

Samhain '14 with Treibh na Tíntean (elders' version)

Dinner

Intro – Ah, Samhain! It is our third and final harvest celebration. The growing season is over and the crops are in. If the yield was good, our ancestors relaxed in the knowledge that their winter would be easier to survive. We revel in the change of autumn—the bright colors, the crisp air, the rich scents. The days are shorter, the skies are gray and ancient memories stir. We know we have to prepare for winter; there can be no rebirth except through death.

We celebrate in many ways: the altar is covered in black, red, orange, gold, yellow—we dress in costumes, dream of the new year, we decorate with corn, leaves, pumpkins and gourds. We carve jack-o-lanterns and light them with candles. We set up shrines to our ancestors. We kindle ritual fires for protection, and to celebrate the flame of life which burns even in the presence of death.

The deepening chill in the air makes us welcome the warmth of home. Our focus turns inward. Psychic, intuitive work is enhanced. As the veil between the worlds is the thinnest, it is an auspicious time for path working and meditation work. Through inner journeys, we can renew our connections with our forebears and loved ones who have passed into the Summerland.

Samhain is a festival of endings and beginnings, death and rebirth. The wheel of the year has completed another cycle. As we say farewell to the old year and welcome the new, take time to reflect on the cycle in your own life. *[Bring a plate of food from dinner out to the circle.]*

Chant –

bottom:	Be born, live, and die, then / Be born, live, and die, then
middle:	Die, and be reborn again / Die and be reborn, Die and be reborn again, / Die and be reborn.
top:	Like the Phoenix, / Like the Grain King, Like the Sun God, / Like the Moon Queen.

At Veil

NORTH:	This is the veil, the opening of a new gate...	EAST:	and the closing of another.
SOUTH:	This is the opening of a new season...	WEST:	and the closing of another.
SPIRIT 1:	This is the opening of a new path...	SPIRIT 2:	and the closing of another.
NORTH:	This is the beginning of a new time...	EAST:	and the closing of another.
SOUTH:	This is the start of a new journey...	WEST:	and the closing of another.
SPIRIT 1:	This is the beginning of a new year...	SPIRIT 2:	and the closing of another.

Cleansing – *[I have flying oil and ointment we can use.]*

CHANGING DIRECTIONS

MEDITATION: We will start with a meditation, so get comfortable. Close your eyes. Take in a deep cleansing breath and let it go.... Do that again.... And again as you relax your body. Samhain is a magickal time, a time when the veil between our world and the beyond is at its thinnest. The spirits of long ago and recently passed walk among us: some just to see us once again, some to guide us on our paths or warn us of our futures.

Let your spirit stand before you. Look around the grove. You see one or many spirits gathered next to your tribe members. Look to your side and see the spirit of a loved one next to you. They await our call and the blessing of the Goddess to join our rite tonight. Continue breathing deeply and find your inner peace. Reach out

and share your energy with the spirits as they share theirs with you. When you are ready, open your eyes and we will begin.

CHANGE –

Dave: The wheel of the year turns full once again. Samhain is the beginning of a new year on the Pagan calendar.

Jenna: It is appropriate on this Sabbath for new paths to be taken, and to recreate our circle for the coming year.

Dave: Richard, will you step forward. The year begins anew, which Direction will you serve?

Richard: North, for the Goddess guides my path.

Jenna: With Her blessing and in Her light, thank you, North. *[Jenna hands Richard the mantle of North and he stands before the altar.]*

Dave: Denise, will you step forward. The year begins anew, which Direction will you serve?

Denise: West, for the Goddess guides my path.

Jenna: With Her blessing and in Her light, thank you, West. *[Jenna hands Denise the mantle of West and she stands before the altar.]*

Dave: Scott, will you step forward. The year begins anew, which Direction will you serve?

Scott: South, for the Goddess guides my path.

