

# Isis Moon

Folklore, Myth and Magick

Volume 2 Issue 2

Lughnasadh 2010

## Special Dates

### JANUARY

30 - Full Moon at 4.48pm  
 30 - Yemaya & Healing Haiti Full Moon beach ritual (open event)  
 31 - Lughnasadh

### FEBRUARY

3 - Temple's Open Circle and Lughnasadh Observance at Covenstead  
 12-14 - NZ Pagan Festival  
 14 - Dark Moon at 1.21pm

### MARCH

1 - Full Moon at 3.09am  
 13 - Temple Magickal Lecture  
 16 - Dark Moon at 7.32am  
 21 - Autumn Equinox  
 21 - Autumn Equinox Picnic and Ritual (open event)  
 30 - Full Moon at 12.57pm

### APRIL

14 - Dark Moon at 10.00pm  
 28 - Full Moon at 9.50pm  
 28 - Full Moon Gathering in Botanic Park (open event)  
 30 - Samhain

### MAY

1-2 - Temple's Samhain Camp

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## Lughnasadh Blessings

Welcome to the Lughnasadh 2010 edition of "Isis Moon". Despite good Winter rains, the November heatwave started the demise of my garden. Here, at the harvest festival, there appears little to be offered up as a reflection of bounty aside from a few shrivelled storks. While thoughts of "The Wicker Man" (the original version naturally) come to mind, all is not lost.

On a personal level, my own harvest has been more than satisfying this year. A number of longer term goals have been tackled with the prospect of the completion of not one but now two books, in the coming months. The Temple's harvest has also been one of plenty, with the majority of students who undertook last year's Study Circle last year, eagerly awaiting the resumption of the Outer Court training. The Inner Court also sees the return of our two new mothers.

According to Mara Freeman, the name for the festival of Lughnasadh stems from the Celtic God Lugh dedicating this festival to his foster-mother, Tailtiu (the last queen of the Fir Bolg), who died from exhaustion after clearing a great forest so that the land could be cultivated. When the men of Ireland gathered at her deathbed, she told them to hold funeral games in her honour. As long as they were held, she prophesied Ireland would not be without song. Tailtiu's name is from Old Celtic Talantiu, "The Great One of the Earth", suggesting she may originally have been a personification of the land itself, like so many Irish Goddesses.

Tailtiu gives her name to Teltown in County Meath, where the festival was traditionally held in early Ireland. It evolved into a great tribal assembly,



attended by the High King, where legal agreements were made, political problems discussed, and sporting contests were held on the scale of an early Olympic Games

Kathleen Dupree indicated that the name of Lugh is derived from the old Celtic word *lugio*, meaning "an oath". A traditional part of the celebrations surrounding Lughnasadh have been the formation of oaths. From before recorded history into the 20th century marriages, employment contracts and other bargains of a mundane nature were formed and renewed at this time of year.

Here in Australia, Lughnasadh falls within the Fire Ban season and it is often from this point onwards that we experience our hottest weather. Whilst our sun may scorch the land on which we reside, now is the time to honour our personal harvests – what have we achieved, and what do we still need to bring into fruition.

Lughnasadh Blessings

*Frances*

Temple Founder and HPs

## To the Goddess of Autumn

(by Frances, 2004)

Goddess of the Ancient Skies  
 Arise, arise ...  
 Arise from the darkened depths  
 Where you have been hidden.  
 Bring forth your scythe to reap the grain  
 Death to bring new life again.  
 End the Autumn weeds that choke the mind  
 Stagnant is the water,  
 Preventing truth to be known.  
 Here I stand before you  
 I do not fear.  
 If it is my time - cut me down  
 Let me be reborn.  
 Breathe life into my soul once again,  
 Ancient Creatrix of life and death.  
 Within the shadows I seek you  
 For I know that all life is but fragile as a sheaf  
 Against your sacred blade  
 If my blood is to flow to the fertile fields  
 My soul I give as a willing sacrifice.

## Irish Soda Bread

You will need:

- 4 cups flour
- 2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 60g butter, cubed
- 2 to 2¼ cups buttermilk



Preheat oven to 190°C. Line a tray with baking paper. Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt into a large bowl. Rub in the cubed butter and then mix in the buttermilk so that the ingredients form into a dough. Bring together on a floured surface to form a ball.

