

Litha Ritual – June 20, 2010

Ritual space preparation

Altar in center with ritual tools:

Bring: pentacle, athame, chalice, incense, broom

From UUFB: candle, shells, bell

Set chairs up in concentric circles with quadrant walkways.

Welcoming:

Welcome to all who have come in friendship and in love to celebrate, Litha, the summer solstice.

Banish unwanted energies:

This removes any unwanted energies from the space - particularly important if when using a rented space which has lots of other stuff going on in it

Through sound (UUFB bell), sweeping, visualization lead by HP.

We sweep the circle around and about.

Power stay in and the world stay out.

Bless the space:

Four Platonic elements: salt water (earth & water) and incense (air & fire.)

Blessed be, instruments of light,

Now, magick tools with power and might.

Powers of (Earth, Water), this circle grace.

Purify, cleanse, and bless this space.

Powers of (Air, Fire), this circle grace.

Purify, cleanse, and bless this space.

Scribe the circle.

Scribing creates the ritual container. It forms a specifically designed globe within which our ritual energies are contained until released. This helps provide focus, protection, and a way to interact outside of normal time and space. Circle center using wand to help focus and direct energy.

I cast the circle round and round
With love within and friends new found
I cast the circle round about
A world within, a world without.

Call the directions.

Draw an invoking pentacle to open a doorway in the circle to that particular quarter. Caller stands in opposite quarters and faces the direction. Start in the east and finish in the north.

To the East, I summon ...
The element of Air... the power of the mind.
Charge our rite with imagination and intellect.
Increase our focus so we may send forth our thoughts.
I invoke you... to guard, guide and protect our circle.
Element of Air: Hail and welcome!

To the South, I summon ...
The element of Fire... the power of the spirit.
Charge our rite with passion and purity
Raise our energy so we may send forth our light.
I invoke you... to guard, guide and protect our circle.
Element of Fire: Hail and welcome!

To the West, I summon ...

The element of Water... the power of the soul.

Charge our rite with the rhythm of the waves.

Fill our cups so we may send forth our love.

I invoke you... to guard, guide and protect our circle.

Element of Water: Hail and welcome!

To the North, I summon ...

The element of Earth, the power of the body.

Charge our rite with generation and growth.

Nurture our nature so we may send forth strength.

I invoke you... to guard, guide and protect our circle.

Element of Earth: Hail and welcome!

Call/invite deities

I light this candle in honor of the Horned God ...

The essence of the male

Come and join our Litha rite!

Hear the words of the Horned God:

I am here ...

To light the lives of all beings

And bring laughter and mirth.

I pour forth my golden rays

Each day upon the Earth.

I am the endless harvest.

The leaper in the corn,

The horned stag in the wild,

The lover and a son just born.

I send my rays of blessings

From now until the fall

To warm the hearts and stir the soul

And strengthen the minds of all.

Dearest Lord: Hail and welcome!

The Charge of the Goddess:

I light this candle in honor of the Great Goddess,
the essence of the female.

Come, and join our Litha rite!

Hear the words of the Great Goddess:

I am here... the beauty of the green Earth...

The white Moon ... among the Stars...

And the Mystery ... of the Waters...

I call upon your soul ... to arise ... and come unto Me.

Let My worship ... be in the heart ... that rejoices,

For behold ... all acts ... of love and pleasure ... are My rituals.

And you ... who seek to know Me

Know that ... your seeking and yearning ...

will avail you not ...

Unless ... you know the Mystery:

For if that ... which you seek ...

You find not ... within yourself ...

You will never find it ... without.

For behold ... I have been with you ... from the beginning ...

And I am that ... which is attained ... at the end of desire.

Dearest Lady: Hail and welcome!

Great Rite

The Great Rite in symbol is the joining of blade and cup, representing the joining of God and Goddess in union (sexual and otherwise).

The Horned God is of life and death

The Goddess is of birth and renewal.

The Sun brings forth light

And the Moon holds it in darkness.

Lifts athame

As above,

Holds chalice low.

So below.

Raises chalice

Behold the mystery of life!

Athame unites with chalice.

