

Ostara 2015 with Treibh na Tíntean

MEDITATION – [*from Selena Fox*]

DIRECTIONS –

EAST: [*Sandy + I*] Sacred Air of the East, let us ride your winds of inspiration with the purpose and freedom of Hermes, winged messenger of the Gods. Winds of change, be with us. So mote it be.

SOUTH: [*Scott + I*] Sacred Fire of the South, kindle the hearth of Hestia the Goddess in our community. Let our hearts be warm during the busy spring. Fires of life, be with us. So mote it be.

WEST: [*Denise + I*] Sacred Water of the West, allow us to flow in the God Poseidon's deep waters of healing and rebirth. Waters of wisdom, be with us. So mote it be.

NORTH: [*Richard + I*] Sacred Earth of the North, we revel in the deep fertility of Gaia—mother of all who nourishes and cares for Her children. Blessings of Earth, be with us. So mote it be.

SPIRIT: [*Spirit(s) + I*] As the God of beginnings, Janus is with us in the spring planting time and the transitions of the seasons. Spirit, help us look to the future while holding onto the lessons of the past. Spirit, draw near. 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*] Come to me, O Maiden fair / and grant to me what I desire, / Come to me, O Mother Queen, / with flowers, fruit and budding life. / Come to me, O Sacred Stag / to teach me of the noble hunt. / Come to me, O Father God / to sow the seed of coming grain. / Come to me, O Prophet Wise / to see what shall begin again. / Come to me, O Spirit free / Elementals of the Air and Sea. / As thou will it, so mote it be!

KORE CHANT -- [*Shae, Sandy and Denise should continue chanting very quietly throughout the story.*]

THE RETURN OF PERSEPHONE

Rita: We stand, as ever, at a point on the wheel / remembering that we begin each journey / only when we are brought to our first step. / We wake each morning / because we have slept through the night. / We rejoice in the springtime / because we have waited, with our Mother, / through the season of darkness and cold. / Winter is for bedding down. We watch the days grow shorter / and feel the chill that heralds snow.

All: Let there be joy in the cold and the dying. The seeds of new life are borne on the winter wind.

Hades [*Richard*] **to Persephone** [*Alyssa*]: I, the Lord of all below have watched as you go about the fields; you twirl and shine, Persephone, you will be mine. My chariot awaits, my love, to take us from this world. Now put an end to childish play, I claim you for my bride today.

Reader [*Scott*]: We feel January in every joint. We insulate, and isolate—trying to believe that the darkest days are behind us.

All: Let there be joy in the cold and the dying. The seeds of new life are borne on the winter wind.

Persephone to Hades: Hades does me great offense to play upon my innocence. Though you may call me Bride-to-be, I'll not go with you willingly. If you force me to your lair, do not presume to keep me there. My mother, Goddess of the grain, will see me safely home again.

Reader: Almost any effort seems too much, and grief comes easily. How quickly we forget that rest is necessary.

All: Let there be joy in the cold and the dying. The seeds of new life are borne on the winter wind.

Demeter [Melissa]: From the highest peak, to deepest ocean, still I seek--by night, by day--some sign or clue, but nowhere is there news of you. Let my cry of woeful loss be carried across the world of men, that all may share Demeter's pain and fear.

Reader: Inactivity turns to wrath, as we remember the warmth of sunshine, and hold the Earth responsible for our confinement.

All: Let there be joy in the cold and the dying. The seeds of new life are borne on the winter wind.

Demeter: The Earth has taken you, and so my wrath against the land will I set my hand. Corn and cattle, all will die. The rivers run with dust, and I shall not relent, until I see Persephone returned to me.

Reader: What bargain may we make with Time? Will the seasons turn more quickly, or stay with us longer to suit our needs?

All: Let there be joy in the cold and the dying. The seeds of new life are borne on the winter wind.

Demeter: The Gods have witnessed this foul deed, and mighty Zeus shall intercede. He will return you to my care, if you have eaten nothing there.

Persephone: But Mother, in my dark ordeal, the pain of hunger I did feel. And I was given, in my need, a taste of pomegranate seed.

Hades to Demeter: For this, my Lady, half the year, your daughter will attend me here. And then once more to you ascend. Now, let this pact our quarrel end.

Reader: Winter is for bedding down, gathering our strength that we may burst forth, with energy and joy, to welcome the season of new beginnings.

All: Let there be joy in the cold and the dying. The seeds of new life are borne on the winter wind.

Demeter: So will it be, within the land...

Hades to Persephone: That when each year you take my hand...

Persephone: The living, breathing world you see shall wither and retire with me. But, when in springtime, I--once more--am to the world above restored...

Demeter: A mother's joy at your rebirth will wake and renew the Earth.

East [Sandy]: With Persephone, we have journeyed to the land of the dead, and returned safely to the light and warmth of Spring.

South [Scott]: May we grow with the brightness of the young God, and open ourselves to the energy of creation.

West [Denise]: Goddess of the Seasons, Goddess of Life, keep us close in Your embrace.

North [Richard]: Accept us as Your children and buoy us upon the tide of time.

Directions and Goddess Aspects: With love, we thank and honor You for the world that blooms within us once more.

All: Blessed be!

A SPELL OF REAWAKENING—

[Rita] Now is a good time to awaken Mother Earth and ourselves. We should ask: Are we only going through the motions now? Or are we reawakening our spiritual selves, and seeing anew all the magical possibilities of spring? To awaken our bodies and souls to spring's rebirth, give back to Mother Earth some of the things we've taken from her. Plant a tree, herb garden, or flowers. Feed her animals and birds.

North: We have Blue Stem seeds to share with the tribe and with the Mother. *[Describe the plant and why it's a good one—native, etc.]*

Spirit: We will bless these seeds and then share them. First, come up and get a spoonful in your hand.

South: Let's bless these seeds as one:

[All] Great goddess, you have freed yourself / from the icy prison of winter. / Now is the greening, when the fragrance of / flowers drifts on the breeze. / This is the beginning. Life renews itself. / I walk the earth in friendship, not in dominance. / Mother Goddess and Father God, instill within me-- /through these seeds—a warmth for all living things. / Teach me to revere the Earth and all its treasures. / May I never forget. / So mote it be.

East: Your elders recommend that you scatter these here in Covenant Woods, giving back to our Mother and sharing as She has.

West: We also have envelopes if you want to take some with you. Let's say this blessing as we scatter the seeds:

[All] Mother Earth, Goddess we walk upon, / May my gifts be of value / Even after I'm gone. / Today, while I'm here, / May my offering be, / An act of love / for you from me. (Edain McCoy)

COMMUNION

THANKING

[All] Maiden fair, Mother Queen, / you greet us with flowers, fruit and budding life. / We thank you. / Sacred Stag of the noble hunt, / Father God of the coming grain, / together we shall see what begins again. / O Spirit free and Elementals of the Air and Sea, thank you for your many blessings--as thou will it, so mote it be!