

Litha 2016 with Treibh na Tintean

Opening reading (Richard):

As the wheel turns again we find ourselves at Summer Solstice. Litha - Midsummer is one of the Lesser Wiccan Sabbats. The sun is at the height of its power before beginning its slide into darkness and we experience the longest day and shortest night of the year. It is important to note that the separation of the light and dark halves of the year have nothing to do with good and evil. Light signifies growth and expansion; dark means withdrawal and rest. Both are necessary. While steamy Midsummer marks the beginning of the Sun's dying strength the season itself is very lush, erotic and sexy. The Sun, flowers and Earth are in full bloom. Hot Midsummer creates a fiery, mature, breathless passion. The God is at the very height of his power as we hit midsummer, at this point of the year the crops are coming along nicely. We have done all of the planting associated with spring and life gets a little easier as we sit back and tend what we've created. It's a time of great celebration before we meet the work ahead as the harvest comes in. We honor the God and Goddess whose union has blessed us with the fertility to create the projects we began way back at Imbolc. On Midsummer the veil between the worlds is said to be very thin making this a great time for divination, historically many maidens would divine a husband at this time. Midsummer's Eve is said to be a time when fairies abound in great numbers this is a great time to commune with them and leave gifts of sweets outdoors. Litha celebrates abundance, fertility, virility, the beauty and bounty of Nature. Harnessing the Sun's great power makes all types of magick appropriate now. We can also harvest the first of our magickal herbs at this time since they are drenched with the great power of the sun on this longest day of the year. It is a good time for empowerment, for strong magick and male rituals, for handfastings and communing with Nature Spirits, for workings of culmination. The journey into the harvest season has begun. (https://www.ravenandcrone.com/catalog/a8/Litha,-Summer-Solstice-Rituals,-Activities-and-Lore/article_info.html)

Smudging (Dommic)

Introductions

Directions:

(Light directional candles as each direction is called)

South: Fires of Creation, within me burn for the Wheel of Life has turned. Keep safe the sun's dynamic spark; throughout the world, ignite the dark. So mote it be!

West: Waters of Creation, within me flow; 'round the Wheel must go. Keep safe the dew of dusk and dawn; let magic prance upon the lawn. So mote it be!

North: Loam of Fertility, nourish me; the Wheel's lessons I wish to see. Keep safe the soil where roots can grow while round the circle, magic sows! So mote it be!

East: Air of Insight, breathe in this place; the Wheel of Time shall guide your pace. Keep safe the winds of muse and mind; within this circle, the magic bind. So mote it be!

Spirit: Spirit of Truth and psychic power, the Wheel has turned again this hour. Keep safe the light that warms the land, birth the magic where I stand. So mote it be!

(Litha 2007)

http://www.angelfire.com/wa3/angeline/litha_solitary_ritual.htm adapted from the one found in *The Wiccan Book of Ceremonies and Rituals* by Patricia Telesco.)

Casting: (Melissa)

(All chant as Circle is Cast): 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/Gods 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, heathen 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 the earth.

Starhawk, River of Life Ritual

<http://starhawk.org/Activism/activism%20writings/Iraq/2003-03-05-The%20River%20of%20Life.pdf>

Covenant: (All) As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit. Blessed Be!

Invoking the Gods:

Jenna: Most gracious Goddess, Mighty Horned One, Beloved Lord and Lady—harken unto us! Great Mother of many aspects. Lady of the Moon, Mother of the Earth, Maiden, Mother and Crone. Glorious bringer of fertility, source of our very lives! Be here among us.

Richard: Mighty Horned One of many aspects. Father of the Hunt, Lord of Death and Rebirth, bright and dark, the Two-Faced One. Wondrous bringer of light; He Who fertilizers all! Be here among us.

Jenna and Richard: Lord and Lady, we ask Your acceptance of this sacred rite.

Richard: Be Thou our guide and protections as we, your children, worships you in the ways of old. Welcome and Blessed Be.

All: Blessed Be!

THE BATTLE

Jenna:

"Welcome. This is Litha, the Summer Solstice, the longest day and the height of the Sun's power. But herein lies the paradox. For even as the Sun reaches the height of its power, it begins to decline."

Richard:

"At this time, Lord Holly once more challenges His brother the Oak King, and wins. For now, he will preside over the darkening half of the year."

Jenna:

"This is also the time of the trickster Gods, the time of Pan, Puck and Loki, and of the Goddesses and Gods of humor and jest. And in keeping with this we celebrate with mirth and joy, as well as with reverence. Blessed Be."

Jenna introduces the Oak King saying:

"This is the Oak King who reigns over the waxing Sun."

"All Hail the Oak King!"

All (repeat 3 times):

"All Hail the Oak King!"

