THE GEORGIAN NEWSLETTER

Beltane 2008

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SPOTLIGHT

Lady Rhiannon Etain, High Priestess of Coven Shadowdragon in Bakersfield… ground zero for the Georgian Tradition.

GNL – When did you "discover" Paganism and Wicca. Tell us a little bit.

Rhiannon Etain - I believe that I've always been a witch I have always believed the way I believe I just never knew the name for it. Spirituality has been a big motivating factor in my life I was an American Baptist when I was a teenager then when Loki and I moved to Nevada we became Mormon Even went to the Temple and wore the oh so cute undergarments. but the more we learned about the religion the weirder it gets and I started going to a meditation group ordered a Scott Cunninham book and I knew i was on the right tract. When Loki and I moved to Bakersfield CA I found out that we had a tradition in Bakersfield little poduck Bakersfield and I called to sign up. Well This bitch told me they were going to be gone for a week on Vacation at some Mountain Meet and would be gone for a week. The nerve!!! I patiently waited for the week to pass and called them back they were tired but finally agreed to meet me at the Barnes and Nobles. When I walked in I knew them immediately as my family. I even interrupted Shonsu and told him to shut-up I was talking Then rest is history the minute I told Shonsu to shut up Lady Du dracorum said she loved me.

GNL -What tradition did you start in? if any? How long have you been interested in the craft?

Rhiannon Etain - All my life, I've been talking to gophers in top hats since I was about two *(we can see here that Sherri lives in her own little world…can't we?)*

GNL - How long have you been a Georgian? & years Who damned you to this trad?

Rhiannon Etain - My own fault<g>

GNL - Children? (how many?), grandchildren?

Rhiannon Etain – Loki and I have been blessed with four children One boy Named Monty. three girls name odie, katie and Baby. Oh and we also Have a 24 year old Named Nick and three teenagers name Jacob (17), Jacy (15), and Bonnie (13) NO GRANDCHILDREN UNTIL THEY CAN SUPPORT THEMSELVES!!!!!!!!

GNL - Do any children of Georgians call you grandma?

Rhiannon Etain – . I have an adopted son Named Warren who is a second degree Georgian, I have Demeter Rayne, Kane, their two beautiful boys, Lady Kerridwen, I don't know what she calls me but it sure ain't momma

GNL - Describe your life a little these days, what great is going on?

Rhiannon Etain - I will be graduating This May from SBBC and have a AS in legal studies, and in June I'll be starting My bachelor's in Paralegal studies through Kaplin University then going on to Law School

GNL - Attended/Missed many Mt Meets?

Rhiannon Etain – Yes I've attended and yes I've missed but I'm working on my aim

GNL -Any really good stories you fondly remember or shiver at the thought of these days you might wanna share with us?

Rhiannon Etain – Well there was this Lupercalia and we had this handsome representation of the God answer the door when the pizza arrived dressed only in a loin cloth (a very tiny loin cloth) Or should we save that one????

GNL – weellll, what say we save that one for Mt Meet huh?! And that's all we have for this particular spotlite! (and not a camera in the house! <g>)

Recipes

SAND TARTS (OLD GERMAN STYLE)

2 1/2 cups Sugar

2 cups Butter

2 each Egg, well beaten

1 each Egg white

4 cups Flour

Pecans

Cinnamon

Cream the butter and sugar together. Slowly add the flour, working it in well. Add the well-beaten eggs and mix thoroughly. Chill over night. Roll out thin on lightly floured board; brush cookies with the egg white which has been slightly beaten, sprinkle with sugar and a little cinnamon and press 1/2 pecan into center of cookie. Bake at 350-F about 10 minutes.

Dorothy Morrison

BELTANE

(April 30 and May 1)

Related Deities: May Queen, Stag Lord, Jack-in-the-Green, the Green Man
Related Herbs: Frankincense, rose, lemon balm, lemon thyme
Related Stones: Quartzes crystal, sunstone, orange calcite, malachite

Beltane is a fire and fertility festival in which we welcome summer and coax it to join us. Since this festival was first celebrated by the Celts – and they figured days from sundown to sundown – this celebration begins at sunset April 30and continues through sunset May 1. The word Beltane comes from the Welsh words *tan* (meaning fire) and Bel (the name of the Welsh Sky God). Combined, the words mean "fire in the sky", creating a wonderfully appropriate name for invoking the spirit of summer.

