

Peppermint and Sage

IMBOLC 2014

ISSUE 3





MERRY MEET



Welcome to our third issue of Peppermint and Sage. We need some help from our readers. The first issue of PAS had over 1500 downloads and the second has had over 1400 downloads - but we have not heard from one of our readers!!! If nothing else let us know where you downloaded the issue! Let us know what you thought of the issue and what you would like to see in future issues. We need feedback. Just write to us at pas@dragonpalm.com

Right now the only two version we have is the PDF version from our website (www.dragonpalm.com/PAS) and Martview (www.martview.com) both of these formats support graphics, we are still looking into other formats, but at this time to add a few of them would mean redoing the issue for each format instead of converting.

You can also download the PDF version at our Peppermint and Sage Facebook page. (And we really would like to hear from anyone who is using it, as we have no way of knowing how many downloads there are.

The deadline for the next issue is March 10th, 2014. We always need submissions. We are badly in need of artwork. Small pieces for filler are needed most of all. Cover artwork for both front and back cover. When making art for covers think of the size of the zine as being 8½ X 11.. We can overlay the logo like this issue or frame it like last issue. Once I start getting submissions I start laying out the zine and end up with empty spaces that need to be filled this is why poems, recipes , artwork, and photos are important - to fill these blank spaces.

Blessed Be

Dreamweaver

February 2014

- 1 Sat
- 2 Sun Imbolc
- 3 Mon
- 4 Tue
- 5 Wed
- 6 Thu
- 7 Fri
- 8 Sat Earth's Web Imbolc gather
- 9 Sun
- 10 Mon
- 11 Tue Dragon Palm WIP
- 12 Wed
- 13 Thu
- 14 Fri FULL MOON/ Earth's Web FM rit
- 15 Sat
- 16 Sun
- 17 Mon President's Day
- 18 Tue
- 19 Wed
- 20 Thu Dragon Palm PNO
- 21 Fri
- 22 Sat
- 23 Sun
- 24 Mon
- 25 Tue
- 26 Wed
- 27 Thu
- 28 Fri

Peppermint And Sage issue 3 Imbolc 2014

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Contact us at: pas@dragonpalm.com our website is www.dragonpalm.com/PAS

Copies of Peppermint And Sage can be downloaded at: www..martview.com , www.dragonpalm.com at the Peppermint And Sage groups on Facebook and YahooGroups.

March 2014

1	Sat	NEW MOON
2	Sun	
3	Mon	
4	Tue	
5	Wed	
6	Thu	
7	Fri	
8	Sat	
9	Sun	
10	Mon	PAS deadline
11	Tue	Dragon Palm WIP
12	Wed	
13	Thu	FULL MOON
14	Fri	
15	Sat	
16	Sun	
17	Mon	St. Patrick's Day
18	Tue	
19	Wed	
20	Thu	OSTARA/ Dragon Palm Rit
21	Fri	Earth's Web Ostara gather
22	Sat	Earth's Web Ostara gather
23	Sun	Earth's Web Ostara gather
24	Mon	
25	Tue	
26	Wed	
27	Thu	
28	Fri	
29	Sat	
30	Sun	NEW MOON
31	Mon	

Calendar events:

For more information on Dragon Palm Events join there Dragon Palm Events group on Facebook or contact dreamweaver@dragonpalmcircle.org

For Earth's Web events visit their web page EarthsWeb.org for contact information.



Soap made at a Dragon Palm Witch in Progress.



Yule at Dragon Palm Circle



Around the Hearth.....

by Lady Pinkie Luna Fae

As i sit and write this latest edition, it's early January in the Smoky Mountains and we are in the middle of a deep freeze. We got a nice dusting of snow last Sunday night, then the temperatures plummeted from the 40's and 50's to single digits and teens. As i type ,it's only day two of this and we have no water and our heater is struggling to keep the temperature we set on the thermostat. I wish we had a fireplace.... But this has me thinking about how *HARD* it would have been to survive for our ancestors, and am taking these thoughts and applying them to our celebrations, our full moons, and our general lives. It's an extreme juxtaposition to compare our modern cold weather dilemmas with that of those generations gone by. It's a good way to connect yourself, your family, your practice, to root it in what has been. To span gaps between modern and traditional ways of thinking and being. *I wish i had a fireplace.....*

At one point in time, there wasn't a home to be had that didn't have at least one hearth in it. Even after electricity, gas and oil had been harnessed to produce warmth, fireplaces still held a place as a near must have for a home. Now, with modern "convenience" many many homes are without this feature. If the power goes out, and you have one, have the wood to go with it, you still have heat and a way to cook....without one, the power goes out, you become crippled. *I wish i had a fireplace....* I would worry alot less in the winter. At least we have running water (when the pipes arent frozen). It would be a major chore fetching water on a day like this, out of a creek or from a spring. Even using the loo was an undertaking of vast proportions, and we complain about chilly toilet seats. I'll take frozen pipes.... *but i still wish i had a fireplace.*

I try to imagine just how hard this time of year was.... so dark, so cold.... hoping you had enough of everything put away to survive on...hoping no one caught sick, that your animals lived, your food

didnt spoil. Working tirelessly on meals that went far and filled bellies, on quilts and sewing, trying to maintain patience and peace in a cramped home. And now i sit and worry "*what if the power goes out?*" and I think "*I wish i had a fireplace.*"

I really should be thinking "THANK THE GODS I AM A MODERN WITCH". And I do. That i can learn my craft at my own pace. The nuances of gardening. Herb lore. Tinctures, and salves and teas. That my families existence and survival do not solely depend on my knowledge, but is only made richer for it. That the love i choose to put into crafting food to feed their spirits, not just their bellies, the time and pure essence i put into medicines and warm cups of tea, these things are CHOICES in this day and age. We continue these things, not just because it is better for us, but because it reminds us of where we came from and keeps alive skills otherwise lost that may be needed one day. I choose to continue to learn the old ways, and teach them to those that will learn, to keep the fires of those hearths burning bright.....

So what have we got for this month? chill, two types, white chicken chill and regular beef chill. We got chicken and dumplings. Roast and beef stew. Several of these meals "piggy back" on each other, or feed into each other. And all of them can be made on a fire in a big ol kettle pot. *I wish i had a fireplace, a big one.*

Pot Roast: you will need : roast, potatoes, carrots, celery, onions, garlic clove and seasonings.

the seasonings I am using right now for almost everything are: garlic, turmeric, cayenne pepper, oregano, cilantro, touch of ginger... (these

are cold fighters, medicine in the form of yum)

Directions: in crock pot put about an inch of water, add beef, season, add carrots sliced onion and smashed clove of garlic. wash and chunk potatoes add them and sliced celery... mix the veggies all up and season a little each layer.

turn crock pot on everything is done when the carrots are soft enough to cut easily with a fork.

now your next meal comes from whats left here (or start again making a new roast for the base)

Beef Stew: add water to roast to almost fill pot. Shred roast or cut into cubes(whichever you prefer)

turn crock pot on, let it heat up the water, you may want to add more seasoning to taste.

when the "stew" is good and hot, i use instant potato flakes to thicken the broth. serve with bread of your choice.

now the next two recipes (depending on the size of your family possibly 3 *bonus time*) i usually make back to back and cook off all the chicken at one time. Our local grocery tends to have 10 pound bags of thigh and leg quarters of chicken for around 6-8 dollars. I season all the chicken, throw it in a big pot and boil until it falls off the bone., let it cool, then debone it all. Now you have all the chicken you need for several meals, at this point you could also freeze the cooked chicken in portion bags for whatever you earmark it for. **Save your broth as well!!!!**

Chicken and Dumplings

Now, using a portion of your broth, add back some of the chicken (how much depends on how many you are feeding, I usually use half since i feed 5-7 in my house then send some to two different neighbors, totaling with my home and theirs 9-12 people) Bring this up to a boil. While you are waiting on your water to boil, make your biscuit dough. My recipe is as

follows:

ingredients:

2 cups sifted flour
2 tsp. baking powder
4 tablespoons butter or shortening
1/2 tsp. salt
about 3/4 cup milk

I make a double or sometimes triple batch of the dough.

After your water comes back up to a rolling boil (this is important) pinch off pieces of dough and squish them into a ball, carefully drop the balls into the pot and let boil.... make the dumplings a little bigger than you would like because some of it will cook off and thicken your broth. boil for about 15-20 minutes and you're done!!

White Chicken Chili

pre-cooked chicken, diced or shredded, 1-3 pounds depending on how many you cook for
diced onion to taste
As a time saver i use canned beans but you can cook them from scratch.... i use northern white beans (about 3 cans)
a can of diced seasoned tomatoes or a jar of salsa
1-2 packages white chicken chili seasoning mix

put all in pot, add water, and cook till hot..... i tend to re-season as well.

regular chill for me, is just as easy.