The uncrowned Holly King steps forward to challenge the Oak King:

"Your time is over, you are old and past your best. It is time to make way for my youth and strength. For I am your brother, Lord Holly, and my time is now."

The Oak King replies:

"I am the Oak King and I will not step down for you my brother. You seek the crown, then you must first prove yourself, and take it, if you can."

The two Kings then proceed to battle. The rest of the group should give them plenty of room, but should also cheer them on.

Once Lord Holly has defeated the Oak King, he should remove his crown and return to the High Priestess who then crowns the Holly King with the other crown, saying:

"To the victor the crown. This is the Holly King who presides over the waning Sun. He has challenged and fought bravely and he has won. But let everyone remember that Lord Oak is still with us and as the Wheel of the Year surely turns he will once again have his chance."

She turns to the group and says:

"All Hail to the Holly King!"

All (repeat 3 times):

"All Hail to the Holly King!"

Kate West's book The Real Witches' Coven.

(http://www.angelfire.com/wa3/angelline/litha_group_ritual.htm)

Richard says: *As we continue, to celebrate Midsummer-We honor the Earth itself. We are surrounded by tall trees. There is a clear sky above us and cool dirt*

beneath us, and we are connected to all three. We light this fire as the Ancients did so long ago. (Dominic lights fire)

Richard says: *The [Wheel of the Year](#) has turned once more
The light has grown for six long months
Until today.*

*[Today is Litha](#),
A time for celebration.
Tomorrow the light will begin to fade
As the Wheel of the Year
Turns on and ever on.*

Turn to the East, and East says:

*From the east comes the wind,
Cool and clear.
It brings new seeds to the garden
Bees to the pollen
And birds to the trees.*

Turn to Face South, South says:

*The sun rises high in the summer sky
And lights our way even into the night
Today the sun casts three rays
The light of fire upon the land, the sea, and the heavens*

Turn to face West, West says:

*From the west, the mist rolls in
Bringing rain and fog
The life-giving water without which
We would cease to be.*

Turn to the North, and North says:

*Beneath my feet is the Earth,
Soil dark and fertile
The womb in which life begins
And will later die, then return anew.*

Build up the fire even more, so that you have a good strong blaze going.

Burn the offering basket from the Ostara ritual

Participants will turn to last page of ritual sheet and write out their intentions as instructed by Elder Richard

Jenna and Holly King pass around “cakes” and ale.

Blessing the Fey—leave a plate of food for the fairies drizzled with honey and say together:

All: Fey and Fairy folk alike/Leprechanuns and Flitting Spirits,

We pay homage now to Thee/upon You may all blessings be.

Moment of silence:

Before we close the ritual let us take a moment of silence and think about remembering, honoring and loving our LBGTQ brothers and sisters at this time and in the days ahead.

Closing

All: Thanking the God — Lord of all the wildlands / warrior and poet / the rising grain and the shining blade/ as I have partaken of Your strength and surety / so may I carry them with me and share Your blessings with all the world. / Father of the Daybreak / Divine Friend / I am—as always—in Your service. / Blessed Be!

All: Thanking the Goddess Thank You for being here in the soft buzzing grass / listening among the flowering gardens / shining from the most royal blue sky. / Thank You for granting our wishes/ healthy lives rich with purpose / true partners to share joys and tears / wisdom to hear Your voice / wealth to give to others as You have given to us. / Blessed Be!

Thanking the Directions

EAST: Wind of Change, move on, move on. With the ever-turning Wheel, go from this place carrying the air of magic. Blessed be!

NORTH: Loam of Earth, move on, move on. With the ever-turning Wheel, go from this place, planting the seeds of magic. Blessed be!

WEST: Water of Birth, move on, move on. With the ever-turning Wheel, go from this place, cresting with waves of magic. Blessed be!

SOUTH: Fires of Creation, move on, move on. With the ever-turning Wheel, go from this place, burning with the embers of magic. Blessed be!

SPIRIT: Spirit of Light, move on, move on. With the ever-turning Wheel, go from this place, empowering the energy of magic. Blessed be!

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

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Intentions:

Say to yourself; wad up paper and toss in fire; the smoke from your intentions will drift up to the deities and reanimate in which they can be read by the immortals.

*To the gods. To the goddesses.
I give honor to You, O mighty ones,
By all your names, known and unknown.
Bless me with Your wisdom
And give life and abundance to me
As the sun gives life and abundance to the Earth.*

*I make this offering to you
To show my allegiance
To show my honor
To show my dedication
To You.*

Cast your offering into fire. Conclude the ritual by saying:

*Today, at Litha, I celebrate the life
And love of the gods
And of the Earth and Sun.*

Take a few moments to reflect upon what you have offered, and what the gifts of the gods mean to you.

