

BELTANE '04

* light fire early on, eh?

Gathering and welcome:

We come from many traditions, Earth-based, Wiccan, Celtic, Druid, Native American,... We honor all these traditions. As the ceremony commences, if there is something you wish to add, please feel free to add it to what is being offered. We also welcome anyone to plan upcoming rituals.

We gather again to celebrate the turning of the Wheel. Six weeks have passed since we last gathered. The signs of spring are all around us: the grass is green, the flowers are in bloom, the air smells fantastic! Now is the time to celebrate the fertility of the earth and the greening of our hearts and our minds as we open ourselves up to the possibilities in our lives. Enter the circle with joy for the wonder and beauty that the Mother gives to each of us.

Cleansing:

Each will be annointed with a glittery moon and with the words: "I mark you with the sign of Artemis, the young crescent moon. Enter in perfect love and trust."

Directions:

Guardians of the East--sunrise, moonrise, spring, light, longer days, birth--we invite you to be with us and bring forth renewed hope and love. Blessed be.

Guardians of the South--warm fires, warm sun, bright colors, music, dance, love, passion--we invite you to be with us and bring forth health and energy. Blessed be.

Guardians of the West--clear, clear water, open spaces, setting sun, setting moon, wind, rain--we invite you to be with us and bring forth joy and healing. Blessed be.

Guardians of the North--earth, rocks, animal life, calm and cool of winter, rest and sleep--we invite you to be with us and bring forth stability and laughter. Blessed be.

Casting the Circle:

We cast this circle in the name of "the birds and the green and the brightness, the song and the dance and the ancient play. Growth and flowering and creativity, energy and love and passion. May the Goddess of flowers, love and beauty- and the God of strength and vitality- bless you and keep you all this Beltane night, and may you remember the spirit of this May Day through the thirteen moons to come. Blessed be."

Forming the Circle:

As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

Invocation:

"O Mother Goddess, Queen of the night and of the Earth; O Father God, King of the day and of the forests, we celebrate Your union as nature rejoices in a riotous blaze of color and life. [Be with us now and accept this ritual], Mother Goddess and Father God, in honor of your union."

History and weaving:

This is the Sabbat celebrating fertility and the union of the young Horned God and the Goddess. Life is renewing itself, birds and animals are mating; in the fields, newly planted seeds are beginning to grow. Great fires are lit honoring the fertility God Belenos. Some leap the fires to show the exuberance of the season. Couples wishing to conceive children will jump the fires together. Fertility of imagination and other varieties of fertility are invoked along with sexual fertility. Maypoles are raised and the bright ribbons entwined around. The Maypole represents the phallic masculine, while the colorful ribbons represent the feminine. We are creating miniature weavings to take home and hang on our altars (or wherever you desire). The union of these pieces symbolizes the union of the God and Goddess. This is a time to fertilize your dreams with actions. That which is conceived at Beltane is gifted by the Gods. When you have finished your piece, place it on the altar for a blessing.

"From Your mating shall spring forth life anew; a profusion of living creatures shall cover the lands, and the winds will blow pure and sweet. O Ancient Ones, we celebrate with You!" Bless our humble crafts that we may know your gifts throughout the coming year. Blessed be!

Crowning of the May Queen: (see sheet)

Communion:

As we pass the cup be aware of this element of spirit which we are taking in and is a part of us. This spirit makes us all children of a sacred marriage. We are all children of the Earth. Greet each other knowing that you are looking into the eyes of one who is blessed.

Sharing: At the Vernal Equinox, we planted the seeds of that which we wanted to grow in our lives. Now is a time for sharing those dreams which we plan to fertilize in the coming months, or any other thoughts you wish to express to the circle.

Fire Jumping:

To really boost the fertility of your wishes and desires, say them as you jump over the fire!

Dismissing the Directions/Releasing the Spirits:

Guardians of the East--sunrise, moonrise, spring, light, longer days, birth--thank you for the renewed hope and love you have provided. Blessed be.

Guardians of the South--warm fires, warm sun, bright colors, music, dance, love, passion--thank you for the health and energy you have provided. Blessed be.

Guardians of the West--clear, clear water, open spaces, setting sun, setting moon, wind, rain--thank you for the joy and healing you have provided. Blessed be.

Guardians of the North--earth, rocks, animal life, calm and cool of winter, rest and sleep--thank you for the stability and laughter you have provided. Blessed be.

Guardians of the Paths, as we release you we ask that your essence remain to the right of us, to the left of us, in front of us, behind us, above us, below us, and within us as we individually continue our separate and shared journeys.

Merry Meet and Merry Part and Merry Meet Again!! Blessed Be!!

TIME TO EAT!