

## YULE - Winter Solstice- Motranacht '08

**Cleansing** – *(We begin in darkness.)*

**Statement of Intent** – *(Light one candle)* Since the beginning of time we have gathered in this season to celebrate the rebirth of the Sun. On the Winter Solstice—the darkest of nights—the Goddess becomes the Great Mother and once again gives birth to the Sun, beginning the yearly cycle anew and bringing new light and hope to all the world. On the longest night of winter flares the spark of hope, the sacred fire, the light of the world. We gather here to welcome the new light. We join the Goddess in greeting the new Sun; we also welcome the new light within ourselves. *(We join hands, walk to altar and form the circle.)*

**Lighting the Solstice Candle** – We light this candle for the infant Solstice Sun. *(Light Solstice candle on altar.)* It is one small flame to pierce the darkness, a ray of hope, a symbol of the Light within us all, a light that can never be extinguished. This light will grow in glory—waxing strong, despite the cold to come. This light will dispel despair and resignation, giving us a glimpse of golden days ahead. Behold the light that can never die, reborn anew in the Solstice Sky!

### **Directions:**

**EAST**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the East, we summon, awaken and call you to protect our circle and our rite. Come to us now on the cold winter wind and breathe into us the spirit of the pure joy of life. So mote it be!

**SOUTH**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the South, we summon, awaken and call you to protect our circle and our rite. Come forth from the fires that warm this winter's night. Kindle within us the warmth of spiritual awakening. So mote it be!

**WEST**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the West, we summon, awaken and call you to protect our circle and our rite. Come forth from the frozen streams, from the driven snow. Bring us the water of life to wash away our fears and resentments that we may find peace of mind. So mote it be!

**NORTH**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the North, we summon, awaken and call you to protect our circle and our rite. Come forth from the bosom of our blessed Mother Earth and nourish us so that our faith may grow in strength. So mote it be!

**SPIRIT**—As above, so below...as the universe, so the soul...as without, so within. Blessed and gracious one, on this day do we consecrate to you our bodies, our minds and our spirits. So mote it be!

**Casting:** *(While this is being read, the candle lighter goes around lighting the “cross quarter” candles.) (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!

**Invocation:**

Lady, you who are the beauty of the snowy earth and the white moon among the stars, the mystery of the waters, the desire in the heart of humanity—we invite you to come among us and attend this rite for you are the soul of nature that gives life to the universe.

Lord, you who are the freedom of the wild things and the bright sun that lights the day, the mystery of the forest, the resolve in the heart of humanity—we invite you to come among us and attend this rite for you are the body of nature that gives life to the universe.

**Welcoming the Light:**

**SPIRIT**—Hail! God of Light and Joy, held within the Mother's arms, you lift our spirits in the dark of Winter, bringing us comfort and peace.

Come forth, take a candle and tell us what you would like to manifest—to bring to light in this next season of the sun. *(After everyone who wants to speak has spoken, light the first of these candles and pass the lighter around.)*

**EAST**—It is winter, it is night...

**SOUTH**—We await the Sun, we await the light...

**WEST**—In this darkness, in this night...

**NORTH**—We await the warmth, we await the light...

**SPIRIT**—And slowly it comes!

**ALL**—*(When all candles are lit, hold them high!)* Hail the God of Light, welcome! Hail the turning of the Wheel! *(Everyone turns around and sets candle down a few feet behind so we are surrounded by a ring of light.)*

**Triple Goddess Blessing:** *(Maiden, Mother and Crone now come forward to light the Yule log.*

*Spirit hands the Maiden a lit taper.)*

**Maiden:** Blessed be the Maiden, the young Goddess, wide-eyed and eager, innocent and fresh *(Lights the white candle and then hands the taper to the Mother).*

**Mother:** Blessed be the Mother, loving and protective, proud and fertile *(Lights the red candle and then hands the taper to the Crone).*

**Crone:** Blessed be the Crone, powerful and wise, guardian of the great cauldron of death, life and rebirth *(Lights the black candle then hands the taper to Spirit).*

*(The three Goddess aspects then dip their right hands into the cauldron filled with full-moon water with sea salt. They walk around the circle touching each person as they pass. Maiden blesses the feet, Mother the stomach, Crone the forehead. When finished, return to circle.)*

### **Communion**

**Thanking the Darkness**—*(The five directions)* The darkness is still here. Hold your hand upon your chest--know that darkness will always be within. It is a darkness of rest; a darkness of promise; a darkness of gestation; a darkness of yet-to-be, of just-before. Do not rush it away so quickly. Take time.

### **Thanking God and Goddess**

Lady, Goddess, soul of nature, thank you for attending this rite and for sharing your gifts of compassion and wit. Blessed be!

Lord, God, body of nature, thank you for attending this rite and for sharing your gifts of freedom and rejuvenation. Blessed be!

### **Thanking the Directions**

**EAST**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the East, return now to the brisk Winter winds brimming with the excitement of the year's climax. Take our thanks with you. Blessed be!

**SOUTH**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the South, return now to the fires of the Winter Hearth. Take our thanks with you. Blessed be!

**WEST**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the West, return now to the frozen streams and snow fields. Take our thanks with you. Blessed be!

**NORTH**—Guardians of the Watchtowers of the North, return now to the Earth where seeds nestle awaiting the warmth of Spring. Take our thanks with you. Blessed be!

**SPIRIT**—We came together in perfect love and perfect trust, in love and in friendship; let us part in the same way. Let us spread the love we have known here outward to all. Blessed be!

**ALL**—May the log burn, may the Wheel turn, may evil spurn, may the Sun return. The circle is open, but unbroken. Merry meet and merry part, and merry meet again!

*(If you wish, some of us will be going out to the fire to do some burning.)*