Chili

ground beef
onion
garlic
1 can tomato paste
1 can diced tomatoes
2 cans kidney beans
1 can black beans
1 can white beans
1-2 packages chili season

brown beef in skillet with onion and garlic, drain put everything in a big pot or crock pot, mix



Around the Hearth.....

by Lady Pinkie Luna Fae

(I tend to add cayenne, extra garlic, extra chili powder... whatever hits my fancy)

let it get good and hot and you're done!!!

So there ya go folks!!! until next time, i hope i have given you something to chew on, literally and figuratively!!! Stay warm, love each other, and help someone who may be struggling a bit!!!

Light and Love,
Lady Pinkie Luna Fae



Field of Grain texture stitch pattern

By Cardea Hinges

I call it "Field of Grain" because the knit stitches make what look like little heads of wheat. This pattern is best done in a solid color yarn with good stitch definition. Novelty yarns will not show the stitches very well.

Cast on an even number of stitches.

Rows 1-4: (knit one, purl one) repeat to end of row

Rows 5-8: (purl one, knit one) repeat to end of row

Repeat rows 1-8 until your piece is the desired size, bind off and weave in your yarn ends.

You see? Simple.

Musings

By Lady Sky

I have been thinking lately that I should start writing down things that just pop into my head. When did I become a witch? I believe I have always been a Witch. I became aware of my calling a couple of decades ago. I enjoy quietly communing with the universe. I started out the first twenty years of life as a catholic, the second twenty years as a Baptist, now in this part of my life I am happy! I am Wiccan, I enjoy being one with nature and the cosmos.

We ask peace for the gods of our fathers, peace for our nature divinities. It is only just to assume that the object of all people's worship is the same. We look up to the same stars, one sky covers us all and the same universe surrounds us. Do the means by which a man seeks the truth really matter? There is no single road by which we may arrive at so great a mystery. Symmachus - 384ce.



Glass Heart"

Crayon, Marker, Color Pencil

By Cardea Hinges



This may become a new feature in Peppermint and Sage, it's all up to you. This will be a sort of classified ad/trading/craft exchange. This is going to be the lay out for The Broom Closet.

FOR TRADE

If you have something you want to trade for something else list it here. You can just open it for trade or you can list what you are willing to trade for. A picture is welcome and make sure you have an email or some other way to contact you. You can give a cut off date for people to make offers.

FOR SALE

This can be for the person who just has one thing for sale or someone who has a store or does gathers as a vendor. But only one item to an ad. If you only have one state it, if its a special for your store give an end to the special. Make sure you give the price you want and if there is a shipping charge if it must be shipped.

WANT

You are looking for something. List what it is. Tell rather you want to buy or trade for it. Also note if you are looking new or used. Now if you have something some wants used and it's \$10 new, be realistic for what you ask, rule of thumb - if it's like new half price, if it's warn go down more. Now if it's rare it's what you feel it's worth. The person looking has the right to refuse if they don't like your price or something doesn't sound right.

CRAFT FOR CRAFT

You like making crafts and you have some nice stuff. To sell it you would have to charge way more than you are comfortable with, but with the time and material you have in it, you can't see selling it for less. Trade for another craft. This is our craft exchange. Make sure you have a picture. If you have several let it be known. If you are looking for something state it, or just say make me an offer I can't refuse.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

For those times when mama cat gets out when she shouldn't. Or anything else you want to give away to a good home.

MORE INFORMATION

PAS will only be here to give you a place to post. All transactions are between the seller and buyer or traders. If someone rips you off let us know - we don't want to allow cheats to list here. Before completing a transaction make sure you are both happy with the arraignments . Let them know if the SALE is as is or if they don't like can they return it. If its a used item, make sure any defects are known - you don't want to surprise the buyer, this includes AS IS, an AS IS item should list anything wrong. For trades and craft for craft shipping should be paid by both parties for what they are shipping unless you come with some other understand-ing.



ASK TIGER-LILY

by Tiger-Lily Dancing Dragons

Dear readers,
Each issue will feature questions sent in by you. All questions will remain anonymous unless you specifically ask otherwise. If I can't find your answer, I can find someone who can. Questions may be sent to

asktigerlily@pas.dragonpalm.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Brightest Blessings,

Tiger-lily

Q: Let's say I like this guy. Well, I have noticed we have a lot in common. But I'm too shy to say anything and I know I won't have the courage to say anything. What should I do?

A: You know the old saying 'good things come to those who wait'? It is a lie. Good things come to those who go out and get them. Work for them. Take risks for them. Lay it all on the line for them. Ask him out! It is scary, but not knowing and waiting is even scarier. And if he says 'no', then it wasn't meant to be. Turn to your friends to help sooth the rejection then jump back in the game and ask someone else out. If you really truly can't muster the courage to ask him out, even for a cup of coffee and a chat, I would seriously consider getting out of the dating market for awhile and focusing on yourself and working on fixing your insecurities.

Q: I have seen a lot of different stones used for pendulums. What gives? Is there a particular stone that should be used?

A: Pendulums can be made from any material. I personally own pendulums made from wood, brass, silver, glass, and several different crys-

tals. You can also use a simple sewing needle on a piece of thread, or a paper clip, or a pretty necklace.

There is no right or wrong pendulum, it is what ever works for you and what you are drawn towards. I would suggest you start with researching the different properties of crystals and finding a few that match your personality. Or take a walk through your house and see what you can find that can be hung from a string or chain and give it a try! I would love to hear about the results.

Q: Is skyclad just an excuse to run about naked? For those of us who live in cities, even rural ones, isn't it kind of difficult to find a place to use skyclad practices?

A: There are several reasons folks chose to go skyclad and I imagine there are some out there who really just like to run about naked, but that isn't the point. The main reason to go skyclad during a ritual is to be as close to nature and spirit as possible. Nothing between you and nature/spirit. Total freedom. Nothing holding you back, getting in your way, or distracting you (or if you are me, nothing to accidentally set on fire when you get too close to candles). That being said, location does come in to play. I don't advise doing a rit skyclad in your backyard where nosy neighbors can see. If you are determined to go skyclad you will find an appropriate space. This may be at a remote camp site, a friend's property that is private, or even in your home.

And now for some etiquette on going skyclad:

- if in doubt as to if the rit will be skyclad required, optional, or not allowed, always ask
- if you are planning a rit, be sure to let the folks attending know if it will be skyclad or not
- if you are uncomfortable with being skyclad, don't go skyclad. Please understand that if the rit is skyclad required, you may be asked to not

participate and if skyclad optional there will be folks who are skyclad

- if you are uncomfortable being around folks who are skyclad I suggest avoiding all rits that are skyclad required or optional

- don't stare. we all have the same bits and pieces in slightly different shapes and arrangements

- remember that the human body is beautiful, in all shapes and sizes

Q: I know that you read Tarot cards. How does a reading work when the person isn't there in front of you?

A: We are all energy and are all connected. When I do a remote reading, I visualize a thread connecting me to the person I am reading and I see the energy flowing along that thread. Admittedly, it is much easier to connect with someone sitting across the table from me than it is to connect with someone half way around the world. But it can be done.

Q: Hello Tiger Lily,
It getting very complex around my house we three member of third different path with in the Wicca faith bunched all under the same roof.

here the rundown An eclectic Wicca with a coven that meets here sometimes
/A druid that has a grove that meet here and study here twice a month.
and a tradition witch who has both an advanced traditional coven and a training coven both having classes and rituals here most of the time
plus a very active house hold, which at times get even more crazier when friends and coven mates drop by to hang out and chat.with all four group seeing this as their hearthstone and having a open door polices with all four groups
any suggestion on how to keep everyone happy with out making anyone feel like there no room in the caldrion for them or their group.

A: First off, bless you and yours for being able to handle so much on your plates and maintain some semblance of sanity!

If at all possible, I would ensure that each group that meets there has a seperate space to use, that way if more than one group is there at any given time, they don't get in each other's way. This might be the kitchen table for studying, the living room for one group, the back yard for another group, the front porch for sitting and chatting, what ever works for your space and your people. There may be some times when it just isn't practical to have more than one group of folks at the house. Perhaps a major sabbat or other special occasion. For these times, I suggest getting a large white board or wipe off calendar that you can hang somewhere everyone can see. You can mark dates/times for rits, study groups, etc for each group just so everyone is aware of the schedules and be sure to indicate if any of the events are to be closed/private. I also suggest you be sure to mark some down time on the schedule. An open door policy is great, but sometimes you need time to yourself so you don't burn out.

Q: when the eight main holidays are celebrated, and because they all revolve around nature, are they solemn or festive, indoors or outdoors? I would find it interesting to read a description of individual Sabbats (if I am referencing the holidays correctly), how the day begins, what is done to honor the day, a particular mode of dress, food served, etc.

