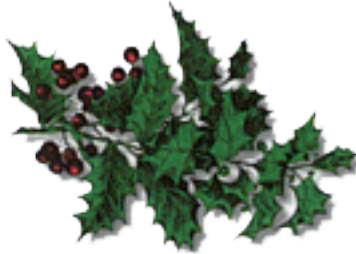


Yule - The Winter Solstice

Ritual written by Alan and led by Wayne & Janine
(June 25, 2010)*



Background information...

Yule, (pronounced EWE-elle) is when the dark half of the year relinquishes to the light half. Starting the next morning at sunrise, the sun climbs just a little higher and stays a little longer in the sky each day. Known as Solstice Night, or the longest night of the year, much celebration was to be had as the ancestors awaited the rebirth of the Oak King, the Sun King, the Giver of Life that warmed the frozen Earth and made her to bear forth from seeds protected through the fall and winter in her womb. Bonfires were lit in the fields, and crops and trees were "wassailed" with toasts of spiced cider.

Deities of Yule are all Newborn Gods, Sun Gods, Mother Goddesses, and Triple Goddesses. The best known would be the Dagda, and Brighid, the daughter of the Dagda. Brighid taught the smiths the arts of fire tending and the secrets of metal work. Brighid's flame, like the flame of the new light, pierces the darkness of the spirit and mind, while the Dagda's cauldron assures that Nature will always provide for all the children.

Symbolism of Yule: Rebirth of the Sun, The longest night of the year, The Winter Solstice, Introspect, Planning for the Future.

Symbols of Yule: Yule log, or small Yule log with 3 candles, evergreen boughs or wreaths, holly, mistletoe hung in doorways, gold pillar candles, baskets of clove studded fruit, a simmering pot of wassail, poinsettias, christmas cactus.

Herbs of Yule: Bayberry, blessed thistle, evergreen, frankincense holly, laurel, mistletoe, oak, pine, sage, yellow cedar.

Foods of Yule: Cookies and caraway cakes soaked in cider, fruits, nuts, pork dishes, turkey, eggnog, ginger tea, spiced cider, wassail, or lamb's wool (ale, sugar, nutmeg, roasted apples).

Incense of Yule: Pine, cedar, bayberry, cinnamon.

Colors of Yule: Red, green, gold, white, silver, yellow, orange.

Stones of Yule: Rubies, bloodstones, garnets, emeralds, diamonds.

Activities of Yule: Caroling, wassailing the trees, burning the Yule log, decorating the Yule tree, exchanging of presents, kissing under the mistletoe, honoring Kriss Kringle the Germanic Pagan God of Yule.

Spellworkings of Yule: Peace, harmony, love, and increased happiness.

Deities of Yule: Goddesses-Brighid, Isis, Demeter, Gaea, Diana, The Great Mother. Gods-Apollo, Ra, Odin, Lugh, The Oak King, The Horned One, The Green Man, The Divine Child, Mabon.

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Set up for the Circle

Altar cloth and Candle - Purple
Pine sprigs on doorway to hall.
Cauldron in the North with Kindling.
Plate of "cakes" on the altar,
Chalice or Jug with Wine or spiced Cider on altar.
Short tapers [2 inches] on the altar unlit for each covener.
Bell to ring as scripted.
Candles at the quarters.

The ritual...

Priestess: "May all be welcomed in peace and love. All come of their own will. Let us now set the quarters and ask the protection of the Gods".

East: "All hail to the element of air; Watchtower of the east. May it stand in strength, ever watching over our circle. Hail and welcome".

All: Hail and Welcome.

North: "All hail to the element of fire; Watchtower of the north. May it stand in strength, ever watching over our circle. Hail and welcome".

All: Hail and Welcome.

West: "All hail to the element of water; Watchtower of the west. May it stand in strength, ever watching over our circle". Hail and welcome.

All: Hail and Welcome.

