

A woman with long, wavy red hair and a fur-trimmed hat is holding a crystal glass of red wine. She has her eyes closed and a serene expression. The background is a snowy, dark forest with snowflakes falling. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

The
Enchantment of
YULE

A GUIDE TO CELEBRATING
THE WINTER SOLSTICE

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Unveiling the Essence of **YULE**

The fields lie cloaked in frost, their bounty long tucked away, as the earth draws a deep, wintry breath.

Bare branches reach toward a sky of pewter gray, while the air hums with the sharp, electrifying stillness of a world preparing for its next chapter.

Even the quiet feels alive, cradled in the promise of light's return beneath blankets of snow and soil.

This is Yule, the Winter Solstice, the sacred still point of the year when the Great Goddess labors to bring forth the Sun once more.

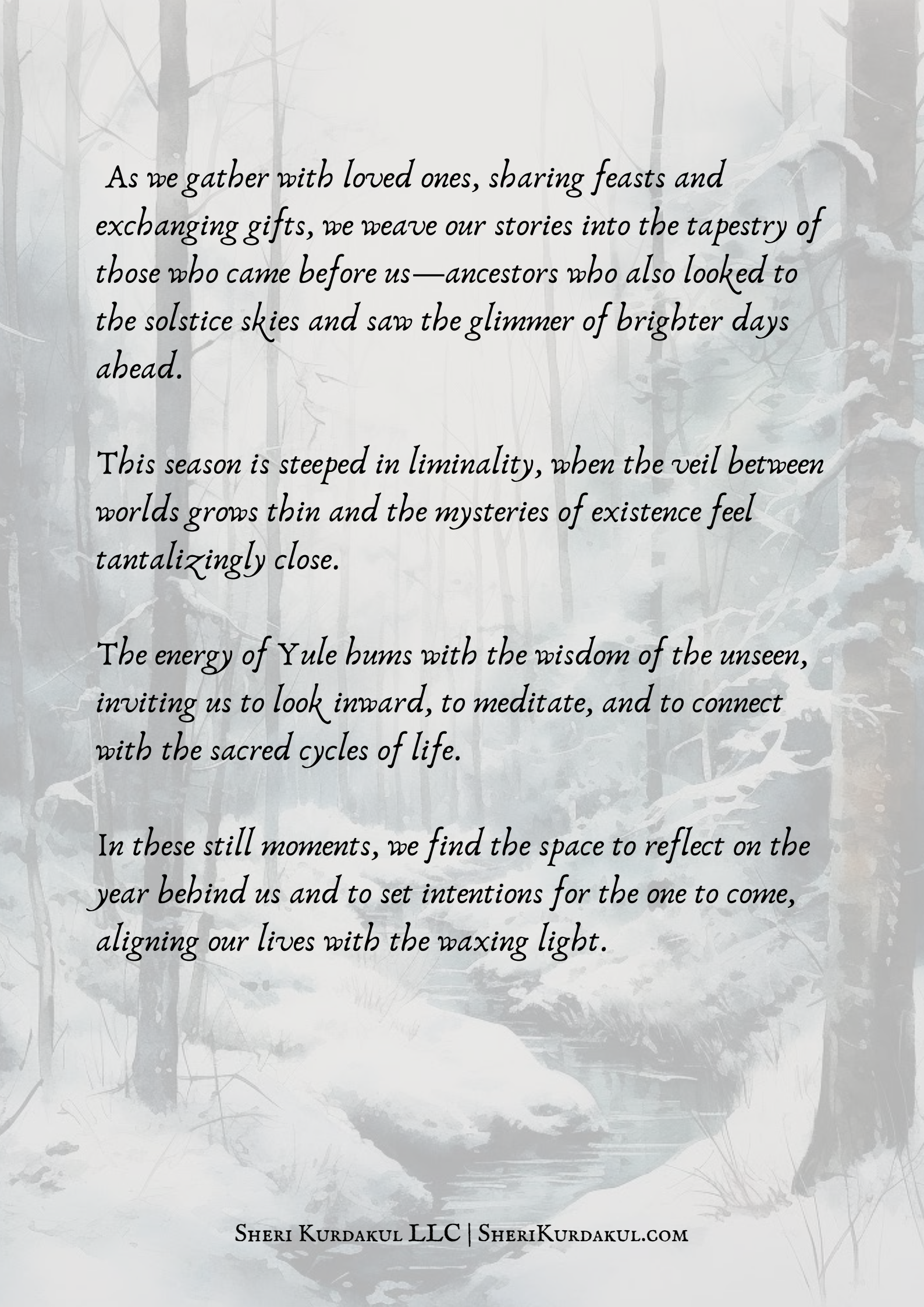
Around December 21 in the Northern Hemisphere—or June 21 for our Southern hemisphere kin—the Oak King rises to challenge the waning Holly King, reclaiming his crown and ushering in the waxing light.

