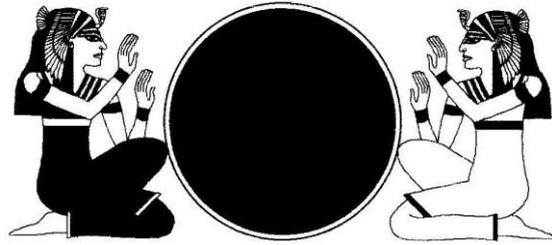


# Temple of the Dark Moon



## A Lughnasadh Thought

*(from the Temple of the Dark Moon)*

Lughnasadh is Celtic meaning “the commemoration of Lugh”, the Irish God who was associated with the Sun and agriculture. The festival itself is believed to have been held in honour of his foster-mother, Tailtu (Tailltiu). According to Irish legend, Lugh was a leader of the Tuatha De Danann (meaning “the peoples of the Goddess Dana”), one of the last invaders of Ireland, while Balor was leader of the Fomors. In a battle between the two races, the Fomors were defeated and Lugh blinded Balor. Most versions of this story indicate Lugh as either the son or the grandson of Balor.

Tailtu, was the daughter of the Fir Bolg king, Mag Mór, and later became their queen. As a favour to her son Tailtu cleared the Forest of Breg, making a plain for cultivation, but she died of exhaustion for her trouble. Lugh decreed a feast to be held in her honour at Tailtean (modern day Telltown in Ireland’s County Meath). These festivals were said to have lasted 15 days.

Within the Wheel of the Year, Lughnasadh (Lammas as the Anglo-Saxons called it), is the first of the three harvest festivals, that being of first fruits. The God has moved from his guise as the Solar King to that of the Shadow One. His power and energy is waning as he freely gives it to the crops in order to ensure life. And at this time of the year, the fields are full of golden ripening grain.

The Goddess is also changing, into her guise as the wise old Crone. While it is the God who figures prominently at this Sabbat, without the Goddess, there would be no crops, no harvest to be thankful for.

Celebrate to refresh and vitalise the body and spirit for the important harvesting work that lies ahead. It is a time of giving thanks for the bountiful harvest that can be seen and felt all around. You should be seeing the efforts of your labour beginning to manifest. Look at your life and see where you have aimed. What have you accomplished that you set out to do? What still needs to be done? Now is the time to stop and look at the big picture – are you still on track? Are you where you want to be? Are you who you want to be? If you are unhappy, not satisfied, are you able to see what needs to be changed? Are you prepared to make that change?

The Goddess provides but only what we are willing to work for and harvest by our own efforts. All that she provides will rot on the vine and grow wild if we do not add our own labour of love and care to her efforts.

*Hoof and horn, hoof and horn  
All that dies shall be reborn  
Corn and grain, corn and grain  
All that falls shall rise again.*

Sources:

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*Magick without Peers* by Ariadne Rainbird and David Rankine

*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@templedarkmoon.com](mailto:frances@templedarkmoon.com))  
Web site: [www.templedarkmoon.com](http://www.templedarkmoon.com)