

# Samhain 2012

*Ritual written and led by Amethyst & Rayvensclaw  
(Friday 4 May 2012)*



## **SAMHAIN MEANING**

Tonight we celebrate the Grand Sabbat of Samhain which was the Celtic New Year. Samhain marks the final harvest, the coming winter, the death of the sun. To our ancestors, particularly those living in harsher climates, this was a frightening time. Food had to be stored to last through the cold months ahead. Often the weak would not survive. An especially bleak winter could mean the end of the community itself. Even the sun appeared to leave the sky.

Samhain then, was a very important festival because it offered hope. It meant the harvest had been successful and sufficient supplies had been stocked for the winter. Fires were lit in honour of the sun which our ancestors hoped would be reborn again at Yule. And they thought of those who had gone before- those who had died in the preparation of the food, or the hunt, or those who had died in past winters. Maintaining this connection is, and has always been, a very important affirmation of life itself.

Just as our ancestors did long ago, we remember and honour the dead because they are a part of ourselves. All those we have ever known, including our beloved pets, live on in our mannerisms, turns of speech, values and practices. They are a part of our personality that distinguishes us from others. No one else had the same combination of parents, relatives, friends and teachers. The traits and memories that we maintain of those who have gone before are a form of immortality for them.

So we pause and we look back and we give thanks for those who have made us what we are today. We hope that someday we too will be remembered, because we know that "They who are remembered, live on."

In tonight's ritual we will be "Sharing cakes and ale", well not actually ale, but what we will be drinking contains waters from the WHITE & RED WELLS OF GLASTONBURY.

## **THE CHALICE WELL (Red) & THE WHITE SPRING**

It is one of the greatest mysteries of the Isle of Avalon that two different healing springs, one touched red with iron, the other white with calcite, should rise within a few feet of each other from the caverns beneath Glastonbury Tor. Both have healing in their flow.

### **The Chalice Well**

The Chalice Well is a natural spring and its surrounding gardens are owned and managed by the Chalice Well Trust a registered charity. Archaeological evidence suggests that the well has been in almost constant use for at least two thousand years. Water issues from the spring and has never failed, even during drought. Iron oxide deposits give water a reddish hue. Like the hot springs in nearby Bath, the water is believed to possess healing qualities.

In addition to the legends associated with Glastonbury, the Well is often portrayed as a symbol of the female aspect of deity, with the male symbolised by Glastonbury Tor. The Well is however popular with all faiths and in 2001 became a World Peace Garden.

### **The White Spring**

In honour of the Spirit of the White Spring, a Temple has been created here in gratitude for the gift of pure water, a Victorian built Well House that nestles beneath Glastonbury Tor. Cavernous and set apart, in blackness or candle lit, mysterious it remains, a wonderful contrast to the sunlit gardens of Chalice Well of the Red Spring. The interior is like the hull of a boat moored at the portal to the Otherworld. With its constant temperature, and the sound of the perpetually flowing water, it is a unique and sacred space.

A series of pools have been built according to the principles of sacred geometry, and simple shrines in honour of the ancient energies and spirits of Avalon have been created within the temple. All enhanced by the ley line known as the Michael line which flows through this place. We honour Brigid as guardian, Our Lady of Avalon, the King of the Realm of Faery, and their ancient presence in this sacred space.

## **SAMHAIN RITUAL**

### **CASTING CIRCLE**

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

### **CALLING THE QUARTERS**

DARKMOON are all going to say the same  
invocation at each quarter, starting with the  
SOUTH, then WEST, then NORTH and finally  
EAST.

Earth and Air  
Fire and Water:  
Guard and guide your  
Sons and daughters  
We call on you this Samhain night.  
Assist us with this sacred rite.  
HAIL AND WELCOME.

## **GOD**

By the flame that burns brightly O Horned One,  
We call your name into the night!  
We invoke you by the moon led sea,  
By the standing stone, and the twisted tree,  
By moonlit meadow and dusky hill,  
When haunted wood is hushed and still,  
Come to the charm of the chanted prayer,  
As the moon bewitches the midnight air,  
Come O come to the heart beats drum,  
Come to us who gather below,  
When the pale white moon is climbing slow,  
We speak the spell your power unlocks,  
At solstice, Sabbat and equinox,  
Words of virtue, the veil to rend,  
From primal dawn to the wide world's end!  
HAIL AND WELCOME!

## **GODDESS**

This time and season are your time, Great Lady.  
You who wore the Maiden's white and the  
Mother's red cloak, now wear the cloak of black.  
And we ask you to guard and guide us on this  
night; in your care we'll ever be, safe for all  
eternity! HAIL AND WELCOME.

## **CALLING THE SPIRITS**

All ye spirits who walk this night -  
Hearken! Hearken to our call!  
We bid you in our Circle join!  
Enter! Enter - one and all!

Come ye, spirits of the dead:  
Be ye spirit of plant or pet  
Or human being who still roams!  
Into this Circle you are let!

Speak to us of things unknown!  
Lend your energies to this rite!  
To speed your journey, we have joined  
On this sacred Samhain night!

All ye spirits who walk this night -  
Hearken! Hearken to our call!  
We bid you in our Circle join!  
Enter! Enter - one and all!

## **ANCESTOR MEDITATION**

So we begin by remembering. Close your eyes.  
Take a deep breath. Relax completely. Feel a  
strong connection with the earth and know that  
you are in a safe and loving place. The veil  
between this world and the next gently opens.  
You realize that your loved ones, who have  
passed over, now come to greet you. Take some  
time and experience this.

As you return to the Circle, bring with you the  
memory of those you wish to particularly honour  
on this sacred Sabbat. Know that "They who are  
remembered, live on."

## **CIRCLE OF LIFE**

Just as we remember our dead, Samhain is also  
a time to reaffirm life. We know that nothing ever  
dies, it just transforms, and the Circle of Life  
continues. Take a moment now to bring to mind  
new lives, pets, relationships and projects that  
have come into your life this year.

Now let the Dance Of Life begin!

## **THE GREAT RITE**

As death is to life,  
Life is to death.

## **SHARING OF CAKES AND ALE**

## **CLOSING**

## **FAREWELLING THE SPIRITS**

All ye spirits who walked this night -  
We thank you for having heard our call!  
We bid you farewell from our Circle!  
One and all!

Go ye, spirits of the dead:  
Be ye spirit of plant or pet  
Or human being who still roams!  
From this Circle you are to depart!

We thank you for speaking of things unknown!  
For lending your energies to this rite!  
To speed your journey, we have joined  
On this sacred Samhain night!

All ye spirits who walked this night -  
We thank you for having heard our call!  
We bid you farewell from our Circle!  
One and all!

## **GOD & GODDESS**

Lord of the Summerland, Lady of New  
Beginnings, we thank you for joining our Circle.  
We thank you for your Blessing and guidance in  
this New Year. As we depart tonight, we take the  
certain knowledge that you are ever with us.  
HAIL AND FAREWELL

## **ALL QUARTERS TOGETHER**

We release the East and West  
Thanks to them from Host to Guest  
We release the South and North  
With "Blessed Be" We send them forth!  
The Circle's open, dance we so  
Out and homeward we shall go.  
Earth and Water, Air and Fire  
Celebrated our desire.  
We think of those in Summerland  
Who dance together, hand in hand.  
By Fin and Feather, Leaf and Tree,  
Our circle's done; and Blessed Be!

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