

OSTARA '14 with Treibh na Tintean

MEDITATION -

CALLING the DIRECTIONS -

EAST: (*Richard & Jen*) From the East come the winds that carry the seed. Spirits of East, be here now! So mote it be!

SOUTH: (*Denise and Kate*) From the South comes the Sun, kindling the life of the seed. Spirits of South, be here now! So mote it be!

WEST: (*Scott & Alyssa*) From the West comes the water that swells the sprout. Spirits of West, be here now! So mote it be!

NORTH: (*Sandy & Lydia*) From the North comes the Earth that nourishes the plant. Spirits of North, be here now! So mote it be!

SPIRIT: (*Dave & Jenna*) We are cells in Your body and dance together. We are radiant light and sacred dark—the Balance. Spirit is the embrace that heartens and the freedom beyond fear. Within us, You dance forever! So mote it be!

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. So mote it be.

INVOCATION— (*All*)

Goddess Ostara, Springtime Queen—work again the ancient magic, and bring new growth to our land. (*Dave Z. Light candle.*)

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. (*Dave Z. Light candle.*)

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!

YOUNG WOMEN'S RITE OF PASSAGE

BAUBO— (*Sandy*) When Persephone was first kidnapped, she was doomed to remain the Queen of the Underworld forever. Her mother, Demeter, mourned—and all life on earth began to wither and die. Ah, but Baubo—an old woman—flashed Demeter and made her laugh. When Demeter laughed, flowers bloomed. Zeus soon persuaded his brother Hades to release Persephone to her mother for six months of the year. Thus, the return of spring represents the delight of three ages of women in each other's company—maiden, mother and crone.

RED CORDS, QUESTIONS, DECLARATION OF REBIRTH

BLESSING—*(All)* Deep in the darkness these young women sleep, / the hope of their people held in their keep. / Stirred by light of womanhood, dim and far though it burns, / they stir from their dream world and begin their return. We bless them at Ostara turning the world green and fresh, / their lives begin anew by the deities blest. Blessed be!

SEED CEREMONY

Spring time is when we sow the seeds; it is the time for us to plant what we want to grow.

This is the season of hope and joy, expectation and inspiration.

Our lives are brought into balance and we are reborn, resurrected, renewed as is the Earth.

Your elders have prepared for you packets of seeds for your own growing season.

You may plant your seeds at home, or in the garden of a friend, or even scatter them in your favorite wild place.

When we all have one, let's bless these seeds for a fruitful time of growth.

(All) Ostara, Maiden of Spring, we call-- / bright, fresh presence, come to us. / Bless these seeds and bless us too / to grow in health and energy. / Guide us to our highest good. / This is our will, so mote it be!

If you have been around this Treibh for awhile, you know what happens next.

Turn to the person to your left and hand them the packet of seeds that you just blessed.

(Elders) Blessed be the Wand of Spring and blessed be the Earth that receives it! So mote it be!

(All) Blessed Lady Ostara, queen of the springtime earth, / we remind ourselves again, / though we face a difficult day, / we am not alone. / we always have You: / You walk with us and sit with us throughout the day, / guiding our decisions and illuminating our paths. / Help us to live as the sort of children a mother can be proud to call Hers. / We wish to honor You by being the best people we can be. / Bring us home safely here where the spirit of home-love dwells. / So mote it be.

THANKING— *(All)*

GODDESS AND GOD: 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!

DIRECTIONS:

NORTH: *(Sandy & Lydia)* Earth that nourishes the plant, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

WEST: *(Scott & Alyssa)* Water that swells the seeds and sprouts, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

SOUTH: *(Denise & Katie)* Warmth of the sun that kindles life, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

EAST: *(Richard & Jen)* Winds that carry the seeds, we thank you for witnessing our rite. Go if you must, stay if you will. Blessed be.

SPIRIT: It is Ostara—dawn and dusk are equal, quiet and clamor, tinder and spark, reserve and enamor. The Wheel turns fully to light, with the grace of Spirit, we affirm the same right. 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!