Their mythic battle, steeped in the cycles of light and shadow, echoes the rhythms of nature, reminding us of the eternal dance between death and renewal.

The longest night is not one of despair but one of anticipation. Fires blaze in hearths and in hearts, candles are lit to call back the sun, and evergreen boughs—symbols of life enduring through the cold—adorn our homes.

These are not mere decorations; they are whispers of ancient magic, connecting us to the primal forces of the earth and sky.

Yule is a time to honor the resilience of life, both in the world around us and within ourselves. It's a moment to sit in reverence before the dark, to acknowledge its quiet wisdom, and to celebrate the spark of hope that burns even in the deepest cold.



As we gather with loved ones, sharing feasts and exchanging gifts, we weave our stories into the tapestry of those who came before us—ancestors who also looked to the solstice skies and saw the glimmer of brighter days ahead.

This season is steeped in liminality, when the veil between worlds grows thin and the mysteries of existence feel tantalizingly close.

The energy of Yule hums with the wisdom of the unseen, inviting us to look inward, to meditate, and to connect with the sacred cycles of life.

In these still moments, we find the space to reflect on the year behind us and to set intentions for the one to come, aligning our lives with the waxing light.

*As the wheel turns and the Oak King begins his reign,
Yule reminds us that the dark is not an end but a fertile
pause, a cosmic reset brimming with potential.*

*It invites us to honor the unbroken rhythm of light and
shadow, of endings and beginnings, and to celebrate the
promise of the sun's return—a promise that carries with
it the enduring hope of renewal and brighter horizons.*





YULE



Yule

First Winter Sabbat of the Witches' New Year

Yule is the first of the Pagan sabbats in the season of winter and one of the eight spokes on the Wheel of the Year.

This sacred wheel marks the cyclical rhythm of the seasons and holds space for key agricultural and spiritual milestones celebrated in many Pagan and Wiccan traditions.

Yule's position as the Winter Solstice emphasizes its role as a time of renewal, both in nature and in spirit.

As the darkest night gives way to the rebirth of the Sun, Yule marks a turning point—a moment of transition from the stillness of winter toward the promise of light and life returning once more.

A woman with dark, curly hair and red lipstick is looking directly at the camera. She is holding a lit candle in a brass holder. She is wearing a dark, high-collared dress with red berries. The background is a snowy forest with pine branches. Snow is falling around her.

*“O! Mighty Goddess, in silver ice, watching
over us as we sleep, a layer of shining white,
frost on the world and in the soul, we thank
you for visiting us.”*

Patti Wigington

Yule

Correspondences & Symbols

DATE: December 21st (June 21st in Southern Hemisphere)

CUSTOMS: *Kindling new fires, strengthening family & friend bonds, gift giving, decorating the Yule Tree, wassailing, hanging mistletoe, bell ringing*

FOCUS INTENT: *Introspection, transformation, rebirth, light out of darkness, the mysteries, inner renewal*

ELEMENT: *Earth*

THRESHOLD: *Dawn*

TAROT CARDS: *The Star, 8 of Cups*

DIETIES: *Bona Dea, Baldur, Cailleach Bheur, Demeter, Dionysus, Frau Holle, Holly King, Mithras, Odin, Saturn*

HERBS: *Blessed Thistle, Bayberry, Cinnamon, Chamomile, Valerian, Sage, Bay, Ginger*

FOODS: *Roast Meats, Nuts, Apples, Mulled Wine, Dried Fruit*

CRYSTALS: *Citrine, Sunstone, Garnet, Fire Agate*

ANIMALS: *Yule Goat, Reindeer, Squirrel, Phoenix, Wren*

FLOWERS: *Holly, Mistletoe, Ivy*

COLORS: *Gold, Silver, Red, Green, White*

SYMBOLS: *Yule Log & Tree, Poinsettia, Mistletoe, Spinning Wheel, Bayberry Candles*

