

Goddess Temple News

Beltane 2020

Donations Welcome



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www.goddesstemple.co.uk



Winter-sleeping, I dreamt of Beltane – veiled dancers, flowery grasses, embracing couples, a faraway pillared temple, priestesses offering nourishment. Dream-wise, Beltane was a place, a place I knew I could return to. Hooves thundering behind me, I was swept up onto a white mare, held by Her rider – Her love and acceptance filled my body. Galloping towards the temple, my vision faded – I woke.

I write this after Spring Equinox. In Ontario, bulbs peek through thawing earth, chilly rain melts snow; sweeping up birdseed, we shoo away squirrels feasting on sparrow's supper. No tidying flower beds – wee creatures still nestle under autumn's leaves, their home until Beltane when they'll be at work again, composting the soil. So we plant indoors – tiny seedlings of tomatoes, onions, peppers grow at sunny windows – life waiting outside beckons to their thread-thin stalks. A lively time, but silent in early growth.

We trust Mother Earth as Her wheel turns, season to season, no matter the chaos Her people create. We delight in Her enthusiasm – yet Her energy is going astray in viruses, causing anxiety, rippling consequences in life's every aspect. How to balance the joy of Her budding beauty with our concern about

disinfecting everything ≠ or are we cleaning up the damage we've done in Her waters and air? How do we come to terms with knowing that, while spring is a time for celebrating together after winter hibernation, we must distance ourselves deeper into isolation – or are we discovering web interconnections, and inner ways of Knowing?

Instead of singing around a green-adorned altar and broomstick-jumping into a new paradigm, our local Equinox circle was wide as, alone, we gathered healing energy together – while apart. Our Goddess Temple's ritual was spread much wider to the global inter-web community. At a time when the Beltane's love hugs thirsty bodies and touches winter-lonely souls, we must cleanse human contact, suspect every throat-clearing. Fear is generated by those we are taught to trust. But with Goddess, we can face that fear with courage, resilience and love. We need to listen to Her with every cell in our bodies. Our work is to heal.

We can trust Mother Earth – inhale Her beauty inwards, feel Her in our souls. She tells us that the moment for the shifting paradigm is now. She nurtures us like the tiny onion seed – we can lean towards the light too, breathe in Her energy. Breathe it out as healing and love. Work with Her to heal all that ails us. Winter-resting, we were composting like the soil, so we emerge richer,



vibrant conduits for creative ideas and solutions needed now. It's time to pause, to imagine creating a new world. We are the seeds of the temple of tomorrow.

I remember my Beltane dream and Rhiannon's energy that poured into my body, riding Her white horse. I see white horses now – waves on the lake's horizon roar in to shore. Rhiannon can sweep us up and carry us to the Beltane dance, to the light – and we can go there any time. Now is the time for Beltane's loving light to be beamed out into the world, shining to all peoples – and into our own hearts. Be well, be wise, be love.

*Blessed be.
Roz Bound, priestess, elder, poet,
and gatekeeper.*

For the Love of all Existences

At the time of writing this, we are just going into lockdown here in the UK due to the vicious corona virus. Cleansing fire for sure, sweeping before it all the old beliefs that we are safe, that we are invincible because we have money and healthcare, relative safety.... and I wonder if we will ever come back to the outworn systems which are letting us down so desperately now.

What makes my heart sing is the decisive action this community took as soon as we started looking at solutions to the situation. I suggested a phone tree, a mutual support system throughout our community, which was taken up by the Temple Weavers and refined by Elsa and the rest of the Temple Tingleers, those who hold responsibility for the thriving of the Goddess Temple here in Avalon. We were not going to wait to be told by the government what we should do and thankfully so, because in these early days the decisions are slow and advice confused, changing daily as the situation gets more dire.

Too many people panic and created a worse situation for the country by bulk buying without a thought for others, and thus causing shortages. In my opinion priority should be given to Mothers on low income, so they can come and choose milk, nappies, and food for the children. I fear the majority of provisions go to those who have ample fiscal resources to clear out the supermarket shelves, who are only thinking of their own needs, rather than the whole. Foodbanks are empty, no one wants to share their bounty.