Jenna: With Her blessing and in Her light, thank you, South. *[Jenna hands Scott the mantle of South and he stands before the altar.]*

Dave: Sandy, will you step forward. The year begins anew, which Direction will you serve?

Sandy: East, for the Goddess guides my path.

Jenna: With Her blessing and in Her light, thank you, East. *[Jenna hands Sandy the mantle of East and she stands before the altar.]*

SPIRIT CIRCLE –

Dave: In keeping with the Samhain traditions, the elders would like to begin a new coven tradition.

Jenna: It takes many hands—sometimes more than the elders have to prepare and cast the circle, to celebrate the Sabbats.

Dave: Tonight, we would like to create an outer circle—a Spirits' Circle—to assist us within the circle of Treibh na Tintean.

Jenna: Rita, will you step forward?

Sandy: Rita, for a long time you have stepped forward and assisted us when we asked. We ask if you would represent the spirit of the Crone for the Treibh and cast the circle when we gather.

[Rita's reply]

Jenna & Dave: We present our Crone and circle caster! *[Sandy presents Rita with Crone tunic & Richard gives her a pendant.]*

Jenna: Melissa, will you step forward?

Scott: Melissa, for a long time you have stepped forward and assisted us when we asked. We ask if you will represent the spirit of the Mother for your Treibh and cast the circle when we gather.

[Melissa's reply]

Jenna & Dave: We present our Mother and circle caster! *[Scott presents Melissa with the Mother jacket & Richard gives her a pendant.]*

Jenna: Alyssa, will you step forward?

Richard: Alyssa, for a long time you have tended the flames in our circle. We ask if you will represent the spirit of the Maiden and tend our flames when we gather.

[Alyssa's reply]

Jenna & Dave: We present our Maiden and flame tender! *[Richard presents Alyssa with the Maiden jacket & a pendant.]*

Jenna: Katie, will you step forward?

Denise: Your youthful spirit calls to the Fae and they join our circle through you. We ask if you would represent them and continue to keep our faery circle when we gather.

[Katie's reply]

Jenna & Dave: We present our Fae spirit and Keeper of their circle. *[Denise gives her the Faery shirt & Richard gives her a pendant.]*

Jenna & Dave: We—the Spirits of Above and Below—present your Directions and Spirit Circle for the new year. Now let's call the Elements and the Gods to our Samhain rite.

Calling the Directions

EAST: Spirits of the East and Air, the air that was the breath of our ancestors, the air that is now our breath. Lend us your energy for intellect and new beginnings. We ask you to join us for our Samhain ritual. Hail and welcome!

SOUTH: Spirits of the South and Fire, the fires that fueled the love of our ancestors, the fires that new fuel our love for them, each other and for future generations. Lend us your energy for love, transformation and action. We ask you to join us for our Samhain ritual. Hail and welcome!

WEST: Spirits of the West and Water, the water that was fluidity of emotion and life for our ancestors, the water that is now our emotions and lends us life. Lend us your life-giving power and flow of emotions. We ask you to join us for our Samhain ritual. Hail and welcome!

NORTH: Spirits of the North and Earth, the very soil of the earth, the soil our ancestors walked upon, the soil that we now walk upon and that our descendants will walk upon. Lend us your stability and growth. We ask you to join us for our Samhain ritual. Hail and welcome!

SPIRIT: Spirits of Above and Below, spirits who hold us between the worlds tonight and who hold us always. Lend us your divine perspective. We ask you to join us for our Samhain ritual. Hail and welcome!

Casting *[All]* – We cast this circle—a glowing blue orb—glowing and growing, surrounding all of us, surrounding us in protective blue-white light, expanding to touch all of us, connecting us into the web. This is a place that is not a place, a place that is all places, a time that is not a time, a time which is all times. Connect us into the web. The circle is cast.

Covenant – As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in Spirit. So mote it be.

Remembering the Ancestors

Sandy: On this night of shadows, the old ones in their darkest aspects reign supreme. We gather in our sacred grove—together—as one mind, one body, one spirit in the witching hour.

