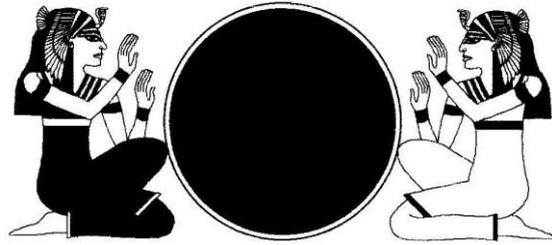


Temple of the Dark Moon



A Spring Equinox Thought

(from the Temple of the Dark Moon)

The Spring Equinox falls around 20-22 September in the Southern Hemisphere (20-22 March in the Northern Hemisphere) and celebrates a point in the seasonal calendar when the length of daylight equals the length of the night. It is also referred to as Ostara, or Eostre, believed to be an Anglo-Saxon or Teutonic Goddess. Although there is little known about the Goddess Eostre, her Greek counterpart is thought to be Eos or Aurora, who left her marital bed at the end of each night and rose from the ocean, lighting the dark sky with her rosy finger. Eostre is believed to have brought the dawn of the day and after this festival, she also brings the dawn of the year. She gave her name to "Easter", which, in the Christian faith, replaced the Jewish Passover.

At this time of year the natural energies subtly shift from the sluggishness of Winter to the exuberant expansion of Spring. The Goddess blankets the Earth with fertility, bursting forth from Her sleep, as the God stretches and grows into maturity. He walks the paddocks and delights in the abundance of nature. This is a time of beginnings, of action, of planting spells for future gains.

The Great Mother returns as the Spring Maiden and it is a time to celebrate Her return. Spring is when the God is at his most Pan-ish. He is Lord of the Forest, a lusting free symbol of youth, a symbol of instinct in tune with nature and with the animals. He is free, careless of responsibilities, the adolescent coming into maturity, roaming the forests and the bush.

Light equals darkness, and this can be taken as a representation of the Goddess meeting the God. Now the young man and woman pursue one another, each becoming more aware of the other's sex.

The Spring Equinox represents a time for energy and activity. Plans and ideas that have been formulated can be given new life now. Now is the time for spring cleaning - both physically, emotionally and mentally. Start to organise yourself and your time - sort out how much time you waste on activities which do not interest you, then start spending time on those things which do interest you.

Dress your altar with a green cloth and decorate it with seeds, Spring flowers and budding twigs. Use a green candle to represent new life if possible, or white to represent the Maiden Goddess. Suitable incense is frankincense, cinnamon, aloes or musk.

Sources:

Dancing the Sacred Wheel: A Journey through the Southern Sabbats by Frances Billingham

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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