

Samhain Full Moon Ritual - Scorpio

Friday 1st May 2015

(Ritual written and presented by Beau at the Samhain weekend retreat held in Engadine for Sydney and Nowra members.)

An Overview

Our ritual tonight will incorporate many factors of the current timing, and for many of us issues in our lives that are currently holding us back. We will be working with not only the darker time of the Year – Samhain – but also with Scorpio energy, which rules the Full Moon in a few days time. Also, we will be connecting with the gorgon Medusa, helping us to confront the deep aspects of ourselves to which we may be unaware.

Samhain is the Witches New Year – it is the time of our year when the veil between the world of the living and that of the dead is at its thinnest. It is a time of reflection of the last year, death and rebirth within ourselves, and where powers of divination, sight and supernatural communication are heightened. This is also true to the powers of Scorpio.

Scorpio, the fixed water sign of the Zodiac, is ruled by Pluto, symbolising the work of the dead. Scorpio is linked to divination and uncovering things which are hidden. Also linked to psychic power and growth, death, transformation, desire, life changes and heightened sensitivity; the Scorpio full moon is a time to deal with things that are hidden, as well as unlocking occult wisdom through divination and ritual.

As you will find, tonight's ritual will incorporate unlocking wisdom about ourselves; hidden aspects of ourselves we do not wish to always see, and confronting them, through the powers of divination and meditation. With the aim of both death and rebirth through our heightened sensitivity, we will reflect and remove what is hidden, calling upon Medusa to help us achieve this.

Some information collected from: http://spheresoflight.com.au/index.php?page=moon_zodiac
<http://spheresoflight.com.au/index.php?page=sabbat>

Working with the Greek Pantheon

Medusa – Background

The tale of the only mortal Gorgon, Medusa, is one which began with a young maiden sworn to celibacy at the Temple of Athena. A beautiful woman with long golden hair, Medusa was the envy of many. She attracted the attention of the God Poseidon, who took her as his own, raping her within Athena's temple. Enraged by this, Athena punished Medusa by turning her beautiful looks into that of a monster – her hair turned into vicious snakes, her complexion more green than fair, and her face turned so grotesque and fearsome that anyone who looked directly upon it would be turned to stone. Medusa fled to live alongside her gorgon sisters in isolation.

Medusa's story ends with the hero Perseus, who was sent to slay Medusa and retrieve her head. The Gods were aware of Perseus' mission, and helped him along the way by bestowing him gifts – golden, winged sandals from Hermes, a mirrored shield from Athena, a sword from Hephaestus, and Hades' own helm of invisibility. Using these items, Perseus was able to safely approach the gorgon and behead her.

Medusa is a symbol of reflection and fear we hold, whether we are aware of these or not. In her we see what we fear, and what we may be very confronted by. Tonight, we will be working with her and that energy to delve deeply into ourselves, with the hope of removing the negativity and "horrors" trapped within us.

We will also be arming ourselves with the protections of both our personal protectors, such as our spirit guides and higher selves; and the deities Hermes, Hephaestus, Athena and Hades. These protectors should help guide us, encourage us, and help us to safely exit from the meditation. We will also be presented with a mirror to both take to the spiritual realms and to hold us to the physical world.

Some information here collected from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medusa>
<http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/greek-mythology/videos/the-story-of-medusa>



Samhain Ritual 2015

Full Moon in Scorpio ☾ ♏

Cast the Circle

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

(Repeat while walking the circle three times around sunwise).

Opening the Quarters

East – Hermes

We call upon the great messenger God Hermes to join us in our ritual. We ask that you bring with you the powers of flight, lending us your golden, winged sandals and allowing us to soar above our personal fears and challenges. Watch over us and guide us through this journey.

Hail and Welcome

North – Hephaestus

We call upon the great fire and volcano God Hephaestus to join us in our ritual. We ask that you bring with you the powers of strength and courage, lending us your great sword and allowing us to cut through our personal fears and challenges. Watch over us and guide us through this journey.

Hail and Welcome

West – Athena

We call upon the great Goddess of war and wisdom Athena to join us in our ritual. We ask that you bring with you the powers of reflection, lending us your mirrored shield and allowing us to clearly see our personal fears and challenges. Watch over us and guide us through this journey.

