

# Bardic Invocation

I call upon awen,  
the breath of inspiration,  
to fill me with fire.  
Grant me a mighty word-hoard:

Sharp words for wounding,  
Soft words for healing,  
Old words for reminding,

Strong words for uplifting,  
Bright words for inspiring,  
Dark words for admonishing,

Venom words for cursing,  
Balm words for blessing,  
Honest words for truthsaying;

And grant me the wit to wield them well.



—Dyfn ap Meurig y Pencerdd

**Notes:** *Awen* is a Welsh word meaning “inspiration,” especially poetic or divine inspiration. The bardic invocation is the equivalent of invoking a muse in the old epics.

Three is a sacred number in Celtic lore; three times three is powerful indeed. That is why there are nine types of words in the invocation – valuable words for the ancient bards to carry in their poetic toolkit.

This bardic invocation is written upon the ash staff I use in my capacity as a bard. Ask me how I acquired the staff sometime; it’s a story in itself.