

Ostara/Vernal Equinox '11 with Treibh na Tinteán

Through the weeks of deep snow we walked above the ground on fallen sky, as though we did not come of root and leaf, as though we had only air and weather for our difficult home. But now as March warms, and the rivulets run like birdsong on the slopes, and the branches of light sing in the hills, slowly we return to earth.

- Wendall Berry

CLEANSING: [Wet your fingertips, touch the tops of your feet saying:]

Blessed be the salt. / Blessed be the power of light. / Blessed be the light, the sun and the God. / Purify us that we might be cleansed and whole in mind, spirit and body. / May we always find grounding when we need it, / and may our feet walk the path of blessed purity all the days of this life.

[Wet your fingertips again, touch the top of your head saying:]

Blessed be water. / Blessed be the power of dark. / Blessed be the night, moon and the Goddess. / Purify us now that we might be cleansed / and whole in mind, spirit and body. / May the mysteries of the universe and those things hidden find us fit to know their secrets, / and may we think and feel with blessed purity all the days of this life.

[Wet fingertips, touch your solar plexus (between heart and navel) saying:]

Blessed be earth and water, night and day, sun and moon. / Blessed be balance and purity, which meet in us now. / May we always be in balance of mind, spirit and body, / purified and whole as we enter this spring season. / By the God and the Goddess and by our will, so mote it be!

- Edain McCoy

DIRECTIONS:

All -- Equal is the light and dark, / with gifts our circle we mark. / As warm sunlight greens the earth, / the Maiden and Lord dance with mirth.

EAST -- Come ye, spirits of the East, powers of Air, sail on golden wings of dawn. Blow away the staleness of winter. Be with us this day, so mote it be!

NORTH -- Come ye, spirits of the North, powers of Earth, hold me rooted by tree and flower. Bring the beauty of your lush green meadows. Be with us this day, so mote it be.

WEST -- Come ye, spirits of the West, powers of Water, let my soul flow with the beauty of your tides. Bless the land with dew-filled mornings. Be with us this day, so mote it be!

SOUTH -- Come ye, spirits of the South, powers of Fire, bring the heat of noon to warm my days. Coax the seeds from the womb of the earth. Be with us this day, so mote it be!

SPIRIT -- Great Mother who gives the world form, as your web of life renews the earth, light that spark within us to awaken our souls. Join us in this sacred circle. Be with us this day, so mote it be!

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.

INVOKING THE GODDESS: Come, Persephone, with your paint-pots and brushes: stipple the fields with flowers, dot the branches with bright blossoms, streak the spring sky with pale pastels. You are the one who paints the eyes on the pansies, and the lines on the lilies so the bees can find their food, and the blushes on the rosebuds. Without you, the bearded iris would have no smile and the black-eyed susan would be blind.

Come, Persephone: the world has rested too long under winter's snowy cloak. Come bring your brushes and bright colors and dress us in the shades of spring again. We invoke you, gracious maiden of freedom and beauty—join us now.

- Elizabeth Barrette

INVOKING THE GOD: Robin of the Woods, come dance with us before this night has passed. Come play with your children, laughing and singing, barefoot in the grass. Bless our family with a step and a song as we gather together this night. Oh, Robin of the Woods, come dance with us under the full moonlight.

- Lokius

A DRUID BLESSING OF THE SACRED GROVE:

May Rowan of the scarlet berries shield you, / and Ash protect you from the lightning flash.
May Oak be a door of strength for your departing, / and Willow weave a green bower for your
returning.

May the Apple-branch of longing bear you to the Blessed Isles, / and the Birds of Rhiannon
sing for you, / where blossoms fall forever on the silver-cloud plain.

May Hawthorn flowers fill your heart / with the green fire of love in the wildwood.

May the Hazels of Wisdom drop their nuts in Connlas's Well for you, / and may you glimpse
the Salmon in its depths.

May slender Birch celebrate all your bright beginnings, / and Yew of Darkness fold you into the
gathering dusk.

- Mara Freeman

waking the Earth! Drumming begins and we wake Her with our dancing. Yes, I said
“dancing.”

Chant: “Mother, I feel you under my feet. Mother I feel your heart beat!”
Mother I see you when the eagle flies. Spirit's going to take me higher!”

Full Ostara Moon!

INVOCATION:

Wondrous Lady of the Moon
You who greets the sky with silvered kisses;
Mistress of the night and all magicks;
Who rides the clouds in blackened skies and spills light upon the awakening Earth;
O Lunar Goddess, Crescented One, Shadow Maker and Shadow breaker;
Revealer of mysteries past and present, Puller of seas and Ruler of women,
All-wise Lunar Mother,
We greet your celestial jewel at the waxing of its powers with a rite in Your honor.
We pray by the moon.
We pray by the moon.
We pray by the moon.

CHANT: Ancient Lady, Ancient Moon, rising now above us, / we gather in your sacred grove asking that you bless us.

Blessing the Eggs! For Fairy, for flowers, for herbs in the bowers—these eggs pass fertility with springtime showers.

COMMUNION: Feast! We have survived another winter!!!

THANKS:

EAST – Air, precious breath, thank you for your presence tonight. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be!

NORTH – Earth, new life, thank you for your presence tonight. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be!

WEST – Water, nourishment, thank you for your presence tonight. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be!

SOUTH – Fire, new beginnings, thank you for your presence tonight. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be!

SPIRIT – As all good things must sometimes end, / go forth with the love the Goddess sends. / For if your heart is always true, / this circle will come back to you.

THANKING GOD AND GODDESS: Persephone, darling Maiden, the world is weary of winter. We look forward to your bright colors—all the shades of spring. We thank you, gracious Maiden of freedom and beauty. Blessed be!

Robin of the Woods, you have come to us and danced under the full moon light. We welcome your presence back into our circle in this season of growth. Thank you, laughing God, playful God. Blessed be!

ALL: Farewell to wintry spirits and friends; on morrow we greet the spirits of spring. Our blessings to thee as your way you wend; and merry we'll meet next winter again. Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again!