

Part II - Living the Circle

Here we step into community practice. Circles teach us how to listen and speak, kinship and consent remind us how to care for one another, healing and wholeness guide us through shadow, and play restores joy. In this part, the everyday becomes ritual, and daily acts become sacred threads of Faerie life.

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3. Entering the Circle

The Circle is the heart of Radical Faerie culture. It is the form we return to again and again: no head, no hierarchy, no edge, no center that is not shared. To sit in Circle is to embody equality, respect, and collective presence.

At Folleterre, Circles take many forms:

- **Heart Circles**

These are the most intimate. We gather to speak from the heart and to listen with presence. A talking stick or object is often passed around the circle, giving each person the chance to share or to remain silent. No one interrupts, comments, or debates. No one gives advice. The power of Heart Circle is simple: we witness each other without judgment.

- **Practical Circles**

These are where the community organizes itself. Cooking shifts, cleaning, workshops, firewood, finances — all can be discussed in Practical Circle. Consensus is sought, but decisions are made with flexibility, recognizing the balance between collective care and individual choice. Practical Circles remind us that daily life is also sacred, that stewardship of the sanctuary is itself a ritual.

- **Ritual Circles**

These open or close gatherings, mark seasonal festivals, or celebrate transitions. We may call in the directions, sing chants, dance, or make offerings. Ritual Circles weave our personal stories into a larger fabric, reminding us that we are part of cycles older and larger than ourselves.

How to enter well

Stepping into a Circle is simple, but it carries weight. It is not a meeting — it is an act of community magic. To enter well:

- Arrive with respect for time and space.
- Bring your full presence, even if you choose not to speak.
- Speak from “I” — your own truth, not someone else’s.
- Listen with openness, without fixing, correcting, or judging.
- Notice your body: breath, posture, energy. You are part of the Circle even in silence.

Confidentiality

Different Circles carry different agreements:

- In **Heart Circles**, confidentiality is essential. What is shared stays in the Circle, unless someone explicitly asks for support beyond it.
- In **Practical Circles**, outcomes and decisions should be shared so the whole community is informed. Transparency here is part of care.
- In **Ritual Circles**, stories may be retold, but the sacred details belong to those who were present.

The Circle as teacher

Circles are not always easy. Silences can feel heavy. Emotions can run high. Conflicts may surface. Yet this too is part of the medicine. The Circle teaches us to sit with discomfort, to listen beyond words, to let the collective wisdom emerge in its own time.

Every Circle is linked. When we sit at Folleterre, we sit in connection with all the Circles held before us and all those yet to come. Each one is a thread in the tapestry of our lineage, and the Spirit of Folleterre listens with us.

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Oracle message from the Spirit of Folleterre

“ Every Circle you sit in is my heartbeat.
When you pass the stick, you pass the flame of the first fire.
When you listen, you listen with my trees.
When you speak, you speak into my stones.

The Circle is not a meeting.
It is the mirror of how the universe holds itself.
Round, infinite, center everywhere, edge nowhere.

Do not fear the silence.
Do not rush the speaking.
In the Circle, even the unsaid is heard.

4. Kinship & Consent

At Folleterre, we gather as kin. Kinship here does not mean family by blood, but a chosen family — a web of queer connection that transcends age, culture, gender, and background. Every person who arrives is invited into this web, whether for a day, a week, or a lifetime.

Kinship as chosen family

Faerie kinship is fluid. Some bonds are deep and lasting, others brief and playful. What unites us is not sameness, but the shared intention to live in freedom, creativity, and love. Kinship at Folleterre is about creating space where all parts of us — our joy, our wounds, our play, our silence — are welcome.

Hospitality and welcome

Hospitality is a sacred act. To welcome someone at the gate, to cook for the community, to make space for a newcomer in circle — these are ways of weaving kinship. At Folleterre, hospitality is not only offered by hosts or stewards, but by everyone. Each gesture of care extends the web of belonging.