Shape dough into a 20cm round. Place on the tray. Cut a cross in the top. Bake for 35-45 minutes.

Serve with butter while still warm.

## A Magickal Herb

**MAIZE:** (Zea Mays)

Associated with Venus  
 Element of Earth.  
 Sacred Mother

The Corn Mother, or the Goddess, is a Deity of Plenty as well as fertility, has long been worshipped throughout the East and North America. The Zunis of New Mexico utilised different colours of corn in their religious rituals. Blue corn meal, for example, was used to bless, as well as being used as an offering.



A bunch of cornstalks hung over a mirror is believed to bring good luck to the household, whereas a necklace made from the red dried corn kernels is said to prevent nosebleeds.

It was said that within certain parts of the United States, red corncobs were once burnt on the doorstep of mountain cabins (sometimes even under the bed) if a birth was difficult. This action was believed to help speed up the delivery.

An ear of corn placed within the cradle is thought to protect the baby against negative forces.

## Stars of Beauty and Truth Gathered in Her Arms

By Quinn Blackburn

White stars gathered  
 like wise blessings within my arms,  
 I show the Beauty  
 of Nature's sweet charms.  
 Goddess-favoured,  
 Fountain of Knowledge and Youth;  
 I teach you how to find hidden Beauty in  
 Truth.  
 Creation and Destruction lie cradled in my  
 fruit,  
 Raven in my branches  
 and Snake at my root.

# The Death of the King at Lammas

On 1 August in 1100 the monks in the abbey at Gloucester, England were celebrating the holy-day of St Peter in Chains. One of them woke from a strange dream in which God promised to strike down the wicked King who has abused the Holy Church. His superior, Abbot Serlo, upon hearing of the dream sent a warning to the King, William the Red, who had oppressed all of England with taxes and disgusted many with his licentiousness and blasphemy. Red, as he is called, received the message the following day while preparing to indulge in one of his favourite sports, hunting, in the New Forest. Although there were no longer any people dwelling in the New Forest (they were all cleared out by Red's father, William the Conqueror) there were rumours that it was a hotbed of Pagan activity. The following day, 2 August, was an important Pagan holy-day – the Saxons called it Lammas, the Loaf-Mass.



are killed and dismembered, and then resurrected from the Underworld by various Gods and Goddesses such as Tammuz, Osiris and Adonis.

The Greek story of Demeter and Persephone is a story about the cycle of death and rebirth associated with grain. Demeter, the fertility Goddess, will not allow anything to grow until she finds her daughter who had been carried off to the Underworld. The ancient Eleusinian Mysteries, celebrated around the Autumn Equinox, culminated in the revelation of a single ear of corn, a symbol to the initiate of the cyclical nature of life, for the corn is both seed and fruit, promise and fulfilment.

(Source: <http://www.schooloftheseasons.com>)

William the Red laughed at the warning from the monks and went hunting. A short time later, he was dead, struck in the chest by a stray arrow. His brother, Henry, who was in the hunting party, was riding for Winchester and the crown.

Some believed William the Red was a Lammas sacrifice, that having created a wasteland of his kingdom, he was killed by the people (or the Gods) as a sacrifice to bring new life to the land. Some people believed his brother, Henry, had him assassinated. Others say both versions were correct.

The Saxon holiday of Lammas celebrated the harvesting of the grain. The first sheaf of wheat was ceremonially reaped, threshed, milled and baked into a loaf. The grain dies so that the people might live. Eating this bread, the bread of the Gods, gives us life. If all this sounds vaguely Christian, it is. In the sacrament of Communion, bread is blessed, becomes the body of God and is eaten to nourish the faithful. This Christian Mystery echoes the Pagan Mystery of the Grain God.

Grain has always been associated with Gods who

## Lammas Activities

**Regrets:** Think of the things you meant to do to date that have not come to fruition. Write them on pieces of paper and burn them.

**Farewells:** What is passing from your life? What is over? Say good-bye to it. As with regrets, you can find visual symbols and throw them into the fire, the stream or the ocean. You can also bury them in the ground, perhaps in the form of bulbs which will manifest in a new form in spring.

**Harvest:** What have you harvested this year? What seeds have you planted that are sprouting? Find a visual way to represent these, perhaps creating a decoration in your house or altar which represents the harvest to you.