Traditionally, two babies – one of each sex- were selected annually to be trained for the roles of the Stag Lord and the May Queen. Their time came at the age of 14, and the boy in his role of Stag Lord, ran with the deer. At some point, the dominant buck, or Great Stag, of the herd would sense the intruder, and it was up to the Stag Lord to overcome him. Returning victorious and undamaged, the Stag Lord then mated with the May Queen in symbolic consummation between God and Goddess, brining fertility to all of the lands around them.

Although this ritual was of major importance to the celebration of Beltane, it by no means was the only custom with which the festival is associated. The celebrants danced around the Maypole in a clockwise motion – the direction of the Sun's journey across the face of the Earth – while weaving the flowers and vines tightly to it's surface. The pole maintained it's reign in the center of the village until it was replaced the following year, at which time it was split into logs to fuel the new Beltane fire.

The Beltane fires burned throughout the entire celebration as a symbol of the Sun's lengthening reign in the sky. Livestock was driven between two bonfires during the festival, as a measure of protection from disease in the coming year. The frail and sick also passed between the fires to obtain the Sun's healing blessings. This procedure was very important, for sick people are seldom fruitful, and to ancient people, fertility was a matter of life and death. Abundance of the land and livestock ensured a plentiful food supply, and fertility of the people meant that the procreation of humankind would continue without fail.

Although an ancient festival, Beltane is still celebrated today the world over, by Pagans and Christians alike. The Dance of the May Pole is still common practice as the spirit of summer is "conjured" in, and people everywhere adorn themselves with floral delights and brightly colored clothes. There are games for the children, and it is common practice for couples to jump over the bonfire for fertility and general good luck. Gardens are blessed and May baskets are delivered to the elderly with cheer and good tidings. It is still a day of frivolity, sensuality, and delight – but it is also a good day to reflect upon our ancestors and give thanks to the Lady and Lord for our good fortune.

Beltane Circle Notes

Celebrate this ritual outdoors near a living tree. (If that's not possible, bring a small potted tree, or plant indoors.) Use a dark green altar cloth and decorate with flowers of the season. Anoint green candles with floral-scented oil and place them in flower covered candle rings. Burn Beltane incense (a mixture of crushed almonds, frankincense, and rose petals). Mark the Circle perimeter with flower petals.

Cast the Circle using the wand. Alternatively, use a bouquet of flowers tied with colored ribbons.

Beltane Celebration Ideas
Light a fire in the fireplace at sundown to invoke the Sun God, keep it going till sundown May 1. If you don't have a fireplace – or it's to hot for a fire- light a large white or yellow seven day candle. When lighting the fire or wick, chant:

God of Sun, Fire in sky
Light the Earth and warm the night
Warm our spirits, hearts, and hands
Shed Your light upon this land

Using a coat hanger wire as a base, make a door wreath of fresh greenery and flowers. (Just shape the wire into a circle, then attach small bunches and greenery with floral wire. Finish off with a pretty bow). Decorate the house with any leftover plant materials.

If you have a yard and can dance the Maypole outside, obtain a closet pole from your nearest hardware store or lumber yard. These make excellent Maypoles and are very inexpensive. Cut ribbon streamers twice the length of the pole and fasten them securely to the pole top with small nails or brads. Pound the pole into the ground in the center of the yard.

Hold a food drive and make food baskets. Bless them by chanting:

Fire of Sky and Fire of Sun
End all hunger – be it done

Take the baskets to those less fortunate than you. Deliver them to homeless shelters or to people living on the streets. You can contact local church personnel for lists of families needing food.