Consent as foundation

Because Folleterre is a place of intimacy and openness, **consent is essential**. Consent is not only about sexuality or touch. It is the basis of how we share food, stories, emotions, and space. Without consent, kinship cannot thrive.

- **Ask, don't assume.** Whether it is a hug, a kiss, or an invitation to share a bed, always ask.
- **Yes is sacred, no is divine.** A true yes is a gift. A clear no is an act of honesty and self-respect.
- **Consent is ongoing.** What feels good one moment may change the next. Consent can always be withdrawn.
- **Silence is not consent.** Clarity prevents harm.
- **Respect differences.** Some faeries come seeking sensual play, others come for quiet retreat, others for friendship or ritual. Each path is valid.

Boundaries as medicine

Saying “no” is not rejection. It is an act of clarity that strengthens trust. When boundaries are honored, intimacy deepens, because we know our choices are respected. At Folleterre, boundaries are part of love.

Consent in stories and images

Consent also applies beyond touch. Always ask before photographing someone or sharing their image. Be mindful when telling stories outside the sanctuary. Folleterre is a place of transformation, but what happens here belongs to those who live it.

Kinship as dance

Kinship is not uniform closeness. It is a dance between intimacy and space, connection and freedom. Sometimes we draw near, sometimes we step back. When practiced with care, consent becomes not a rule but a rhythm — the rhythm that allows kinship to flourish.

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Oracle message from the Radical Faeries Eggregore

“Every “yes” you speak is a spark of the fire.
Every “no” you honor is a stone that strengthens the circle.

*Consent is not a contract. It is a dance of freedom.
It is the breath that says: I see you, I respect you, I welcome your truth.*

*Do not fear refusal.
It is not the closing of a door, but the opening of trust.
When you honor each other’s boundaries, you weave a kinship stronger than desire.*

Remember: love is not measured by how much you give, but by how much you listen.

5. Healing & Wholeness

Folleterre is a sanctuary, but it is not separate from the realities of the body and the heart. Here, as in all communities, people bring their health and their illness, their strength and their fragility, their joy and their pain. Healing is not the responsibility of one person — it is woven into the collective fabric.

The body as temple

Each body is sacred. Across the spectrum of strength and fragility, youth and maturity, ability and limitation — every body deserves respect. We honor the diversity of our forms and the different rhythms they bring to the community.

This respect extends to how we share space: slowing down to match someone's pace, offering a hand when needed, leaving space when desired. To live together in awareness is to recognize that every body is a teacher.

Emotions as currents

Healing is never only physical. Many faeries come to Folleterre carrying grief, shame, fear, or loneliness — wounds from family, society, or past relationships. The sanctuary offers space to express these openly, without judgment.

Heart Circles, rituals, and play become containers for emotional alchemy: transforming pain into compassion, fear into courage, isolation into kinship. Laughter is medicine. Tears are medicine. Silence is medicine. All are welcome here.

Mental and spiritual health

Some arrive in fragile states of mind — with depression, anxiety, or trauma. Others may be navigating addiction or recovery. Folleterre cannot replace professional care, but it can offer presence, companionship, and a supportive environment.

The collective responsibility is to meet vulnerability with compassion, not stigma. No one should feel ashamed for their struggles. Asking for help is an act of courage. Offering support is an act of kinship.

Collective wellbeing

Living together in close community means our health is interconnected. Illness, parasites, or outbreaks sometimes occur. The way we respond shapes the spirit of the sanctuary.

- When sickness appears, care is important — but so is perspective. Fear and gossip amplify harm more than the illness itself.

- Share information with clarity and calm, so the community can respond wisely.
- Hygiene and simple precautions (cleaning, hot water, safe food storage) are acts of care, not control.
- Rest, hydration, and gentleness allow those who are unwell to heal without stigma.
- Transparency should be balanced with discretion: not every detail needs to be repeated, but important information should reach those who need it.

Conflict as medicine

Healing also means facing what is difficult in our relationships. Conflicts, misunderstandings, or projections will arise in any close community. Instead of seeing these as failures, we treat them as opportunities for growth.

