

ἜΣαμηαίν εἰ8 ωίτη Τρειβη νἄ Τίντεανἠ

Μακίνγ Στραἠ Φολκς

Δυμβ Συππερ (*Εαστ*): *We make space to welcome the ancestors and prepare an ancestor plate for the ritual.*

Χλεανσίνγ: *Each person blesses the next with the oil.*

Ὠελχομε (*Ὠεστ*): 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 dark sabbat, a still and motionless one. We can glance into to its mirrored surface and see the mysteries that lie beyond this life. At Samhain, the old year slips away. Close your eyes, take one last breath. When you open them again, we will be in another time, another place, in another life.

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Διρεχτιονς:

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.

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Χαστινγ: [**All together**] These woods are dark, this path is shadowed. Walk with me, Lord and Lady. Hunter of the Forests, stand at my back. Star-eyed Protectoress, fold your wings around me. Hold me fast, I pray; and banish all fear. With harm to none, so mote it be!

North: The circle is cast. We are between the worlds, beyond the bounds of time, where night and day, birth and death, joy and sorrow, meet as one. The fire is lit; the ritual is begun. (*Leader will hug person on her left, saying: "in perfect love and perfect trust." The hug is passed around the circle.*)

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

Ἰνῶχατιον: 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. The God and Goddess are here. This is sacred time; this is sacred space.

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Ἰνῶκινυ της Ανχεστορσ:

All: Hands clasp in the sultry dark; voices murmur, heartbeat-close; embracing each other as we embrace ourselves and all our ancestors.

(Ring bell.)

All: In community I remember them most, feeling their ghostly presence beside me. In my hands I remember them most, familiar flesh calling kindred spirits home.

(Ring bell.)

All: I can feel their hands over mine, a fine line reaching back to the foremost days. The bread dough turns silky and resilient under our hands. My grandmothers kneaded just such dough with just such motions in the long and long ago.

(Ring bell.)

All: I can feel their hands over mine, work-roughened and strong, a memory of love's labor: the dark Earth gives forth the harvest in Autumn. My grandfathers sowed and reaped just such crops with just such motions in the yawning morning of the world.

(Ring bell.)

All: The hands of my Ancestors overlay my own in these familiar rhythms, in the rocking of cradles and the fetching of firewood; in the stitching of quilts and the stalking of game, in the slow and patient shaping of clay.

(Ring bell.)

All: They live on in me, as I shall live on with them in our descendents...

(Ring bell.)

All: Little hands to carry on what others have begun.

(Ring bell.)

North: With just such motions our Ancestors made the world for us.

East: With just such motions we make the world anew for our own children.

South: With just such motions I honor those who have gone before.

West: Setting aside a portion of the feast for their pleasure.

Spirit: Feeling the hands of our Ancestors all the while.

(Ring bell.)

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Ἡνορινυ Δεατη Ἰν Ουρ Λιῶεσ (Σουτη): During this season of death, we may also begin a process of letting go. Let these straw dolls represent something in your life that you are ready to release. It may be a part of you that is not positive, it may be a characteristic, it

may only be a memory. If you would like to share, please do by telling us what the doll represents and then throw it in the fire. Say, “I release _____.”

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Χανδφαστινγ οφ Μισσψ ανδ Τιμ:

West: This space has been made sacred by the will of those here. Therefore it is our joy to witness the Rite of Handfasting between Missy and Tim, Aradiana and Blackhawk. I ask that all of you here witness this in high courage and good will. Join, if you are able, your hands and your hearts, as I invoke their personal Goddess.

Gracious Diana, Goddess of the Moon and Beyond, Queen of all witches, Maiden, Mother and Crone in One—we call to You—hear us. Enter into the space that we have made for You. Confirm and bless this fasting of hearts and hands as long as the love shall last. Diana, come!

East: Great Dianus, God of the Sun, Ruler of the Forest, we ask that you come here now; into the space we have made for You. Confirm and bless this fasting of hearts and hands for as long as the love shall last. Dianus, come!

We call here one of our own, Tim. Come forward and make your intent known to all assembled here.

Tim: I, Tim, do come to stand before you as witnesses that it be known that I intend to be handfasted to Missy.

Missy: I, Missy, do come to stand before you as witnesses that it be known that I intend to be handfasted to Tim.

(Give East rings which are held up for all to see. Then lower for West’s blessing.)

West: These are symbols of eternity, the endless round of creation, destruction and rebirth. I bless them and charge them with the powers of Earth, Air, Fire and Water and in Diana’s name. As the circle is one yet made of infinite arcs, so you will be one; and yet express yourselves as infinite individuals. Trust and honor one another with honesty. Love each other enough to let the other grow in his and her own time. Never cease to grow yourself, to dream, and to cast off all that you have outgrown. Never say, “This is good enough, this must never change,” for in stagnation there is corruption and in the still of sameness, decadence. Value each other’s newness every waking moment and your love will stay as fresh as this day.

(West takes rings.)

East: I bless these rings with the power of Dianus, I charge them with the power of His spirit, His high leaping courage and the flashing excitement of His passion. Let the gifts of Dianus be instilled into these rings.

West & East: Now we stand, in the presence of Diana and Dianus, ready to witness as this woman and this man enter into a sacred union of their own making.