A: There really isn't a single answer to this as there are so many variables. Are you celebrating the sabbat alone or with a coven? For Yule, are you mourning the death of the Holly King or celebrating the birth of the Oak King? Many of our sabbats have multiple aspects and which you chose to focus on are entirely up to you. Along those same lines, what you wear is also entirely up to you. Some folks like to dress up all pretty, some prefer full ceremonial garb, some prefer street clothes, and some prefer skyclad. It really is what ever you, and the group you practice with if there is one, are comfortable with wearing. Like most holidays, each sabbat has traditional foods associated with it, not that we always go with tradition. Seasonal fruits, veggies, and grains are always appropriate for feast. They also work well for decorations. A sabbat feast day begins like any other family hol-



ASK TIGER-LILY

by Tiger-Lily Dancing Dragons

iday gathering for us. Clean the house. make sure we have enough chairs, plates, cups, etc. You know, the boring, typical, mundane type stuff that goes in to any gathering of folks you are feeding. I like to take some time before everyone arrives to take a ritual bath, meditate on the reason for the sabbat, and relax. The ritual bath normally includes oils and herbs traditional for the sabbat. After the ritual bath, I would figure out what I am wearing. For me personally, this is normally jeans, a cute shirt, and my cloak. Also before everyone arrives I would set up the altar with all the tools needed for the ritual and make sure all the decorations are in order. Once everyone arrives, normally late because of course we run on Pagan Standard Time, we would do our ritual and then enjoy our feast. The actual details of the ritual vary with each sabbat and with who is doing the rit. I happen to be part of a coven now, but all of the sabbats can of course also be celebrated by solitary practioners.

Here is a quick run down of the sabbats (we will have more indepth info for each sabbat in upcoming issues):

- Samhain: October 31, known in the mundane world as Halloween, this is the time of year when everything has died back, we celebrate the last of the harvest and reconnect with our ancestors.

- Yule: December 21, the longest night of the year. This is the midpoint in the dark half of the year. The sun returns and the days begin to get longer, giving us hope. Gifts are exchanged to share our abundance with loved ones and to help them get through the rest of the dark half of the year.

- Imbolc: February 1, the feast of Brighid. The first flowers of spring are starting to pop out, even through the snow, and we are filled with love and warmth.

- Ostara: March 21, spring equinox. a time for planting seeds. eggs, rabbits, and flowers are traditional.

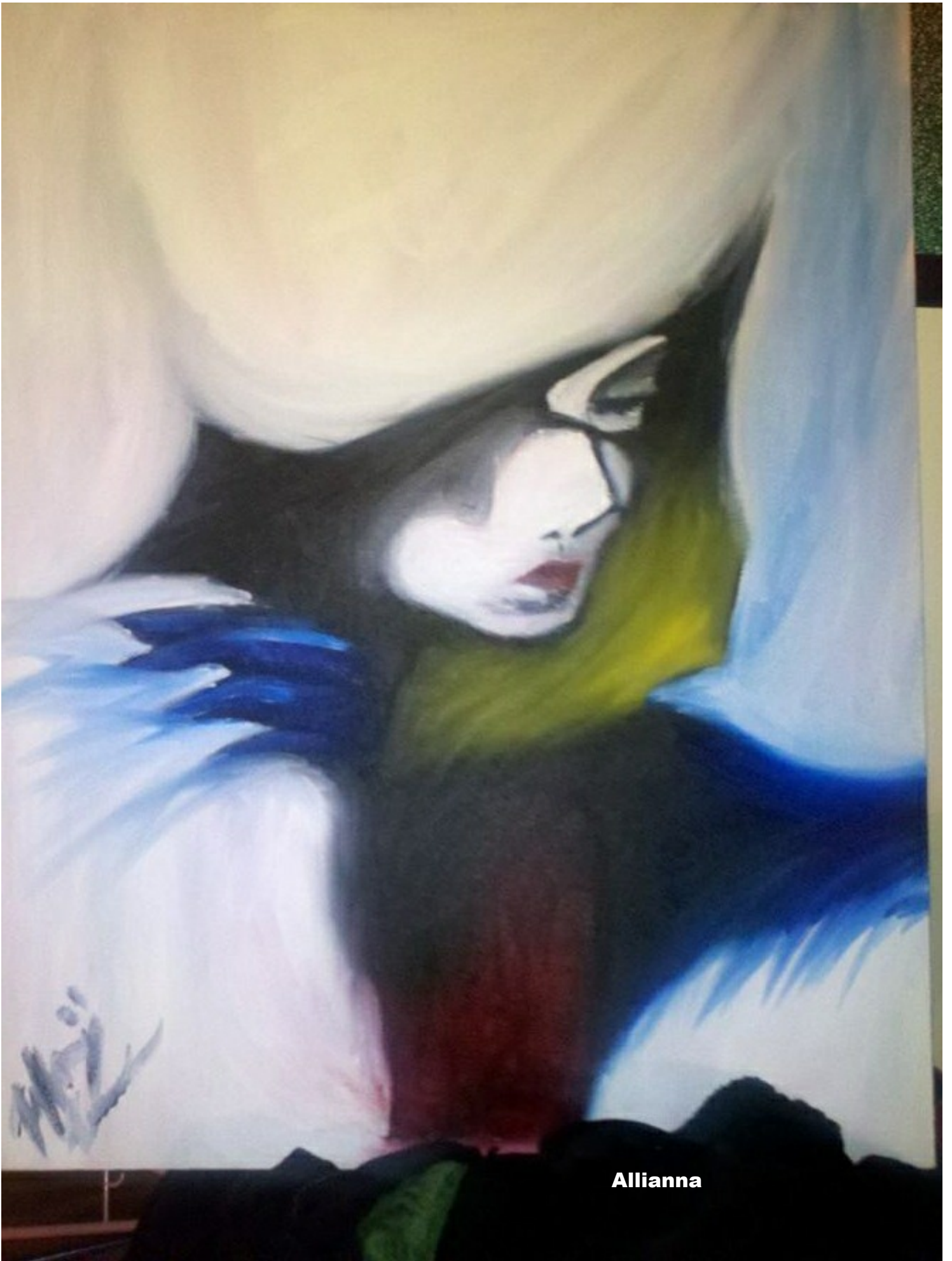
- Beltane: May 1, last of the spring festivals. this is primarily a fertility festival, blessings the crops for a good harvest.

- Litha: June 21, the longest day. this ends the bright half of the year and we prepare to enter the dark half. harvest will be starting soon.
- Lughnasadh: August 1, the first harvest festival.
- Mabon: September 21, mid harvest. the fields are becoming bare and we are preparing for winter's arrival.



Copper and Garnet wrap-bracelet
By Cardea Hinges
Hearthside Handmade





Allianna



Beltaine 2014

Persephone returns!

Please join us for the return of spring.

Place: Avalon Isle
5049 Mathis Branch Rd.
Cosby Tn.

Date: April 25th-27th

Prices: Adults 25\$ pre reg. or 30 at gate

Children 13-17 15\$ 12&under free

5\$military discount

Drumming, workshops, community

Don't forget to watch for us on facebook and our web site.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194089283983682>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/739246729437634/>



Pagan Postings

This is your page. Write us at pas@dragonpalm.com. Let us know what you think of PAS. Tell us what you would like to see in future issues of PAS. Let us know where you are downloading PAS from (several of the sites don't let us know how many downloads we are having) Ask questions of the different writers. It really helps us know what's working and what isn't. It cost nothing to write us and only takes a few minutes.



Photo by Moonchylde

EAST

Elemental = Sylph

AIR

Star = Alderbaran = Light

To Know

Stones	Herbs	Colors
Adventurine Mica Crystal Quartz Lepidolite	Acaia, ANise, Broom, Dandelion, Eyebright, Hops, Lavender, Lemongrass, Sweetgrass, Slippery Elm.	Yellow, White, Pink, Pastels, Lavender

WEST

Elemental = Undines

WATER

Star = Antaris = Witness

To Will

Stones	Herbs	Colors
Amethyst, Aquamarine, Chrysocolla, Rose Quartz, Coral, Moonstone, Pearl.	Apple, Birch, Belladonna, Blackberry, Camphor, Catnip, Elder, Moonwort, Morning Glory, Myrrh, Poppy, Raspberry, Sandalwood, Thyme, Willow.	Blue, Turquoise, Indigo, Aqua, Grey.

South

Elemental = Salamander

FIRE

Star = Regulus = Night

To Dare

Stones	Herbs	Colors
Jasper, Pipestone, Citrine, Beryl, Hematite, Ruby.	Ash, Angelica, Betony, Cedar, Cinnamon, Cactus, Dragon's Blood, Ginger, Hawthorne, Holly, Juniper, May Apple, Mandrake, Tobacco, Witch Hazel.	Red, Crimson, Burgundy, Orange, Fuscia.

