

SPHERES OF LIGHT



FULL MOON IN AQUARIUS - AUGUST 2022

Spheres Of Light - Imbolc Gathering

Sydney - Canberra - Nowra



Friday 12th August – 8pm

SYDNEY BLÓT

Full Moon In Aquarius & Imbolc

August's full moon in Aquarius (12/8/22 11:35am) generally lends to humanitarian vibes, however this moon can be inspiring you to use your wellness routine or to create one for your greater good, when you are in a good state of health you become more productive and are able to do more with your time.

With inventive Aquarius at the helm of this month's full moon — plus its conjunction to Saturn emphasizing hard work and its square to Uranus throwing curveballs — it wouldn't be abnormal to feel like your energy and focus are a bit all over the place right now. Thankfully, there are moves you can make to feel more balanced and make the most of August's full moon in Aquarius.

- Commit to a Step-by-Step Plan - So instead of simply daydreaming or talking about what the future holds, you'll want to start by committing to a plan.
- Find Your Inner Peace - Whatever works best for you can make it even easier to find that moment of inner calm, which could be meditating, a walk in nature or just listening to your favourite music.

Skadi

At this full moon circle we are working with Skadi Goddess of Winter - She-Who-Causes-Harm, The-Shadowy-One, warrior Goddess; Teacher of heroes; She Who is wise in weaponry. Sister of Wolves, Goddess of Hunt, Ski Goddess

Rules over: mountains, wilderness, winter, revenge, knowledge, damage, justice and independence, dark magic.

Skadi is the Norse goddess of winter. She is the personification of strength, courage, and endurance, but is also known for her revenge as well.

Her name means “harm” or “shadow”. She is attested in the Poetic Edda, the Prose Edda, in Heimskringla, and in the works of the skaldic poets.

In Norse mythology, Skaði (also anglicized as Skadi, Skade, or Skathi) is a giantess and goddess. She is most often associated with winter. Apart from that, Skaði is also connected with hunting, skiing, and mountains.

According to Norse belief, Skaði is the daughter of Thjazi, who was murdered by the Aesir. Additionally, Skaði is believed to be the wife of Njord, a Vanir. The death of Skaði's father and her marriage to Njord are connected in a well-known Norse myth.

The Jötnar Race of Giants

Skaði was a jötunn, which is often translated into English as ‘giant’, though the more literal translation of this word is ‘devourer’. The jötnar (the plural form of jötunn) are believed to be a race of creatures who inhabited Jotunheim (meaning ‘the world of the jötnar ’), which is one of the nine worlds in Norse cosmology. For the Norse, the jötunn represent the forces of death, decay, destruction, and chaos.

Although the jötunn are generally seen as malefic, this does not necessarily mean that they are evil. For instance, these destructive forces are necessary for the cycle of life, death, and rebirth. This is seen, for instance, in the Norse creation myth, in which the cosmos was created from the corpse of the slain jötunn, Ymir.

Skaði's name is said to mean either ‘damage’ or ‘shade’, which may suggest that she is a descendant of the frost giants. In addition, it is possible that she is believed to be the bringer of winter, cold, and death. However, her status as a goddess and evidence of people worshipping her suggest that Skaði was not considered as all bad by the ancient Norse people. It may be that she was appreciated for her link to winter subsistence.

Skaði's father was a jötunn by the name of Thjazi, who, in one myth was killed by the Aesir. As a result of this, Skaði vowed to avenge her father, put on her battle gear, and prepared to assault the Aesir, who resided in the realm of Asgard.

The gods, however, were not inclined to do battle with Skaði and, after a time, decided to appease her by offering two things as a sign of reconciliation and compensation for her loss. The first was that she could choose a husband from amongst the gods. The second was that the gods promised to make her laugh. This was due to the fact that the death of her father devastated Skaði, and the gods thought that she would never laugh again.

There was a simple condition attached to the first offer given to Skaði. Although she was free to choose her husband from the assembled gods, she was only allowed to see their feet. Skaði had hoped to marry Baldur, the fairest of the Aesir. She assumed that the loveliest pair of feet would belong to him, and thus made her decision based on this.