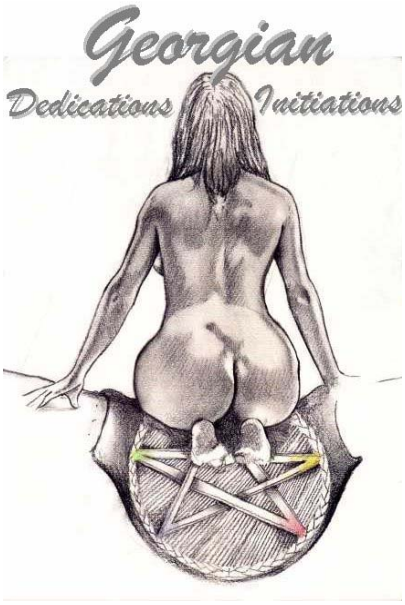
Serve an evening meal of breakfast foods to invoke the fertility of the Sun God. Pancake, eggs, milk, cheese, bacon, sausage, and honey are good options. Fix an extra plate for the Sun God, leave it outside in the East when supper is finished.

Before going to bed, say the following prayer for Universal fertility:

Lord and Lady, Growing Sun
Bless us in our work and fun
Bless the land and animals, too
Bless the crops and morning dew
Bless all that lives upon this land
Bestow Your great abundance and
Fertilize all that we do
This we humbly ask of you

This is taken from Dorothy Morrison's book "The Craft, A Witches Book Of Shadows" and you can find this on Page 165

ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Students and teachers, witches and witchlings hard at it boiling cauldrons and rounding up newts for spells and potions. The following witches have been elevated in degree, we are all proud of them and the degree's are well deserved by all!!

~1st degree –
Spiritmother of Coven of Children Between the Worlds
Brian, son of Demeterrayne.
Loki and daughter **Bonnie** of the Shadowdragon coven
~2nd degree

~3rd degree

BIRTHDAYS:
Rhiannonetain – April 27
Loye – April 30
Tex – long time ago
Georgia – bout the same time as Tex

Taurus

Monthly Forecast for April, 2008

What's that tug you feel on the 1st? Wait a second -- what's that tug from the opposite direction? Uh oh -- it looks like you're smack dab in the middle of a power struggle as the month begins. Your first step is to identify, quickly, who's pulling and from which direction. Once you've identified the source of the strain, you can devise an escape plan. Let them play their tug-of-war games with a rope, not a person! On the 5th, don't be in too much of a rush -- it won't get you anywhere. The 7th is your day to shine -- so put on your most glorious smile. On the 11th and 12th, your attachments -- both the romantic and zipper-and-button varieties -- are foremost in your mind. Maybe it's a good time to do a little emotional bungee jumping? On the 16th, romance is the name of the game, and you're playing to win. On the 21st, jealousy is a great big no-no. So don't go there! On the 26th, you're the earthiest person in the room. Get everybody centered. On the 30th, don't forget to confide in your friends -- that's what they're there for!

Taurus is commonly known as The Bull. It passes through the sky from November through March. Taurus was a very popular constellation in ancient times, so there are many myths about it. The Greeks thought the stars represented Zeus in disguise as a white bull. He

tricked Europa into climbing on his back. He then swam out to sea and carried her to Crete. In Egypt, the constellation was a reminder of Apis, the Bull of Memphis. He served as a servant to Osiris, god of the Sun.

Just as famous as Taurus is the group of stars within it. The Pleiades are a group of seven stars that lie on the Bull's shoulder. The Greeks believed these were the Seven Sisters, daughters of Atlas and Pleione. It was told that they asked Zeus

to place them in the sky to escape Orion, who was desperately pursuing them. Little did they know that Orion would be placed right next to Taurus in the night sky!

The brightest star in Taurus is Aldebaran. It serves as the eye of the bull and is near the Hyades, a lesser known but still visible group of stars. The beautiful Crab Nebula is located above the tip of the bottom horn

Lothar's Musings

I hope you all will bear with me as I wax philosophically, and then add your own ponderings to mine own:

I find myself of late wondering about the efficacy of our version of sympathetic magick. We learn that wine, juice, ale, water, practically anything that we can drink can be transposed for the BLOOD of our GOD.