Yule

Ways You Can Celebrate



Yule

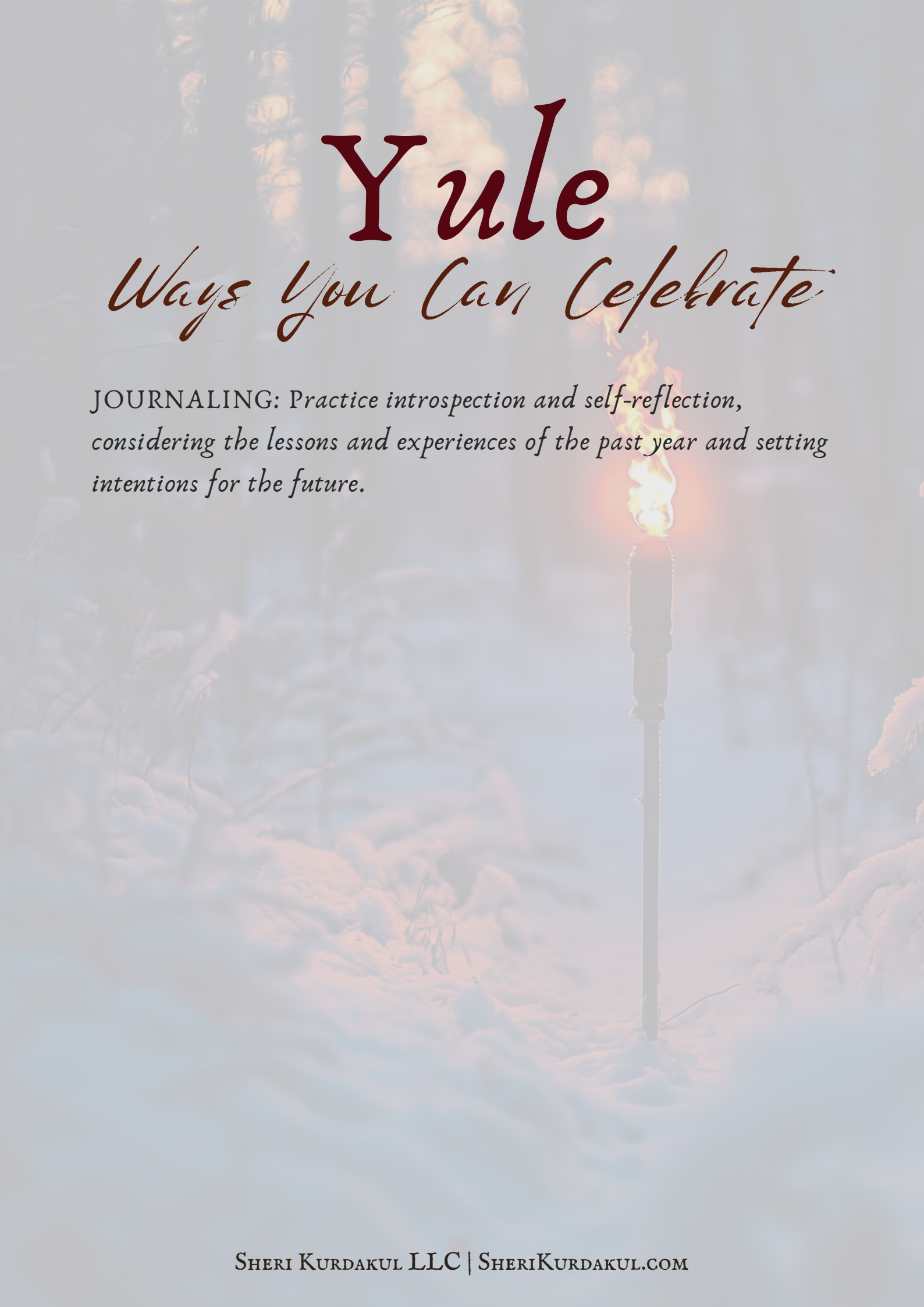
Ways You Can Celebrate

SET UP AN SOLAR ALTAR: *Create a space that celebrates the rebirth of the Sun. Adorn it with golden candles, sun symbols, evergreen branches, and seasonal fruits like oranges, apples, or nuts. Burn candles to honor the light's return and offer gratitude for the year's blessings.*

DECORATE: *Bring the spirit of Yule into your home with touches of green, red, and gold. Decorate with evergreen wreaths, pinecones, holly, mistletoe, and strings of twinkling lights to symbolize the growing light and life that the season promises.*

FIRE: *Light a Yule log or gather around a fireplace or candles. The flames honor the Sun's rebirth, bring warmth to your space, and serve as a ritual for protection, cleansing, and welcoming renewal.*

DIVINATION: *Use tools like tarot, runes, or pendulums to explore the themes of rebirth and the year ahead. Reflect on what the returning light might illuminate in your life.*



Yule

Ways You Can Celebrate

JOURNALING: *Practice introspection and self-reflection, considering the lessons and experiences of the past year and setting intentions for the future.*



The Return of the Sun

Honoring the Triumph of the Oak King at Winter Solstice

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The Return of the Sun

HONORING THE TRIUMPH OF THE OAK KING AT WINTER SOLSTICE

Ah, Yule—the shimmering jewel of the ancient winter calendar, when even the frostiest of spirits found reason to celebrate.

In the Celtic and Germanic traditions, it was a time of wonder and renewal, marked by the radiant rebirth of the sun god. This luminous deity, often imagined as youthful and glowing with vitality, symbolized hope and the promise of longer, warmer days ahead.