Hail and Welcome

South – Hades

We call upon the great underworld God Hades to join us in our ritual. We ask that you bring with you the power to hide oneself, lending us your helm of invisibility and allowing us to protect ourselves from the effects of our personal fears and challenges. Watch over us and guide us through this journey.

Hail and Welcome

Medusa

We call to you, great Gorgon Medusa. You who show the truth, reflect the evil within and hold great knowledge of all hidden secrets of ourselves. We ask you for guidance upon our journey of discovery, and ask that you grant us the knowledge that we seek to help us understand ourselves in a new way. Medusa, help us to see beyond what we see when we look into the mirror; allowing us to break through the darkness and step into the light of a greater existence. Turn our unnecessary aspects into stone and consume it, leaving us to walk our path with a lighter step.

Hail and Welcome

Meditation (Part 1)

(see page 5)

Semi-Meditative Scrying

We will be partially coming out of our meditative state, worked into the meditation itself, to use our divinations skills to scry for the answers we seek. We will do this by passing around the cauldron of water, and using slight reflections from the fire. During time spent waiting, we will also use our shell mirror to divine as well.

Meditation (Part 2)

(see page 6)

Raising the Cone of Power

We will now take a few moments to reflect on the negative aspects of ourselves shown to us, and write these down on our Medusa portrait. These portraits are a reflection of ourselves – feel free to draw on to the paper your own face – any symbols presented to you during the meditation or scrying – something that symbolises yourself, and write on the back if you wish.

We will then cast these into the fire for Medusa, repeating the intonation 'Burn Burn Burn!'

Discussion

Closing

Medusa

Great Gorgon Medusa, we thank you for showing us what we have feared, and what was holding us back. We thank you for your guidance on our journeys, and for allowing us to reflect upon what were unnecessary parts our lives. Thank you for supporting us as we confronted our deepest darkest secrets, and for helping us build a lighter path of existence.

Hail and Farewell

South – Hades

Great God Hades, we thank you for watching over us tonight, and lending us the ability to protect ourselves from the effects of our personal fears and challenges.

Hail and Farewell

West – Athena

Great Goddess Athena, we thank you for watching over us tonight, and lending us the ability to clearly see our personal fears and challenges.

Hail and Farewell

North – Hephaestus

Great God Hephaestus, we thank you for watching over us tonight, and lending us the ability to cut through our personal fears and challenges.

Hail and Farewell

East – Hermes

Great God Hermes, we thank you for watching over us tonight, and lending us the ability to soar above our personal fears and challenges.

Hail and Farewell

*May the 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.*

Medusa Meditation

Find yourself a comfortable position with your feet on the ground and begin to take some deep breaths. Breathe in.....and out.....and in.....and out. Feel the strength of the earth beneath your feet, holding you steadily in place. Feel the energy of the earth rising up through your toes and feet, feeling them relax. Allow this energy to continue up through your shins, your thighs, your pelvis, and relax. Feel the warmth of the energy moving through your stomach, up your chest, down your arms, into your hands and fingers, and relax. The warmth and energy move up your throat, into your third eye, and out of the top of your head, encircling your body and bathing you in white light as you relax completely. You see a white mist forming around your feet – you stand up, and begin to walk forwards. As you walk, the mist rises. You feel how cool it is, and as you move further into it, you feel it become heavier and wet. The mist covers you completely as you continue to walk. You emerge from the other side, slightly cool, however dry.

You find yourself in a dark, cool forest. Trees surround you, and fireflies buzz around the leaves. You walk further into the forest, following a lightly-tread path. As you continue, you notice the trees begin to thin, and you can see the moon above you. You bask in its glow, and take power from it, as it willingly gives it. You continue forwards, noticing the sudden absence of fireflies. Once you reach the edge of the forest, you see in the distance an old, stone temple. It calls to you in a way that makes your heart jump, yet you know you must continue along this path.

Now, call upon your spiritual guides. Ask for their assistance as you continue down this path. Call in any animals or beings you associate with; call to your higher self, and see them join you, standing steadfast by your side. You feel their presence, and feel comforted by them. With them by your side, you continue on towards the temple.