North

Elemental = Gnome

EARTH

Star = Fornahaut = Aid

To Keep Silent

Stones	Herbs	Colors
Agate, Malachite, Jet, Obsidian, Salt.	Barley, Buckthorne, Corn, Sage, Horehound, Magnolia, Mugwort, Patchouli, Rye, Vervain.	Green, Browns, Black



A World Apart, A World Together

Explorations in IndoPaganism

by Mass Bliss

from a single source we both draw breath

I wonder if anyone has recognized the source of my subtitles yet? Maybe? Think on that.

In Saiva Hinduism, there is One Source. There is One Being, in fact, and the Universe is contained within (or, it might be argued, is the imaginings of) that Being. This being the case, there is One Soul. A quick thought will tell you what this faith believes about life after death -- simply put, death is an illusion. However, we are allowed several "lifetimes", as many as it takes, to discover the illusion and return to Oneness with Deity.

I have known many Wiccans debate reincarnation. Most believe in literal, linear reincarnation -- we come back as humans with karma to work out. Some believe in transmigration -- we can come back as other animals, either just for fun or, just so, to work out karma. There are a few I know, however, who believe that each person is just a mix-and-match from available spiritual essence. In each case, most believe that we have choices (usually made in Summerland or an equivalent) in creating this life and its circumstances.

But few Wiccans (of my acquaintance) do *not* believe in reincarnation. So where does a belief in reincarnation come from in Wicca? Simply put, Gerald Gardner. Or so it would seem.

When you read all the anthropology books, other than a very few, there is no mention of reincarnation outside of Egyptian (Kemetic) religion in the "Western" world. Resurrection, perhaps; being advanced to god status, yes; but not reincarnation. So Gerald Gardner, with his travels throughout his life to the East, decided (or believed) that reincarnation made more sense than whatever was available in Western thought and beliefs. The people in England who supported this, the

Golden Dawn and its offshoots, got their basis from Kemetic religion and Ritual Magick, which provided more of a library of rituals and rites to borrow from in forming the new Wicca.

I would like to remind you that my opinions used in writing this formed over almost 35 years as a Wiccan, and so many disparate sources have entered into developing those opinions that I cannot easily render sources. I welcome both refutation and support, and will modify my opinions accordingly.

So. Karma. A word which has no analogue in the West, so we use the Sanskrit term. This was my major stumbling block to belief in Wicca -- that I had to accept reincarnation and karma with no supporting evidence from Western sources (except those who obviously were influenced by Eastern thought). There is no word in the Celtic languages which relates to "karma". I got told that repeatedly. Rather than give up my studies in Wicca, I went searching, for without this word karma and, indeed, reincarnation would need to be considered a grafted belief, not those of my Celtic foremothers.

I asked many people I knew who spoke various Celtic languages. They said nope, don't know it.

And then I found one. The word is "*dan*". This word appears in many texts and is often mistranslated or ignored or even left untranslated. The word appears to be a combination of "fate" and "karma", what you are owed or deserve or will happen whether you do anything to encourage or prevent it.

And it exists in Tamil, meaning about the same thing. It appears to have moved into

Sanskrit at some point, but if it is in Tamil, it would be an early word in the Romani languages. Which, according to Gerhard Herm in The Celts, would be how it got into Celtic languages, as some branch of Romani (gypsies) were part of the merger of three racial groups into Celts.

DNA can be hard to trace, especially linguistic DNA. (Odd coincidence, DNA is an anagram of “dan”.) This is hardly a definitive answer, but it was the one I set out to look for and found. (I employed this word in my songwriting as early as 1998, so presumably that was about the time I discovered it.) So I blithely went on with my studies in Wicca with one fewer quibble -- and one more connection to India.

From a single source, we draw breath. From a single source, we use that breath to employ language to describe our beliefs. But that source can be traced back to our earliest forebears, and can no longer be said to dead-end with the esteemed Gerald Gardner.

I would love to hear from the readers of this column, positive and negative of course. Perhaps you can tell me how you draw inferences from Hinduism in your Pagan practices; how you include Hindu deities in your daily life; or what links you have found to prove (or disprove) my statements.

I recently met a woman from Canada who said she was an atheist. When I described myself to her as IndoWiccan, she asked if I knew which Hindu deity spoke to her? I showed her my Ganesha ring. She then told me of a dream she had where Lord Ganesha, as a brass statue, scooted up to her and got right in her face, and said, “NOW do you believe in me?”

Om gam Ganapatayei Namaha!

Merry part,
Moss

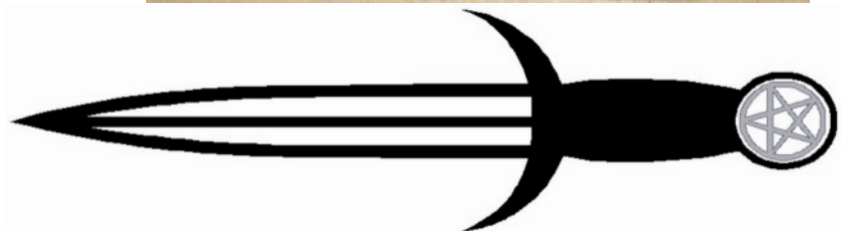
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Some Thoughts on New Years

by Namaste



So, here we are again, start of a fresh new year, and all that. Seems to happen a lot this time every year, huh?

So, I guess everyone's making those infamous resolutions, because you feel that, somehow, your life is lacking something, and entering into this exercise in group navel-contemplation will somehow make it better. I mean, how many of you have already lined up on the "I wanna lose weight/quit smoking/get in shape/etc." bandwagon? And how many of you have already fallen off the wagon? Let's see, it's January sixth now, I'm betting there's been a good deal of backsliding already. Now, I can already hear some of you asking me why I'm being a douchecanoe about the resolution thing, and, before you all get up in arms, allow me explain my actions.

See, over the years, I've come to realize that New Year's resolutions are a waste of time (for the most part) for one simple reason: we are determined to change something about ourselves that we don't like without changing ourselves in the process.

"Da fuck?!" you say. Think about it. How many people resolve to lose weight, for example? Quite a few, right? And we always start with the best intentions, and even succeed for a short span of time; but before we know it, we're right back into our old patterns, and that resolution is out the window with last night's chamberpot deposits.

Why is that?

Because we're only looking at a cosmetic change instead of a fundamental change. We want to change the reflection that looks back at us without determining just WHY we want to change it.

Therefore, I posit that what we need to examine is our own behavior, our own patterns, our own beliefs about ourselves. We need to address WHY we feel a need to make a change before we ever take steps to make that change. Reason being, without that knowledge of self, without that WHY,

we are automatically dooming ourselves to failure. And, in many cases (depending on your thought patterns), we may be setting ourselves up for self-fulfilling prophecies of failure.

Example: let's say I want to lose some weight and get in shape (which I do, but right now we're taking a trip down the hypothetical rabbit hole). Now, let's add this to the mix; say I have a tendency to believe that I'm a failure, that I am incapable of carrying something through to the end, that I just can't finish whatever I've started (no, I'm not psychoanalyzing myself here much). Have I taken the time to determine WHY I want to get in shape, or am I experiencing a kneejerk reaction to what I think I should look like as opposed to how I do look? And have I taken the time to plan out a course of fitness for myself to get back in shape? And have I looked at why feel incapable of finishing something I've begun? If the answer to any of these is "no", then I have already set myself up fulfill that belief that I can't finish anything, therefore I must be a failure, therefore I will most likely fall straight off the bandwagon and start scarfing Cheetos within the week, most likely hating myself a little more for being unable to do anything to help myself.

If I might suggest: the first step in any sort of situation that includes lifestyle changes should always be to STOP JUDGING YOURSELF. Stop looking at yourself and thinking there's something wrong with you. You are who you are. Stop comparing yourself to what society at large thinks you should look like or dress like or act like. Be you; after all, there's only one of you. Be proud of that shit. And look at just WHY you're judging yourself. If it's because you think you look different just because everyone looks or dresses a certain way, kick that shit straight to the curb. Once again, be you, and be proud of it. Incidentally, this is probably

ninety percent of your problem: accepting the judgment of others and believing that there's something wrong with you. There isn't, other than a touch of low self-esteem. Give yourself permission to be different. Be weird. Dare to be stupid. You deserve it.

Now, if you've reached the point where you can be honest with yourself and still decide that a change needs to be made, congratulations! You're on the right track. Now you need to look at how you plan to go about it. Get yourself on a schedule, set your goals and do your best. Accept that there will be failures as well as triumphs; don't let that stop you. And, before you set off on your funky new you journey, make sure you've thought through your thinking. In other words, look at if you have a history of certain behaviors; look at why you do. Address those patterns, don't let them run loose, or you're back at square one. You have a tendency to give up if you meet a certain amount of setback? Look at why you do, and fix it.

