drink, also when you drink it is meant to bring you closer- open you to spirit. | Central on the Dambana |
| A bowl of rice - Wooden Rice Urn | Offerings to the ancestors, Rice is the gift that is given by the Gods and that is a collaborative creation with great labor made by our ancestors. | Central and at top of Dambana |
| Relics/ Items/ Photos | Items that belonged or are connected to those ancestors | Can be placed throughout Dambana |
| Ritual Items (Instruments, Materials, Clothing, etc.) | Any objects that will be used to call in the spirits in ceremony. They love music and dance and Art- they love to enjoy the beauty of these Sacred Acts that also directly channel them in. | Should be placed where they are accessible and will not disrupt the Dambana |