

Mabon '11 [Harvest Home] with *Treíbh na Tíntean*

Meditation

Sandy: We praise the Earth who feeds us / and raise the Harvest Home. / The stag with light steps leads us / to dance the season come. / Ash links the worlds entwining / our realms with Gods and Elves. / The bonfire blesses, shining / our food, our drink, ourselves. —Leigh Ann Hussey

Mike: Today we celebrate the Second Harvest of fruits, nuts, vines and new friends. We also remember our neighbors who struggle without. We accept the gifts of the Lady and Lord, we remember that what was sown is now reaped. This is a time of offerings, payment of dues and enjoyment of rewards. We also need to share what we have with those who have need. The Wheel of the Year is ever turning from life to death to life again.

Sandy: The God guides us in the dance of balance and harmony. He travels the path of Nature so that we know and not fear the cycles of our being, for balance and harmony are His truths. Now is the time when the God prepares to leave the Goddess and enter the Underworld. He will be reborn at Yule for He is the Sun.

Both: “Now the darkness is descending; light our way, oh love unending. From His dance, let life be reborn, for His death is a beginning. For His dance is just beginning.”

Cleansing

Casting—

Scott: Take an apple from the basket (*pass basket!*) and hold it in both hands. Feel the wisdom and love of the Goddess; feel her generosity. These apples are ancient symbols of the Goddess—of her great knowledge and power of healing. The apple holds her wisdom and provides a gateway into other realms. Now, turn around and set the apple behind you, forming our circle. (*pause*) As above, so below. Sacred is this space decreed with the riches of the Great Mother’s body.

(*Cut apple in half across middle.*) This sacred fruit contains the five-pointed star—symbol of our ancient faith and connectedness to all life. (*Cut another one in half across middle and give to each Direction.*)

Directions—

Sandy: Spirits of East, element of Air, your warm summer breezes yield to the autumn chill that gives birth to a blaze of bright color. We appreciate the blessings of the beauty you bestow on this world. Join us in our circle tonight. So mote it be.

Denise: Spirits of South, element of Fire, your brilliant August sun is becoming a memory that will dance through our hearts in the dark months to come. May we find your spark to illuminate our paths ahead. Join us in our circle tonight. So mote it be.

Mike: Spirits of West, element of Water, your cool autumn rains wash the emptying fields to make way for a winter's rest. May we receive the blessing of your cleansing showers. Join us in our circle tonight. So mote it be.

Richard: Spirits of North, element of Earth, your golden fields provide the promise of a comfortable winter. We celebrate in the abundance of your blessings. Join us in our circle tonight. So mote it be.

Call of God and Goddess—

(Scott cuts another apple in half—give one to Joe then Janet as they call God and Goddess.)

Joe: *(light the yellow candle)* Sun King, Corn King, God of the Harvest, your seed has provided a bounty that has greened the meadows and filled the fields. As the burning embers of summer are overtaken by darkness and you begin your descent to the Underworld, bestow your blessings on our circle.

Janet: *(light the brown candle)* Great Mother Goddess, Brigid, Demeter, Queen of the Harvest, your body has provided abundance and beauty. As you begin your metamorphosis into Crone, bless us with your wisdom.

Sandy & Mike: Lord and Lady of the Harvest, as this year wanes into darkness, come to us one last time as Queen and Consort. Join us in our circle tonight. So mote it be.

Gratitude—

Mike: Take a moment or two and give thought to what you have been blessed with this year.

Sandy: When you are ready, go to the altar and take a crystal from the bowl, saying...

Scott: Lord and Lady, I thank you for [whatever blessing you have received].

Mike: To give power to our thanks as we release them to the world, we are going to raise some energy with a vine dance.

Sandy: We will chant, "Harvest dance, round and round, / all blessings to be found."

(Dulci and Scott drum while we dance.)

Dulci & Scott: Our world passes from summer into the dark of the year. On this day of the Equinox, this day of balance, we pause on the threshold where light begins to fade. As the nights grow longer it is time to reflect on our lives and cultivate inner wisdom.

Communion—

Richard: *(Raise the bowl of nuts.)* Hazel is a symbol of wisdom. We call on the Wise Ones to guide us through the dark that lies ahead. Teach us to hear the inner voice that whispers of ancient ways.

Denise: *(Raise the wine)* Blackberries, fruit sacred to Brigid. Sweeten our lips and warm our hearts with memories of this summer past.

Denise & Richard: (*Lower the athame into the chalice*) The Horned One returns to the belly of the Mother. The Great Goddess transforms into the powerful Crone. We follow them into darkness, as two become one. The seasons change, the Wheel of the Year turns. (*Pour the wine into the chalice.*) Mother, bless this wine and food.

Thanking~

Janet: Great Mother, as you enter your most powerful aspect of Crone, we ask that you favor us with your wisdom. Guide us through the coming dark. We bid you farewell. (*Extinguish one of the candles.*)

Joe: Horned One, Warrior of Light, go to your rest and dream of rebirth. Endings are beginnings. I shall await your return. I bid you farewell. (*Extinguish the other candle.*)

Richard: Spirits of North, element Earth, thank you for your presence this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid you farewell. Blessed be.

Mike: Spirits of West, element Water, thank you for your presence this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid you farewell. Blessed be.

Denise: Spirits of South, element Fire, thank you for your presence this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid you farewell. Blessed be.

Sandy: Spirits of East, element Air, thank you for your presence this night. Stay if you will; go if you must. We bid you farewell. Blessed be.

Scott: The Lord has gone to his rest, and the Lady gathers strength. We witness their parting as the Wheel of the Year continues to turn.

ALL: Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again!