The most important thing, like I say, is to make sure your why's have all been answered before you do anything. Accept yourself as you are before you try and become someone else. Stop judging yourself. Learn to love yourself. Then, if you still feel changes need to be made, you'll have no problem making them.

Now: I'm sure that, after all that, you guys are all "Oh yeah, wise guy, what about you, huh? Did you make resolutions?"

Yes I did.

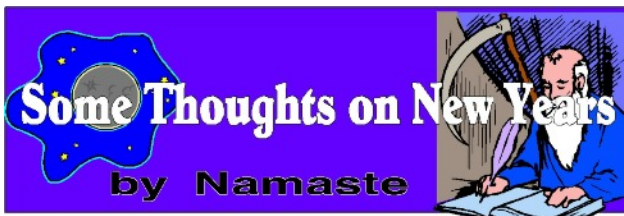
I tried to keep 'em simple this year: Speak less, say more, listen most. Accept myself as I am. Realize that I am not a worthless piece of shit. Love, give love, receive love, make love. Come to terms with some of the more unpleasant aspects of my personality. Do things differently.

Now, I can hear some of you looking at that "worthless piece of shit" comment and saying "Whaaaaaaa...?" like Kevin the Minion (or whichever one it was). Let me clarify this, and incidentally, maybe this will answer the question of why I haven't been around very much.

After the whole Dollywood separation, I hit some serious depression. I've tried my best to keep it hidden; I'll still crack wise about anything and everything, I'll still make a joke out something, but there is a part of me that has reached a point where the thought of having to go back out into the job market and scrounge for an opportunity to put money in someone else's pocket has filled me with

the urge to vomit. And yes, I'm aware that I need to have a job in order to make my bills and what-not, I'm fully aware of this. It does not, however, change the fact that I'm sick and tired of working for people who enjoy reminding their employees that they don't matter, that they are easily replaceable, that no matter what their workers do for them, it's never good enough. I'm tired of working in places where I get to watch people around me climb the ladder because of their glowing ability to kiss ass; I'm tired of being the one to do the work and get the shaft, simply because I won't play the game.

I've been accused, more than once, of having little respect for authority. I'd like to address that now. I don't have a problem with authority per se. I have a problem with authority in the hands of people who don't deserve it (and understand this: I'm not saying that I myself deserve to be in charge. I'm happier being the person behind the scenes; I'm far happier to get on with my co-workers and just find ways to enjoy the day. I don't need a title on my chest to know my worth). I respect people who treat those under them with respect, with dignity; who treat them like PEOPLE, not numbers, not expendable assets. I respect leaders. I don't respect toadies. I don't respect brown-nosers. I don't respect crawlers. I don't respect people who believe that intimidation is the best way to run a business. Here's a clue: you want a business to run smoothly, treat your workers like they're your family. Don't just say you do; do it. Your employees are the main reason your business is in operation, and if you treat them like shit, you get shitty employees. You get people who don't care; you get people who aren't interested in how well your business operates; you get people who couldn't give a damn about the customers. Treat your people with respect, and you'll see the difference. And as for supervisors, etc., the most important thing to remember is this: the **SOLE REASON** you are in a position of authority is to make sure the machine runs smoothly. If you're in that position because you kissed enough ass to get there; if you're in that position to pad out your resume; if you're in that position to make yourself look good; **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE IN THAT POSITION.** You've put yourself ahead of the good of the company and your coworkers, and you do not deserve to be in



charge of a pay toilet, let alone a group of people. Okay, that's off my chest now, thank you for bearing with me on that. I just needed to say it.

Anyway, as I was saying, I've found myself in this position far too often: working a job that I despise for people who treat me like crap. In fact, thinking about it, I've only ever had two jobs that I actually look forward to going to work: one was the video store, and the other is the ghost tours, both of which allow(ed) me to be me, without sending mixed signals, without the people in charge saying one thing and doing another when it comes to business practices, without treating the employees like trained monkeys.

That being said, I realize that I bear a good deal of the blame for putting up with this shit in the first place. I confess that I have a very low self-opinion; as a result, I tend to find myself in positions where I'm most likely to be treated like I don't matter, where I'm seen as inconsequential, thus, worthless, as this informs my own belief that I am inconsequential.

So, between not having that day job, and having to (most likely) go back out and put myself right back in the same situation, I've succeeded only in furthering my belief that I'm a worthless piece of shit; in so doing, I've handicapped myself and become depressed over it.

Now, before you start thinking that I'm just on a tear for my past employers, or riding the pity train, or whatever, lemme point this out to you: I've stated before that my attitude reflects the treatment I've been given, and that is true, to an extent. However, the treatment I've been given is a reflection of my attitude, as well.

Do you see how this works? It took me a long damn time to figure this out for myself, but figure it out I did. If I believe X about myself, then I will allow Y to reinforce X until I'm bitter, angry, and frustrated, thus proving that X is the reality.

Now, as I've mentioned elsewhere, "reality" is not truth, it's simply how we choose to perceive truth. It's how we filter down the world around ourselves and shape it to suit our own perceptions. The illusion that we cling to, the "reality" that we accept, is simply that: an illusion. Reality can be, and is,

shaped by our own beliefs and perceptions, and can be altered by altering our perceptions. Truth is constant: Air is moving, this is truth. Reality is mutable: "The wind is freezing and making me miserable!" can become "The wind is blowing and carrying the scent of the bakery, how nice!" or "The wind is blowing the snow into lovely shapes across the yard!" or (my favorite) "There is no wind." If we change our perception, we change our reality. If we change our perception, we change our lives. If we change our perception, we open our minds to possibility.

And this all comes back down to: Love. Give love, receive love, make love. In this case, love myself enough to know (not think, KNOW) that I am worth more than this. Yes, to Chas; yes, to my kids; yes, to my Phamily. But also to myself. And I accept the likelihood that I may have to take yet another job that fails to let me be me, but I can love myself enough to know that I do not have to accept it as the be-all end-all of career opportunities, and that I can work on my own to change that for myself; in so doing, I can be more for those around me.

So, the unemployed time wasn't a total bust I guess ;-)

Of course, all this doesn't preclude the fact that there are things about me that need improving. Yes, I would like to get back in shape, but not because I think I should like this, or because that is better than this, whatnot. I want to make that change because I can feel my own energy levels in flux whenever I get lazy, and eat junk food. It was like that when I was smoking: I'd burn one, and I could literally feel my energy drop. Yeah, I quit because Chas didn't like kissing an ashtray; yes, I quit because the kids wanted me to. But I stayed quit because I wanted me to, just because I didn't like feeling like that. Same thing here. I want to live a more spiritual life. I want to work on getting my black belt, not because being a black belt means I can kick ass, but because it means my cup is empty and ready to be filled. I know there's a long way to go, and a lot of work to do; so I also must remember not to be so hard on myself when I fall short. I'm a work in progress, after all; I am only an egg, after all.

I remember Brigid posting something a few days ago, about this year was starting out on a New Moon, which means that there will be

fresh starts and big changes. It mentioned that the last time the year started off on a New Moon was nineteen years ago. That was 1995. That was the year I got into my first serious, physical relationship, and I know how that has shaped my life afterward. Looking back, the last New Moon year was 1976, which was the year that we moved up here from Florida, and it's pretty obvious how that shaped my life afterward. So, yeah, I think this is going to be a big year. I'm certainly planning to make it one. Time to shape a little reality; it's a resolution I have.
Namaste.



This month cover

This is a picture from a Dragon Palm Circle ritual taken when we were located in Florida . To create the cover we cropped it to the correct dimensions and added the title and issue information.

We would love a cover for next issue which will be Ostara. Each issue needs both a front and back cover. They can be photos or artwork. The should relate to the issue at least a little. At this time each issue should be coming out just before a Sabbat. Next issue will be Ostara. You can send in cover ideas as early as you like, I would like to get it to the point where we have the cover for the next issue as we are making the current issue. This way we can put the cover of the next issue in the current issue.

I can set up files as far into the future as needed for any thing submitted. I would like to have a file of artwork that can be used on any issue, so that after the dead line I'm not pleading and searching for fill. The

way we put together an issue is a few days before the dead line I start laying out the issue cover and then two pages at a time. Giving each feature its own starting page. After the dead line I finish with the features and then start filling in with the smaller items, photos not related to a feature, clip art , poems, cartoons, short reviews, and so on. Clip art I don't want to use if possible, I would rather have art created by you . We will even take refrigerator art made by your children - add their age - have it about the sabbat the issue will be on. Could be fun.

