

YULE—Winter Solstice—Motranacht '09

Meditation

Statement of Intent –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.*)

Cleansing: “Welcome Yule!”

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:

NORTH: Watchtowers of the North—Powers of Earth—tundras and snowy mountains—we summon, stir and call you! Guard our circle and witness our rite. So mote it be!

EAST: Watchtowers of the East—Powers of Air—clear, sharp and cold winds—we summon, stir and call you! Guard our circle and witness our rite. So mote it be!

SOUTH: Watchtowers of the South—Powers of Fire—far deserts and warm seasons—we summon, stir and call you! Guard our circle and witness our rite. So mote it be!

WEST: Watchtowers of the West—Powers of Water—frozen lakes and rimed streams—we summon, stir and call you! Guard our circle and witness our rite. So mote it be!

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!

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 ask 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 ask you to come among us and attend this rite for you are the body of nature that gives life to the universe.

Yule Log:

WEST: Blessed are the Lord and the Lady who turn the Wheel of the Year.

NORTH: Welcome the Yule for the turning point of winter is here!

EAST: The end of the solar year has come; a new one begins.

SOUTH: We send our power to the Sun God that He may rekindle our strength!

(Add Yule log to the fire.)

Triple God Blessing:

- We light this first candle to bid farewell to the Dark Lord, Guardian of the night and death. Hail the Dark Lord of winter!
- We light this next candle to welcome the young Sun God, Bringer of light and life to Earth. Hail the Sun God!
- We light this last candle to honor the Green Lord, Guardian of the forests and creatures. Hail the Green Man!

Solstice Gifting:

- I. *(All) Winter day of longest night / step aside now for the light. / Thank you for the gifts you've brought / that only darkness could have wrought. (Light candles all around circle. Then hand around crystals.)*
- II. *(All) (Hold crystals over flames.) O Newborn Sun of love and light / rise quickly now, high and bright. / Gain strength and power in the sky. / Shed Your warmth from on high.*
- III. *(Add your good wishes to the stones' energies, then hand to the person on your left, saying...) Remember the blessings of the Lord and Lady; remember our time together.*

Communion

Thanking the Old God: *(All)* Old King, we thank You for all You've done / for lessons learned and victories won. / We must, however, bid You 'adieu' / for Your reign is over and through. Blessed be.

Thanking the Darkness—*(The four 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 quickly. Take time.

(All) We are in the time of darkness. We are moving toward the time of balance. Light has been reborn in the womb of darkness. We thank the darkness for its wisdom even as we welcome the light. Now we celebrate—Welcome Yule!

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

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!

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!

[Four Directions]—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!