Unfortunately for the jötunn, the fairest pair of feet did not belong to Baldur, but to Njord, a Vanir (another group of Norse gods) associated with the sea. This was a terrible mismatch. For a time, Skaði would spend part of the year with her husband in his realm, whilst another part was spent in Jotunheim.

Needless to say, each hated the other's abode, and the ill-fated couple eventually separated. According to one myth, she would later have a child with Odin, Saeming, who became the first king of Norway. In another myth, Skaði would later marry Ullr, the winter god.

Loki Fulfils the Promise to Make Skaði Laugh - Whilst Skaði was probably disappointed by her choice of husband, the gods did manage to cheer her up a bit, and made her laugh, as per their promise. The task of making Skaði laugh was given to Loki, the trickster god. Loki tied an end of a cord to the beard of a goat, and the other around his testicles. Loki then made the goat run, causing the cord to tug at both ends.

This would have resulted in excruciating pain for both parties, though Skaði must have been amused, as she is recorded to have laughed. As a bonus, Odin took Thjazi's eyes, cast them into the sky, and turned them into stars.

Activity – We will be brewing apple cider mixed with cinnamon and mixed spice and our intent will be for a more productive and meaningful existence over the coming months.

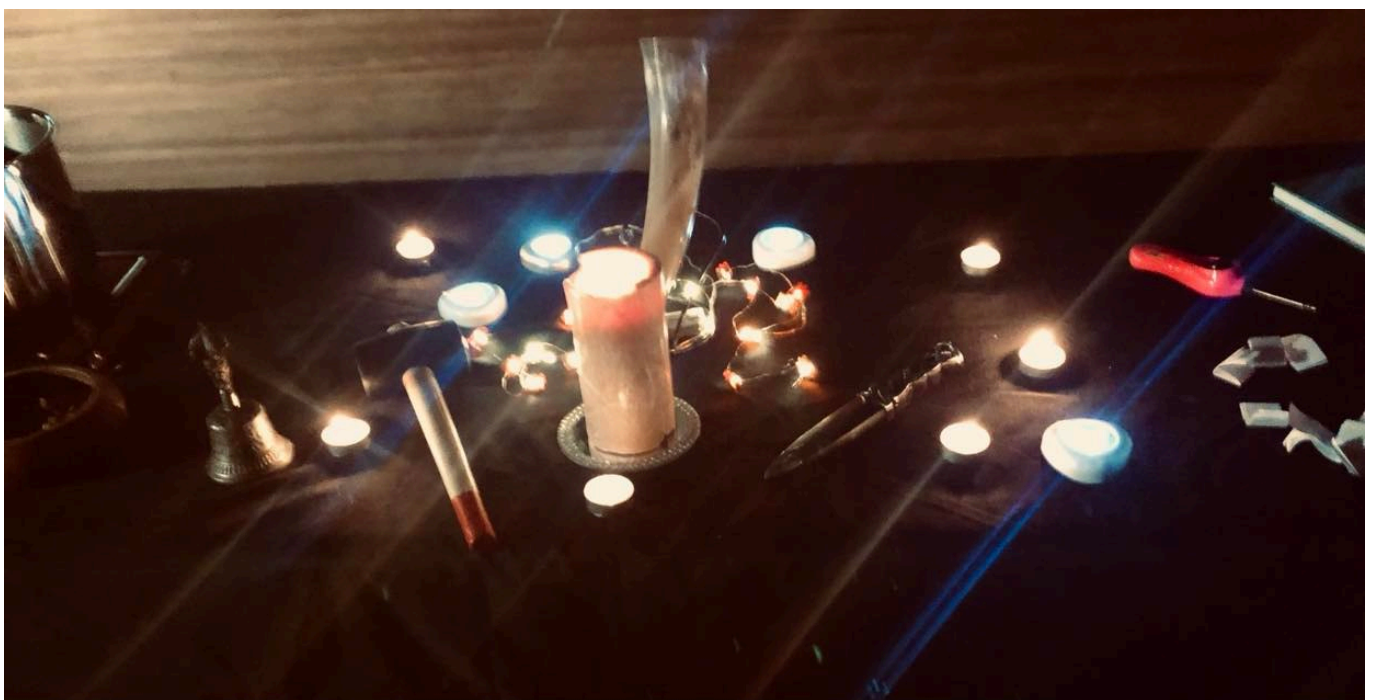
Each person to choose a piece of cinnamon stick and empower it with energy to use for their own spell work.