Those who do not have money readily available to buy what they need for four weeks ahead are left with very little to buy in the shops on a day to day basis. The true colours of our sophistication show under the strain of fear. The boasts by heads of supermarket chains, that all was well, and they had the situation under control, have been revealed as highly optimistic if not downright deceitful exaggerations. Thus, the support system was much needed. I understand how scary this situation of a worldwide pandemic of never before seen proportions is, but by only looking after No.1 it is made so much harder than it needs to be. The words 'blitz spirit' were bandied about but how true is this concept for a nation that has known no real hardship for the last thirty years? How much are we prepared to look after each other? Many are sending out love and healing through FaceBook and other media, but will they all cook and supply the stricken next-door neighbour with a meal? Walking our talk as spiritual leaders in the community is a must, there can be no exceptions. Calling oneself a Priestess carries a responsibility, all the time.

It is a time of testing our humanity, our fortitude, our mettle. Just now I read that Italy will prioritize the people who have a chance of survival. Inevitably this will mean some may be left to die. Our fear of mortality comes to the fore. How resilient and spiritual are we really?

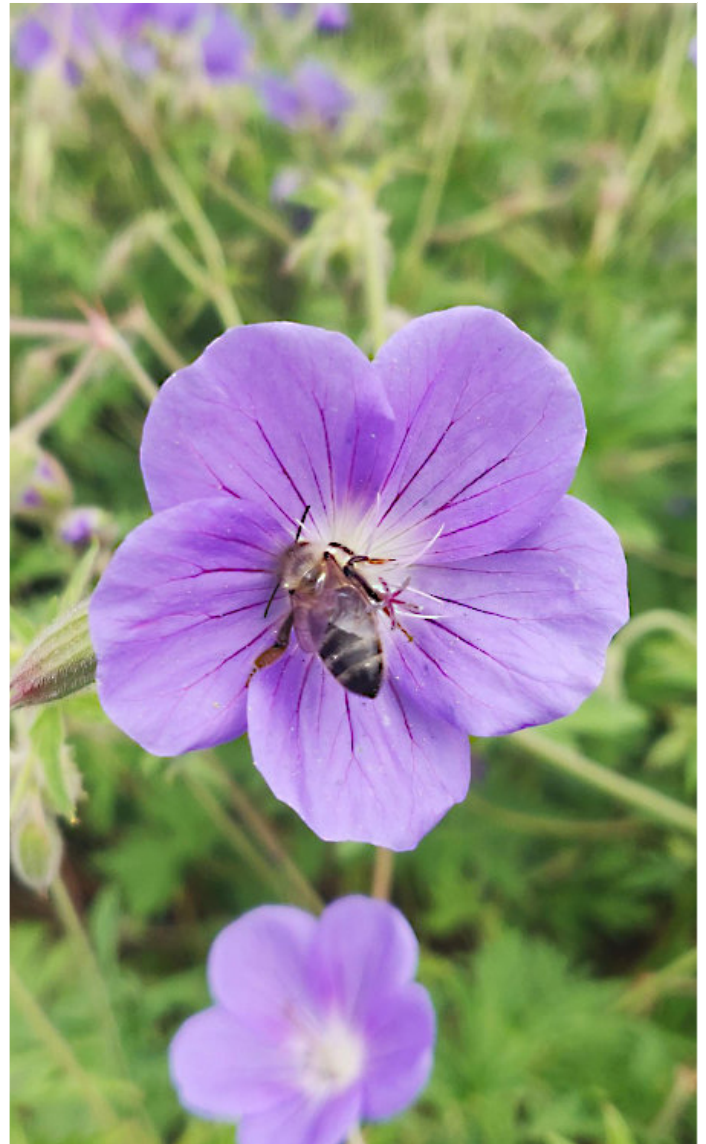
My Goddess is the Goddess of Death and Rebirth: Cerridwen. I am a druid by faith, as She is a Druid. Our leitmotif is, "for the love of all existences". We hold all equal: human, animal, plants.... all are ensouled, all can suffer, grieve and die.