## Grain and Snake Goddesses

The Serpent Goddess is invoked at Lughnasadh because of her role in rebirth and in protection of grain. Serpents used to be kept in households to safeguard the domestic food supply from rodents. Even today, serpents protect grain crops. Snake meat became so popular in restaurants in China at the start of the Year of the Snake in 2001 that the crops were threatened due to the uncontrolled population explosion of mice.

The Greek Goddess of grain, Demeter, was often depicted with her sacred serpent, as in a terracotta relief from the 5th century BCE showing Demeter holding wheat and poppy pods, with snakes facing her.

Demeter is best known as the Goddess who brings winter to the earth when her beloved daughter, Persephone, is in the underworld with her consort, Hades. The myth of Demeter's search for her kidnapped daughter was re-enacted in ritual in the Greek mystery festival known as the Thesmophoria, which was exclusively for women. The actual rites were practiced in great secrecy, but we have a general idea of what may have taken place during the Thesmophoria.

Ritual objects, believed to be a sacrificed piglet and replicas of serpents and phalluses made of flour, were thrown into snake-filled chambers. Poet Robert Graves believed that originally the ritual objects included the severed genitals of the sacrificed king, or of his surrogate. The presence of serpents in the chamber, and the serpent loaves, suggests the theme of renewal during this festival. On the final day of the three day festival, the women would descend into the chamber and retrieve the ritual objects, clapping to frighten away the snakes. They mixed the rotted sacrifices with grain, and put the mixture on the fields to ensure the fertility of the crops. In ancient Greece, the Thesmophoria was celebrated in the fall. It is appropriate, however, to invoke Demeter as



the Goddess of Grain at Lughnasadh, the earliest harvest festival.

In India, the floods from the monsoons bring serpents with them. At this time of year, festivals are held to celebrate the Serpent Goddess, Manasa. Not only is she petitioned to protect people from snakebite, but also to cure disease and bring wealth. Manasa is believed to be a primeval form of the Great Goddess herself.

The Jhapan Festival, held in the Bengali town of Vishnupur in early August, celebrates the glory of Manasa. It is basically a regional harvest festival. Snake charmers bring to the festival, in woven baskets, cobras, vipers, kraits, pythons, rat snakes, vine and flying snakes, and perform with the poisonous snakes while chanting hymns praising Manasa. Some participants even enter into trances.

Manasa is often shown sitting under the merged hoods of seven cobras, with fruit in one hand, and a snake in the other. In rural villages, young women worship Manasa by setting out milk in a ritual pot for her serpents to drink. Manasa has been compared to Kundalini, the Serpent Goddess found at the base of the spine, who rises through the energy chakras with the practice of yoga to unite with divine energy at the crown of the head.

Manasa's best known myth involves the misfortunes she inflicts upon a man named Chand, who refuses to worship her. She first destroys his garden, then kills six of his sons, sinks the ships carrying his wealth, and finally, kills his last son with the bite of poisonous snakes. At last, Chand agrees to worship Manasa as a Goddess, and she has been worshipped as one ever since. As a Goddess of rebirth, Manasa then restores the life of Chand's last son.

(Source: <http://www.matrifocus.com/LAM03/wheel.htm>)

# Samhain 2010 Magickal Retreat

The first overnight magickal retreat being organised by the Temple of the Dark Moon will take place on 1 and 2 May 2010.

Once again we will be returning to the spacious farmhouse we have utilised for previous retreats located within the beautiful Mt Crawford forest (only about 15 minutes from Lobethal). With its stunning views

of St Vincent Gulf, not to mention being surrounded by both native forest and pine plantation, the venue makes a perfect place to take time out for our spiritual and magickal selves.



The main theme for the Samhain 2010 retreat will focus around the exploration of Male and Female Mysteries ... what exactly are these, how do they relate to us in the 21st century, and probably more importantly, how do we incorporate them? These topics will be explored through various workshops, activities as well as meditation.

The inner knowledge obtained will later be incorporated into the evening ritual, which will also include honouring our ancestors, for it is also Samhain after all.

Following the ritual a scrumptious two course feast prepared by the Temple's own Inner Court members will take place, with plenty of

entertainment and fun to carry on into the night around the camp fire.

Retreat attendees are always encouraged to make the most of the beautiful and relaxing surroundings of the farmhouse. There is both native bush as well as plantation forest providing habitats for numerous flora and fauna.

More details will be available on the Temple's web site when they come to hand.