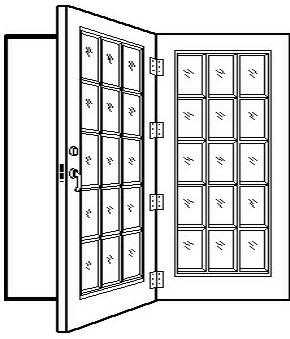
Also if I had a lot of filler stuff I wouldn't be writing this long and boring plead for submissions.

I would like to get PAS up to 40+ pages each issue. Unless something happens tonight this one will be 30 pages. With luck it will be published on the 24th.

The deadline for issue 4 is March 10th and we really need all the stuff then if its to be published before Ostara.

We take submission from anyone, so this is aimed at all who are reading this. Even if you are reading this way after Ostara 2014 you can still send submission to Peppermint and Sage. Go to our home page at www.dragonpalm.com/PAS to find out all we are looking for and a little about how to be part of PAS.





The Door to the Beyond: Mental Health and Paganism by Moss Bliss

Thank you for welcoming me back for another walk through the Door.

Our next question is, what is the relationship between "madness" and Paganism? Quite simply, the answer appears to be that the special gifts which others view as "madness" and those which others view as "psychic abilities" appear to come from the same place – our Inner Child. Do you hear "voices"? They could be your spirit guides, or bad experiences with your family "environment" repeating themselves as though the person who first said those things was saying it right now.

The following is an extract from website information on "The Icarus Project" (<http://theicarusproject.net> – HIGHLY recommended):

"Dangerous Gifts

Despite the risks, we recognize the intertwined threads of madness and creativity as potential tools of inspiration and hope in this repressed and damaged society.

What if madness in society is an ecological response to the monocropping of our minds, and it has the potential to push the sensitive, creative, spiritual people at the fringes to become healers and leaders and turn the whole system upside down? At the very least, history bears witness to the fact that "mental illness" is far more common in populations of artists, writers, and musicians than it is in society at large. The Icarus Project is home to a truly talented and unique bunch of creators and visionaries whose sensitivities allow them access to all kinds of worlds; this section is designed to house art and writing that reflect and explore the brilliance we hold inside.

Visions & Super-Powers Mystics & Shamans

It's striking how much overlap there is between the tendencies and behaviors our society attributes to the "seriously mentally ill" and the tendencies and behaviors that shamanic and mystical cultures view as prerequisite for someone to take on visionary roles. This section explores the ways that sensitivity and altered states of consciousness can grant us access to radically different understandings of reality, sometimes putting us in touch tremendous powers of healing and connecting us to a sense of the mysteries much greater than ourselves.

Dreams

Dreams are full of clues if we allow ourselves to see them. All masked in layers of metaphor and symbol. They can be a whole other set of maps, maps to the underground unconscious each of us carries around with us. Sometimes dreams can even let us know where we are and where we might be going... If you'd like to contribute to this section or help get it off the ground, e-mail scatter@theicarusproject.net.

X-Ray Visions

It is a common experience among people struggling with "mental disorders" to see things that the people around them don't see. While medical authorities usually write off people's visions as mere delusions and recommend higher levels of medication, quite often the things we see and hear are evidence of a heightened sensitivity and of the thin skin that comes with madness. Our porous nature allows us to have an intimate relationship with parts of the world other people will only ever read about. Like all the classic superheroes, our superpowers are dangerous gifts

that intensify the struggle of our lives. But they are superpowers, and we can learn to use them." (end of quote)

Does anything sound familiar here? Icarus Project has taken the lead in demystifying "mental illness", changing the terminology from "sick", "brain disorder", etc., to "Dangerous Gifts".

We all have dangerous gifts. Even the most benign healing powers may do harm, or you may *need* to do harm in order to heal (i.e., killing cancer cells, psychically "cutting tissue", etc.).

It is these same gifts which made us feel "outcasts" in our parents' religion, uncomfortable no matter which church we attended, and caused us to keep searching until either we found Goddess or She found us. It is these same gifts that our religion (with a good teacher or lots of good books) trains us to use, "always harming none." It is these same gifts that are written about in all the Pagan literature, and "The Old Laws" are full of references.

It would be easy to write all Pagans off as "mentally ill". The truth of the matter is that, under current psychiatric definitions, every man, woman and child in the U.S. could fall under some psychiatric diagnosis – or several, or different ones depending on the diagnosing physician. This is not to say that Pagans are "crazy", or any crazier than the rest of the country (or the doctors themselves). Our difference is our strength, the welcome the Lady extends to us, the acceptance (however slowly) of those gifts and the desire to do good with them, the desire to grow those gifts and powers.

It would not do anyone any good to recite the stories of the people who have come to me about going to a "Pagan teacher" and being told that s/he refused to teach them because of their "illness". What will do good is to recognize all our potentials, the safe and the dangerous, and be willing to teach what we know or have experienced.

I hope you remember my earlier belief statement: "God/dess is Love. Love unites; Judgment divides." Turning a potential student away because you are uncomfortable with them, or afraid of them or their "illness", or because of something in their past (especially if they have worked hard to get beyond it) is an admission of your weakness, not that of your po-

tential student. Embrace your Dangerous Gifts as your Lady embraces you.

"Mental illness" is a combination of factors – abuse, poor nutrition, bad experiences, bad drugs, and lazy doctors appear to be the main ones at the time I write this. People with multiple personalities probably developed them to keep their "center" "safe" while their body was being abused by someone. I do not believe that it makes them unacceptable as a Priest or Priestess. I hope I'm not alone in this belief.

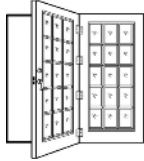
Back to the nutritional angle, I wrote last month about the lack of certain essential fats missing from the typical American diet. There are other deficiencies noted throughout the country, and I'm going to discuss a few of them here.

First, mineral deficiencies. Doctors try to tell us of the dangers of excessive mineral intake, but they rarely tell us the rest of the truth. *All minerals* have an *essential* level, a *therapeutic* level, and a *toxic* level. I don't care if you're discussing radium, oxygen, or calcium, the above is a true statement. For some of those minerals, the *essential* level may be miniscule; for others it is quite large. The typical American diet does not come close to providing essential levels of magnesium, potassium, or other minerals, while it exceeds the levels for sodium, chlorine, and a few others.

Magnesium appears to have a large role in the treatment of "mental illness", particularly stress, anxiety, and panic responses. The amount of magnesium your body needs can range to as high as 3 grams per day or higher; most diets include between 300 and 800 milligrams. The problem with supplementing magnesium is that many forms, in adequate quantities, cause peristalsis (diarrhea, which ends as soon as the excess magnesium is flushed from the system). This is both a plus and a minus, as magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) has been used for generations as a laxative.

The problem is, what form are you taking? Magnesium can be supplemented as oxide, sulfate, carbonate, or even orotate. The trick is to get the magnesium out of your bowel and into the rest of your cells. One common supplement that has been found to aid in this process is malic acid.

The other trick is to use as many of the possible sources as possible – magnesium sulfate is most likely to cause peristalsis, oxide and orotate least likely, but if you balance them you can avoid it entirely. (At least one



The Door to the Beyond: Mental Health and Paganism by Moss Bliss

supplement company sells a "Magnesium Complex" supplement.)

Also, supplementation of magnesium at high levels will throw your calcium level out of balance; always take additional calcium when you're taking extra magnesium. For a variety of reasons, I do *not* recommend mixed calcium-magnesium supplements.

A much-overlooked mineral is lithium, except when you have been diagnosed as "bipolar" or "manic-depressive", in which case your doctor prescribes a common – but very toxic – form of lithium, lithium carbonate. In a combined medical-geological survey in the 1950s, it was noted that some areas with lower rates of "mental illness" than other areas had measurable amounts of lithium in their drinking water.

The only organ in your body which appears to *need* lithium is your brain. Lithium carbonate is dangerous in that it does not easily pass the elemental lithium past the "Blood/Brain Barrier" (I know it sounds silly, but look it up, they really do use this term). The solution, in the mind of medical science, is to flood your body with enough lithium carbonate to get *enough* lithium to your brain. The negative of this is that your **other** organs do **not** need lithium, and this causes many "side-effects" including eventual kidney failure.

The natural solution is to take lithium orotate (lithium chelated with orotic acid, a natural amino acid). Lithium orotate contains a very small amount of lithium, and the orotic acid carrier has been shown in many studies to pass essentially all the lithium through the Blood/Brain Barrier. (Years ago I was taking 1800-2100 mg of lithium carbonate daily, giving me from 756 to 882 mg/day of elemental lithium. I currently take 360 mg of lithium orotate, supplying less than 15 mg/day of elemental lithium.)

I asked my doctor about taking lithium orotate. She stated plainly, "I know nothing about it. I'm not going to talk about that." What is interesting is that she annotated my patient file with the words, "Advised pt. strongly against it." Unless you have an exceptional psychiatrist or doctor, you will likely get the same result.

