

LITHA '09 with Treibh na Tintean (try-v na tin tawn)

EAST: “Litha, the summer solstice, is the longest day...a time of amazing bounty—the zenith of the year, high noon.

SOUTH: “It is a time of action—of doing, not simply being, and a time of the leap of faith.

WEST: “Action is always tempered by tension, as action can lead just as easily to failure as to success.

NORTH: ““Litha marks the end of the waxing half of the year, as from this moment onward the days will begin to grow shorter as we progress toward autumn.

SPIRIT: “Therefore it is almost a frenzy of movement, of incredible brightness and exuberance—a last dance.”

~Dianne Sylvan, *The Circle Within*

Cleansing

Calling the Directions

EAST: Fireflies and summer sun in circles round we become as one. Singing songs at magick's hour we bring the winds and timeless powers.

SOUTH: Rise on the morn standing silent beneath the sky. To light my way, we catch fire from our God's eye.

WEST: Chant while moon gazing. Hail, fair moon swaying breathless, beside the sea.

NORTH: Turning inward, hand in hand, chant while sun is setting. We dance around the precious hearth we've built upon our blessed earth.

SPIRIT: Hail, fair Sun to heal the land, ruler of the day; ruler of the night, our Moon, we call the Goddess until the light.

ALL: So mote it be!

~adapted from Patricia Telesco

Casting (All) We cast this circle as sons and daughters, / Spinners and weavers, Tool makers, 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.

Invocation

the **God** - Father, Sun, and Brother / Who wears a cloak of bright blue sky / Whose breath stirs the forest / Whose love draws the harvest from the soil / I hear Your call in the wolf's song. / Teach me the holiness of joy, the sanctity of living. / I join You on the hillside / To dance in Your light / To reach for Your hand.

the **Goddess** - Juno, Hera, Queen, / Let all that is needed to be done, be done well. Let us sing of Your glory under the moon. / We are the arm that does Your work. / We are the mind of Your thoughts. / We are the conductor of Your power. / Juno, Hera, Queen, / we are the heart of Your love.

Circle Blessing

EAST: We celebrate Life on this Midsummer day! Sadness is set aside and joy flows within as the High Summer begins.

SOUTH: The Light of the Sun, the God of Life, shines around us and in us for all the world to see.

WEST: The Lord and Lady of the Greenwood have made Their pact.

NORTH: The Oak King turns his face to that of the Holly King so He may wed the Queen and pass into Her care.

SPIRIT: The Life that enters the Lady's care is sanctified and purified in Her love. So mote it be!

(Pass out blue and yellow ribbons)

ALL:

Mother Earth and Father Sun / We honor You for a job well done. / The Earth has greened and so have we / You've brought back perfect harmony. / Mother Earth and Father Sun / Pour out Your blessings one by one / Upon the Earth and on us, too / As we tie these ribbons of yellow and blue.

(Tie ribbons to branches of trees surrounding the circle.)

Faery Blessing

EAST: It's never a good idea to neglect the faeries!

SOUTH: We must give them their due for protecting our woods.

WEST: So we have this bowl of "pretties" to offer as gifts of gratitude.

NORTH: After we bless these "stones," come and get one and put it somewhere in the woods for the faeries to find.

SPIRIT: Distribute them all over the woods, where you think the faeries' might gather.

The Directions:

Fey and Fairy-folk alike, / Leprechauns and Flitting Sprite,
We pay honor now to Thee, / Upon You, may all blessings be.

Communion- Be sure to toast the anniversary of Jenna and David!

We Have Come To Be Danced!

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the pretty dance
- not the pretty, pretty, pick me, pick me dance
- but the claw-our-way-back-into-the-belly-of-the-sacred-sensual-animal dance
- the unhinged, unplugged, cat-is-out-of-its-box dance
- the holding-the-precious-moment-in-the-palms-of-our-hands-and-feet dance

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the jiffy booty, shake-your-booty-for-him dance
- but the wring-the-sadness-from-our-skin dance
- the blow-the-chip-off-our-shoulder dance
- the slap-the-apology-from-our-posture dance

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the monkey-see, monkey-do dance
- one, two, dance-like-you
- one, two, three, dance-like-me dance
- but the grave robber, tomb stalker, tearing-scabs-and-scars-open dance
- the rub-the-rhythm-raw-against-our-soul dance.

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the nice, invisible, self-conscious shuffle
- but the matted-hair-flying, voodoo mama, shaman-shakin'-ancient-bones dance
- the strip-us-from-our-casings, return-our-wings-sharpen-our-claws-and-tongues dance
- the shed-dead-cells-and-slip-into-the-luminous-skin-of-love dance.

All – We have come to be danced!

- not the hold-our-breath-and-wallow-in-the-shallow-end-of-the-floor dance
- but the meeting-of-the-trinity, the body-breath-and-beat dance
- the shout-hallelujah-from-the-top-of-our-thighs dance
- the mother-may-I? Yes, you-may-take-10-giant-leaps dance
- the olly, olly oxen-free, free, free! dance
- the everyone-can-come-to-our-heaven dance.

All – We have come to be danced!

- where the kingdom's collide in the cathedral of the flesh
- to turn back into the light
- to unravel, to play, to fly, to pray
- to root in skin sanctuary.

All – We have come to be danced! We have come!

--by Jewel Mathieson

Thanking the God and Goddess

Lord of Light, Lord of the Dance, / Lord of the turning Year's romance,
Welcome You have been today; / go if You must, and stay if You will!

Mother Goddess, charming Earth, / You through whom we know rebirth,
Welcome You have been today; / go if You must, and stay if You will!

Thanking the Directions

EAST: We thank the winds and timeless powers. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

SOUTH: We thank fire that comes from our God's eye. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

WEST: We thank the fair moon and the sea tides. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

NORTH: We thank our precious hearth, our blessed earth. Depart in peace. Blessed be.

SPIRIT: For the energies adrift on the enchanted night air, we give thanks. Blessed be.

ALL: The circle is open, yet remains; around us flows its magical power. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!