Today, in view of this extraordinary event, I ask myself: is my faith in Her strong enough at this time? Am I a fair-weather believer? I have had abundance and love from Her, will I now share this with others, in whatever way needed. Do I truly love all existences or is that just a great tagline?

She does hold the Cauldron of Testing, and tested we are right now. There are members of my family who might be left to die. How would my faith stand up to that? I believe in life after death... or do I?

Maybe by the time you read this, I will no longer be here. Or maybe all this has passed, we have come through safely and we are rebuilding our society, our nation, and all the nations around the world. Will we have learnt from this that only together we are stronger? That love conquers all? That nature has gifts for us in form of healing herbs and occult knowledge, that magic is real?

One fact I know for sure, it is better to be at home, surrounded by the people we love, holding on to each other, navigating these tough



times together. Let go of expectations and worries about money, wealth, possessions, they will not come with us when it is our time.

30 years ago, when my husband was called up to join the first ever Desert Storm campaign, after only a few years of marriage, we had to discuss his will. The possibility of his death ripped my heart out of my chest. 30+ years on, it still has the same effect. We are making plans, as much as we can, both feeling more comfortable being prepared, knowing what the other's wishes are.

Death is my gift, She says, return to my arms where I will cradle you softly and hold you to my body. In time that will be so, may that time not be quite yet I hope. When it is though, I hope I will go to Her with faith and confidence in Her love for me.

Once clarity is achieved, we put all of this to the side and go into the garden, or for a long walk in the forest. We look at the new growth in the land, the baby animals being born, the blue sky above us and the ever-strengthening sun shining. We walk together as a family, with my six months old grandson. We breathe in the air, fresh and crisp. We tell jokes, share thoughts and memories and we know: this too shall pass and when it does, we know we have stood together; hand in hand, heart to heart, soul to soul. That knowledge will hold us in the years to come.

Love boosts the immune system, love creates new life on this planet, love is what brings us all together in these difficult times. I refuse to spend my time on this earth, however long, on being afraid. 'Que sera, sera' as my mother used to say. What will be, will be! I vow

to take each day as a gift of love from Goddess. I vow to hold on to my loved ones, my friends, my extended Avalon family until this crisis is over and do whatever I can to help those who need support.

My love for you is immeasurable, my respect for you immense, as Rod Stewart sings. I hope that this small offering will bring you the strength to act with honour and faith in Goddess. I also hope by the time you read this we will all be able to give each other a good *cwtch* (hug) in celebration of the Goddess of Love.

*Be well, stay strong and love each other.
Many blessings,*

*Bee
Priestess of Avalon and Cerridwen
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Editorial

These are extraordinary times that we are living in. A few weeks ago life went on as normal, there was some talk of a virus but it seemed far away, not part of our lives. And now it is very much with us and it affects everything. The physical Goddess Temple is closed but we are still online as is Goddess House. We sit in our houses and wait for the storm to pass. We do what we can to protect others and ourselves.

But I cannot help wondering what the lessons from all this are. Is it to appreciate what we have for we are lucky to have homes we can self-isolate in; there are many who do not have even that? Is it to slow down and step away from the treadmill of being busy? Do we justify our lives by how busy we are? I'm busy so I must be helping. And does the Earth need time to recover without our presence? Do we need time alone to get to know ourselves better? All of this is possible. But while I am stuck in the house I am trying to deepen my connection with Goddess not by spending fifteen hours a day meditating because such a thing would be impossible but by keeping Her constantly with me while I boil the kettle and make tea or load the dishwasher or fold laundry. For me this is daily life as spiritual practice.

