

Gina's Handparting/Reclaiming Ritual

-Treibh na Tíntean 5/17/15

MEDITATION: [Gina leads.]

"I sat alone and I cannot recall a single moment when I closed my eyes. Still, I can remember gazing deeply into violet pools of magical delight. And yet, within those shimmering, glistening orbs that swallowed up my soul, The evening somehow passed into the dawn without the blessed interlude of night.

"Neither sleeping nor awakened, I was lost in rapt attention, unaware my Lady Moon passed by. All my hopes were lost, within a single, unremembered passage from the twilight to the dawn, All I dreamed and all I thought myself to be, was forfeit to your deep, confounding, violet eyes. My passion spent- you left me with no trace of purpose or intent. A hazy spectral figure- come the morn.

"I sit here silently- no sound emits from lips completely frozen by your cold and hungry kiss. This emptiness inside has left me nothing; even hunger has long fled this barren, fruitless, husk. No fingers touch the keys with neither love nor hate, no thing I crave, and nothing that I miss. All I have is longing for oblivion when you return to claim my desolate, depleted, shell at dusk.

"Then a blackbird sang out through the gloom, and fed my aching heart with warbling notes of pure delight. I tore the heavy curtains from my window, and I leaned my head outside to glimpse the singer of that wondrous song. In the misty haze of mornings blood-red clouds, an angel spread her wings and filled my heart with love and golden light. I ran down to the open fields, as tiny angels circled round on wings of gossamer, and helped me see that all your power over me was gone."ⁱ

INVOCATION: [All]

Tonight the Dark Goddess speaks to us through the mouth of Lilith. We call to Her who is the Darkness behind the shadows. /She is the absence of air that awaits at the bottom of every breath. / She is the Ending before Life begins again, the Decay that fertilizes the Living. / She is the Bottomless Pit, the never-ending struggle to reclaim that which is denied. She is the Key that unlocks every Door. / She is the Glory of Discovery, for She is that which is hidden, secluded and forbidden. / Call Her at the Dark Moon and see that which cannot be seen, face the terror that is yours alone.

Swim to Her through the blackest oceans to the center of your greatest fears—She will keep you safe. Scream to Her in terror, and yours will be the Power to Forbear. Think of Her when you feel pleasure, and She will intensify it, until the time when She may have the greatest pleasure of meeting you at the Crossroads between the Worlds. Welcome, Lilith!ⁱⁱ

LOGISTICS & CHANTS:

INTO THE LABYRINTH: [*Gina is second*].

Entering the labyrinth [all]—"The ocean refuses no river, no river; the ocean refuses no river, no river. Alleluia, alleluia, all-le-lu-ia. Alleluia, alleluia, all-le-lu-ia."

The questions.... and the answers.

BLESSING [all]:

By the powers of the northern light, you break the negativity in your life.

By the powers of the southern sun, you face your fears and watch them run.

By the powers of the eastern air, you break the curse and it takes flight.

By the powers of the western sea, you are strong and your powers rise.

Leaving the labyrinth [All]—“Our purpose is, our purpose is to rise up, our purpose is to rise up singing.”

THANKING [all]:

Dark Mother, we sought you under the veil of shadow. Dark Mother, thank you for guidance upon our way. You have been our strength in the darkness, the regenerating womb from which life spirals forth. Dark Mother, thank you and blessed be.

EAST: Spirit of the Eastern wolf, Element of Air! Thank you for the protection and courage. Blessed be.

SOUTH: Spirit of the Southern wolf, Element of Fire! Thank you for the passion. Blessed be.

WEST: Spirit of the Western wolf, Element of Water! Thank you for the healing. Blessed be.

NORTH: Spirit of the Northern wolf, Element of Earth! Thank you for the strength. Blessed be.

[All] Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!



[Music and wine to follow around the fire.]

ⁱ “Darkness” by Patrick W. Kavanagh, 2-23-14

ⁱⁱ adapted from “Invocation of the Dark Goddess” by Lynne O’Connor