True, if such potables are at least coloured red the better, but who has not been in Circle with cookies and milk, crackers and water, even cherrios and KoolAid? Where do we draw the line? Who decides these things? EVERY High Priest and High Priestess have the power to decide such things we have been taught, BUT, I still wonder what the Gods think of such substitutions.

We all have recipes for Sabbat Cakes in our BOS; little crescent shaped cookies that are supposed to embody the spirit of Our Lady at Her most abundant.

Raise your hand if you still use them. Raise your hand if you have ever used them. Generally we use whatever cookies we got at the market on sale as we drove to Sabbat. Yes, I know there are those of us who have baked fresh home-made cakes, but, are we not in the minority? Is Sara Lee and Little Debbie our TRUE depiction of the Mother? I am not saying that using such cakes make any of us less than true Pagans/Georgians, HELL it might even make us more so.

Several years ago I was planning a Lupercalia celebration. I did some research into the practices of the Luperci and came to the realization that I wanted to get as close to the REAL practice as I could. In so doing, I was looking into the possibility of RITUALLY SACRIFICING a goat, flaying the hide for whips, and roasting the flesh for the Feast. When I brought up my ideas, you would have thought I had suggested slitting the throat of an un-Baptised male child to render fat into flying ointment. Are we so far from the farm and woods these days that we no longer no where our food comes from? I was planning on purchasing the goat, raising it as a sacrifice, giving it all due reverance before and after, and then using as much of the whole goat as possible. NO DICE, I was told.

When you plan a Sabbat, do you take into account who will be attending and when they will be able to attend? If the Sabbat falls on a weekday, do you move it to a convenient weekend? Or do you hold your Sabbat on the calendar day and whoever can not make it, for whatever reason, will just have to suffer? I truly believe that we all live our religion every day, so what does it matter if we fudge a celebration day one way or the other? Isn't it the thought and energy and power that we put into our magick and celebrations that are key? I believe so.

I do have more but I am late for Sabbat and need to shower before-hand. Maybe I'll write more, maybe YOU will. Either way I hope this makes us all think a little.

Dorothy Morrison

Walking the Path

By Dorothy Morrison
From her book "The Craft"
Page 8 of the Craft

The Witches' Creed

"To Know
To Dare
To Will
To keep Silent;
These are the four words of the Magus.
In order to Dare, we must Know
In order to Will, we must Dare.
We must Will to possess empire.
To reign, we must be Silent."

To Know: We must free our minds and clear them of useless clutter, garbage and worn-out notions. Only we can open them to accept the gifts of knowledge and truth – the gifts of the Ancients – that await us.

To Dare: We must dare to overcome our own personal ignorance and outdated beliefs. Only then will we gain the personal strength necessary to walk the path of the Craft.

To Will: Without personal will, our magic comes to naught. In order for our efforts to reach success, we must want our goals so badly that we become one with them.

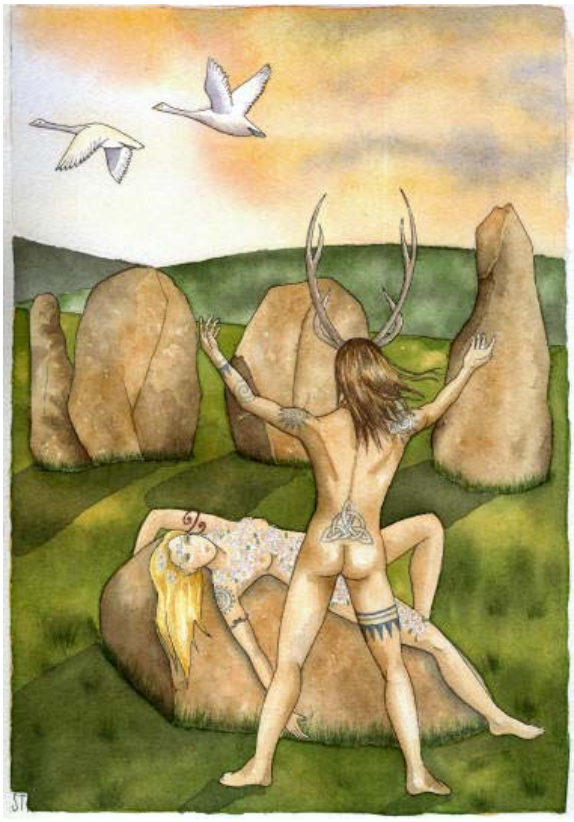
To Keep Silent: This is a twofold matter. First we must acquire the trait of inner peace and quiet, and cultivate it well within ourselves. Only then can we hear the messages of the Gods, or hear the truth within. The second matter is a mundane one. Unfortunately, bigoted, frightened people still live in the world, and we must understand that those who do not wish to be educated will not be. For that reason, silence is often necessary to protect ourselves and the ways of the Craft.