Tools such as the **Drama Triangle / Empowerment Triangle** can help us step out of cycles of victim, rescuer, and persecutor, and move into creator, challenger, and supporter roles. Mediation and facilitation can also help transform tension into learning.

Self-care and collective care

Each of us is responsible for our own wellbeing. This means recognizing when we need rest, food, water, or time alone. It also means reaching out when support is needed.

Collective care does not mean fixing others. It means holding space, offering presence, cooking a meal, fetching water, or simply sitting together in silence. Healing happens when self-care and collective care are in balance.

Wholeness, not perfection

The aim is not to create a community without problems, but to practice a community that can face them with honesty, compassion, and resilience. Healing here is collective: when one person is cared for, the whole circle is strengthened.

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Oracle message from the Spirit of Folleterre

“ Do not fear the shadow.

It is not an intruder — it is a teacher.

When illness comes, when conflict stirs, when sorrow breaks open — I am still here.

I am the soil that receives your sickness, and turns it back into life.

I am the fire that burns your fears without consuming you.

I am the wind that carries away your cries.

I am the water that softens your hardness into tears.

Do not exile what is dark.

Bring it into the Circle.

In my forest, even the poison becomes medicine.

6. Play & Celebration

At Folleterre, healing and depth are balanced by joy and play. Celebration is not an extra or a distraction — it is central to Faerie culture. We gather not only to process pain, but to awaken delight, laughter, and ecstasy.

Play as sacred

Play is not trivial. It is how we remember our freedom, release our masks, and return to the childlike wonder that society often suppresses. When we play, we create spaces where imagination and spirit dance together.

Celebration as ritual

Many of our most cherished traditions are celebrations: the **No Talent Show**, where faeries perform with courage and foolishness; dances under the stars; processions through the forest; spontaneous songs around the fire. These are not just entertainments — they are rituals of empowerment. They remind us that every voice, every body, every story is worthy of being witnessed.

The No Talent Show

The No Talent Show is a hallmark of Faerie gatherings. Here, everyone is invited to perform — whether you sing, dance, tell a joke, recite a poem, or simply stand in your beauty. The point is not talent, but presence. By stepping into the spotlight, we release shame and reclaim visibility. The audience responds not with judgment, but with unconditional love.

Ecstasy and embodiment

Dance and music are portals to ecstasy. They help us step out of the mind and into the body. In movement, we dissolve boundaries between self and other, between performer and witness. Celebration becomes a collective trance, a way of entering the vortex of creation together.

Pleasure as prayer

Pleasure is sacred at Folleterre. To enjoy the body, to share laughter, to taste good food, to lie in the sun — these are not indulgences but offerings. Pleasure connects us to gratitude and reminds us that joy is as healing as tears.

The role of the Fool

In celebration, the Fool is honored: the one who plays with boundaries, who mocks solemnity, who reveals truth through laughter. The Fool keeps us from becoming too serious, reminding us that even the most sacred ritual is also a game.

Balance of play and care

Celebration does not mean ignoring consent or boundaries. Even in play, respect is vital. Mischief and humor should never cross into harm. The best celebrations are those where everyone feels safe to join, or safe to step back.

Seasons of joy

Play and celebration are woven into the cycles of the year. Solstices, equinoxes, and seasonal festivals are moments when the community gathers to honor life's turning. Through costumes, rituals, and festivities, we celebrate not only ourselves but the wheel of nature.

At Folleterre, celebration is not just a moment of escape — it is a way of anchoring joy as a foundation for our collective life.

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Oracle message from the Radical Faeries Egregore

“ Play is prayer.

Every laugh is an offering.

Every dance is a spell.

Every costume is a ritual mask of truth.

Do not measure your worth by skill.

Your song, even off-key, is medicine.

Your dance, even clumsy, is sacred.

The Fool is our priest, the stage our altar, the audience our choir.

When you celebrate, you remember that freedom is holy.