South: "All hail to the element of earth; Watchtower of the south. May it stand in strength, ever watching over our circle. Hail and welcome".

All: Hail and Welcome.

Priestess calls the Lady: "We call upon the Mother Goddess and invite her to join us; we thank her for being good to us and ask for her support in our endeavours. Lovely Lady, you have been known by so many names to so many people throughout time. Aphrodite, Kerridwen, Diana, Freya, Isis and so many more. Tonight you are our Lady and we invite you to join us on this special night". So Mote it be.

All: So Mote it be.

Lead calls the Lord: "We bid the Lord a special welcome tonight at this time when the world turns and renewal is near. We invite you to join us and bring the new light and warmth for another year, banish the darkness of the winter". So Mote it be.

All: So Mote it be.

Priestess: "All hail the quarters and all hail the Gods! We bid the Lord and Lady Welcome to witness these rites we hold in their honour. All Hail".

All: All Hail

Priestess: Now that the temple is erected let none leave without good reason until the temple is cleared. So mote it be.

All: So mote it be.

Winter Solstice Sabbat Ceremony

Lead: "Welcome thrice to Yule, the turning point of the year is upon us. Here is the end of the solar year. But here to is a new beginning".

Priestess: "Sisters, brothers, friends. Let us show our love by sending forth our power and our strength to the Sun God. At this turning of the year's tide, let us join our energies with his that he may be reborn to ascend once more to his rightful place."

All join hands and sing together whilst walking anti clockwise:

"Turn, turn, turn the wheel, round and round it goes.

The flame that died, it now doth heal.

Welcome sunlight farewell strife.

Turn, turn, turn the wheel, round and round it goes".

Priestess: Let us kindle fresh fire to light our Lord upon his way.

All: Fire for strength

Fire for life

Fire for love

Each [Priestess first] in turn now goes to the altar, takes a taper and lights it from the altar candle and goes to the cauldron and throws it into the kindling.

When complete the **Priestess says:**

"May all our Power strengthen the new-born Lord". "All hail the Sun God".

All: All hail the Sun God, all hail the death and birth of Yule. All Hail.

Lead: Ring the bell 7 times

Now follows a short meditation and silence to think on the things to be done in this new year, remembering that without the Gods we have nothing. At the end of the meditation...

Lead: Ring the bell 3 times

Priestess: "With the companionship of our Lady I face into the wind, Knowing that we fly upon the wings of dragons through timeless worlds together... All hail the Sun God". "All hail the Sun God".

All: "All Hail the Sun God".

Priestess: "All hail the death and birth of Yule".

All: "All Hail".

Priestess: "Now is the time for us to give thanks to the Gods for that which sustains us".

All: "So be it. May we ever be aware of all that we owe the Gods".

Now the plates and cups are passed around the circle to eat a cake and share in the wine. [Pour from the cup into the individual cup and pass on.]

Priestess says whilst eating towards the end: "Eat and drink. Be Happy. Share and Give thanks. So mote it be".

All: "So Mote it be".

When completed: All return to seats for the clearing of the temple and the closing.

The closing...

Priestess: "Lady we thank you for every thing you have given us and especially for your presence among us tonight. Hail and fare well".

All: "Hail and farewell".

Lead: "Lord we thank you for the promise of sunlight and hope for the coming year. Hail and farewell".

All: "Hail and farewell"

South: "Thanks to the element of earth; Watchtower of the south. for watching over our circle. Hail and farewell".

All: "Hail and farewell."

West: "Thanks to the element of water; Watchtower of the west for watching over our circle. Hail and farewell".

All: "Hail and farewell."

North: "Thanks to the element of fire; Watchtower of the north. for watching over our circle. Hail and farewell". All: "Hail and farewell".

East: "Thanks to the element of air; Watchtower of the east for watching over our circle. Hail and farewell".

All: "Hail and farewell".

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.

** This ritual is a combination of the author's original ideas and information obtained from various books and/or internet sources*