Cinnamon

Cinnamon is a common herb for purification. Whenever you feel contaminated – either because you went to a contaminated environment or you got close to the wrong person, cinnamon is the best herb for purification. It is also good for clarity of thought, for your health and can be used to add power to luck and money spells.

Nutmeg

Nutmeg has strong divinatory properties and, when added to a beverage and consumed before meditation, can heighten the meditative experience and encourage visions and clairvoyance. It is also used in spells for justice.



Sydney altar

SYDNEY FULL MOON BLÓT - IMBOLC

Cleansing

As we move into the circle, we will cleanse through sage and adjust our thoughts and enter into our sacred space. We will visualise and connect to our astral temple and the Gods in Asgard.

The person hosting the circle to walk the circle three times cleansing the space by the power of the Dragons may this circle be blessed, cleansed and sanctified.

The person hosting will ring bell or strike drum to signify the start of the ritual.

Honouring the Directions

South

Take the hammer and make the sign of the hammer facing South
As you make the sign of the hammer (an inverted down T) say:

Hammer in the South hallow and hold this holy stead

North

Take the hammer and make the sign of the hammer facing North.
As you make the sign of the hammer (an inverted down T) say:

Hammer in the North hallow and hold this holy stead

East

Take the hammer and make the sign of the hammer facing East.
As you make the sign of the hammer (an inverted down T) say:

Hammer in the East hallow and hold this holy stead

West

Take the hammer and make the sign of the hammer facing west.
As you make the sign of the hammer (an inverted down T) say:

Hammer in the West hallow and hold this holy stead

Above

Take the hammer and make the sign of the hammer raising it above.
As you make the sign of the hammer (an inverted down T) say:

Hammer in the Above hallow and hold this holy stead

Below

Take the hammer and make the sign of the hammer holding it below.
As you make the sign of the hammer (an inverted down T) say:

Hammer in the Below hallow and hold this holy stead

Invocation to Thor

Thor, Lord of the Hammer!

Lord of the Storm!

We ask for protection and removal of all evil and unwanted entities from this ritual space!

Hail!

Invocation to Skadi

Start by calling out Skadi's name.

Hail, Goddess of the snow and ice!

Who would not compromise with anyone,

We hail you, Mistress of Survival!

Lady of the crisp clean starry sky

Teach us of the narrow edge between

Living and dying, and of that struggle,

And the cold, naked truth that it reveals.

I call to you to guide us tonight in our understanding of our own strength & determination

Hail!

Face south, and the circle and declare why you are there, what you are thanking the gods for, what you are asking from them, etc.

We are now celebrating the end of winter and the return of the sun and we are thanking the Gods for their guidance and protection over the time of winter.

Our own seeds are now ready to burst through with all our hopes and dreams and actions and now are ready to grow and become a reality.

Prior to the meditation We will first be choosing a rune that will give each person insight into what energies are around them at this period of time.

Meditation – meeting Skadi

Begin your meditation by sitting in a quiet place. Mentally surround yourself with a zone of silence as if you have drawn a veil between yourself and the world. Gradually, begin to slow the rhythm of your breath. As you inhale, then exhale, let your breath carry you deeper and deeper within. As the distractions of everyday life fall away, let your awareness drop down into the inner chamber of your heart.

Next, imagine that you find yourself walking along a pathway that leads you further and further away from this world and deep into the norse mountain regions. As you follow this trail, imagine that you are winding around and among trees that are hundreds of years old. You see a wolf running ahead of you, occasionally he turns around to see if you are still behind him.

Soon the path you are on brings you to a refuge, a humble wooden cottage in the middle of nowhere. It is extremely cold surrounded by snow and you walk over to the cottage and you knock on the door.

You open the door, and you immediately see a large open fire, you move over to the fire to get warm. You suddenly become aware of someone standing behind you. It is a woman plainly dressed in hides with long blonde hair, she has a large wolf by her side.

