

Samhain '12 with Treibh na Tintean

Memorial Supper *[The focus of dinner conversation is stories--stories of loved ones now gone, stories of ancestors, stories of our dead heroes.]*

Meditation

Cleansing at the Veil

Casting

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!

Directions

EAST: East, Goddess of Dawn, reclaiming mysteries of body and passion, of new beginnings—the place where breath begins. Spirits of Air, we call upon you, knowing you will be with us as we depart life. So mote it be!

SOUTH: South, Creator of all new life—land of sunlight and fire, your flames guide us through the cycles of life. Spirits of Fire, we welcome you, knowing you will transform us in death. So mote it be!

WEST: West, Sacred Sister of Compassion, spreading service in growth and love. The West is underground rivers, and the sea's rolling tide. Spirits of Water, we call upon you, knowing you will carry us through the ebbs and flows of our life. So mote it be!

NORTH: The North, Divine Strength, a place of cold when the Earth is silent and dark, where giants walk; it's the stones and bones. Spirits of the Earth, we welcome you, knowing you will envelope us in death. So mote it be!

Invoking Goddess and God

Goddess: *[All Women]* Gracious Goddess—Holy Maiden, Mother, Crone—descend upon this circle; join us tonight as we assemble once more to spin the wheel of the year. Great Goddess, Mother of us all, You have brought us to life, and You walk with us to death's door and beyond. Goddess of Life and Death, Cerridwyn, we call You home! So mote it be.

God: *[All Men]* Horned One, we invoke You by the moon-lit sea, by the standing stone and the twisted tree. Eldest of the Gods, we call You, Lord of the Wild Woods. Come out of the

North upon the back of the Winds with Your strength and love, and join us at this sabbat. We call You, Cernunnos, to come home! So mote it be.

Covenant: [*All*] As we gather here, in our sacred space, a circle is formed and we are connected in spirit.

Invoking the Ancestors

Tonight we remember those who have lived and died before us, those who have crossed through the veil. We will remember (*light black candle*). The Wheel of the year turns once more, and we cycle into darkness (*light white candle*). At the end of the darkness comes light. And so we celebrate Life, Death and Rebirth.

N: O Ancestors, known and unknown, ancestors of our bodies and spirits, all those who have given form to our lives, who have made us what and who we are--body and soul. Mothers, Fathers, Teachers, Guides, Healers! Showers of the way to go...and the way not to go!

E: All you whose Fire is in us, whose Water is in us, whose Air is in us, whose Earth is in us! All you whose Spirit is in us! On this night of Samhain, we feel you near. At this time of no time, we call to you.

S: Come, dear Spirits! We welcome all of you who come in love and friendship, who share our quest for the truth; and even as you move amongst us, we shall remember those of the departed who are most dear to us.

W: O dear Spirits, you who were our predecessors, our friends, our guides, come to the help of those who are striving strenuously upon the path; guide them upon their quest for the light, support them in their times of difficulty. We greet you as brothers and sisters during your brief transit across our world.

[Foo] Let any who so choose, step forward and speak the names of those they wish to remember, that they be honored in our circle tonight. (*When that is accomplished, move on.*) Spirits walk amongst us once again—family, friends and pets.

A Visitation

Communion [*After the sharing of the 'feast,' make sure there's a bit of food and drink for the fire.*]

Thanking Ancestors

Every beginning has an ending, and every ending is a new beginning. In life is death and in death is life. Watch over us, our loved ones, and all of our brothers and sisters, here and departed, who are joined together tonight again in fellowship and joy. Bless us all as we light our hearth fires, and the eternal fires in our hearts.

[All together] Protect and guide us tonight and throughout the coming year. We reluctantly

release your spirits. Stay if you will, go if you must. Take with you our love, our gratitude, our wishes for peace.

Closing [*“Now the Leaves” by Florence Dacey*]

N: Now the leaves speak gold and scarlet / all the birds flock and sing / Spirit whispers in dying grasses / Calls us to raise our hymn.

W: We are gathered, we give praise / To the One spinning wisdom, / From which we come / And to which we all return. ...

S: Protect us in this descent, / where we must burn away / Despair and rage, and search again / for you who have no name.

E: We too will return / Burning from the inside out, / Blazing with our own truth, / with our tongues of flame / To serve our illumination.

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.

[*All together*] 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!