

Ostara/Spring Equinox '10 with Treibh na Tintean
When we seek balance...

CLEANSING

DIRECTIONS –

EAST: From the East come the winds that carry the seed. Spirits of East, be here now! So mote it be!

SOUTH: From the South comes the Sun, kindling the life of the seed. Spirits of South, be here now! So mote it be!

WEST: From the West comes the water that swells the sprout. Spirits of West, be here now! So mote it be!

NORTH: From the North comes the Earth that nourishes the plant. Spirits of North, be here now! So mote it be!

EAST: Earth Mother, Star Mother—who are called by a thousand names: May all remember that we are cells in Your body & dance together.

SOUTH: You are the grain and the loaf that sustains us each day, and—as you are patient with our struggles to learn—so shall we be patient with ourselves and with each other.

WEST: We are radiant light and sacred dark—the Balance. You are the embrace that heartens and the freedom beyond fear.

NORTH: Within You we are born, we grow, live and die. You bring us around the circle to rebirth. Within us, You dance forever!

COVENANT – As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

CASTING –

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.

All: So mote it be!

INVOCATION OF GOD & GODDESS -

Goddess Ostara, Springtime Queen—work again the ancient magic, and bring new growth to our land.

God of the growing light, wielder of the flaming arrow—sink deep into the Earth the shaft of fire, warming the world, bringing the spring.

Goddess, God, guardian spirits, power of the stars above and the Earth below—bless this time, this place, and all who gather here. Blessed be!

REBIRTHING RITUAL—

SOUTH – Today is the time of the Spring Equinox. Ostara is a time of equal parts light and dark. Spring has arrived, and it is a time of rebirth. The planting season will soon begin, and life will form once more within the earth. As the earth welcomes new life and new beginnings, so can we be reborn in the light and love of the God and Goddess.

(Place black sheet over first participant) **Do you wish to experience the rebirth of spring, and step out of the darkness into the light?**

NORTH – *(sprinkles with salt)* The blessings of Earth are life within the soil, the stones and bones.

EAST – *(passes with incense)* The blessings of Air are knowledge and wisdom brought on the wind.

SOUTH – *(passes with candle)* The Fire of the spring sun will bring growth and harmony into your life.

WEST – *(sprinkles water around)* The blessings of Water will sweep away the chill and darkness of winter.

NORTH – Rise! Step forth out of the darkness and climb into the light. Awaken once more in the arms of **the gods**. *(Participant then emerges from the black sheet, putting behind her/him the darkness of the past six months. Repeat for each person.)*

OSTARA VOW – *(All) (Light the Equinox candle.)*

The Wheel turns on, 'tis Ostaratide: dusk and dawn abreast now ride-
Bright and dark, quiet and clamor; tinder and spark, reserve and enamor.
This balance I vow to make my own, poise will allow my power to be known.
From balance, the Wheel now turns toward light; with grace and steel, I affirm
the same right.

CRYSTAL CLEANSING – *(Pass bowl of water around.)*

Let me dip you in the water, thou beautiful gem of Power!
In water of purest wave, from Brigit and the full moon.
A blessing on the gem, a blessing on the water,
and a healing of all bodily ailments to each suffering creature.

COMMUNION –

March is the Alder Tree month, corresponding to the Ogham letter ‘fearn’ (pronounced fair-n) (). The fearn reassures us that we have an inner oracle/teacher to help us reach into our subconscious. The fearn is associated with the Celtic hero and oracle Bran the Blessed. The use of this rune from the Alder tree can dampen our emotional responses, allowing us to see clearly things that we may have overlooked. You may ask the Alder tree for inner spiritual guidance to a question. Fill this glass with water and trace the fearn symbol over it. Hold the glass of water before you as ask yourself the question. Hold the glass high and repeat the following three times:

Alder tree, guide of might, / grant me intuition on this night.
Blessed Bran, Alder tree’s kin, / Show to me the sage within.

Drink the water! Remember to keep a pen and paper handy to record your thoughts or dreams tonight.

We began to wish for spring at Imbolc, and now the promise is coming true. It is the equinox, the time of balance between the light and the dark, where the cycle is about to tip into the realm of the light, more each day until the Summer Solstice.

This is also a time to share good fortune. We welcome Persephone home by sharing these figs, this mead and juice.

SPIRAL DANCE

THANKS TO GOD AND GODDESS –

God of the growing light, / wielder of the flaming arrow / for the warmth / for the lengthening day / for the energy that surrounds us / for your presence within our circle-- / we thank you, and ask your blessing, / until we gather here again. Blessed be!

Goddess Ostara, Springtime Queen / for your love / for your power / for the ancient magic / for the fertility of the world we share / for your presence within our

circle-- / we thank you, and ask your blessing, / until we gather here again. Blessed be!

THANKS TO DIRECTIONS AND OPENING THE CIRCLE -

East: Winds that carry the seeds, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

South: Warmth of the sun that kindles life, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

West: Water that swells the seeds and sprouts, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

North: Earth that nourishes the plant, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

All: The circle is open, yet unbroken. May the love of the Goddess be ever in your heart. Merry meet and merry part, and merry meet again! Blessed be!