

Yule Full Moon
Celebration
13th June 2014

*(Written and presented in
Sydney by Rebecca,
presented in Nowra by
Samantha)*



Cast the Circle:

By the power of the dragons
may this circle be blessed,
cleansed and sanctified.

East

Elements of the east,
Icy winds that bring a chill,
Join us now as we celebrate
The turning of the wheel,
Hail and welcome!

North

Elements of the north,
Blazing fire that warms us in times of cold,
Join us now as we celebrate
The turning of the wheel,
Hail and welcome!

West

Elements of the west,
Of water that changes, freezing and melting
with the seasons.
Join us now as we celebrate
The turning of the wheel,
Hail and welcome!

South

Elements of the south,
Of the solid earth, slumbering now, yet
waking soon.
Join us now as we celebrate
The turning of the wheel,
Hail and welcome!

Invite the Goddess:

Maiden, who is free and young,
Mother, who nurses a newborn,
Crone, who guides us with her wisdom,
Gaia, Rati, Tiamat, Yemanja,
Persephone, Isis, Chang'e, Diana,
We invite you, the essence of the feminine, to
join us as we celebrate the turning of the wheel.
Come now and join us!
Hail and Welcome.

Invite the God:

Squire, who is youthful and uninhibited,
Father, whose strength protects,
Sage, who advises from experience,
Green Man, Kama, Apsu, Aganju,
Hades, Osiris, Houyi, Apollo,
We invite you, the essence of the masculine, to
join us as we celebrate the turning of the wheel.
Come now and join us!
Hail and Welcome.

Ritual Drama

(See page 3)

Meditation

(See page 5 for text, Music on page 3)

Farewell the Goddess:

We give thanks, essence of the feminine, in all your forms, with all your names.
Thank you for joining us on this night.
Thank you for your words, your presence and your time.
Be with us always,
Hail and Farewell.

Farewell the God:

We give thanks, essence of the masculine, in all your forms, with all your names.
Thank you for joining us on this night.
Thank you for your words, your presence and your time.
Be with us always,
Hail and Farewell.

South

Element of the South, of Earth,
Flourishing now, as the sun's light grows,
We thank you for your presence here tonight,
Hail and Farewell.

West

Element of the West, of Water,
Freezing, thawing, ever changing,
We thank you for your presence here tonight,
Hail and Farewell.

North

Element of the North, of Fire,
Heat that sustains us till summers return
We thank you for your presence here tonight,
Hail and Farewell.

East

Element of the East, of Air,
Winds that warm as the wheel turns,
We thank you for your presence here tonight,
Hail and Farewell.

May this circle be open, but unbroken,
May the peace of the Goddess be forever in our hearts,
Merry Meet, Merry Part
And Merry Meet again.

Image found at faeriekat.wordpress.com

Go to URL below for meditation music used in this ritual
<http://spheresoflight.com.au/content/music/yule-meditation-music-2014.mp3>

Ritual Drama Sheet

Italic = Action

Standard/**Bold** = Speech

The Holly King sits upon a chair in the middle of the circle, the Oak King stands from his chair on the opposite side of the circle and approaches. He raises his sword and points it at the Holly King. Both freeze and wait for the Goddess to speak.

The Goddess stands and begins to circle the two.

Goddess: A rivalry, many centuries old, since ancient times, the tales were told, of two great kings, one dark, and one light, who twice a year, would heroically fight.

The Holly King, the darker one, ruled the winter, the dimming Sun.

While the King of Oak, was vibrant and bright. He reigned over summer, the Sun's growing light.

The Goddess steps back, signaling for the conversation to start.

Oak King: The time has come for me to remove you from the throne, I challenge you, Holly King!

Holly King: As always, the throne is earned, not given. I accept your challenge my brother.

Holly King and Oak King commence fighting.

The Holly King falls, either to his knees or to the floor, and the Goddess steps forward to help him up, and help him to the Oak King's seat. At the same time, the Oak King holds his sword aloft and says.

Oak King: The wheel has turned, I have won! Light will return once more.

The Oak King then sits upon the throne and the Goddess steps forward and stands in the circle, between the two.

Goddess: At Yule they would battle, 'Twas an inspiring scene, and the victory would go to the mighty Oak King. But at Midsummer's time, with the Sun at its peak, The Holly King would win and the Oak King grow weak. And so it went on, Year after year, the story was told to all who could hear. So, honor the Oak King in Summer, when the Sun's light is warm, and the Holly King in winter when the wind brings cold storms.

The poem recited was slightly modified for the purposes of this ritual. The original Poem can be found at <http://brennaxadaira.wordpress.com/2011/08/14/the-battle-of-the-oak-and-holly-kings/>

Yule Sabbat Pre-Talk & Meditation

13th June 2014

Pre-Talk

Introductions

- Greet everyone, go around the circle and introduce everyone if there are new members.

Phones & Ritual Etiquette

- Ask everyone to turn their phones onto silent and place them in their bags.
- If you need to leave the circle, please ask one of the members of Dark Moon/Regulars to cut you out.

