

# Beltane '14 w/ Treibh na Tíntean

(full ritual edition)

*[Start fire early, bring table outside.]*

MEDITATION *[Scott, Roz and Dave A.]:*

*[Before dinner:]*

It's been hot today, but it's finally cooling off as the sunsets. You decide to take a walk. The sun illuminates the dirt road into an endless ribbon. But appearances are deceiving. The road soon becomes a path. The path leads to the edge of a meadow of tall grasses. A dark granite standing stone, etched by water and time, stands in the clearing. Tiny flecks of quartz glisten in the setting sun. Captivated, you approach the stone.

In an instant you are part of an invisible clan, at one with each seeking soul who has approached this portal. You realize this is a place of reverence. Energy sparks through your hands, up your arms and into your heart, and you hear voices:

“Don't be afraid. The veil is thin, and we welcome you to celebrate this glorious night with us and the sidhe [shee]. Join us as we celebrate the Sun God in all his power.”

You grow dizzy. Time shifts. Colors whirl around you. You find yourself in the midst of the meadow.

The sun is suddenly radiant again, powerful, yet your skin does not burn and your eyes adjust easily to the light. It is confident, erotic glow, the physical manifestation of confidence and joy.

You gasp as you realize the flecks in the rock have become tiny, perfect souls. You see familiar faces, faces you loved while they were physically present to you and love even more now that they have passed from that incarnation.

*[Roz]* “Come, join us. Feast at the Sun God's table,”

You hear. You turn, and a wooden plank table groaning with fruits, breads, cheese, and ale—such wealth you can scarcely take it in. Kegs of mead rest alongside the table. Your hostess approaches, perfect in form, her silver gown glowing. She appears as young as a maiden yet carries the wisdom of age.

*[Roz]* “Welcome, friend. I am Danu. Please, fill your cup and plate, and nourish your body and soul.”

You shyly accept a wooden horn filled with mead, light and sweet and sparkling. It fills you with effervescent lightness and joy. You accept a wooden platter and fill it with delicious-looking food....

## DINNER

As you ate, you looked around you. You saw the souls you love laugh, dance and talk. You gazed in amazement at the community united in celebration. Dryads, spirits of the trees, some young and smooth with silver, glowing hair and others with lush greenery surrounding wise, gnarled faces, circle rhythmically. Nymphs, delicate and almost transparent, dance in their flowing way. Fairies whirl and circle so quickly you see only trails of glowing color. Elves dance on light, lively feet. Dwarves hop and hobble, released from their mines deep in the earth to celebrate the sun.

You sat on the cool meadow grass and refreshed yourself with food and drink. Now, you join the dance. You move tentatively, hesitantly, for the first few minutes. Then something breaks free inside you. You laugh and whirl, your energy soaring and your soul at one with the Goddess.

Midnight approaches. The music slows to a gentle, lyrical melody; then a hush falls. You look up. A gnarled, ancient oak bears a face you have not seen before. It is gentle yet strong, full of wisdom, ancient, yet full of power. The face speaks, and the celebrants fall silent and reverent.

[*Dave A.*] “I am Jack O’ The Green, John Barleycorn, the Green Man, the Ancient One. I am the one who connects you in the Universe’s timeless web. You have shared my power, my essence, my fertility— not just physical joys but the fertility of creation, of new life, of new strength, of joy and healing. You celebrated my birth at Yule; now you celebrate the peak of my power.

“However, the wheel must turn again. This night sows the seeds of the coming harvest. As you harvest herbs tonight, their seeds fall to their resting places deep in the Earth. I must do the same. Tonight I wish to give you my greatest gift, that of being able to treasure and value all parts of the circle, waxing moon and waning moon, joy and pain, birth and death.

“No pain is forever and no joy is forever. Simply BE in each moment, aware of my presence, of the Goddess’ presence, accepting our power and joy in good times and our comfort and strength in bad. Realize, too that ‘good’ and ‘bad’ are labels with only passing meaning.

“Everything is a part of life’s circle; everything has meaning and nothing happens by ‘chance.’”

