

FULL MOON JULY 31

Full Moons and oppositions bring issues to a climax. They require balance, compromise and integration to achieve wholeness. The Aquarian Full Moon highlights the need to challenge the status quo and our desire to work with kindred spirits to make a difference in the world. The Aquarius/ Leo polarity synergizes expanded social values that unleash the potential of the collective through individual contributions. One of my very favorite quotes is the perfect synthesis of Aquarian and Leo energies.

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." Harold Thurman Whitman

from--LEO:EMBRACE OUR INNER LION & TAKE JOY AND FUN TO THE NEXT LEVEL--AQUARIAN FULL MOON, By Gururattan Kaur Khalsa, Ph.D.

An Invitation to Participate in a Magical Working on Lammas, 2004

Greetings. We are inspired by the recent political witchcraft coming out of the Reclaiming community and are asking interested magical folks to consider joining in a Lammas working. The United States is at a pivotal point, with the current president mobilizing conservative religious forces for his re-election, in a high stakes political game that barely resembles democracy.

We are also inspired by a novel, *Lammas Night* by Katherine Kurtz, a fictional but credible account of Witches in England coming together across traditions on Lammas in 1940. In the novel, a cone of power was collectively raised, putting out the idea to Hitler that any attempt to invade England would fail. His plans to invade were retracted, perhaps due to strengthening of the magic through sacrifice.

On the eve of a US election, Americans are in a position of influence, towards the domestic election and the use of U.S. power in the world. We see the need for a cone of power aimed towards global justice and cooperation. The witches of Britain in 1940 considered how they would feed the cone of power they raised; we can consider the sacrifices we are prepared to make to empower our magic in 2004.

Sacrifice means to make sacred; we see it as an act of choice, not passivity. What does the land need back from us at this season of the first harvest? We offer some suggestions for your consideration:

-What am I willing to let go of in order to have more time, money, and energy to insist on a cooperative role for the U.S. on the world stage, rather than a domineering role?

-What do I need to let go of to move towards a world where there is fresh water for all, clean air, an ozone layer that protects us from the sun, a sustainable diverse agricultural base, etc? Are

there "privileges" in my lifestyle that are contrary to this larger good that I can consider sacrificing?

-Do I have internal patterns of denial and individualism that I can consider sacrificing? How about letting go of disappointment in the Democratic candidate, or of the idea that this election is only a "U.S" issue, or that this money-run election is about democracy?

-What will most empower my spiritual work? Can I reach for deeper honesty? What about a sacrifice of the 'male principle' for revitalization? What sacrifice is mine to make?

We ask you to consider joining from across traditions of the craft to work together this Lammas, 2004. Consider meditating on what each of us is willing to sacrifice in order to empower our magic because "another world is possible." We affirm that "we are the change, we are the change we are waiting for, and we are dawning..." Sometime between the night of July 31st (the second full moon that month) and August 2nd you are invited to contribute to the cone of power raised for the greatest good of all. Picnic by moonlight. Plant a crystal to add to the web. (See current issue of Reclaiming Quarterly or contact us about the Pagan Cluster and LIVRIV list serve for more details.) Share this invitation with other Pagans, Wiccans, Witches, and anyone who is willing to join us. Clarify your intention. Offer up that which no longer serves you, or that which serves only you to the detriment of other parts of the interconnected web of life.

Celebrate the first harvest, and add your energy, intensified by your sacrifice, to the cone of power aimed towards global justice and cooperation. Please distribute widely. And it harm none, so mote it be.

Blessed be, Selchie, of Ontario, Canada, and Grove, of Massachusetts, USA (fwded by Angie B. of Gaia's Womb)

Subject: Blue Moon Forest Ritual

Sisters, There is so much to say and I am writing furiously as often as I can to try to gather the words to convey to you the essence of the Parliament and the things that happened there. I promise...soon.

In the interim, I have been browsing your posts and I wanted to share with you what I will be doing for Full Blue Moon at Lammas on Saturday, July 31st. Whoever wishes to join me is welcome. Some of you may already be planning to be at Circle Sanctuary that evening and we can gather physically if you like. This will not be a part of the ritual programming but something I am doing on my own.

Weather permitting, I plan to go to Stone Circle after dark. Into the forest... literally. If you're coming, bring a candle in a glass cup. This ritual will be about gratitude. So often, we run to the Forest to connect in times of trouble, in times of need, in times of grief. This time, on this night of the Blue Moon, at this the first of the Harvest season, I want to go in deep and with profound gratitude. I want to sit on the Earth and pour into Her my thanks, my appreciation, my delight, my joy, my respect and all of the positive things that I have received in this lifetime on so many levels, for so long. I want to visualize so many faces past and present, here and crossed over, of

those who have given so much to me, to hold them in my mind's eye in love and appreciation, to hear their words of comfort and the energy of their wisdom; my siblings, my relatives, my friends, my mate, and the dog that owns me. I want to think about my home, the things in it that warm my heart and make the house spirits welcoming, I want to think about my car, which has schlepped me and my stuff all over the country in comfort and safety, I want to think about comfortable shoes and good food and all of the things too numerous to list for which I am far too dismissive. I want to think about how thoroughly soaked with gratitude I am that I can speak freely, that I can vote, that I can read and write and argue and research and that I have my health. I want to replenish that Forest on which we have all come to rely, with as much as I have taken from it, although I know that is not possible -- for what I have taken from it I can never repay. Fortunately, no one's keeping score. And that's exactly why I want to let go of all the negativity, of all the demands of how *I* want things to go, of all the desires in my heart, to spend this one brief, shining moment, this special moon acknowledging my power to give back.

There is magic in the night and in the soft rain that drops silently upon the garden leaves, rolling from one delicate leaf to the next, touching all with new life and enchantment. A precious drop lingers, cradled in the bend of a vine, glistening in the caress of a moonbeam, which reveals a realm of sapphire hues and Faerie dust trails where lovely wispy, misty nymphs lead snow white horses carrying wishes to the clouds. And then the water drop falls to Earth and all is gone, save for the dream of it.

I love you all, ~Angie