

Imbolc 2015 – Brigid

(Ritual written and hosted in Sydney by Wade, hosted in Nowra by Samantha)

July 31 – (blue) moon in Aquarius

Imbolc is also something we know well. It heralds the turning of the seasons: we've gotten through Winter and we know Spring is going to begin any day now. Historically, Imbolc means celebrating the goddess Brigid.

Brigid is very Celtic. Some stories make her part of the threefold aspect of the Moon, usually Maiden. But other stories have her as a threefold aspect all by herself: as healer, crafter and creativity. In our meditation we will see as the latter three. She is also a goddess of fire and of water. Thus the altar.

Looking through our archives, we've called on Brigid a few times before. She is the obvious choice for Imbolc, after all. So some of us will be meeting her again.

This meditation is also a reflection of my path into Paganism and whatever form of eclectic Wicca I seem to be settling on. That's why we will not only encounter Brigid, but also Cernunnos or the Horned God. He was a bit of an unexpected addition, but I knew there was going to be a guide, and wanted to be it. He is also good at reminding us that the deities and spirits we call on can be wild.

In a lot of ways a guided meditation is a landscape for your own experiences. And I've tried to enable that. In some ways it will feel like a multi-path meditation where some lines are for you and others not. But that's not a given, either. There will be the choice of multiple ways to interact with Brigid and you may feel drawn to one of them, all of them or something else entirely.

It's also a (calendar) blue moon in Aquarius (though not a seasonal blue moon) and finally it happens to fall actually on today. Opinion about what a blue moon does for us is divided, surprisingly. Some say it is nothing special, whilst others say it is a time for strong magic.

Open the Circle

A circle is cast around about
Spirit within; World without

A circle is cast around about

A World within; A World without

A circle is cast around and around

In spirit and power now we are bound

(repeat until the circle has been drawn three times)

Call the Quarters

East

Hail to the Guardians of the East

Sylphs of the Watchtower of Air

All thee in the faery realm we summon stir and call
ye forth

We draw on your power to inspire

And we beg your protection

Hail and Welcome

North

Hail to the Guardians of the North

Salamanders of the Watchtower of Fire

All thee in the faery realm we summon stir and call
ye forth

We draw on your power to give us strength

And we beg your protection

Hail and Welcome

West

Hail to the Guardians of the West

Undines of the Watchtower of Water

All ye in the faery realm we summon stir and call ye
forth

We draw on your power to heal

And we beg your protection

Hail and Welcome

South

Hail to the Guardians of the South

Gnomes of the Watchtower of Earth

All thee in the faery realm we summon stir and call
thee forth

We draw on your power to empower

And we beg your protection

Hail and Welcome

Welcome the Goddess and God

Hail to the Goddess, Brigid

Lady of healing, Lady of craft and Lady of creation.

We bid you welcome in our circle to bless us with your presence, your wisdom and your gifts.

Hail and Welcome.

Hail to the Horned God

Lord of the wilderness, the hunt and the self. We bid you welcome to our circle to bless us with your presence, skill and guidance.

Hail and Welcome.

Meditation

Discussion

Farewell the Queen and King

Thank you God of the wild. Thank you for your guidance and your passion. Go in peace and remember us to you.

Hail and Farewell

Thank you Goddess Brigid. Thank you for your wisdom, your healing and your skill. Go in peace and remember us to you.

Hail and Farewell

Farewell the Quarters

South

Guardians of the South

Gnomes of the Watchtower of Earth

We thank thee for thy presence

Go in honour and peace

Hail and Farewell

West

Guardians of the West

Undines of the Watchtower of Water

We thank thee for thy presence

Go in honour and peace

Hail and Farewell

North

Guardians of the North

Salamanders of the Watchtower of Fire

We thank thee for thy presence

Go in honour and peace

Hail and Farewell

East

Guardians of the East

Sylphs of the Watchtower of Air

We thank thee for thy presence

Go in honour and peace

Hail and Farewell

Close the Circle

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

Meditation

Track 1: Tangerine Dream, Snow On Angels Feather.

Track 2: Tangerine Dream, Love On A Real Train.

[turn the volume low then start track 1]

[0:30]

Sit comfortably. Relax. Close your eyes. Become calm, but not still. Quiet but not silent.

Feel the ground beneath you. Feel the sky above. The earth reaches up toward you. The stars reach down to touch. Reach out to feel them grasp you in return. Feel the energy when you connect. Reach down into the earth and up into the sky to become part of the great firmament. And as you do so, a white mist surrounds you.