~~EXCERPT FROM THE OLD NEWSLETTER~~

The coven here recorded a radio program for a local station recently. We did a short ritual, written for the occasion, and a group interview. This was made into 5 short programs to run one each day through the week.

Thank you Cindy for sending these in

It is Beltane, the 1st May. The sun grows low and the lonely stones of the Swinside Circle cast long shadows across the bleak, weather beaten hillside.



Herne, the horned God and his bride, the May Queen, welcome and season and rejoice in the fecundity of the blossoming earth.

Sharyn Turner

Recipes

Strawberry Crisp

1 c Uncooked Oatmeal
1 c All purpose Flour
1 c Brown Sugar
1/4 c Chopped Walnuts
1/2 c Butter or margarine
1/2 c Sugar
3 c Sliced fresh or frozen Strawberry

Mix together oatmeal, flour and brown sugar. Add nuts. Cut in butter or margarine until crumbly. In another bowl, mix strawberries and white sugar together. Grease an 8" square pan. Spread half the crumb mixture on bottom. Cover with strawberries. Spread remaining crumb mixture over top. Bake at 350 deg F oven for 45 minutes. Serve warm or cold with whipped cream or topping.

Chris L Snyder's Musings

In reply to Lothar

Not directed at any specific person or group.

I agree whole hardily with you, Americans as a group (and far to often Pagans of what ever type) have in general become a bunch of Whinps, Whiners, and Wheenys. We don't want to get our hands dirty, We want every thing handed to us, We don't want to engage in anything that has some risk. We demand that some government authority make "every one be nice to each other". Listen up folks, life is messy, life takes work, life is dirty (and often bloody), life is un fare, life is hard, real life is dangerous, life is what happens when you've made a plan, the sooner you realize and embrace it the happier you'll will be.

My intent is not to insult any one but to state what should be obvious but apparently often is not.

Just thought I would drop this Beltane picture in of myself and a fellow Georgian second degree Jennifer from 2003 at our local Travis Earth Circle celebration

LeAnn's, aka Modesty or Silomoat's house in Selma California many moons ago! (2002)

Bakersfield 2006

Recipes

Branwen's May Wine

This is beautiful served in a glass or crystal punch bowl.

Ingredients:

12 Sprigs Sweet Woodruff (A lot of nurseries sell the plants in their herbs section)
1 ¼ cup powdered sugar
1 Bottle Dry White Wine (to complete recipe you will need 4 bottles total)
1quart carbonated water or a bottle of champagne.
Fresh Strawberries stems removed and cored.
Block of ice.

Combine sugar, sprigs of sweet woodruff and one bottle of wine in a bowl, cover and let "steep" for 30 minutes. Remove woodruff and stir mixture well, pour over block of ice. Add bottles of wine and top off with champagne (keep leftover wine and bubbly aside to keep refilling punch bowl) Float more fresh sprigs of sweet woodruff and strawberries. ENJOY!!!! Use it in the chalice for Beltane ritual!!!

Cosettes Musings

In reply to Lothar

I'm a longtime Pagan, but only a recent initiate in the Georgian tradition. I think I just haven't gotten to the lessons that describe some of things mentioned here, but my understanding of the Cakes and Wine ritual is about communion -- both the union of the God and Goddess and receiving their blessings, and spiritual fellowship with those present in the circle.