West: [Tim], repeat after me: [Missy], as I stand here in the presence of my Goddess and my God, I hereby vow to you that I will respect you and honor you as my mate and as the Goddess within. I will give you my trust and I will give you all reason to trust me. I will snuggle and hold you so long as you want, and I will kiss you as much as you will lend me your lips. I will care for you when you are well. And I will care for you when you are ill. When you are hungry, I will feed you. When you don't feel like driving, I will. I will stand by and support you in all that you do, whether we are together or separate. I will strive to understand our differences and intelligences so that we can nurture each other's souls. I will make our house a healthy and comfortable home. I will be your friend and share with you my dreams and fears. And I will love you, as you are and as you will be, for as long as the love shall last.

East: [Missy], repeat after me: [Tim], as I stand here in the presence of my Goddess and my God, I hereby vow to you that I will respect you and honor you as my mate and as the Goddess within. I will give you my trust and I will give you all reason to trust me. I will snuggle and hold you so long as you want, and I will kiss you as much as you will lend me your lips. I will care for you when you are well. And I will care for you when you are ill. When you are hungry, I will feed you. When you don't feel like driving, I will. I will stand by and support you in all that you do, whether we are together or separate. I will strive to understand our differences and intelligences so that we can nurture each other's souls. I will make our house a healthy and comfortable home. I will be your friend and share with you my dreams and fears. And I will love you, as you are and as you will be, for as long as the love shall last.

West (*hand on bride's shoulder*): [Tim], look upon the Goddess! For in this face is the face of every mother, every daughter and every sister that the world has known or shall know.

In the presence of Diana and Dianus, I do charge you to remember the vows you have made, the vows which seal you and bind you—heartjoined and handfast—to abide together in affection and honor for as long as the love shall last.

East (*hand on groom's shoulder*): [Missy], look upon the God! For in this face is the face of every father, every son and every brother that the world has known or shall know.

In the presence of Diana and Dianus, I do charge you to remember the vows you have made, the vows which seal you and bind you—heartjoined and handfast—to abide together in affection and honor for as long as the love shall last.

[East and West take the cord and bind bride and groom's left hands. Then West holds chalice while East blesses it with athame.]

East: As the Blade is to the Man, so is the Cup to the Woman. There is no greater magick than this, two people joined in love.

[West sets down chalice, picks up staff. East picks up cake.]

West: As the Earth is to the Woman, so is the Staff to the Man. There is no greater magick than this, two people joined in honor.

[East and West share cake and wine.]

East takes two chalices, gives one to the groom: This is the wine of life. Drink deeply and feel the warmth of your love.

Tim *drinks and then hands to Missy saying:* Taste the bitterness and the ecstasy that is ours.

West *takes bread and gives to Missy, saying:* This is the bread of life, the fruit of Diana's womb. Taste its sweetness as you savor each bite.

Missy *gives a piece to Tim saying:* Taste the sweetness that is ours.

[East gives the couple the chalice of water. Missy and Tim prick fingers, etc.]

Missy: I give you my power, my magick and my sight. I charge you—keep them safe for me.

Tim: I give you my power, my magick and my sight. I charge you—keep them safe for me.

[Missy and Tim drink and break glass in cauldron. We cheer!]

East: In the presence of Diana and Dianus, in the eyes of all present, and in the respect of the world, I bear witness to the vows, which this man and this woman have made in my presence.

West: Heartjoined and handfast, I present to you Missy and Tim [Aradiana and Blackhawk] who shall live as one as long as the love shall last, be it even unto death.

[We cheer again!]

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Χομμυνιον:

North: Beloved spirits of our Ancestors, we welcome you to share this simple feast with us.

[After the sharing, make sure to burn the plate of food assembled during the dumb supper.]

South: 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.

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Πραϊσε φορ τηε Ανχεστορσ:

[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.

Spirit: 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 our 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.

[All together]

Protect and guide us tonight and throughout the coming year. We reluctantly release your spirits. Stay if you will, go if you must. Take with you our love, our gratitude, our wishes for peace.

Πραψερ φορ Σαμηαιν

Τηανκσ το Γοδ ανδ Γοδδεσσ:



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North: As the New Year is born, we are all reborn with new hopes and dreams.

East: God and Goddess, guide us in the future as in the past.

South: Give us strength, courage and knowledge.

West: Assist us as we try to fulfill our goals.

Spirit: We give thanks, Lord and Lady, for Your presence here and Your continued blessings.

[All together]

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.

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Τηανκινγ τηε Διρεχτιονσ:

NORTH: Guardians of the North, EARTH, thank you for your protection. Fill us with Wisdom that we may act wisely with the magick we have shared here tonight. Hail and farewell!

EAST: Guardians of the East, AIR, thank you for your protection. Fill us with Enlightenment from the ideas that were shared here tonight. Hail and farewell!

SOUTH: Guardians of the South, FIRE, thank you for your protection. Fill us with Wonder and Awe from the love we shared here tonight. Hail and farewell!

WEST: Guardians of the West, WATER, thank you for your protection. Fill us with the gifts of Healing and Friendship that we have shared tonight. Hail and farewell!

SPIRIT: Guardians of the Center, SPIRIT, thank you for your protection. Fill us with the gift of Introspection as we begin the dark of the New Year tonight. Hail and farewell!

[All together] *The circle is open, but unbroken. May the Peace of the Goddess be always in your hearts. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again.*

[On the way out, Missy and Tim will jump the broom! And then the monkey chant!]