## Samhain Magickal Retreat 1-2 May 2010 Registration Form

Name:.....

Address:.....

..... P/Code: .....

Contact Phone:.....

Email:.....

Special Needs: .....

Emergency Contact: .....

.....

I enclose:

- \$130.00 (couple)
- \$80.00 (individual)
- \$50.00 non-refundable deposit (per person)

I would like more information about:

- further workshops or courses.

Cheques/money orders to be made payable to "F. Billingham".

Please complete and return to:  
Temple of the Dark Moon, PO Box 2451,  
SALISBURY DOWNS SA 5108

**Registrations Close:**  
20 April 2010  
Limited Places Available

# New Zealand Pagan Festival

The Temple of the Dark Moon's High Priestess, Frances, first attended the New Zealand Pagan festival in 2003 where she not only led the opening ritual along side Chief Druid, Phillip Carr-Gomm, but also gave two presentations. Late on the Saturday night, as it coincided with Dark Moon, she also led a specific rite reflecting these energies with a select group of people.



In February this year, Frances returns to New Zealand to again open the festival, this time with occult philosopher and contemporary magickian, Ramsay Dukes. She will also be offering two presentations, the first of which, on cord and knot magick (scheduled for Saturday), will include a practical element to it. The second, taking place on Sunday afternoon, will focus around the Dark Goddess.

An array of lecturers will be taking place over the three day event with topics to include chaos magick,

British Traditional Wytchcraft, druidism as well as herbal magick and the Ordo Templi Orientis. An assortment of entertainment will be on offer from archery and sword fighting displays, to belly dancing and harp playing.

Amongst the market stalls of craft and occult items, a live blacksmith will be demonstrating his skills. At night, DJ Dru ID from the United Kingdom will be diving into shamanistic, Pagan and mystical sounds.

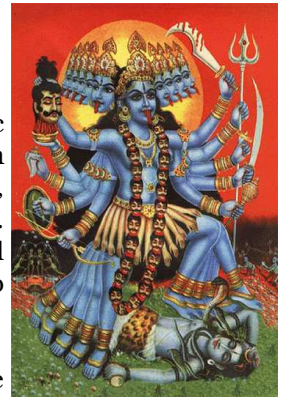
While originally, Frances was also going to launch her first book at this year's festival, due to a series of unforeseen events, this will now take place in Adelaide later in 2010.

More information about the New Zealand Pagan festival can be found – [http://www.naturesmagick.co.nz/festival/festival\\_index.asp](http://www.naturesmagick.co.nz/festival/festival_index.asp)

## Exploring the Realm of the Dark Goddess

Occurring just after the Dark Moon following Samhain, the Celtic festival of the Dead, through this workshop we will step into the realm of the Dark Goddess. This aspect is often associated with the Crone, and it is She who we fear because She reflects our own mortality. However, there is also the Dark Maiden as well as the Dark Mother, all who guard the magickal cauldron of transformation and are awaiting to take us onto the next phase of our spiritual evolution.

Join us as we embrace the darkness and enter into the realm of the Dark Goddess, explore some of Her myths and seek to learn the invaluable lessons of Her Underworld. Some of the Goddesses we will be meeting and working with in this workshop will include the Egyptian Lion-headed Goddess, Sekhmet, Hindu Dark Mother Kali-Ma and Warrior Maiden, Durga, Tiamat from ancient Babylonia, and the Welsh Crone, Cerridwen.



Date: Saturday, 22 May 2010 – 10.30am to 4.00pm.

Investment: \$80.00 - bring your own lunch (includes refreshments and 40 paged A4 booklet).

Registration form can be found on page 7. Registrations close 10 May 2010.

# Temple News

With the Temple of the Dark Moon's year only recently commenced with a barbecue held at the covenstead to welcome new Outer Court members into the Temple's fold, there is little news to report at this time.

A special Full Moon Gathering was organised on 30 January to coincide with the Blue Moon – energy and healing thoughts were directed to those affected by the Haitian earthquake. We were honoured to have Houngan Dave, a Haitian initiated priest, to lead us in calling upon LaSirene, the Haitian l'wha of the waters.

The Inner Court performed a reconsecration of the sacred space during their first meeting and at the Outer Court's first open circle, to occur on 3 February, an observation of Lughnasadh will also be undertaken.

