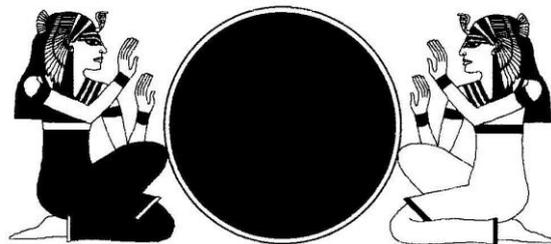


Temple of the Dark Moon



An Autumn Equinox Thought

(from the Temple of the Dark Moon)

As the Wheel of the Year turns, we find ourselves at a time of balance, between light and dark, as night and day face each other. It is also a time of both giving and receiving, and of life and death. While the Spring Equinox, manifests the equilibrium before action, the Autumnal Equinox represents the repose after action, the time to take satisfaction in the work of the Summer and reap its benefits. Often, these benefits are made all the “sweeter” when shared with others.

The Autumn Equinox marks the completion of the second harvest and we are told that it is within the grain that the Inner Mysteries are held - that of birth, death and rebirth. Spend some time contemplating your own harvest, giving thanks for what you have received as well as the inspiration of the underlying goals and aspirations of things yet to come.

The Autumn Equinox marks the completion of the harvest, a time of thanksgiving, with the emphasis on the future return of that abundance. The ancient Eleusinian Mysteries were said to have taken place at this time of the year, during which the initiate were shown a single ear of grain with the words:

“In silence is the seed of wisdom gained.”

Within the Wiccan mythos, the light and life that the Solar King has given potency to Mother Earth has brought about a change. The God now moves into the guise as the God of the Vine, before making His descent into the Underworld where He will take up the role as the Dreaded Lord of the Shadows. This giving to Mother Earth has come at a price and as the Solar King’s light and energy wanes, darkness will prevail and the land will grow cold.

As the leaves fall and lie rotting on the Earth they are a reflection of the Horn’d God’s journey from the Summer’s Greenwood to the Underworld, deep within the womb of the Great Mother. It is here that He will reside until the Spring, where, like the new green shoots, He will emerge once again.

The Goddess is also in a phase of transition. Having shared Her bounty, She starts to gather those around Her who will soon leave this Earth. She mourns the lost of Her beloved lord but knows that soon they will meet again deep within the Underworld.

As we accept the bounty of Mother Earth, we also realise that Her giving has a price. That price, like the Solar King's, is death. With each harvest, we see the plants start to wither and go brown. As the grains are cut down, the fields lie barren behind. As we give thanks for what has been, we know that as the Wheel turns, life will return to the land.

As we remember the story of the land, the Wheel of the Year, the dance of the God and the Goddess - for this dance is not only around us, but within us as well.

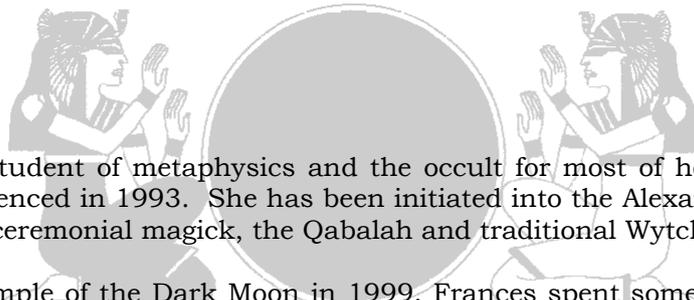
Sources:

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Wheel of the Year: Myth and Magic through the Seasons by Teresa Moorey and Jane Brideson

The Witches Bible by Janet and Stewart Farrar



About the Author:

Frances has been a student of metaphysics and the occult for most of her life, with her formal training having commenced in 1993. She has been initiated into the Alexandrian Wicca tradition, with interests also in ceremonial magick, the Qabalah and traditional Wytchcraft.

After founding the Temple of the Dark Moon in 1999, Frances spent some six years as secretary for the Pagan Alliance Inc (SA) where she worked closely with both the Police and Attorney General with respect to changes in legislation. She has led rituals with Chief Druid, Philip Carr-Gomm, and occult philosophy Ramsay Dukes, as well as presented lectures at various national and international events.

Frances regularly writes for *Insight*, Australia's number one spiritual lifestyle magazine, with her articles also appearing in over 10 separate publications, including *Spellcraft*, *The Cauldron*, *Circle* and the Llewellyn's *Witch's Calendar*. She has further essays in a number of anthologies including *The Faerie Queens*, *Unto Herself: A Devotional Anthology for Independent Goddesses*, and *Memento Mori*.

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Frances can be contacted through the Temple of the Dark Moon.

Temple of the Dark Moon
PO Box 2451
SALISBURY DOWNS SA 5108
Australia

(Email: frances@templdarkmoon.com)

Web site: www.templdarkmoon.com