[1:15]

The mist is mostly white. But is also tinged in yellow, blue and green. Take a step forward into the mist; It feels crisp, not cold but not warm either. It is all about you and all around you - all that can be seen is a path at your feet.

Take a step, then another.

It is a well worn path. It might be difficult to walk comfortably so go slow if you must. You can hear the sounds of wildlife in the moonlight. The rustle of leaves in trees. The flap of a bird's wing.

The mist begins to clear, but only slowly. The moon shines on a valley, a haven of wilderness and it smells most enchanting. But you can only see a little way as the mist only slowly melts. Some trees are green. Others are just empty branches budding with the promise of spring. There are flashes of movement and the colour of birds, but you can hear more than you can see.

Keep walking.

The path goes ahead of you but as the mist slowly pulls back even further and melts completely away,

you see the path divides in several directions. You must stop to ponder this.

In amongst the sounds of wildlife, you hear a footfall behind you. A shadow is cast. You can see horns on the shadow and a strong aroma is present, one rich with wildness and dangerous possibility. It is not unpleasant. But before you can turn around you hear a voice speak to you.

"Tonight, you will meet the Goddess Brigid, full of life and energy as the year turns in her favour once again. Spring is coming! The power of Brigid can be yours to inspire, to create, to heal.

"But these paths can be dangerous. It is possible to be lost on these paths. It is possible to be injured on these paths. You need one who has walked these paths many times before. You need a companion, a guide you can trust to lead you in and lead you out again.

"And for a guide to work best, it must be the right guide.

"So, what guide do you want me to be? What do you need me to be?"

The wildlife falls quiet.

[**track one should end at this point** - wait for it if it is 20s away or just fade it out]

He steps forward into your line of sight and faces you. You can see flowers grow and bloom where he steps and then wither and die as he moves on.

"I am here as your companion and guide this night. I am sometimes called Cernunnos.

[set volume to 0 and start the second track and gently bring the volume up over the following two paragraphs]

"Come," he says. "Brigid is calling. All we need do is follow the music."

He turns around to lead you down a path, picking

one confidently. The path chosen leads between the trees and into the forest. It twists, It turns, past trees of all different shapes and sizes. Are they moving? Maybe they're dancing. Some are smooth, others rough. Some of them are in full greenery, others have clearly slept for the winter.

They sound like they're moving, too. Like wind in tall trees. The subtle odours of the forest tickle your nose and you can see the stars wheeling ever faster overhead.

The light changes, becomes yellower, oddly more human. The path opens out into a grove deep in the forest. Is lit with several fires. Some big, some small. It is difficult to tell how many. Nothing is still. The trees bend and shake. [this should be at about 1:35] The wind blows in fits and guts. Fire smoke obscures and then clears. The stars are now wheeling very fast overhead. You have lost sight of your guide; perhaps he will re-appear soon.

There is a tall, young woman nearby, a stillness in all the motion. How long has she been watching you? Her gaze is strong, direct.

She speaks.

"I am Brigid. The world is turning in its dance as it ever does and new life is returning to it. It is powerful - oh so powerful - if you only ask for it. Do you need new energy in *your* life? Come dance with me."

The sound of metal striking metal distracts. One of the larger fires flares suddenly. It is burning very hot. The sound of metal being struck occurs once again.

It is a woman on the far side of the fire, working a forge. There is a piece of metal glowing red hot before her.

She speaks.

"I am Brigid. The world is remaking itself as it ever does and crafting new things. What do you need to craft anew in *your* life? Come forge with me."

A sudden cloud of steam distracts. There is a pool of water bubbling and steaming, but quickly cooling and going still. A woman is standing behind it, kneeling before the dark surface.

She speaks.

"I am Brigid. The world is renewing and remaking itself, as it ever does. New life and new craft need new words to inspire. What new words do you need in *your* life today? Come scry with me."

[3:40]

[wait until **7:35**]

The grove starts to still, the fires dim, but Brigid's music lingers. The stars above you are almost still once more. The wind has all but ceased and the trees no longer dance their dance.

It is time to return. Give Brigid thanks.

[wait until **8:10**]

The path out of the grove is clear and straight but it might be difficult to walk calmly back with your guide. He seems amused and excited.

It is not long before the path leads you back to the valley. You can still hear Brigid's music as the mist begins to form.

[wait until **8:30**]

The mist is all around. The fey world is fading from your sight. You can feel the room here returning around you.

Gently move fingers and toes as you come back and open your eyes when you're ready.