She greets you with a warm cup of mead. She asks you what troubles you my friend. She penetrates your soul with icy blue eyes that is very direct and at times uncomfortable. Skadi says it is time now to take control of your life, it is time to heal all the parts of you that is hurt, broken, and wounded. It is time to stand up and be empowered, a time for justice, a time to be a warrior.

Drink deep of the mead for it has magical ingredients to help you gain the power you need. When you have finished drinking feel the sense of empowerment take hold of your body and your emotions. Take time to see yourself as a warrior, see yourself healthy and strong. See yourself as fearless ready to take on any challenge.

The Goddess Skadi places her hands on your shoulders. You suddenly feel a powerful force surround you, an energy like the breath of life, the fire of the cosmos. Feel your heartbeat in rhythm with Goddess. When you feel her remove her hands from you, you know you are ready to face your challenges with renewed energy. You thank her for her guidance.

Now bowing before the ancient Goddess you leave this humble cottage. As you make your way back along the path once again you see the wolf in the distance showing the way back. Soon you find yourself back in your chair and back into your body, wriggle your fingers and toes and when you are ready open your eyes.



Sydney altar

Activity – we will be making a brew of apple cider imbued with cinnamon and mixed spices and our intent will be for a more productive and meaningful existence over the coming months. Each person will take a piece of cinnamon stick to empower and use in future spell work.

Sacrifice

Declaring what you are giving to Skadi and The Holy Powers as a sacrifice, and why. Ask them to bestow their blessings upon you. Pour the sacrifice into to horn or drinking vessel and raise it aloft and say:

We give you this drink, blended with the might and main of our deeds, take well our gift, but not as from a thrall, for we have no master, but as from free people and as a sign of our kinship and fellowship. We ask that you imbue this drink with your gifts and blessings!

Drinking some of the offering to metaphorically take in the blessings of the divine. Make the sign of the hammer over the horn. Pour the remaining liquid from the horn into the blessing bowl.
Make the sign of the hammer over the bowl.

The blessings of Skadi and all the Gods be upon you. Hail!

Giving

Remove the bowl to outside and face south and pour the remaining liquid onto the earth and say:

Thus the work is once again wrought, and gifts have been given, each to the other as it must always be. May it strengthen our folk to trust in the might and main of Asgard, Vanahiem and all the Nine Worlds. May Skadi and the Gods, as well as the ancestors guide our steps and may Thor's hammer protect us Hail!

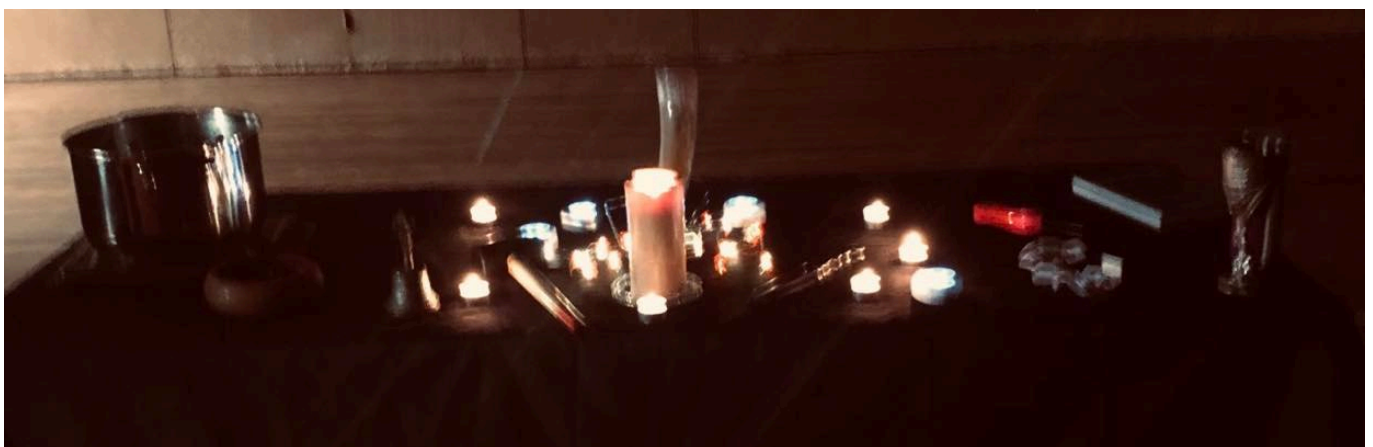
Closing

Declare that the blot is done. Raise hands in the sky and say:

Hail! Odin and Thor thank you for the healing and touch Mjolnir (the hammer) and the blot is done.