As you reach the small, rusted gates around the temple, you notice clouds begin to cover the moon above. In the darker light, you see items propped up against a section of fence near the gate. They shine and glimmer in the darkness, and you feel the urge to approach them before moving beyond the gate. Up close, you discover they are tools – winged shoes, a helmet, a sword and a shield. Attached to the shield is a small note, written in four different hands. It reads 'For Flight; For Strength; For Reflection; For Invisibility'. You place the note inside a pocket, and pick up the tools, placing them on to yourself. You feel warm holding them, and more confident. You see your guides now moving towards the gate, beckoning you forward.

The gate creaks as you move it, and as you step inside, the air around you becomes thicker, and darker. You look to your guides for support, and feel the weight of your tools. You feel that you can move forwards.

You walk towards the temple, following a stone path a lot like the temple itself in design. As you move, you notice other stones around. You are reminded of a graveyard as you continue to walk down the path, seeing stone bodies all around you. Some look brave, others frightened. You continue down the path, a bit quicker now, taking solace from your guides and tools once again. As you reach the steps of the temple, you are relieved to enter.

Once inside, you notice how dark the temple is. The only light source is coming from a beautiful well in the middle of the floor. You approach the well and look down into it – the water is a shining bright blue, and you feel your gaze drawn to it. As you move in for a closer look, from the corner of your eye you see movement in the darkness. You tear your eyes away from the well, just in time to see a shadowy figure moving out from around a pillar. You raise your sword and shield as it approaches. The figure moves into the light and you see a nest of snake hair writhing around on the head of a woman who looks otherworldly – the Gorgon Medusa. As she approaches you, you lock eyes – at this point your tools cast a sharp, bright light between you and the Gorgon. You are not turned to stone, like the graveyard of souls outside. Medusa continues to approach you. When she is next to you, she says 'No. You are not here to look upon me. You are here to look upon yourself'.

Medusa moves over to the side of the well – you feel compelled to follow, and do so. When you stand beside the Gorgon and the well, she motions for you to bend down close to it. Medusa says ‘Fear is ugly. It holds you back. Look carefully, look deeply into your soul. Behold your darkness!’. You do just as the Gorgon commands.

Focus now on the water in the well. Take note of what you see. In a short time, I will bring you into a semi-meditative state, to further divine your darkness.

----- a few minutes-----

Now, within your deep meditative state, I would like you to open your eyes. You will be passed a cauldron of water. Use this cauldron to scry, open yourself to what the water is willing to tell you. Once you have seen what you need to see, pass the cauldron to your right. While awaiting the cauldron, use your mirror to scry, focusing on reflecting yourself in the darkness and firelight.

-----Scrying-----

Now I would like you to close your eyes once more, and again see the swirling reflection of yourself in the surface of the well. You slowly drag your eyes away, and look up at Medusa. She beckons you to stand, and requests you tell her what darkness you have discovered. I will leave you for a few more minutes now to discuss this with Medusa, and ask her for guidance with anything you have confronted tonight. When it is time, I will call you back.

-----a few more minutes-----

It is now time to leave the Gorgon temple. You thank Medusa for her insight and abilities to help you uncover fears and darkness you have been avoiding. You walk towards the door of the temple, with your tools tightly in hand and your guides by your side. You take a look over your shoulder and see Medusa moving back into the darkness of the room.

As you exit the temple and quickly walk back past the stone people, you feel your heart lifting slightly. You close the gate of the temple behind you, and feel like a weight has been taken from your shoulders. The clouds shift above you, and the moon returns to sight, illuminating the path back to the forest.

But before you go, you walk back to the section of fence where you found your tools for the journey. You return them, exactly as they were, and pull the note from the Gods and Goddess from your pocket. Along with the note, a pen falls from your pocket. You write a quick thank you on the back of the note, and attach the note once more to the shield. You move back towards the gate, where your guides await you on the path. Together, you walk in the moonlight back towards the forest.

At the edge of the forest, thank your guides and higher self, and bid them farewell. Continue down the path through the forest, admiring the fireflies as you go. You walk straight back into the thick, dark mist, then continue through it, seeing it get lighter, feeling it become thinner. You find yourself emerging within this circle, and walk over to where you sit. Merge once more with yourself, feeling the heaviness of your body reanimating. Feel your senses within your body, wriggle your fingers and toes, stretch yourself out, and when you are ready, open your eyes.