

Winter Solstice/ Yule 2011 with Treibh Na Tintean

Meditation

Cleansing—(*and hand out candles*)

Directions

- EAST:** Spirits of Air, be with us as we bless the Sun from the East, where it rises, that we may see clearly by its light. So mote it be.
- SOUTH:** Spirits of Fire, be with us as we bless the Sun from the South, where it is strongest, that we may be energized by its rays. So mote it be.
- WEST:** Spirits of Water, be with us as we bless the Sun from the West, where it sets, that we may find peace in death. So mote it be.
- NORTH:** Spirits of Earth, be with us as we bless the Sun from the North, where it awaits rebirth, so that our trust may always be in life. So mote it be.
- SPIRIT:** Element of Spirit, be with us in perfect love of life and in perfect trust that the Wheel shall turn. We celebrate the rebirth of the Sun! 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!

COVENANT - (*All*) As we gather here in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

Lighting candles from the Solstice candle

Invokation—(*All*)

- GODDESS:** Mother Goddess, giving birth, / bring the Sun back from the Earth.
Winter's ground seems like a tomb: / let this Circle be Your womb.
We await our rebirth with the year—Mother, hail and welcome here!

GOD: O Sun, since Litha's on the wane, / now You shall be born again.
I shall mourn Your death no more: / Your light the Mother shall restore!
Dying and reborn each year, / I bid You hail and welcome here!

(Set candles behind us in circle.)

Goddess and God blessings and Lighting the Yule Log

5 DIRS: Tonight we celebrate the longest night of the year. Even though it is winter, our darkness will end. Life seems to be slumbering around us, but we are not forgotten. The blessed Goddess carries in her womb her son, her consort, our God.... Blessed Lady, turn the Wheel so that your Son will return to warm us anew! *(Light God and Goddess candles.)*

All: Blessed be the Lady, giver of life; welcome Lord, bringer of warmth!

5 DIRS: Tonight darkness has reached the limit of its power. Now the light of our God is victorious over darkness. Tonight our God is born.

All: Blessed be the Lady, giver of life; Welcome the God, Lord of light!

5 DIRS: Together God and Goddess will bring life anew to our barren-seeming earth.

All: Blessed be the Goddess and God, blessed be creation, blessed be the darkness, blessed be the light!

(Maiden, Mother and Crone now come forward to begin lighting the Yule log.)

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

Mother: Blessed be the Mother, loving and protective, proud and fertile *(lights the red candle and then hands the Goddess candle 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 Goddess candle to East).*

(Dark God, Young Sun and Green man come forward to finishing lighting the Yule log.)

Dark God: We light this first candle to bid farewell to the Dark Lord, Guardian of the night and death. Hail the Dark Lord of winter!

Young Sun: We light this next candle to welcome the young Sun God, Bringer of light and life to Earth. Hail the Sun God!

Green Man: We light this last candle to honor the Green Lord, Guardian of the forests and creatures. Hail the Green Man!

Solstice Gifting

5 DIRs: 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. (*Hand around runes. Pick up candles*)

5 DIRs: (*Hold runes 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.

(*Add your good wishes to the rune's energy, then hand it to the person on your left, saying...*)
Remember the blessings of the Lord and Lady; remember our time together.

communion

Thanking God and Goddess

GODDESS: Mother Goddess, giving birth. / You've brought the Sun back from the Earth.
Winter's ground seemed like a tomb, / but You've transformed it to a womb.
I feel the light, reborn, begin to swell, / and bid You now hail and farewell!

GOD: O Sun, since Litha's on the wane, / now You have been born again,
now to grow and brightly shine, / to spark our lives with light divine.
Your light, reborn, begins to swell; / I bid You now hail and farewell!

Thanking the Directions

NORTH: Spirits of Earth, thank you for blessing the Sun with us—our trust will always be in life. Blessed be.

WEST: Spirits of Water, thank you for blessing the Sun with us—someday we will find peace in death. Blessed be.

SOUTH: Spirits of Fire, thank you for blessing the Sun with us—may we be energized by its rays. Blessed be.

EAST: Spirits of Air, thank you for blessing the Sun with us—may we see clearly by its light. Blessed be.

SPIRIT: May the log burn, may the Wheel turn, may evil spurn, may the Sun return.
Blessed be.

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