We are privileged that, thanks to the internet and our phones, we can all stay in touch with each other and I want to thank all those who are helping others in this crisis. I also want to send healing to those who are ill and compassion to those who are grieving. Goddess is still with us. She never goes away. There is a point to all of this even if it is sometimes hard to see what it is. But She knows what is best for all of us and never doubt that everything She does is because of how much She loves you, because of how much She loves all of us. When all of this is over we will look each other in the eyes and smile. We will hold hands and hug each other with a new appreciation of these small acts of kindness. Love to all and may the blessing of the Goddess be with you today and every day.

*Janet Parfitt – Editor,
Priestess of the Goddess and Priestess of Cerridwen*

Support the Goddess Temple

For almost two decades the Goddess Temple has stood in the centre of Glastonbury, a sign of Goddess Energy returning into the world. Many people have supported the temple out of love and care for Goddess, giving their time, their energy and money, to help keep this sacred space open, each and every day, 365 days a year. The space for Goddess gives hope to so many seekers, joy and rest to an abundance of pilgrims who have come to see and feel Her presence in their life. Often the temple is the first contact for many who come thinking it is just another shop, and stay because of the peace and beauty of the temple. The temple needs you to help provide this for them.

Becoming a Temple Melissa: giving a few hours each month, to hold space and take care of the visitors, is one of the most exciting and joyful moments in my life. We are the guardians of the temple, we serve the gateway to Her healing and love. If you would like to experience this joy, come and join us in service to the temple. Do you have two hours or more a month to hold the temple space? Would you like to be one of the caretakers of this unique place in the world? Become someone who makes a difference, sending Her light into the world.

To become a Temple Melissa, visit
<https://goddess temple.co.uk/temple-melissas/>

Help the temple thrive: if time is not in your power to gift, then perhaps you would consider becoming a **Temple Madron?**

The temple raises a good deal of money by donation each year from people who visit it and give in gratitude for this devotional space. Alas, monthly costs are rising and what is needed are regular monthly donations to keep the temple open. Any amount you can give will help us to continue opening this beautiful place for Goddess here in the heart of Avalon. Becoming a member of our community as a Temple Madron comes with its own gifts, including a copy of our monthly newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with the fantastic events we offer, plus an invitation to our incomparable Madron day, where members of the temple delight with interesting, entertaining and fun presentations. Friends and Melissa events are also available to you. There is so much joy to be had from meeting our community and celebrating with us the Return of the Goddess in the world. Help us keep the healing of Goddess available to all who travel to Avalon in search of Her.

To become a Temple Madron, visit
<https://goddess temple.co.uk/donate/>

Lady of Avalon, Nolava of the Sacred Land



This year in our Goddess Temple seasonal celebrations which we began at Imbolc, we are honouring each of the eight faces of the Lady of Avalon, She who is Nolava of the Sacred Land.

Nolava, Lady of Avalon is Goddess in the Sacred Isle of Avalon, the Otherworldly mystical counterpart to the everyday world of Glastonbury. The Lady shows Herself to us here in the shapes of the physical island of Glastonbury, as Swan Maiden, Radiant Lover, Great Mother and Old Crone. She is present in the Air (Her Breath), in the Fires (Her Flame of Avalon), in the Sacred Springs and Wells, and in the Earth of Avalon. She makes Herself known to us through the experiences we have while living in or visiting Glastonbury. She invites us to cross the Lake of Avalon that surrounds the Sacred Isle, to pass through Her Veils of Mystery, which often shroud the Sacred Land, so that we might come to know Her and Her loving transforming nature.

Many people respond to Her name – Lady of Avalon, as if Her name is really ancient. They already know Her as a longing deep within, as a calling to respond to this particular face of Goddess. She is ancient and timeless, but in fact She only named Herself to us here in Glastonbury in the mid 1990s. Before that time She was not named in writings or songs even though She sounds so old. At that time now 22 years ago, I was beginning to teach the Priestess/Priest of Avalon Training in Glastonbury and She revealed Her name to me as the central informing Goddess of this Sacred Place.