Behold the beauty of love!

Now the circle is cast.

We are between the worlds,

Beyond the bounds of time

Where night and day, birth and death, joy and sorrow

Meet as one.

Community Sharing

Explanation of Litha - sun stands still (not at noon, but on horizon, hence the circle)

For the kids:

Middle of the year, we welcome the sun!
The garden is growing and we have fun!
Everything's sunny and everything's bright
at this season of love and light."

Joys and sorrows.

Shells on altar... invitation to participants.

Afterwards...

May these shells give us occasion
To connect with the Divine
Each in our own way
To strengthen our bonds
Of support for each other
And to re-ignite our resolve
To bring about well-being, peace and harmony.
Blessed be.

Guided Meditation

Amergin was a leader of the Milesians, one of the ancient tribes that conquered Ireland around 1500 B.C.E., removing the Tuatha de Danaan from power. One of three Druids who spearheaded the takeover, Amergin is referred to as the First Druid of the Gaels in the Irish Book of Invasions.

Thought to be the oldest poem in the Irish language, Amergin's song is lyrical and narrative, evocative of the strength and power of Ireland itself. Poets and bards enjoyed high status in early Celtic society, and Amergin's song (which is actually a collection of several pieces) reflects that hierarchy, as well as some of the core beliefs held by the Druids and their people.

This song answers the question, "What is a Druid?" This meditation is based on the translation by Lady Gregory.

Close your eyes, and just listen. Everyone, relax. Forget about jobs, bills, troubles. Just focus on yourselves, and where we are right now, at this moment.

I am the wind across a deep, wide lake.
I am the wave over the endless sea.
I am the stag of seven tines, racing through the woods
I am the eagle in the aerie, flying above the rocks
I am a flash of light from the sun above, bringing heat to those below
I am the blooming plants, bringing sustenance and beauty
I am a wild boar, powerful and strong
I am the salmon in the water, swimming endlessly upstream
I am the hill where poets stroll for inspiration
I am the head of the spear the draws blood in battle
I am the god that puts fire in the head and honor in the heart.

Take time to reflect on each of these thoughts.

How do they apply to us and our place in the natural world?

Who spreads light in the gathering on the hills?

Who can tell the ages of the moon?

Who can tell the place where the sun rests?

Magickal Work

Energy ritual to bring light to protect the shores, close the dark hole, and heal the ugly wounds caused by the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The knot represents binding, commitment, marriage, remembrance, and restriction. Each participant ties a knot in the cord as everyone chants.

As above and so below:

Lord & Lady, stop the flow.

To mark intent, we knot the cord

And we'll see the sea restored.

Repeat until knotting is done and then send energy out to the universe.

As we so will, so mote it be!

Cakes and Ale

After this, the passing of Cakes and Ale - a token community meal, a sharing of cake sprinkled with ale.

Blessed be this cake

And blessed be this water

As our bodies are nourished

We give the Lord & the Lady gratitude

In celebration of Life

So mote it be!

Closing the Circle

Work backwards though the circle construction. Thank deities and directions.

Lady of the Silvery Wheel

Maid and Mother ... ancient Crone

We bear within ... your mystic seal

We thank you ... for we are your own.

Hail and farewell!

Radiant Lord of Light and Laughter

Thank you for your blessings here

We are yours forever after

One with oak and sun and deer!

Hail and farewell!

To the East, I thank ...

The element of Air... the power of the mind.

For guarding, guiding and protecting our circle.

Stay if you wish.

Leave if you must.

Hail and farewell!

To the South, I thank...

The element of Fire... the power of the spirit.

For guarding, guiding and protecting our circle.

Stay if you wish.

Leave if you must.

Hail and farewell!

To the West, I thank...

The element of Water... the power of the soul.

For guarding, guiding and protecting our circle.

Stay if you wish.

Leave if you must.

Hail and farewell!

To the North, I thank...

The element of Earth, the power of the body.

For guarding, guiding and protecting our circle.

Stay if you wish.

Leave if you must.

Hail and farewell!

Wrap up – and open the circle.

The circle is now open, but never broken.

Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again.

Blessed Be!