Casting the Circle

- Imagine a flaming blue pentagram, or a pentagram made of the element, as we go around. The circle is more than just a flat circle, it's an entire sphere that is above and below us.

God and Goddess position and your own deity

- Chalice and Osiris rising positions
- Discuss that when we call in the God and Goddess, think about an element of the whole, or particular God or Goddess. We're involving the very essence/energy of masculine and feminine, so if one person thinks of the crone, and another the mother, all of these different ideas will weave into the massive picture of the male and female that we have as a collective society.

Planetary positions and what this will mean for our meditation/things happening now

- The Full Moon in Sagittarius sheds light on our need to find a deeper meaning in life, not getting lost in mind-numbing trivia. This Full Moon urges us to find a balance between our need to enthusiastically explore and our need to approach an issue rationally, collecting information first rather than acting impetuously.
- Since Venus opposes Saturn today you may have something serious with another person over financial needs in the mix. Seek balance and look at commitments or endings here. For some Venus will show more on the side of love/intimacy or divorce on this day, again balance and some line in the sand is paramount.
- Be extra considerate and keep in mind the communication ruler, Mercury, is weak so mistakes in writing, speaking, etc can be costly!

Oak King & Holly King

- **The Oak and Holly king** take their names from the Oak and Holly of the Ogham. The Ogham is an ancient Irish alphabet, with 25 letters/symbols in total; like runes, they were used to write, but also for divination and magic. Each letter has an association with a particular tree, and was also used to keep time, like our modern months. However, there were 13 instead of 12 and the rest were associated with certain holidays.
- We're currently in Duir (Oak), which started on the 10th of June and continues till the 7th of July. However, since we're in the Southern Hemisphere, it could be argued that we're in 13th month of the Ogham, Ruis (Elder), as that was traditionally the last month and the New Year would begin after Yule.
- **The Oak King and the Holly King appear different in different legends.** In some they were brothers, in others, they were knights, the general consensus is that they are always linked, and essentially the same being. The **Oak King** rules the light half of the year, as oak trees are some of the strongest, yet lost their leaves at winter.
- **The Holly King** ruled the dark half of the year; the bright red of the holly bush was seen to stand out amongst the country side, now that all the deciduous tree's had died and the holly bush had lost its leaves. Their fight is symbolic of the changing from the dark half to the light half, and visa versa. It's a dramatization of what is happening to our planet and is meant to tune you into the energy of the season.

Meditation

Take a deep breath and close your eyes. Shift your attention below the ground and see, in your mind's eye, the great pulsing heartbeat of the mother. It's slow and strong, a constant growing and fading light. As you focus on that light, allow it to spread, with each pulse, reaching up through the earth and connecting with your feet.

Feel the pulse from the earth go up and down, time this with your breaths. As you breathe in, allow that energy to spread up your legs and reach the base of your spine. As you breathe out, let it slide down again. When you breathe in, let it surge higher this time, now breathe out, and let it slide to your feet once more. Focus on it, slowly rising, and falling with each breath, until it reaches your crown.

- **Pause for a few moments to allow for people to focus** -

As you see this light pulsing through your body, spread it out into your limbs and work it into any muscle that cramps, itches or annoys. Let it dissolve all distraction or conscious thought. Focus on your breathing, and breathe deeply. In and Out....

Before you lies a wall of mist. Simply being near it, you can feel the chill that it emanates. Before you step into this mist, I want you to think of the coldest feeling you have experienced. Think of early winter mornings, or stepping into a cold room at a liquor store, really trap that feeling, that essence, of cold. Now, step into the mist, and truly feel that chill, that dampness cling to your skin. As you move forward, it becomes harder to walk, like your feet are sinking into something, and you can feel the cold seeping into your shoes, or clinging to your feet.

You emerge from the mist to see a wide, open glade, covered with snow. The land slopes upwards gently, and as you focus your attention, you can see a large tree at the apex of the hill. There are a few people below it, and as they walk behind the tree, some remain, and some disappear. Other figures leave from behind the tree, some stand and chat, other stand by themselves. It's hard to make out who they are, so you begin to climb the hill. It takes a while, as each step plunges your foot into the deep snow.

Now, as you approach the top of the hill, each of you will see something different. Some of you may see a couple of gods, an entire pantheon, or a single deity. Trust what you see and meet with these gods and guides now. Spend some time with them, ask them if they have a task, or a message for you. If you do not know them, ask a name, or a clue that you can look into later.

When it is time for you to leave, I will call you back.

- **Pause for however long you feel is necessary during this portion of the meditation** -

It is time for you to farewell your gods and guides. Thank them humbly for their time and farewell them however you please. They may stay at the tree, or accompany your walk back to the mist. You begin to head down the hill.

Once you have made your way back down the hill, you return to the mist that swirls at the edge of the clearing. When you reach out your hand, it's warm to the touch. You know the significance of this, from now until Litha, the days will begin to warm and grow longer. This knowledge helps comfort you as you enter the mist and return to your body.

Gently ease yourself back into your body. Stretch your arms and legs, wiggle your fingers and toes, roll your shoulders, and blink.