

## *Imbolc '12 with Treibh na Tíntean*

**CLEANSING:** (*Anoint self with milk from the well.*)

### **WELCOME—BRIGIT'S FLAME**

**Mike:** Fire of the heart, Fire of the mind...

**Scott:** Fire of the hearth, Fire of the wind...

**Joe:** Fire of the Art, Fire out of time!

**M, S & J:** She shines for all, she burns in all!

*(Mike lights the candle on the altar.)*

**Scott:** For more than nine hundred years the flame of Brigit burned in her shrine at Kildare, tended first by the priestesses of the goddess, and then by the Catholic sisters of the saint. In the year 1220, the bishop ordered it extinguished. *(Mike blows out candle.)*

**Joe:** Soon it was relit *(Mike lights it).*

**Scott:** It burned until the Reformation, during the reign of King Henry the Eighth, and was extinguished again, and the abbey was destroyed *(Mike blows out candle).*

**Mike:** In 1996 the flame was lit again in Kildare, *(he lights candle).* The darkness of ignorance and fear may well put it out again one day *(he blows it out).*

**Joe:** But the true flame was not in Ireland; the true flame is the Goddess, and her fire is never lost. *(Mike lights it again!)*

### **DIRECTIONS**

**EAST:** Powers of Air, Guardians of the Watchtower of the East—winds that fan the fires of the forge, winds that cool the brow of the Smith, winds of ancient knowledge of smith craft, of metals and of stones—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

**NORTH:** Powers of Earth, Guardians of the Watchtower of the North—minerals of the earth, steel and stone, wood and bronze, gold and charcoal, hammer and anvil, sword and shield, helm and torc, enduring matter that was before and will endure after all else has past—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

**WEST:** Powers of Water, Guardians of the Watchtower of the West—liquid that quenches the hot metal to temper it, cool draught which quenches thirst after the heat of the forge, cleanliness of the ritual bath—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

**SOUTH:** Powers of Fire, Guardians of the Watchtower of the South—flame of forge that heats the iron, flame which melts apart and welds together, flame that transforms the metal that it may be worked, flame which hardens so that all else will yield before its sharpness and strength—come to this circle tonight. So mote it be!

**CASTING:** Holy Brigit, Triple Goddess, You Who are Healer, Smith, Poet—we welcome You. We have created this altar in Your honor, and in the hope that Your essence will dwell here to heal, re-create and inspire us. Lady of Flame, Light of Hope and Life, bless us, bless this altar, bless our ritual and blessed be your eternal fire. So mote it be!

**DIRECTIONS:** By the power of the Living Flame, we welcome you to this sacred circle!

### **The Three Faces of Brigit**

**Dulci:** Last autumn, we watched the nights grow longer, and embraced darkness and silence of winter. Now the fields lie fallow, the sun is dim in the pale sky, and the cold lingers. In this season it is hard to remember the warmth and light and new life of spring; but they come. They come. The Goddess reminds us that winter is not forever. Brigit reminds us.

*(Sandy steps into the circle)* This is Brigit, Queen of the Slim Fairy Folk, Elder Goddess of the Fomorians and Mother of the Tuatha de Danaan, Exalted Lady; and before the beginning of days, she was. She is also Song-sweet Brigit of the Tribe of the Green Mantles, and she sent songs and music on the wind before ever the bells of the chapels were rung in the West or heard in the East. She is the heart of poetry, and she has been a breath in your mind since before your first birth. *(Sandy goes to her throne.)*

*(Denise steps into the circle)* This is Brigantia, the Eternal Flame, Mistress of the Secrets of the Forge; she shapes the world with iron and fire. And she is the Warrior Queen of the Brigantes, Leader of the Immortal Host, Defender of the Clans, the Victorious One. And the day has dawned that will see her coming into the hearts of men and women like a flame upon dry grass, like a flame of wind in a great wood, like a flame of justice that will reach the very heavens! *(Denise goes to her throne.)*

*(Janet steps into the circle)* This is Bride of the Isles, the Lady of the Sea, Conception of the Waves, the Healing Power of Pure Love. She is the sacred chalice that contains the mystery of life, she is the crystal water of the holy wells, and she is the white foam on the breast of the rushing rivers in springtime. In the Land of Eternal Youth, her name is Mountain-traveler; and in the Country of Ancient Years it is Seek-Beyond. Her womb brings you forth. Her waters refresh you, Her touch makes you whole. *(Janet goes to her throne.)*

I invite each of you to visit the three aspects of Brigit and ask her blessing.

### **BLESSING THE CANDLES**

**EAST:** I invoke the spirits of the east who paint the morning sky with brilliant light, who bring us the rebirth of the spirit! By the air that is Her breath, bless these candles and their users with Brigid's gifts of poetry and intelligence! So mote it be.

**SOUTH:** I invoke the spirits of the south who burn brightly as we celebrate the return of light, who are the fire of the forge that transforms us! By the flames that heat the cauldron, bless these candles and their users with Brigid's gifts of lore and knowledge! So mote it be.

**WEST:** I invoke the spirits of the west, deep waters of the sacred well who cleanse and restore us, who heal us of all wounds! By the water that is Her blood, bless these candles and their users with Brigid's gifts of meditation, reflection and comprehension! So mote it be.

**NORTH:** I invoke the spirits of the north, keepers of life's secrets, most powerful & ancient forces of creation, who greet us in wholeness at the end of our lives! By the earth that is Her body, bless these candles and their users with Brigid's gifts of wisdom and research! So mote it be!

**CIRCLE SWEEPING:** *(Pass broom from hand to hand)*

All: By Her breath and by Her broom—the light returns, the light returns! / By Her work and in Her womb—the light returns, the light returns! / The fire burns, the wheel turns—the light returns, the light returns! / A tiny spark dispels the dark—the light returns, the light returns!  
*(Repeat until broom is all the way around the circle.)*

**COMMUNION:** *(Sandy, Denise and Janet mix the communion drink; then Dulci will hand out candles.)*

### **THANKING THE DIRECTIONS**

**EAST:** Powers of Air, Guardians of the Watchtower of the East, we thank you for blessing us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

**NORTH:** Powers of Earth, Guardians of the Watchtower of the North, we thank you for blessing us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

**WEST:** Powers of Water, Guardians of the Watchtower of the West, we thank you for blessing us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

**SOUTH:** Powers of Fire, Guardians of the Watchtower of the South, we thank you for blessings us. We in turn bless you as you return to your realm.

**All:** May the holy maiden Bride protect you from all dangers. May Brigit's waters heal you. May Brigit's winds inspire you. May Brigit's fire warm you. The circle is open, but unbroken. May the peace of Brigit be ever with you. Merry meet, and merry part, and merry meet again