The Lady shows Herself to us through the cycle of Her seasons, the turning of the Wheel of Her nature here in Glastonbury. We have learned about Her as we have celebrated Her through the eight seasonal festivals of the year, now for many years. She has faces that are young and old, wild and scary, loving and generous. She is a Goddess

of love, of the deep healing of the wounds of karma. She is a Goddess of Transformation on all levels. She is recognised as the Mirror of Avalon, which She holds up to us that we might see ourselves reflected there, all the good, and all the not so good which needs healing and transforming.

It was in this Mirror that once a group of students were gazing and we saw Her name reflected there as Nolava, the Mirror of Avalon. Sara Potter, a priestess in training at the time, pointed out this name to us, which has since become the familiar name of the Lady of Avalon. At first it was a name that sounded slightly odd, but soon we found names of sister Goddesses in Europe and elsewhere, which also began with an 'N' – Nehellania in Holland, like Nolava, a Goddess of the misty margins of land and water; Noreia, a Celtic-Romano Goddess of place in Austria; and Nemetona, Goddess of the Sacred Grove.

Last year in our Temple seasonal ceremonies we celebrated the Nine Morgens of Avalon, who serve the Lady of Avalon with their transformative healing powers. We opened ourselves to their nature as Nine Crow Women, as nine trees, plants and creatures. We had an exciting year out on the land as we experienced their wild transforming healing energies.

This year we are celebrating the seasonal faces of Nolava, Lady of Avalon, so that we can call Her in to experience more of Her loving transforming nature, so that we can learn more about Her. We began at Imbolc holding our ceremony in the Goddess Hall, calling in Maiden Nolava, celebrating Her appearance in the landscape as the Swan Maiden and feeling Her magical renewing touch. Then at Eostre we were challenged by the corona virus and so held our first ever online seasonal ceremony for Nolava of Fire. We had never tried this before having people in nine different locations, focussing their energies on calling in the Lady of Springtime and the Greening of the Land.

We were greatly encouraged by the hundreds of people from all over the world who wanted to join us, from all over Brigit's Isles, from Canada, Italy, America, Spain and Kazakhstan. It was a wonderful participatory ceremony. It is truly inspiring the ways in which we have been forced by circumstances (always look for the hand of Goddess at such times) to think laterally, to find new opportunities, to be truly creative and allow the new to emerge. We are realising that a much larger worldwide audience can now connect to our work for Goddess here in Avalon.

At Beltane we are celebrating Nolava the Lover, again in an online ceremony, in which we hope you will be able to participate as we increase the numbers of people who can join us for a worldwide celebration. Then later we hope to celebrate together again in person on the land, beside the sacred waters to show our love for Lady Nolava of Water, and onwards for Great Mother Nolava, Nolava of Earth, Black/Crone Nolava, Nolava of Air and always our Lady in the centre of all we offer to the world.

Do come and join us online and later in person to share your love for the Lady of Avalon. Look at our website for dates and follow us on Facebook on the Glastonbury Goddess Temple page for details of Zoom connections.

See www.goddesstemple.co.uk,
www.instagram.com/glastonburygoddesstemple,
www.youtube.com/glastonburygoddesstemple

Kathy Jones, Priestess of Avalon, Initiatrix

Spirit of Horse

At Equinox on the Spirit of Horse wheel I work with the Fire Horse, looking at the amount of space we need to be able to feel our wild Soul nature, I teach how to be safe around the horses by using boundaries. As I'm writing this I'm reflecting on the timing of the CV19 lock down that happened at the Equinox (here in the UK). We have all been forced to explore our boundaries, I've had to assert strong energetic boundaries and physical distancing so I can continue to be 'free to exercise/shop' and 'stay safe'. The Equinox is also a time of balance of the Ying and Yang, as it's that point of equal night and day, it's a time when all that's out of alignment gets highlighted so that it can be brought back into balance. It seems to me that the fire of the masculine/yang energy's got out of control, and its highlighting many fears for healing which probably have deep past-life roots (especially to me as a Priestess, and horse shamanka) – fear of the extremes of enforced boundaries, fear of the separation from loved ones, fear of the 'Deadly Flu Virus'. I can choose to loose myself in these fears or to embrace the gifts and teachings. I can relate to the constant doing, how in my life I have got so busy, and maybe out of alignment with Mother Earth so I'm welcoming more time to go within and face these fears, rest and be at peace in the presence of my soul and Goddess and to share these gifts.