Hail and Farewell

By the power of the Dragons this ritual has ended and the circle is now open.



Sydney altar

CANBERRA FULL MOON BLÓT

The Canberra Blót followed the same format as outlined above in the Sydney ritual, though the chosen deity and activity were different.

Introduction — Working from the Astrology of the moon, it will be close to the cusp of Capricorn and Aquarius, and in older astrology, both were ruled by Saturn. We will be working with Odin and his love of knowledge, with special reference to his sacrifice of one eye to gain knowledge of the future. We will use the Blót format, with plenty of discussion, about Divination. To continue the Lion's Gate theme of shadow work, we will look at how divination can be used to help identify problems, root causes, and negative influences, but also the Golden Dawn recommendation on divination to ensure that craft work functions as desired, and avoiding undesirable side effects.

Moon in Aquarius (just. Close to cusp with Capricorn)

In Renaissance Astrology, both Capricorn and Aquarius are ruled by Saturn, who translates to Odin.

Both Saturn and Odin have a philosophy of “Knowledge is Power”

Odin hung himself on the world tree to gain knowledge of the Runes. He also gave up one of his eyes in exchange for the power of foresight – prophecy. Saturn got himself into hot water by consulting the Delphic oracles who predicted that Jupiter would replace him. That knowledge caused Jupiter to replace him as a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The Golden Dawn claim that prophecy has a specific role in Magick. Experience with Magick indicates that the universe will fulfil the letter of your statement of intent, but not always in the way anticipated. This can lead to problems!

The purpose of divination, they claim, is to determine the outcome of a spell, in advance. Prediction of negative outcomes allows one to change the statement of intent so as to achieve a desirable mechanism for the outcome.

This leads us to a general approach to problem solving in life, magickal or otherwise. There are several steps

1. Identify, and analyse, the problem.
You can do divination for this also, to identify root causes of obscure problems.
This can also be merged with psychological knowledge to help design solutions.
2. Identify possible solutions (Note – plural. Don't just go with the first one)
3. Identify the most likely “best” solution, considering risk, cost, and benefit
This is where the GD concept of divination fits in – to help choose the best solution
4. Take action

Note that this does not constrain you to any particular divination. Omens and Portents can also be considered here.

A large part of recurring problems can be your own psychology, which relies on “Know thyself”. Divination can bring to light knowledge of issues you have been hiding from yourself.

For tonight's activity,

1. Discussion – examples, past experiences, etc. Types of divination for different purposes.
2. Do a divination for what style of problem solving will work best for you.
3. Meditation on the results of divination
4. Homework – Journaling on your problem solving for the coming lunar cycle.

NOWRA FULL MOON BLÓT

The Nowra Blót followed the same format as outlined above in the Sydney ritual, though the chosen deity and activity were different.

Introduction — This full moon we'll be connecting with the Goddess Gefjon, celebrating Imbolc, and working on an intent of abundance in our lives through a bread making activity.

IMBOLC

Imbolc, in the Celtic seasonal calendar marks the beginning of the lambing season and signals the beginning of Spring and the stirrings of new life. It is Feile Brighde, the 'quickenning of the year'. The original word Imbolg means 'in the belly'. All is pregnant and expectant - and only just visible if at all, like the gentle curve of a 'just-showing' pregnancy. It is the promise of renewal, of hidden potential, of earth awakening and life-force stirring. Here is hope. We welcome the growth of the returning light and witness Life's insatiable appetite for rebirth. It is time to let go of the past and to look to the future, clearing out the old, making both outer and inner space for new beginnings. This can be done in numerous ways, from spring cleaning your home to clearing the mind and heart to allow inspiration to enter for the new cycle. ('Spring cleaning was originally a nature ritual' - Doreen Valiente). It's a good time for wish-making or making a dedication. Imbolc is traditionally the great festival and honouring of Brigid, so loved as a pagan Goddess that her worship was woven into the Christian church as St Bridget. She is a Goddess of healing, poetry and smithcraft. She is a Goddess of Fire, of the Sun and of the Hearth. She brings fertility to the land and its people and is closely connected to midwives and new-born babies. She is the Triple Goddess, but at Imbolc she is in her Maiden aspect.

