

Ahriana's Musings

Yule Night

December 21st, 2008

Hello, Dear Friends!

It is Yule, and tonight, friends from far and near will gather in faith that we can survive the longest night. From this night forward, we will experience a little more sunlight each day, until the Spring arrives in all her colorful glory.

There is much romanticizing about this holiday and how the ancestors celebrated. Lengthy conversations are held about the origins of the Christmas Tree, Gift Giving, and the Jolly Ol' Elf himself. I wonder if it might be more important to discuss what these traditions mean in our modern world, where the holiday season can be challenging for so many.

My sweetheart is outside, as I am writing, stringing lights on the Douglas Fir in our yard. We decorate the Evergreen because it is the one living thing that consistently stays green throughout the winter. We see it as proof that Mother Nature has not abandoned us. She is simply resting, in preparation for a new season of growth and abundance. Despite the headlines about unemployment, crime rates and economic decline, the Evergreen reminds us that we have the strength to persevere through the "winter" of our own lives. It serves as a reminder to have faith.

We hang apples and strings of popcorn as gifts to the animals because it is harder to find food this time of year. It is a way to give back to "that-which-is-wild," and to remember that we are all interconnected. As we care for the wild world, we honor our own wildness, the untamable human spirit that tenaciously finds a new way of doing things. This same tenacity delivers us to the doorway of change.

The sparkling ornaments dance and sway, reminding us of the brilliance of our lives. Each dazzling glint of light opens our imagination, attracting the fairy realm – the devic kingdom – the unseen "spirit" of Nature. This "spirit of the season" warms us, comforts us and plays in our hearts, allowing us to find a sense of joy. It is this same "spirit" that sparks the flame within – the radiant flame that burns brightly in our hearts and lights the path ahead of us.

Tonight, in my home, a small group will gather. We will exchange gifts, reminding each other that there is always enough. We will light candles and, as each one ignites, we will share our visions for the future. We will warm each other with our laughter and our stories, and, together, we will face a new dawn. The "longest night" will give way to the eternal sun!

Ahriana's Musings

You see, these ancient ways are as important today as they were in times gone by. How they originated is not as important as the fact that they exist. Our "Winter" is different than the winter faced by our ancestors. What threatens our survival is different. Yet, our need for faith, comfort, courage and strength, is the same. "Spirit" remains the blazing gift that guides us through the darkness into the light.

From my house to yours, a wish for a very blessed Yuletide. May your fires burn warm and the morning light inspire you.

Blessed be,

Ahriana Platten