Scott: The time of Samhain casts its spell on us, drawing us into its shadow-veiled mysteries with strange beauty and ancient magick that endures forever.

[Sandy picks up the candle and Scott lights the flame.]

Scott: Tonight we light the candle in honor of those we love who have returned to the womb of the Goddess.

Sandy: Tonight the veil between ours and the next grows thin. The ancients lift the veil so our loved ones may walk among us until the rising of the sun.

Scott: Let each one of this circle light a candle on the ancestors' altar to remember a loved one.

[While people come forward to light candles, the six elders read the adapted poem by Muninn's Kiss.]

NORTH: The dead they stir, and look around,...

EAST: tonight they walk, tonight they dine.

SOUTH: The sun sinks down, she's dying now,...

WEST: the hollow hills, they open wide,...

SP 1: Faerie folk, the mighty dead,...

SP 2: by Samhain's fires, burning bright,...

NORTH: dance around in death's embrace.

EAST: To ancestors dead, some long gone,...

SOUTH: we tip a glass, we place a plate.

WEST: Death stands up, tonight he reigns.

SP 1: The revelers grow deathly quiet,...

SP 2: all knees bend and all tongues stilled,...

NORTH: for Death takes all and all will come.

EAST: The Gates of Death, they open wide,...

SOUTH: his face you meet, at Death's great doors.

WEST: His embrace is sweet, but deathly cold,...

SP 1: in love he strips you, bone from bone.

SP 2: Nothing left, you pass beyond.

NORTH: But Death's great doors and Life's fair doors—

EAST: what's dead and gone—will be reborn—

SOUTH: Death to Life, he takes your hand.

WEST: The new dawn's sun, in the east—

SP 1: dark Samhain's night to new year's light—

SP 2: what was dead has come again.

Denise: Now invite your departed loved one into this circle. The circle is open should they choose to come.

Richard: We welcome you in perfect love and trust. Come loved ones, and be with us tonight.

[Go around the circle—each person says the name of the one they want to invite. It can be a family member, friend or a s/hero.]

[Richard takes up the athame and Denise picks up the bowl of apple slices. She holds it up and he draws a pentacle above it while she says...]

Denise: We call upon the Lord of Shadows and the Lady of Darkness. Bless this apple and this plate of food for our loved ones.

Richard: Let any and all friendly spirits find sustenance as they travel between the worlds. So mote it be. *[Put apples on top of food on plate.]*

Jenna & Dave *[they step to the fire]*: Ancient Elementals, Lord of Shadows and Lady of Darkness—into the flames we cast our tokens. *[They toss something special (?) into the fire.]* Let the spirits speak to us with voices unspoken. Magical powers we do raise, let our loved ones speak as we gaze. *[Silence and listening as we peer into the fire.]*

Chant! Raise a little celebratory energy!

Thanking the Ancestors *[All]* – Thank you, loved ones for joining us this night. Stay if you will, go if you must. We send blessings on your journey's path as you bless us in return.

Communion

Ancestor Prayer by Rev. Michael Dangler of magicaldruid.com

[All]: When you were born, / The earth became your body, / The stone became your bone, / The sea became your blood, / The sun became your eye, / The moon became your mind, / The wind became your breath.

When you passed to the Otherworld, / Your breath became the wind, / Your mind became the moon, / Your eye became the sun, / Your blood became the sea, / Your bone became the stone, / Your body became the earth.

When we were born, you did the same for us: / You called forth the earth and rocks, / The sea arose and the sun descended; / The moon shone down and the wind sang. / For those who come after, we shall do as you did for us. / When we are gone, we shall do as you did before.

Ancestors, we honor you.

Thanks to God & Goddess and the Directions:

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

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

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

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

SP: You held us between the worlds tonight and lent us your divine perspective.

[All]: Keep the flame lit in our hearts for the memory of our beloved ones. 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!