Imbolc is a cross-quarter day midway between the winter solstice (Yule) and the spring equinox (Ostara) and is the celebration of the banishing of winter, the imminent arrival of Spring and the stirring of new life in the earth. Imbolc recognizes the maiden aspect of the triple goddess – the fresh, the young, the naïve, the new. Due to the 6 month offset of the seasons between the northern and southern hemispheres many Australian Pagans celebrate Imbolc when it is seasonally appropriate here, on August 1st or 2nd. Colours commonly associated with Imbolc are white, lavender, green, blue and gold. At Imbolc, the Australian forests are bright with the colour yellow, with many species of Acacia trees coming into full flower. Until fairly recently, the 1st of August was "Wattle Day" in Australia (it has since been moved to the 1st of September). In general, Imbolc is a time for planting seeds and to recognize one's duty to nurture inner seeds of growth as well as the physical seeds of the earth; to consider personal goals and dreams, and to embrace inspiration. It is common to bless and burn candles of inspiration at Imbolc rituals. You can approach situations and people with open eyes and open heart, and coupled with planning, this fresh approach to life can inspire your every moment to be happier and more energetic.

DISABLOT

The exact day of this celebration is unclear, some sources say it was held at the beginning of winter, others at the end of it or it might have been celebrated on both, actually.

Dísablót is a Norse/Germanic pagan holiday that honours female deities. Female spirits of ancestors, Disir, Odin's Valkyries, or other women in your life are honoured. Frig, Freya, and Oстера are often celebrated. Disir are female deities that honoured women ancestors and were felt to guard the living. We honour women who give us life and their fertility. Dísablót is celebrated each year in Uppsala Sweden at the Disting festival around January 31. Traditionally this winter holiday was held during the vernal equinox. The name Dísablót means Thing (or assembly) of the Goddesses.

Feasting: This holiday holds a great feast celebrating new beginnings. Offerings were made to female ancestors. Farmers asked for blessings for the future planting season.

Charming The Plow: A time to give thanks for the coming spring and the fertility of the soil. During the ritual, the equipment, seeds, and fields would all be charmed for an abundant growing season.

The ancient legend states that the Swedish King told the goddess Gefjon she could take ownership of as much land as she could plough in one day (further notes below).

Celebrating today: Bake some small cakes to honour Mother Earth. Dig four holes in your garden in the cardinal directions and place a cake in each hole. Ask that the cakes bless the soil with fertility.

Lift your arms to the sky and ask that the Gods bless your garden with fertility and abundance.

Anoint your plough (or garden tools) with olive oil and herbs such as myrrh and cinnamon.



Nowra altar

In preparation for the feast, small cakes were baked. These cakes were then placed in the furrows the plow made as an offering to mother earth.

GEFJUN

Gefjun (pronounced “GEV-yoon” and sometimes spelled “Gefjon,” “Gefiun,” or “Gefion”) is an ancient Norse goddess of agriculture, fertility, abundance, and prosperity. Her name is derived from the Old Norse verb gefa, “to give,” and her name can be translated as “Giver” or “Generous One.”

Most of our information about Gefjun has been filtered through the mind and pen of the thirteenth-century Icelandic historian Snorri Sturluson.

As Snorri tells it, Gefjun traveled through Sweden disguised as a homeless woman. When she appeared before the generous King Gylfi, he granted her as much land as four oxen could plow in one day. Gefun summoned her four sons, which she had had by an unnamed giant, and turned them into oxen to plow the land. Not only did they plow the land; they also dragged it from Sweden, where the resulting depression became the lake Mälaren, and out into the ocean, where it became the Danish island of Zealand, upon which the city of Copenhagen is today located.