In our coven, we make an effort to have Sabbat/Esbat appropriate foods for Cakes and Wine and that doesn't always mean crescent cakes and red wine. Sometimes we find that milk is appropriate, at Imbolc for instance, or that baklava makes a very

fine Cake in a ritual honoring Aphrodite. We bake and we purchase although we're very likely to ignore the twinkie aisle. And yes, we do move our Sabbats/Esbats around to the most convenient date. For me, it's more about the season than the precise date.

I'm more flexible in my solitary practice. I buy those packs that contain four small wine bottles. Each is one serving, perfect for my ritual and I don't have to open a regular bottle, which I prefer to share. Sometimes I bake, but more often I buy some small cakes or nice cookies. Again, no twinkies or anything of that sort.

Although I look to it for wisdom and inspiration, I'm not interested in reenacting the sacrificial practices of the ancient world. I offer sacrifices in various ways like through flowers, incense, wine, but animal sacrificial offerings are not part of my practice. However, I do recognize that animal sacrifice has been a part of many religious traditions and still is (e.g. some forms of Hinduism and Orisa traditions). As long as the animal is treated respectfully, the killing is done swiftly and as painlessly as possible by a professional hand, and the meat is shared in feast, I don't generally have a problem with it. That's certainly far better treatment than a slaughterhouse.

Blessings,
Cosette

Floralia

April 28 to May 3.

Roman Festival Known as the Ludi Florales in honor of the Roman goddess Flora

Flora, by Louise Abbéma, 1913.

Although the ancient Roman holiday of Floralia, celebrated by the set of games and theatrical presentations known as the Ludi Florales, began in April, it was really an ancient May Day celebration. Flora, the Roman goddess in whose honor the festival was held, was a goddess of flowers, which generally begin to bloom in the spring. The holiday for Flora (as officially determined by Julius Caesar when he fixed the Roman calendar) ran from April 28 to May 3.

Roman public games (ludi) were financed by minor public magistrates known as aediles. The curule aediles produced the Ludi Florales.

The position of curule aedile was originally (365 B.C.) limited to patricians, but was later opened up to plebeians. The ludi could be very expensive for the aediles, who used the games as a way of winning the affection and votes of the people. In this way, the aediles hoped to ensure victory in future elections for higher office after they had finished their year as aediles.

The Floralia festival began in Rome in 238 B.C., to please the goddess Flora into protecting the blossoms. The Floralia fell out of favor and was discontinued until 173 B.C., when the senate, concerned with wind, hail, and other damage to the flowers, ordered Flora's celebration reinstated as the Ludi Florales.

The Ludi Florales included theatrical entertainment, including mimes, naked actresses and prostitutes. In the Renaissance, some writers thought that Flora had been a human prostitute who was turned into a goddess, possibly because of the licentiousness of the Ludi Florales or because, according to David Lupher, Flora was a common name for prostitutes in ancient Rome.

The celebration in honor of Flora included floral wreaths worn in the hair much like modern participants in May Day celebrations. After the theatrical performances, the celebration continued in the Circus Maximus, where animals were set free and beans scattered to insure fertility.

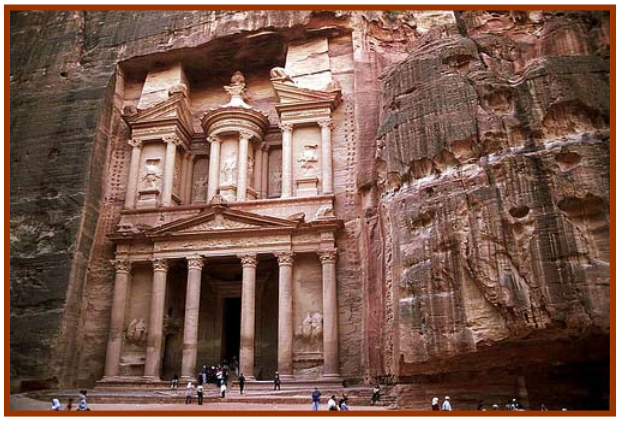
Floralia
Article by Leonhard Schmitz, Ph.D., F.R.S.E.,
Rector of the High School of Edinburgh
on pp541-542 of
William Smith, D.C.L., LL.D.:
A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities, John Murray, London, 1875.