As we move towards Beltane, on the Spirit of Horse wheel, I work with the energies of Rhiannon, the Wilde Faerie Queen, who rides the white mare. The message of Rhiannon's gifts to me at this time is to stop, go within, listen to my soul, and sovereign self. For no matter how fast one rides, she will not stop unless I ask, and when I think to finally stop and ask for her to stop She is there, present in all her beauty waiting for me. Her beauty is that of the land She is the land itself, She is the trees and flowers and all the beings of nature. So I encourage you to stop, take time out to journey, go within and ask Rhiannon to show you how you're constant doing, you're constant acting or reacting, is a distraction to getting to know your sovereign self, and your gifts.

As part of the Spirit of Horse teachings I introduce people to a real herd of horses that are kept naturally, not stabled and unriden, out at the Avalon Priory. During this time of lockdown I still have to go out and tend the horses, it is my joy to be with them and receive their messages of calm, peace and accepting what is. Horses have been on lock down for centuries confined to Stables and forced to work for human kind and many millions and thousands have died in numerous wars, they've been mistreated and abused. Most horses these days still carry those wounds of the past and more recent present life woes. It's always amazing to see the healing that occurs when I introduce people to this therapy herd, I guide them to do a Body scan, they pick a horse that they feel drawn to, then they find that the horses 'story' is so similar to theirs. Just recently I took a couple to 'Meet the herd' and the man picked DJ to work with and totally resonated with his story of PTSD, and they both connected soul to soul to receive a deep healing. The wounded masculine, needs help from the feminine at this time to be able to stop and feel safe enough to go within. We all have this wounded masculine active self and now is the time to stop and find the balance within.

As I can't bring you out to Meet the Herd at this time, I've been making little films from their field of some of the Soul connection Spirit Horse work I do, posting on the Goddess Temple You-tube page, and my Spirit Horse FB page. Assisted by Hannah Gwaar who lives on the land as their Guardian I've done a Spirit Horse Drum Journey, some drum healing for DJ, a Heart Opening Soul Connection meditation, a Spirit horse Chakra body scan to help you tune in and listen to your body, and a short film of the herd at Peace. As well as in my Role of Therapist at Goddess House I've been doing short Chakra balancing and Goddess love bubble meditations. We at Goddess House are available for distant healing and 1;1 healing work. May you all be at peace during these challenging times, and sending the love of the Goddess, & wisdom of Spirit of Horse to all. Blessed Be xxxx

*Anna-Saqqara Price
Priestess of Avalon, Priestess Healer
and Retreat Manager at the Avalon Priory.*



Poetry



Lover Bride

I follow You
to the wide-open places,
running through fields of flowers
dancing in the fiery sunlight
celebrating the passion that drives me,
embracing the love that lifts
me high above the ordinary.
I follow the traces of your serpent,
ever changing, twisting, turning,
Kundalini energy rising from the earth.
Inviting me to open all my senses,
to hear, to see, touch and smell
intensely, the aliveness of all of nature.
As I merge with you,
beloved of my heart
closer than my heartbeat
drumming the rhythm of wild ecstasy.
My blood spiralling freely
from the source of my being,
as I meet myself in you,
 Lover Bride,
I know myself
 loved!

Marion Brigantia
Priest/ess of Brighde-Brigantia training
www.marionbrigantia.com

Rowan

Little soul; you who kept us all waiting,
Making your own rules already.
Teaching us about patience and stillness in this frantic world.
You, who are unlimited potential,
A blank canvas waiting to be created.
What hopes we have for you.
We wish you health and happiness;
Friendship and joy.
May your tears be tears of laughter,
May every day be filled with smiles.
May the universe play its song just for you.
May you dance in the rain.
May you never fear the storm.
May Goddess always watch over you.
And may you never forget how loved you are by all of us.

