

MABON – or - Harvest Home '09 w/ Treibh na Tintean

(On the altar are a white and a black candle.)

Priestess: We praise the Earth who feeds us / and raise the Harvest Home. / The stag with light steps leads us / to dance the season come. / Ash links the worlds entwining / our realms with Gods and Elves. / The bonfire blesses, shining / our food, our drink, ourselves. ~Leigh Ann Hussey

Priest: Today we celebrate the Second Harvest of fruits, nuts, vines and new friends. We also remember our neighbors who struggle without. We accept the gifts of the Lady and Lord, we remember that what was sown is now reaped. This is a time of offerings, payment of dues, and enjoyment of rewards. We also need to share what we have with those who have need. The Wheel of the Year is ever turning from life to death to life again.

Priestess: The God guides us in the dance of balance and harmony. He travels the path of Nature so that we Know and not Fear the cycles of our being, for balance and harmony are His truths. Now is the time when the God prepares to leave the Goddess and enter the Underworld. He will be reborn at Yule for He is the Sun.

Both: "Now the darkness is descending; light our way, oh love unending. From his dance, let life be reborn, for his death is a beginning. For his dance is just beginning."

CLEANSING

DIRECTIONS:

- EAST - Rising wind and cool night breeze, / hurricane and vaporous clouds, / the tingling hint of dawn's first light, / mist boiling in a milky shroud, / Powers of air rise up with us. Blessed be!
- SOUTH - Balefire crackling on the hill, / ritual fire on an autumn night, / the flickering light of candle's flame, / the glimmering of sunlight, / Power of flame rise up with us. Blessed be!
- WEST - Raging river running wild, / grotto's pool of deepest green, / ocean crashing on the shore, it's hidden depths yet to be seen, / Powers of water rise up with us. Blessed be!
- NORTH - Mountains rising to the sky, / fir and cedar, oak and thorn, / ravines deep-green in forest's night, / dusty path old and worn, / Powers of earth rise up with us. Blessed be!

CASTING (all): 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, / 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, 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 our earth. / So mote it be!

Priest: (*Light the white candle.*) The white candle on the altar represents the light half of the Wheel of the Year. We think back over this last light season while we invoke our Mother and Father.

INVOKATION: We honor You, Autumn Queen, and Your Consort, the God of the Harvest. The Wheel has once more turned, and the change of seasons begins. What will be is. What was will be. The Equinox is upon us, and the time to reflect at hand. All time comes together, here and now in this sacred space. We feel the change as You take us from one season to the next. The Second harvest has been reaped, and the time of rest is deserved.

Priestess: Mabon represents the beginning of the dark time of the year. (*Light the black candle from the white.*) The Sun moves away from us and the Earth grows chilly. (*Extinguish the white candle.*)

All: We welcome the dark.

Priest: Tonight all things are in balance. Night and day are equal. Goddess and God are equal. Life and death are equal. But tonight darkness conquers the light, taking us into the dark of the year, a time to reflect on those passed over, and on those who are yet to come.

(*P picks up bowl; Ps holds up one apple.*)

Priestess: Before you, you see a symbol. This small red fruit is a symbol of the harvest season, of the Crone Goddess, and of the life force that animates deity. You see a fruit that gives life, but you also see a fruit whose seeds give death. As it was and ever shall be, two halves of a whole, beginnings and endings—all are one.

(*Each person approaches the altar, gets an apple and is asked...*)

Whom do you mourn?

(*After answer, each is instructed to go back to place and face outward.*)

P: Tonight we mourn the loss of life and the loss of light.

Ps: But just as the apple you hold in your hands gives both life and death, so do our beloved deities.

P: Those who are passed shall return as surely as shall the light.

Ps: Pour your troubles, mourning and sorrow into this ancient symbol.

P: Spend a moment doing this.

Ps: Then, when you are ready, *hurl* the apple into the woods—I mean, get RID of it!

(Then....)

P: Just as we have sorrow, we also have joy!

Ps: Does this company still mourn the loss of their light?

All: NO!

P: Tonight we move into darkness, we allow it to envelop us in its loving arms.
We welcome it joyously.

Ps: Tonight we move into darkness, knowing it is but another part of the light.
We welcome it joyously.

All: Blessed be the darkness, bringer of introspection, bringer of cold, bringer of death and resurrection.

P and Ps: Blessed be the season of darkness. Blessed be the time of night.

All: Blessed be this Mabon.

Ps: Who is Goddess?

All Women: I am Goddess.

P: Who is God?

All Men: I am God.

P & Ps: Who are Goddess and God?

All: All living things are Goddess and God.

P & Ps: And who are we?

All: We are the children of deity. And we are deity. We are a part of the creative life forces that move the universe. We are microcosm and macrocosm. We are a part of all that is. We are a part of all that is. We are a part of all that is.

COMMUNION

DEVOKATION: We thank the God and Goddess for Their gifts of love. Hail to Mabon; harvest hail! / Blessed be the Goddess' fruit! / Blessed be the hard travail, / and blessed be the living root. / Bless the furrow, bless the blade; / bless the God, for He must wane. / Bless the table all a-lade, / and bless the Wheel that turns again.

THANKING:

WEST - Powers of WATER / thank you for the gentle flow / that helps maintain calm / and emotional balance / in relationships. Blessed be!

NORTH - Powers of EARTH / thank you for the steadfastness / and help / in maintaining the home / health / work and comfort. Blessed be!

EAST - Powers of AIR / thank you for the inspiration / that helps with learning and understanding. Blessed be!

SOUTH- Power of FIRE / thank you for the energy / that helps with the drive / and ambition needed to accomplish goals. Blessed be!

P & Ps: Though we are apart, we are ever together for we are one in the spirit of our Goddess and our God.

All: Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!!!