[*Scott*] The Green man smiles and lifts his arms in blessing. Your heart swells with love and joy. “So simple, yet so few grasp this,” you think, and resolve to share the God’s message with those you love—and act on it.

Sadness tinges the joy as you move with the crowd toward the standing stone. Time and place shift the horizon. You look up, smile and whisper your thanks. After a few more moments, you walk away at peace . . . and refreshed.

## CLEANSING

CHANT [*If necessary, “The Earth is a Woman and She will rise (repeat). We will live in Her./ The Sun is a Man and He will rise (repeat). We will live in Him.”*]

## CALLING

**East:** Oh, Spirit of the East, Ancient Guardian of Air, we call you now to attend this circle, charged by your powers. Welcome, Sylph, to our circle. So mote it be.

**South:** Oh, Spirit of the South, Ancient Guardian of Fire, we call you now to attend this circle, charged by your powers. Welcome, Salamander, to our circle. So mote it be.

**West:** Oh, Spirit of the West, Ancient Guardian of Water, we call you now to attend this circle, charged by your powers. Welcome, Undine, to our circle. So mote it be.

**North:** Oh, Spirit of the North, Ancient Guardian of Earth, we call you now to attend this circle, charged by your powers. Welcome, Gnome, to our circle. So mote it be.

**Spirit:** Oh, Spirit of the Realms, Ancient Guardian of Souls, we call you now to attend this circle, charged by your powers. Welcome, Avian Elemental Spirit, to our circle. So mote it be.

CASTING [*All*]: We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / Spinners and weavers, Toolmakers, potters; / As dancers and dreamers, / Fixers, changers, / Singers and screamers. / We cast this circle with our ancestors and guardians, / God and Goddess too, / You who teach and who speak true, / Who plant, who reap, / Who

soar, who creep, / Who cook, who drum, / Who have been and yet to come, / Unreasonable women, / Unmanageable men. / We cast as pagan, druid and witches, / Loving hearts or furious bitches. / We are sweet water, we are the seed; / we are the storm wind to blow away greed. Into this circle we bring to birth / the love that reclaims our earth.

COVENANT: *[All]* As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit. So mote it be.

INVOCATIONS:

**GODDESS** *[All men]:* Hail, Lady, Mother, Lover—You who are the Maid of spring, the silvered Moon of the night—we will take Your hand and join with You upon this day. You are the Earth from whose blessed womb we spring, and the water which quenches our thirst. Let the dance begin! So mote it be.

**GOD** *[All women]:* Hail, Father, Lover—You are the stag of seven tines; You are the wide flood on the plain; You are the wind on the deep waters; You are a shining tear of the sun; You are the hawk on a cliff; You are the fairest among the flowers; and, You are the God who sets the head afire with smoke. Let the dance begin! So mote it be.

PRESENTING THE GOD *[Go around the circle and have each one read a line. We can do the same for the Goddess.]* The Ascent of the God:

- The God is our Fire, the Vine and the Beast;
- He lives and He dies as circles the Year,
- When harvest comes due, then He lays down His life,
- Down through the grave His path guides His feet,
- She follows Him there, he explains to Her fears;
- She is reminded that sorrow's not all,
- She gives up life not, He dies only awhile:
- in greenery resprouts, in flesh reappears,
- Deep separation deep marriage becomes,
- Their heartbeats like drums.
- the Goddess' son, and Her lover at Feast.
- in both death and rebirth His fate always clear.
- grieving the Goddess as mother and wife.
- and death comes to life in a womb that's earth-sweet.
- He lightens Her heartache, tempers Her tears.
- for grief's to endow Her glad-ringing hall.
- in light He returns thru Earth's blessed aisle;
- and in May, with embraces and urges, endears.
- Their rhythms like blooming;
- Long days from long nights grace this bright period
- when the Worlds celebrate the ascent of the God!