Janet Parfitt

Priest-esses of Cerridwen

2 Year Training

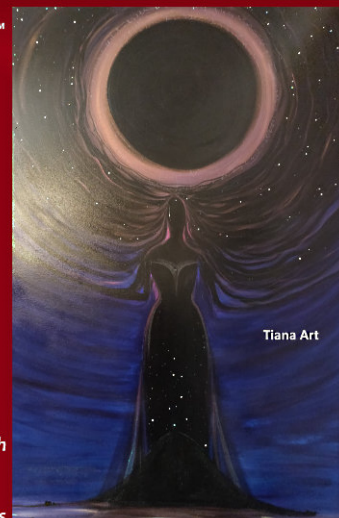
Healer - Seer - Wisdom Keeper

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Sacred Listener
Soul Guide
Diviner
Death Midwife
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Herb Wise
Crystal Ally
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These are just a few
of the areas in which
you will become
proficient through
the teachings on this
course.

Connecting with the
Ancestors in sacred sites.

Drumming, sounding,
primal energy; see, feel
and heal all that is
imbalance
and move
into a new
You.



Tiana Art

"This course has
changed my life. I
am stronger, more
connected with all
living beings, see
the sacred in all,
and feel the flow
of energy that is
my divine
connection with
Goddess. She is
always with me.
She lights my path
in life.

— Rhian B. South

Now also
available as
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For more information on the course please visit or
contact Bee on bee@cerridwen.co.uk/07906098284
goddessstempleteachings.co.uk/priestessofcerridwen

Radical Self Care

Beltane is a time of love – romantic love, erotic love, divine love, loving friendships, love between family members, the soul love of our spiritual family or tribe.

The most significant love of my life is Goddess. Goddess wants everyone of us to love and to be loved. To feel Her love. To be Her love. Goddess loves us without any conditions. We don't need to earn Her love, we have it always. She is always there for us. I remember vividly the moment I really understood that I could only truly know Goddess, experience Her myriad qualities and embody Her in the world if I learnt to love myself as much as I love Her. Not in a narcissistic or self-centred way but in the profound realisation that I am She and She is me. In loving Her I love myself, as I am Her, my body is Her temple. To take care of myself and to live in my sovereignty is to honour Her.

What if we truly love ourselves as She loves us? Sit quietly and feel into loving yourself the way Goddess loves us. Really allow that to be the truth of your whole being. Say out loud

"I love myself the way Goddess loves me, totally and unconditionally".

If this works for you, try using it as an affirmation, repeating it to yourself several times a day. Feel truly worthy of loving and caring for yourself.