Excessive lithium intake also tends to degrade or damage your thyroid gland. Lithium orotate has shown (in a few cases, all anecdotal to date) that it does not cause that

harm, indeed, in one case the person's thyroid (having been damaged by intake of lithium carbonate) improved and her doctor cut her Synthroid dosage in half.

For information on this and other natural therapies, especially for bipolar and depression, please visit my website, <http://ALT-therapies4bipolar.info> .

That should be enough to hold you until next month. Question, read, study, talk to others. In particular, I have gotten a lot of support from the Bi-polar_pagans Yahoo group people.

Blessed be,
Moss Bliss

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Magick Night

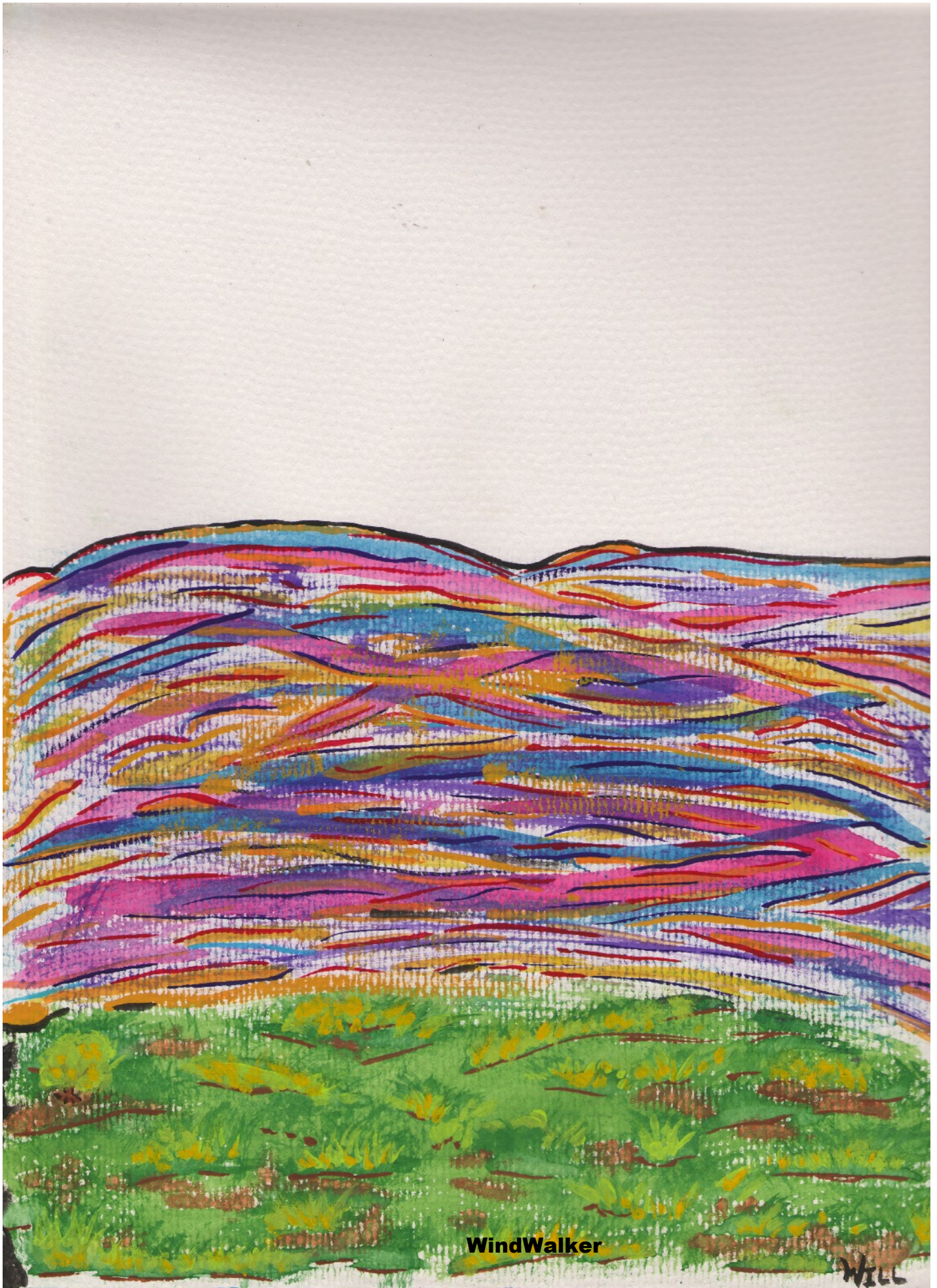
Moss Bliss

By the power of stem and flower
Our magick binds us here
By our flowing, toiling, growing
Drawing ever near
Heart to soul are now made whole
Banish now the fear
Love expands between our hands
And memory one last tear

Binding strength along our length
Deep caring in each touch
Kneeling now, we make our vow
To heal and savor much
Gods now raised, we lift our praise;
Are filled, and in a rout,
Cast off the yoke and, with our folk,
We call the Keepers out

(c) 2013 by Gerald "Moss" Bliss





WindWalker

WILL

Pagan Fun Time



Pagan Word Search

S	N	I	H	S	R	E	D	D	I	W	A	Q	S	Y
X	G	Y	V	A	P	B	E	L	L	B	K	A	F	B
M	R	T	Z	G	U	L	U	N	R	F	B	B	G	O
J	C	F	R	E	F	R	Z	A	R	B	M	O	W	V
P	L	U	M	D	Q	J	C	I	A	L	T	O	T	N
E	O	N	Q	U	H	A	T	T	K	E	F	K	O	R
P	B	T	R	C	D	U	H	X	L	C	J	G	M	N
P	M	J	A	A	A	P	A	C	E	A	A	C	U	R
E	I	E	B	L	A	N	R	Q	I	R	D	P	V	G
R	N	R	U	G	I	I	D	S	D	A	K	N	Y	O
M	A	S	A	B	C	S	Z	L	J	D	G	P	H	D
I	X	N	U	D	H	U	M	Y	E	I	S	C	L	D
N	N	A	C	C	I	W	K	A	J	A	T	N	A	E
T	Q	K	G	H	E	E	R	T	N	I	D	H	J	S
W	O	V	E	M	A	H	T	A	W	S	Z	B	G	S

Words in Pagan Word Search

dragon, witch , wiccan, imbolc, candle, moon, athame, abracadabra, pagan, circle, peppermint, sage, bell, book, ritual, goddess, tree, sabbat, talismans, widdershins, aradia.

How many witches does it take to change a light bulb?

None -- if a candle was good enough for Gramma it's good enough for me!

What's a witch's favorite subject in school?
SPELLing.

How many Witches does it take to change a light bulb?
Depends on what you want to change it into.

What do you call a dating club for unattached Wiccans?
Craft singles!

I'm not a bad witch - I'm a grumpy witch

You say " Witch " like it's a BAD thing!?

Witches use brooms because nature abhors a vacuum

It's hard to soar with Dragons when you work with Gargoyles

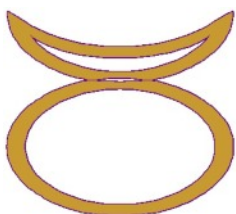
Of course I'm in a bad mood --
Someone just dropped a house on my sister !

If Karma don't knock you down soon
I will !

Will the deity who nailed the Cosmic Karmic " KICK ME " sign to my back, kindly remove it?

I have the body of a god.... Buddha

Do witches run spell checkers?



Pagan Redneck Words

Ostara -- those twinkly things in the night sky

Beltane -- it helps to hold up your pants

Lammas -- hairy South American critters

Shaman -- toilet paper brand

Altar -- letting out your pants

Yule -- a greeting "how Yule doin'?"

