

Midsummer Ritual of the Artisan

SHAPING LIGHT, WEAVING DEVOTION

Traditionally some of our European ancestors would honour this sabbath by celebrating around bonfires, crafting flower wreaths and crowns, honouring the goddess in her birth giving, and rolling fire wheels. Definitely a day to spend in nature with the elements and in community. As a personal ritual or shared with family and/or friends, collecting and crafting a sunwheel/flower wreath/crown is beautiful way of honouring and celebrating the beauty and life force of summer.

COLLECT AND CRAFT A FLOWER WREATH FOR YOUR OUTSIDE ALTAR

Follow the tradition of the wise women of old, who would gather herbs, that were believed to have the highest potency on this sabbath. This could be done on Midsummers Eve or on the day.

Traditional midsummer herbs include:

- St. John's Wort – solar power, protection
- Yarrow – healing, boundaries
- Mugwort – intuition, liminal sight
- Lavender – peace, blessing
- Rose – love, beauty
- Chamomile – joy, calm
- Thyme or Rosemary – courage, remembrance

Let nature call you to go exploring and follow your senses to any plant, shrub or herb that are currently flowering or showing off their beautiful foliage. Feel the life affirming connection with nature, with your garden, with your own backyard or favourite nature spot, reserve or river side. Dive into playful dialog with the plants, some might invite you to sit longer and share more deeply, an old oak, myrtle, beech or eucalypt perhaps... Whenever you are tempted to gather and harvest always ask permission, take only what you need and leave an offering of water, song, prayer or simple gratitude.

Find a cool shady spot to craft and weave your harvest into a wreath/sun wheel. Spread a blanket to sit on and light a candle or if possible and safe, light a little fire to honour the fire element that is at its most potent at this time.

Work slowly, while you reflect on what has grown in your life since spring, aspects of your life that are maturing and perhaps what must now be tended so it does not burn out. Let your hands lead - this is a body prayer.

Consecration of the Sunwheel

Hold the wheel at heart level facing the setting sun.

Speak your Intention for the next quarter of the year wheel, what you would like to grow and harvest from the creative life force of summer.

Place the sunwheel where it can greet the sunrise.

After the solstice you may either burn the wreath to let its medicine transform and release back into the collective or place it somewhere in your home to remind you of power and sacredness of Litha and your ritual.

The Artisan Invocation

DEAREST ARTISAN, I CALL UPON YOUR RADIANT GRACE,
SHE WHO SHAPES THE SACRED FROM THE SIMPLE.
KEEPER OF BEAUTY, GUARDIAN OF FORM,
MAY YOUR HANDS GUIDE MINE AS I WEAVE LIFE INTO ART.

TEACH ME TO SEE THE DIVINE IN THE ORDINARY,
TO TOUCH CREATION WITH TENDERNESS AND AWE.
MAY I HONOUR THE BODY AS TEMPLE,
THE SENSES AS GATEWAYS TO THE SOUL.

LET ME CRAFT NOT FOR PERFECTION, BUT FOR PRESENCE—
TO FEEL THE PULSE OF EARTH BENEATH MY FINGERTIPS,
AND REMEMBER THAT EVERY ACT OF CREATION IS AN ACT OF DEVOTION.

ARTISAN, SCULPTRESS OF THE SACRED,
STAND BESIDE ME AS I MOULD MY LIFE WITH INTENTION.
SHOW ME HOW TO SOFTEN WHERE I'VE BECOME RIGID,
TO TRUST IN THE SLOW UNFOLDING OF BEAUTY,
AND TO FIND WORTH NOT IN WHAT I PRODUCE, BUT IN HOW I LOVE.

MAY I GATHER INSPIRATION FROM THE RHYTHM OF THE SEASONS,
THE SONG OF THE WIND, THE PATIENCE OF STONE.
MAY I LEARN TO ADORN MY WORLD NOT IN EXCESS,
BUT IN REVERENCE FOR WHAT IS REAL AND TRUE.

I HONOUR THE SACRED ELEMENTS THAT SHAPE MY JOURNEY—
EARTH, AIR, FIRE, WATER, AND AETHER,
AND THE ALLIES THAT WALK BESIDE ME—STONE, ANIMAL, PLANT, AND SPIRIT.
I CALL UPON THE HEALING FORCES OF NATURE,
AND OFFER MYSELF FULLY TO THE WORK OF EMBODIMENT.

IN THIS SACRED SPACE, I INVOKE THE POWER OF UNITY,
THE STRENGTH OF THE FIERCE FEMININE RISING ONCE MORE.
MAY I HONOUR THE BEAUTY WITHIN MY BEING,
AND WALK WITH GRACE, PRESENCE, AND CREATIVE DEVOTION,
WEAVING, GROUNDING, AND BLOSSOMING WITH EVERY STEP I TAKE.

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW.
AS WITHIN, SO WITHOUT.
SO IT IS, AND SO IT SHALL BE.

Sam Wheel