*[David A. enters the circle!]*

*[Let's do some "huzzahs!" eh? Then he goes to the edge of, but not into, the circle closest to the Maypole—West.]*

PRESENTING THE GODDESS The Goddess SPEAKS:

- She is here! Summer is here!
- She is the Gracious Goddess Who gives the gift of joy unto the hearts of men and women.
- Upon Earth, She gives knowledge of the Spirit Eternal...
- and beyond death She gives peace, freedom and reunion with those who have gone before.
- Nor does She demand sacrifice, for behold, She is the Mother of all things living...
- and Her love is poured out upon the Earth.
- Here ye the words of the Star Goddess...
- She in the dust of Whose feet are the hosts of heaven... - Whose body encircles the Universe....

- She is the beauty of the green Earth...
- and the Mysteries of the waters...
- *There is only light...*
- the primal dance of bodies:
- body worship...
- dancing wildly on the mountain peaks...
- Invoke Her with your arms open wide...
- going through you and all around you.
- and the white Moon among the stars...
- and the desire in the hearts of human beings.
- *the awakening of the senses...*
- ecstatic prayer...
- celebrating love...
- in the valleys, in the glades!
- Her winds caressing you, teasing you...
- She is here! Summer is here!

*[Roz enters the circle and then joins David A. in the West.]*

DANCING THE MAYPOLE *[David and Roz lead all of us to the Maypole and we dance beautifully, of course. When the ribbons are wrapped, Dave will chase Roz back into the circle, they kiss as we are circle up around them.]*

THE MARRIAGE OF THE GODDESS AND GOD – Otherwise known as Dave and Roz’s year-and-a-day handfasting—intentions and cords.

## COMMUNION

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE QUEEN

BELTANE BLESSING *[All]* Bless, O threefold true and bountiful, / myself, my love and my tribe. / Bless everything within my dwelling and in my possession, / Bless the kine and crops, the flocks and corn, / from Samhain eve to Beltane eve, / with goodly progress and gentle blessing, / from sea to sea, and every river mouth, / from wave to wave, and base of waterfall.

Be the Maiden, Mother and Crone, / taking possession of all to me belonging. / Be the Horned God, the Wild Spirit of the Forest, / protecting me in truth and honor. / Satisfy my soul and shield my loved ones, blessing everything and everyone, / all my land and my surroundings. / Great gods who create and bring life to all, / I ask for your blessings on this day of fire.

RUNE BLESSING *[Shay]* - For Beltane, there is not just one rune that fits the energy this sabbat represents. It is the time for celebrating the marriage of the God and Goddess, thus renewing and encouraging the fertility of earth once again. The God, who is the virile seed of promise, and the Goddess, who is the fertile earth, ready to receive, nurture and help grow the precious seed.

For these energies, we look to Ingwaz and Berkana: the ultimate male and female runes and two of the strongest fertility runes. When combined to create a bindrune, the energies of these runes exemplify the passionate, fertile nature we all carry within us in one form or other.

These precious seeds represent boundless potential, the fertility of mind, body or spirit. Which fertility though, is up to the individual. But no matter what the seeds are ready to be planted and the fertile earth is ready to receive them, nurture them and sprout them forth.

May the energies of Ingwaz and Berkana fill you and spur you to fertility, growth and love.

## THANKING

**North:** Ancient Guardian of Earth, we thank you for guiding this circle and charging it with your powers. Thank you, Gnome. Blessed be.

**West:** Ancient Guardian of Water, we thank you for guiding this circle and charging it with your powers. Thank you, Undine. Blessed be.

**South:** Ancient Guardian of Fire, we thank you for guiding this circle and charging it with your powers. Welcome, Salamander. Blessed be.

**East:** Ancient Guardian of Air, we thank you for guiding this circle and charging it with your powers. Thank you, Sylph. Blessed be.

**Spirit:** Spirit of the Realms, Ancient Guardian of Souls, we thank you for guiding this circle and charging it with your powers. Thank you, Spirit. Blessed be.

**GOD** *[All women]*: We thank You, Father, Lover—You are the stag of seven tines; You have set our heads afire with smoke. Continue dancing with us as the circle opens. Blessed be.

**GODDESS** *[All men]*: We thank You, Lady, Mother, Lover—You are the Earth from whose blessed womb we spring. Welcome home! Keep the dance with us as the circle opens. Blessed be.

*[All]* This Beltane circle is open yet unbroken. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!

FIRE JUMPING, DANCING AND DRUMMING!!!