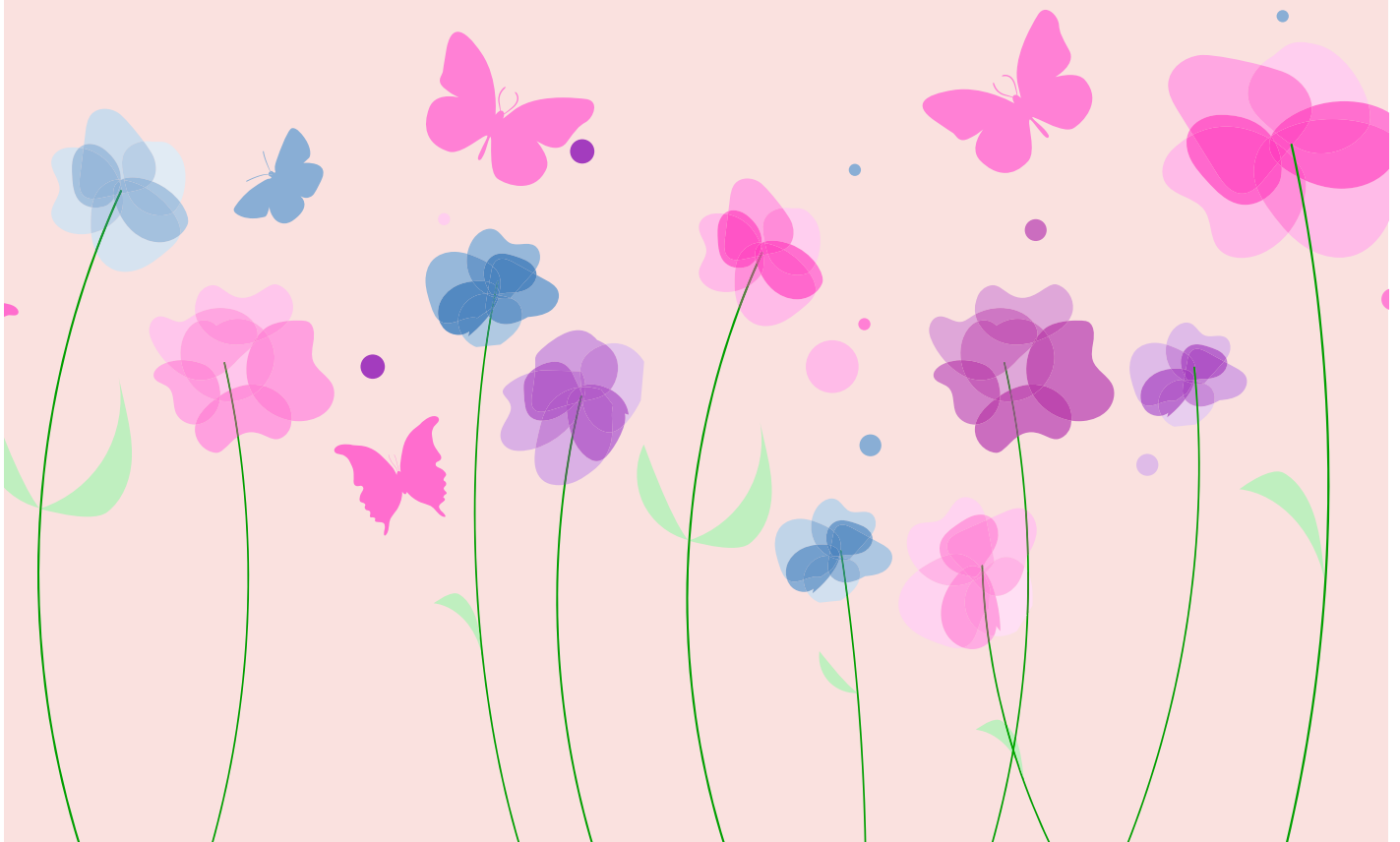
How do you forget to self-care? Do you over-ride a physical, emotional or psychological need of yours, that matters, but gets forgotten by you? Maybe someone else's need feels more important or your attention gets called away from yourself? Maybe, like Rhiannon, you were treated badly by others, traumatised by loss, falsely accused or humiliated. Because of one, or more of these things you decided you were not worth being taken care of by yourself. You suppressed parts of yourself and negative habits were planted.

Rhiannon illustrates resilience and self-care. She found inner strength in the face of adversity. Whatever has or will happen in our own lives, Rhiannon reminds us of our own divinity and that looking after yourself physically, emotionally and psychologically is the path to recovery and our sovereign wholeness. She enables us to release the role of victim from our lives forever. She inspires us to do the things that are good for us and repair our soul rather than indulging the things that are harmful or make us feel negative.

Self-care is also about building spiritual practices into our daily routine and being gentle and compassionate when we don't. It can help strengthen our immune system and build resilience so we can better cope with whatever life throws our way. Radical self-care at its best is an easy flowing energy of giving attention to our needs as they arise, keeping our bodies healthy and fit, our minds active, our mental health cared for, our hearts cherished, and most of all, our souls and spirits deeply nourished.

Every action we take that moves us away from harm towards healing, from separation to love, from fragmentation to wholeness is an act of self-care not only for ourselves but also for Goddess, Gaia and the world.

Lynne Sedgmore - Priestess, Healer, Poetess



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