FLORALIA, or **Florales Ludi,** a festival which was celebrated at Rome in honour of Flora or Chloris. It was solemnized during five days, beginning on the 28th of April and ending on the 2d of May (Ovid. *Fast.* V.185; Plin. *H. N.* XVIII.69). It was said to have been instituted at Rome in 238 B.C., at the command of an oracle in the Sibylline books, for the purpose of obtaining from the goddess the protection of the blossoms (ut omnia bene deflorescerent, Plin. *l.c.*; *cf.* Vell. Pat. I.14; Varro, *De Re Rust.* I.1). Some time after its institution at Rome its celebration was discontinued; but in the consulship of L. Postumius Albinus and M. Popilius Laenas (173 B.C.), it was restored, at the command of the senate, by the aedile C. Servilius (Eckhel, *De Num. Vet.* v. p308; *cf.* Ovid, *Fast.* V.329, &c.), as the blossoms in that year had severely suffered from winds, hail, and

rain. The celebration was, as usual, conducted by the aediles (Cic. *in Verr.* V.14; Val. Max. II.10 sec8; Eckhel, *l.c.*), and was carried on with excessive merriment, drinking, and lascivious games. (Mart. I.3; p542Senec. *Epist.* 96). From Valerius Maximus we learn that theatrical and mimic representations formed a principal part of the various amusements, and that it was customary for the assembled people on this occasion to demand the female actors to appear naked on the stage, and to amuse the multitude with their indecent gestures and dances. This indecency is probably the only ground on which the absurd story of its origin, related by Lactantius (*Institut.* I.20), is founded. Similar festivals, chiefly in spring and autumn, are in southern countries seasons for rejoicing, and, as it were, called forth by the season of the year itself, without any distinct connection with any particular divinity; they are to this day very popular in Italy (Voss. *ad Virg. Georg.* II.385), and in ancient times we find them celebrated from the southern to the northern extremity of Italy (see ANTHESPHORIA, and Justin. XLIII.4). The Floralia were originally festivals of the country people, which were afterwards, in Italy as in Greece, introduced into the towns, where they naturally assumed a more dissolute and licentious character, while the country people continued to celebrate them in their old and merry but innocent manner. And it is highly probable that such festivals did not become connected with the worship of any particular deity until a comparatively late period (Buttmann, *Mytholog.* ii. p54). This would account for the late introduction of the Floralia at Rome, as well as for the manner in which we find them celebrated there (see Spanheim, *De Praest. et Usu Numism.* ii. p145, &c.).

Side Trip to Petra

From our Georgian on the Road, warrior, woman, Priestess, and explorer…Tabitha!



First, a little back ground here.

Petra was first established sometime around the 6th century BC, by the Nabataean Arabs, a nomadic tribe who settled in the area and laid the foundations of a commercial empire that extended into Syria. Despite successive attempts by the Seleucid king Antigonus, the Roman emperor Pompey and Herod the Great to bring Petra under the control of their respective empires, Petra remained largely in Nabataean hands until around 100AD, when the Romans took over. It was still inhabited during the Byzantine period, when the former Roman empire moved its focus east to Constantinople, but declined in importance thereafter. The Crusaders constructed a fort there in the 12th century, but soon withdrew, leaving Petra to the local people until the early 19th century, when it was visited by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt.

Tabitha Reporting Amman

I was allowed to accompany the contracting officer to Amman Jordan to take notes during a negotiation with the Qudas Gas Turbine Expansion contractor. We finished work on Tuesday. On Wednesday, I got to go to Petra - think Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. Unfortunately, my camera battery died, so I only have a few pictures. I also went shopping. Yes, that really is me in the fancy robes.

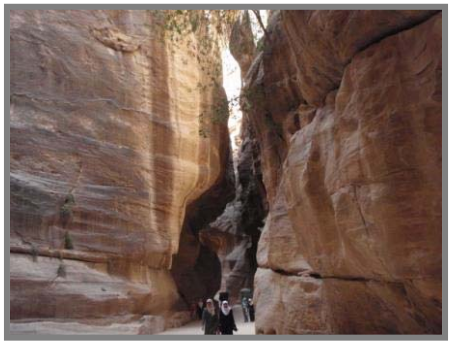
Hugs,
TD

Does anyone know what an "Olive Suit" is?

