

SAMHAIN '07 - TREIBH NA TINTEAN

Opening: Samhain is here and darkness falls. Samhain is traditionally a time of divination, a time of communicating with the dead, absent friends or the deepest part of ourselves. Our own spirits come back to haunt us in this season. Samhain is a water sabbat, a still and motionless one. We can glance into its mirrored surface and see the mysteries that lie beyond this life. At Samhain, the old year slips away. Take one last breath, close your eyes. When you open them again, we will be in another time, another place, in another life.

RITUAL FOR THE FALLEN

Directions:

NORTH: The North is a place of cold, and the Earth is silent and dark. Spirits of the Earth, we welcome you, knowing you will envelope us in death. So mote it be!

EAST: The East is a land of new beginnings, the place where breath begins. Spirits of Air, we call upon you, knowing you will be with us as we depart life. So mote it be!

SOUTH: The South is a land of sunlight and fire, and your flames guide us through the cycles of life. Spirits of Fire, we welcome you, knowing you will transform us in death. So mote it be!

WEST: The West is a place of underground rivers, and the sea is a never-ending, rolling tide. Spirits of water, we welcome you, knowing you will carry us through the ebbs and flows of our life. So mote it be!

SPIRIT: Tonight we remember those who have lived and died before us, those who have crossed through the veil. We will remember. (*light black candle*) The Wheel of the year turns once more, and we cycle into darkness. (*light white candle*) At the end of the darkness comes light. And so we celebrate Life, Death and Rebirth.

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!

Covenant: [*All together*] As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

Invocation: [*All together*] The circle is cast;/ we stand together in the eye of the sun,/ by the light of the stars,/ here and now,/ between past and future:/ the earth below us,/ the heavens above us,/ the circle around us:/ this is sacred time,/ this is sacred space.

Grant, O God and Goddess, thy protection,/ And in protection, strength; And in strength, understanding;/ And in understanding, knowledge;/ And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice;/ And in this knowledge of justice, the love of it;/ And in the love of it, the love of all existences;/ And in the love of all existences,/ Grant the love of God, Goddess and all goodness.

Invoking the Ancestors:

NORTH: In the deep of the night, we turn to the North, and witness in the stars that you—our ancestors—are given a place of remembrance. And we shall know you in our dreams; know that you are fulfilling your own dreams beyond your allotted years with us.

EAST: In the dawn of each new day, we will turn to the East and see your shining faces in the radiant light of the rising sun. And we shall know that you have joined as one with the creative power of the universe.

SOUTH: In the bright day of noon, we shall turn to the South and feel the warmth of your courage, your honor in our hearts. And we shall know the full living expression of your souls on Earth and your spirits hereafter.

WEST: In the glorious canvas of sunset, we will turn to the West and witness your signatures on the day . And we shall know both the wisdom of your lives, and the tragedy of your deaths.

SPIRIT: In the deepest center of our souls, we will feel your constant presence, and find ourselves humbled by the true essence of your spirits. We hope that we will , each in our own way, live and love with honor and courage.

All: We know that there is no distance between loving hearts. We make a solemn promise in the memory of your lives—to keep the hearth fires burning until we all come home.

NORTH: Now is when we remember their names. If you have lost a loved one in the past year, or wish to honor someone who has passed, please call the name and light a candle.

EAST: We honor our soldiers who have fallen in combat, Iraq and Afghanistan. If

you have lost a soldier this year, or wish to honor one, please call the name and light a candle.

SOUTH: Many people put their lives on the line everyday at work. If you have lost a police officer, fire fighter, emergency worker or other first responder, or wish to honor one, please call the name and light a candle.

WEST: As we enter another year in a country at war, we honor the innocent civilians here and abroad who are killed by senseless violence. If you wish to honor someone, please state who and light a candle.

Praise for the Ancestors: [*All together*]

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live,

for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

Samhain Full Moon!

Invocation:

Wondrous Lady of the Moon

You who greets the Samhain sky with silvered kisses;

Mistress of New Year's Night and all magicks;

Who rides the clouds in blackened skies and spills sight upon the cold 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.

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Chant: Ancient Lady, Ancient Moon, rising now above us,
We gather in your sacred grove asking that you bless us.

Communion:

Beloved spirits, we welcome you to share this simple feast with us.

[*After the sharing of the 'feast,' make sure there's a bit left over to pour into the fire along with food, saying:*] May the fire release the spiritual essence of these offerings, so that you, our beloved Ancestors, may partake of this feast in our company. Bless our offerings, both Lady and Lord.

Thanking the Ancestors: [*All together*] Every beginning has an ending, and every ending is a new beginning. In life is death and in death is life. Watch over us, our loved ones, and all of my brothers and sisters, here and departed, who are joined together tonight again in fellowship and joy. Bless us all as we light our hearth fires, and the eternal fires in our hearts. Protect and guide us tonight and throughout the coming year. We reluctantly release your spirits, should you choose to go. Stay if you will, go if you must. Take with you our love, our gratitude, our wishes for peace.

Thanks to God & Goddess and the Directions:

NORTH: As the New Year is born in the cold and dark, we are all reborn with new hopes and dreams.

EAST: As we pull in breath, let us also pull in your guidance as we have in the past.

SOUTH: Transform us with Your strength, courage and knowledge.

WEST: Remind us that as we try to fulfill our goals, success ebbs and flows like the tides

SPIRIT: Keep the flame lit in our hearts for the memory of our beloved ones.

[*All together*] We give thanks, Lord and Lady, for Your presence here and Your continued blessings. We give thanks for the Earth, Air, Fire and Water all around who are also a part of us. Walk with us, Lord and Lady, abide in our steps, now and always. Blessed Be.

The circle is open, but unbroken. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!