A busy year is planned for 2010 with an assortment of events, some are briefly mentioned in this newsletter. When more details come to hand, they will be made available on the Temple's web site.

**Temple of the Dark Moon**

invites you to our open

**Autumn Equinox Picnic and Ritual**

Celebrate Mother Earth's bounty and the Autumn Equinox with like-minded people in a family-friendly environment.

Sunday, 21 March 2010 from 11.30 am

A simple ritual honouring Mother Earth and Her harvest to commence around 2.00 pm



Address: Bonython Park (at the end of Gaol Road, Adelaide CBD).

Follow the streamers to the chosen picnic area.

Bring your own picnic food, drink and rug/chairs to sit on.

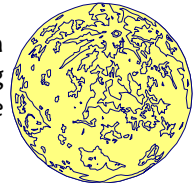
A can donation for the Animal Welfare League would also be welcomed.

For more information, telephone Frances on 0401 788 790 or email: darkmoon@ace.net.au

## FULL MOON GATHERINGS

The Temple of the Dark Moon is once again delighted to announce that the public Full Moon Gatherings will continue throughout 2010.

These events will be held in the Botanic Park, commencing promptly at 7.45pm, on the following dates:



- \* **April:** Wednesday, 28 April
- \* **May:** Saturday, 29 May
- \* **June:** Saturday, 26 June
- \* **July:** Sunday, 25 July
- \* **August:** Wednesday, 25 August
- \* **September:** Wednesday, 22 September (Spring Equinox)
- \* **October:** Friday, 22 October

## DARK GODDESS REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return to:  
 Temple of the Dark Moon  
 PO Box 2451, SALISBURY DOWNS  
 SA 5108

Name:.....

Address:.....

..... P/Code: .....

Contact Phone:.....

Email:.....

- Dark Goddess workshop: \$50.00 deposit/\$80.00 full payment.

I would like more information about:

- The 2010 Wicca & Magick Study.  
 Magical Lectures.

Cheques/money orders to be made payable to "F. Billingham".

## Temple of the Dark Moon

The Temple of the Dark Moon was formed in late 1999 and is an active "progressive" Alexandrian Wiccan coven located just 20 minutes north of Adelaide's CBD in South Australia. We are comprised of both an Outer Court as well as an Inner Court. We also offer a study circle once a year on ritual and spell crafting.

We perceive Wicca to be a continually evolving spiritual and religious path. We believe in the true spirit of the Wiccan Rede, as well as operating under the axiom of "perfect love and perfect trust". We also adhere to the balance of both masculine and feminine energies.

We acknowledge the Wiccan degree system as being a "benchmark" in the spiritual training of those seeking instruction into the Wicca priesthood, however, we also consider spiritual evolution to be an individual process and offer a place within our coven for non-priesthood members.

As a collective, we support various charities, including child sponsorship through World Vision, Trees Please! and the Animal Welfare League (South Australia). A percentage of all moneys received by the Temple are donated to these charities.

More information about us can be found on our web site  
[www.templedarkmoon.com](http://www.templedarkmoon.com)



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

Web Site: [www.templedarkmoon.com](http://www.templedarkmoon.com)  
 Email: [darkmoon@ace.net.au](mailto:darkmoon@ace.net.au)

## Additional Events for 2010

In addition to magickal retreats coinciding with the Sabbats of Samhain (details inside), Mid Winter and Bealtaine, and our open Full Moon Gatherings during the Winter months, the Temple of the Dark Moon will also be offering:

- **Autumn Equinox Open Ritual and Picnic** (details inside).
- **Magickal Lectures:** 13 March: Introduction to the magickal Qabalah and the Tree of Life. 10 July: A Metaphysical Life. 4 September: Planetary Magick. 13 November: Esoteric Numerology.
- **Wicca and Magick Study Circle** will commence in July 2010. Classes will take place on the third Monday of each month providing practical application on ritual working and spell crafting.
- **Hekate Supper and Ritual** will take place in August 2010. Held in honour of the ancient Goddess of the Crossroads. Limited positions available.

*For more information about of these events, please complete and return to form below to be added to our mailing list, or visit our the web site where details will be posted when they come to hand.*

If you would like to be added to the Temple of the Dark Moon's contact list to be notified of workshops and events, please let us know. The inclusion of a stamped self-addressed envelope ensures a speedy reply.

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... P/Code: .....

Email: .....