NIA pants?

In her fancy robes

Approach to Petra



Here she is on horseback, awesome site isn't it?

Entrance to someplace with lots of sand.

Raven Spirit

Blessed May Eve is right before our eyes
Lift your glass of mead, that sacred honey wine
To give honor to the union
That will revive the land.
The Lord takes his Lady
They walk hand in hand
The Lilac is blooming
Its sweet smell in the air
We join in the maypole
With maidens so fair
The red and white ribbons
The fertility within us
The sexual energy
Enhances our goals for us
Charge and enjoy the Fest at hand
But don't be pixie led
Fuzzy thoughts in the head
The Goals are impregnated
With help from within
To empower your wishes
Give them strength to begin
As they grow and expound
We begin to see
The magick of Unions
And their energy
The Lord of the Shades
And the Lady Divine
Rejoice with the Golden Moments
All of yours and all mine.

Duane "Raven Spirit" Marshall

10 Spiritual Things to do in your spare time

1) Light a candle on your roomie's, friend's, or relative's forehead while they are sleeping. See how long it takes for them to wake up. This will tell you how long you will live.

2) Tell your future by interpreting the patterns in popcorn, beer cans and cigarette butts left on the floor after your last party. It's a lot like reading tea leaves.

3) Choose an outfit for the day using a divining rod.

4) Determine what your friends have done during the day by smelling their odor eaters.

5) Go outside skyclad, come in and interpret the patterns in your goose bumps. It's a lot like reading tea leaves.

6) Tape music videos, play them backwards on your VCR and try to find subliminal images and rock stars that take on Satanic appearances.

7) Interpret forms in your sculptured carpet. It's a lot like reading tea leaves.

8) At breakfast, eat all but a few bits of cereal, then stir it vigorously and interpret the resulting designs. It's a lot like reading tea leaves.

9) Develop a 'tarot' style deck using subscription card inserts from magazines.

10) In a restaurant, lay on the floor under a table and interpret the designs and patterns in the gum ads. IT'S A LOT LIKE READING TEA LEAVES!

Her time in Taji is almost done and she's coming home!

My time in Taji is almost done. The support I have received from the Chaplains has been fantastic. We have a "broom closet" in the chapel where we keep our ritual supplies and library. We have had open access to Argonne Chapel for Open Circles - both teaching and rituals. Sometimes the Chaplains sit in, more often they leave us be. We reciprocate and sometimes sit in on their gatherings - the fun ones, not the bible studies. They even provided wine for the initiation rituals - Iraq is completely dry with the exception of sacramental wine.

Our favorite gathering place is called the Mudhouse. It is a coffee shop sponsored by the Chaplains. It is run completely by donations and volunteer effort. This place feeds the community with social activities such as karaoki, open mike night, cigar night, and ... of course bible study. They have welcomed the pagan crew ... granting us the exact same level of access and support as everyone else on the base. This is truely a blessing. We have reciprocated by acting as clean up crew on any evening when we gather there.

The last ritual I hold with this crew will be Beltaine. It is going to be a PAGAN DANCE PARTY!!!! held (mostly) inside the chapel.

I've initiated two more lads into the Georgian tradition: Freeborn and Radar. Freeborn is a LTC in the reserves and will be taking over the leadership of the Open Circle at Taji. Grasshopper will continue his current role as assistant and provider of admin support. Radar is a PFC and a maintenance mechanic.

Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the Navy

Art Work

Art can be seen as an expression of ones soul, and if you look at the creations of a person your given a special peek at a side of a person that is often very private. We have tossed a couple of pieces in here so that you can stroll through the minds of some of our kin folk. We hope you enjoy these creations!

This particular piece was pagan and sci-fi inspired. It has no name.

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Here we have a trinity doodle I was playing with.

No title for this one, was just in the mood to draw without direction and this is what came of it ☺ ----------→

Part of a picture, interpret it as you wish, is he the God, the element of fire, both?

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