Boline -- rolling a 300 on league night

Censer -- to bleep out dirty words

Handfasting -- dieting to get skinny fingers

Imbolc -- buying in quantity

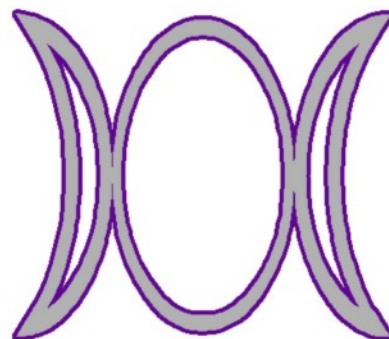
Litha -- deadly

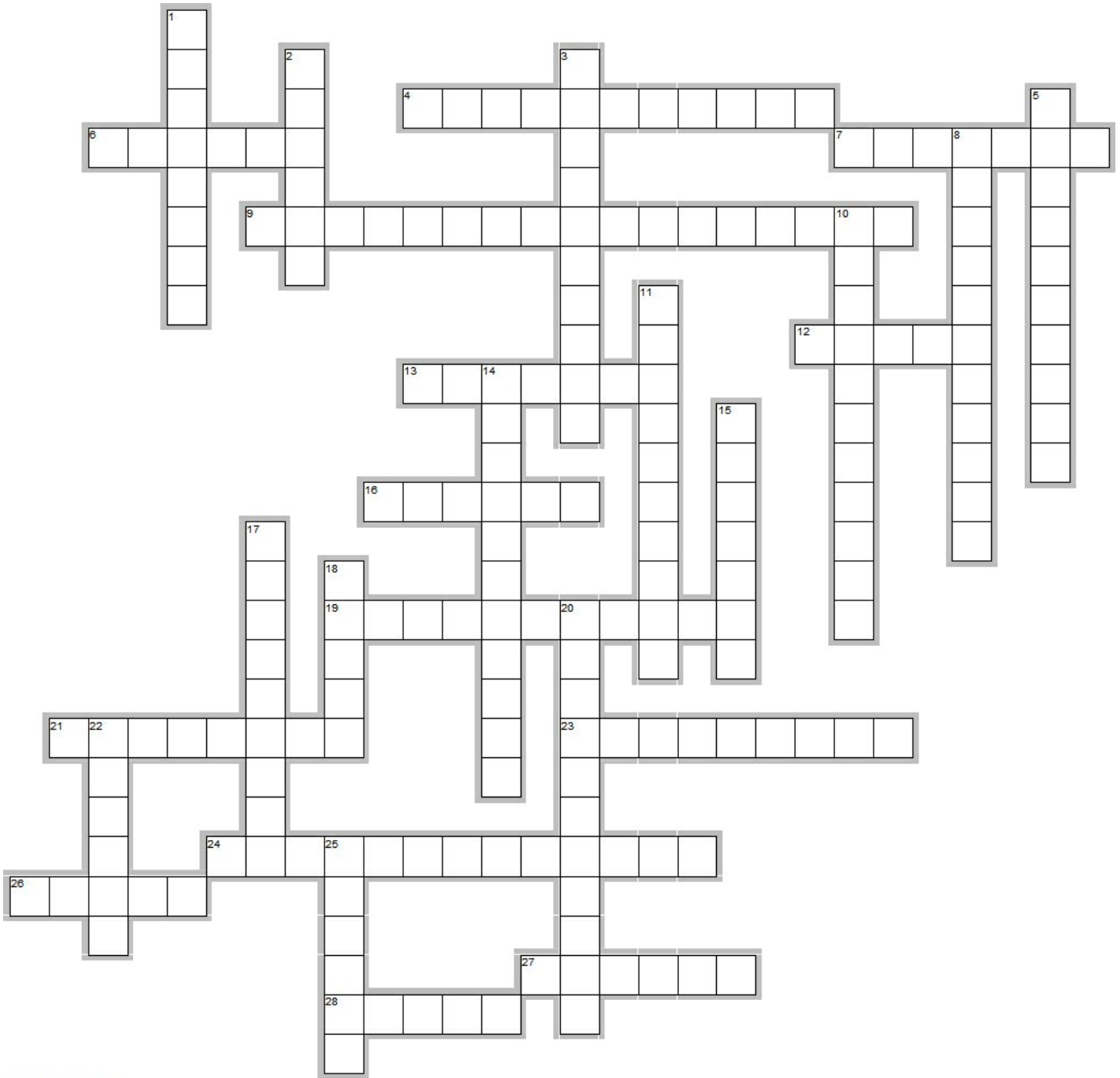
Mabon -- cosmetics brand (see "Mabon Lady")

Runes -- to mess something up

Incense -- marrying your cousin

Wicca -- Oriental furniture





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Across

4. getting a diverse group of pagans all moving in the same direction at the same time. 2 words
6. white handled ritual knife
7. Wizard of Queen Elizabeth I (2 words)
9. the tendency for everything to run far behind the gathering's original schedule. 3 words
12. broom, especially one made of twigs
13. magical art of optical illusions
16. magical liquid that can cure illness or extend life
19. spells or verbal charms that are sung, spoken or chanted
21. Female warrior spirits lead by Freya
23. Its key concept is "as Above, so Below"
24. "Father" of modern Wicca
26. spiritual entities native to the middle east and north Africa

27. High three legged stool. Also a photography tool
28. A master magician

Down

1. a large metal kettle or pot
2. a female devotee of Dionysus
3. The art of foretelling the unknown, whether in the past, present or future
5. a skill many High Priestesses need to develop, let the rest of us help
8. Practitioner of the art of divination via communications with the dead
10. Latin ecclesiastical term for Witches
11. Italian Witchcraft and Magical traditions
14. "King of the Witches" (2 words)
15. to influence by charms and incantations
17. the sacred union of female and males forces (2 words)
18. Gaelic word for fairy
20. magical charm or incantation
22. daughter of Diana and Lucifer
25. ritual knife or dagger



Coven Pecking Order

Wonder what all those *degrees* and *titles* are for? Here's your answer!

High Priest: Leaps tall buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a locomotive, is faster than a speeding bullet, walks on water and dictates policy to God.

3rd Degree Initiate: Leaps short buildings in a single bound, more powerful than a switch engine, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on water...if the sea is calm and talks to God.

2nd Degree Initiate: Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds, is faster than a BB, more powerful than a railroad hand-car, walks on water in a swimming pool and talks to God... if a special request is approved.

1st Degree Initiate: Clears a small hut, loses the race with a locomotive, can fire a speeding bullet, swims well and is occasionally addressed by God.

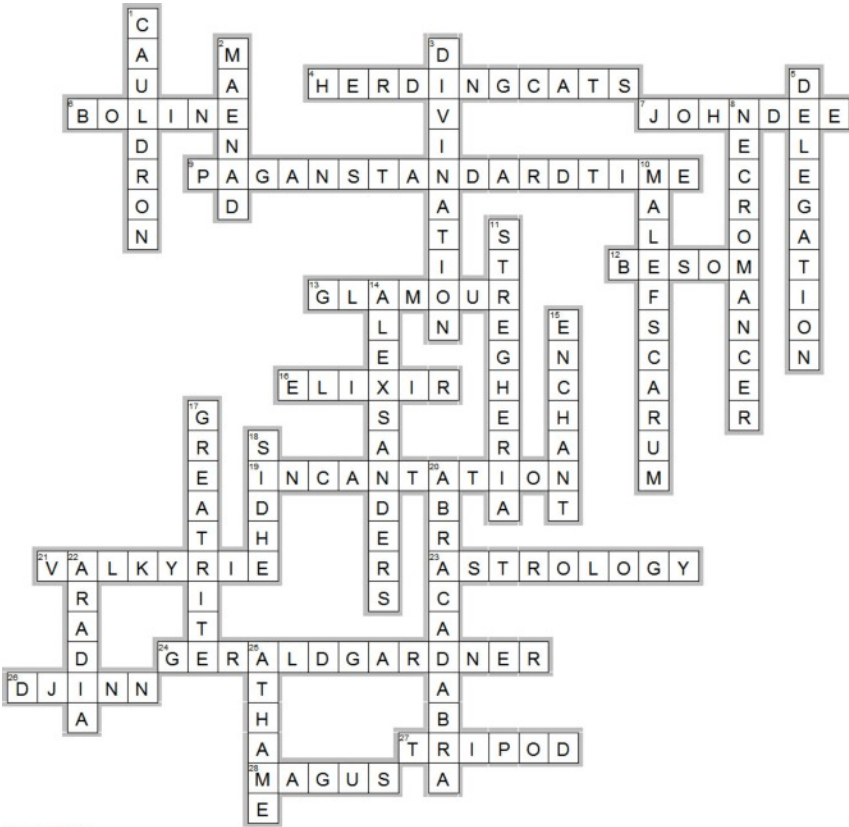
Neophyte: Runs into small buildings, recognizes a locomotive two out of three times, frequently wets self with a water pistol, can do the doggy paddle and mostly mumbles to animals.

High Priestess: Lifts tall buildings to walk under them, kicks locomotives off the track, catches speeding bullets in her teeth and freezes water with a single glance. SHE *IS* GOD.

Christian Bear

One day a preacher was walking through the woods, singing and praising, when he met a big bear. He was very frightened and dropped to his knees to pray. "God," he prayed, "if you do nothing else, PLEASE make this bear a Christian, God-Fearing bear!"

The bear stood motionless for a few moments, then got down on its knees and said, "Dear God, I am truly thankful for the food you have prepared for me this day."



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Tree Goddess Picture

By Aquilis FireHaven

The picture on the next page is for sale, 14" X 17" chalk pastel on paper, \$30 neg. Unframed.

Back Cover

Snow Lady
Photography/Digital/Handdrawn Art
by Cardea Hinges

