

HERBES ~ASH

By Amethyst

“Put another log on the fire”, I was singing along to this old song on my way home from work recently, and I found myself wondering what the traditional YULE LOG was supposed to be made of!

ASH

Latin Name: Fraxinus (excelsior/americana)

Planet: Sun, Neptune

Celtic Tree Astrology: 3rd Month Feb18th-March17th

Zodiac:

Tarot: The Hanged Man

Element: Fire

Gender: Masculine

Deity: Eostre, Frigg, Gwydion, Hel/Holle, Mars, Minerva, Nemesis, Neptune, Odin, Poseidon, Thor, Neptune, Uranus, Woden

Stone: Turquoise, Lepidolite, Beryl (sea-green)

Birds: Common Snipe

Colour: White, Pale Blue

Magickal: Countermagick Herbe, Fertility Herbe, Herbe of Love, Herbe of Protection, Magickal Herbe, Religious Herbe, Visionary Herbe.

Folk Names: Ash, Common Ash, Unicorn Tree, Guardian Tree

Parts Used: Leaves, wood, bark, twigs, sap, flowers



The Ash tree in Norse mythology is seen as the world tree Yggdrasil or Cosmic Ash and the first man, ASK, was formed from an ash tree.

This tree is said to span the universe -

its roots in hell, its branches supporting the heavens and with Earth at its centre. In Celtic cosmology in particular it connects the three circles of existence - past, present and future, or as confusion, balance, and creative force; there being no hell, but only continual rebirth as passage is made from circle to circle until the Land of the Blessed is finally reached.

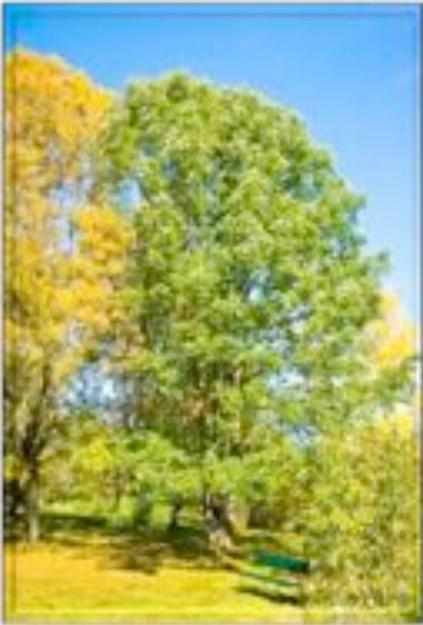
Also, the Ash can be seen as spanning both microcosm and macrocosm, the little world and the great world. In this interpretation, man and Earthly things are reflections in miniature of the universe, the cosmos being reflected in us, and thus expressing the meaning of the old expression:

“As above, so below.”

“Know yourself and you will know the world.”

This ancient Druid phrase describes to us how we are linked to our world, and how the Ash was seen as spanning the world around us and within each of us. The ash tree is also said to represent the world tree or axis mundi as it is known in Latin.

Through their understanding of Universal Order and their appreciation of their own unique role in it, the Celts discovered a deep sense of belonging and a purpose for their existence. Our modern and hectic daily life is usually far removed from



the cycles and forces of the natural world and it can often be seen empty of any real purpose. The ash is a key to healing the loneliness of the human spirit out of touch with its origins - it can provide a sense of being grounded and

of belonging. The ash reminded the Celts of the interlinking of the Three Cycles of Being.

Likewise we are encouraged to consider the role of the past in creating the present, so that we can better appreciate the many ways in which positive thought and action today can help to create a brighter tomorrow. Through a constant process of balancing and marrying opposites, we, like the ash, can achieve harmony within ourselves.

Three of the Five great trees of Ireland were Ash:

the Tree of Uisnech,
the Tree of Tortu,
and the Tree of Dathi.

The Five trees were located in each of the five provinces and symbolized the guardians who protected the sovereignty of the land. They were destroyed in 665 CE by the Celts themselves, rather than surrendered to the encroaching Christians.

In the Celtic Ogham Alphabet ash or 'Nion' represented our modern letter N. (Ogham image here please)
NION or NUIN (Nee-Arn) - N – ASH.

This Ogham symbol is used in Celtic Reiki at the start of a manifestation treatment to connect to the energy required for the treatment.



Ash is referred to in "The Sinister Pathway Triangle Order". They relate it to Saturn.

USAGE

Druid wands are good for healing, general and solar magick. Placing fresh ash leaves under your pillow stimulates psychic dreams.

Ash leaves can also be used to bring general prosperity. To do this, gather ash leaves and take them to an outdoors place where you can work undisturbed. Using a sword, dagger, wand, or even your index finger, draws a circle in the ground which is large

enough for you to work in without crossing. Facing the east, hold the ash leaves in both of your hands, saying, "Elementals of the East, rulers of Air, bring me knowledge and inspiration." Turn to the South, and say, "Elementals of the South, rulers of Fire, bring me energy and change." Turn to the west, and say, "Elementals of the West, rulers of Water, bring me healing and love." Lastly, turn to the north, and say, "Elementals of the North, rulers of Earth, bring me prosperity and success." At the end of each, throw a few ash leaves to each direction. Then, stand in the centre of the circle with your hands raised, and say, "Blessings to all who come to my aid. Between friends is this bargain made." (adaptable as required)

Burn an ash log at YULE to receive prosperity. Also place a leaf someplace within your car, motorcycle or truck for protection on the road.

References:

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