The people gathered in joyous revelry, feasting until their bellies were full, exchanging tokens of affection, and lighting fires and candles to coax the light back into the world.

Meanwhile, in lands warmed by the Mediterranean sun, the Greeks and Romans danced to a similar tune. The Greeks tipped their laurel crowns to Apollo, that golden-haired bringer of light, while the Romans turned their gaze to Saturn, the god of abundance and time.

Both cultures marked the winter solstice with exuberant festivals, offering gifts and performing rituals as though to remind the celestial powers that the sun's return was non-negotiable.



Today, modern pagans and Wiccans embrace Yule with a nod to ancient traditions and a dash of contemporary magic.

It's a time to honor the timeless dance of renewal and rebirth, weaving rituals that shimmer with both symbolism and seasonal cheer.

Here's how you can make your own Yule magic:

- ***Decking the halls (and everything else) with evergreen boughs, holly, and mistletoe:*** These vibrant greens stand as guardians of eternal life, reminders that even in the depths of winter, the light endures.
- ***Swapping gifts with intention:*** Handmade treasures or thoughtfully chosen gifts take center stage—seeds for future growth, candles to keep the light alive, or anything steeped in the season's themes of renewal and warmth.
- ***Feasting and merrymaking:*** Plates piled high, mugs clinking, and laughter echoing through cozy gatherings as family and friends revel in the joy of the season.
- ***Pausing for reflection and intention-setting:*** As the year's wheel creaks into its next turn, quiet moments of gratitude and goal-setting ground the festivities, sowing seeds for the new chapter to come.

Yule today is a celebration that dances between the ancient and the modern, a reminder that even as traditions evolve, the heart of the season—the warmth, the light, the promise of renewal—remains eternal.



Incense

A Blend for the Returning Sun

Incense

A Blend for the Returning Sun

This Yule incense blend was crafted to conjure the warmth and light of the returning sun on Winter Solstice, while inviting a sense of renewal and quiet introspection.

Perfect for rituals, ceremonies, or simply a moment of seasonal reverie, this blend is your aromatic companion for rebirth and new beginnings.

Frankincense and Cedarwood take center stage, their sacred smoke heralding clarity and purification, as if sweeping away the cobwebs of the year gone by.

Pine and Juniper Berry join the dance, bringing the crispness of a frosty forest and the promise of life stirring beneath winter's slumber.

Then comes Oakmoss absolute, grounding the blend with its lush, earthy embrace, a whisper of ancient woods and the steadfast rhythm of nature's cycles.

For those who dare to add a touch of Mistletoe—legendary leaves of protection and fortune—you're weaving in a touch of magic as old as time itself.

For your blend you'll need:

- 2 parts Frankincense Resin (or powder)
- 1 part dried Pine Needles
- 1 part Cedarwood Chips
- 1 part Juniper Berry
- 1/2 part Oakmoss Absolute
- Pinch of dried Mistletoe Leaves

Optional: If you don't have access to any of the dried ingredients above, a few drops of the corresponding essential oil will work. You can also check correspondences and make substitutions as you see fit.

What's a "part"? It's any unit of measurement you choose to use. For example, a part could be a weight or a unit of measurement like a tablespoon. So if you're using tablespoons, 2 parts = 2 tablespoons.

To make your incense:

Add your dry ingredients to a glass mixing bowl one at a time. Measure carefully, and if the materials need to be crushed, use a mortar and pestle to do so first.

If you choose to add essential oils, measure them drop by drop directly into your dry crushed herbs, stirring well as you do so to help distribute the oils throughout the blend. Feel free to adjust quantities to your personal taste.

Thoroughly stir all ingredients together well, reciting the following charm as you do so:

*By sacred tree and winter's fire,
I blend this mix with heart's desire.
Frankincense for clarity's light,
Cedarwood to guard the night.
Pine and Juniper, fresh and bold,
Whisper tales of forests old.
Oakmoss deep, the earth it keeps,
Mistletoe's luck through magic leaps.
With every stir, the spell is cast,
Yule's bright blessings now shall last.
So mote it be!*

To use, place a pinch or tiny scoop of the incense blend on a lit charcoal disk inside a heat-proof vessel, such as a small cast iron cauldron, to release the smoke that carries with it the desired energies. Use it during your Yule rites.

Make sure to sit the vessel on a heat-safe surface, as the heat from the lit charcoal disk can easily transfer and cause heat damage to surfaces, or a fire.

Keep your incense in a tightly sealed glass jar, labeling it with its purpose, name, and the date it was made. For extra measure, record the recipe in your grimoire and include the name and date. This way you can recreate the blend easily in the future.



Candle Magic

Correspondences for Yule

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Candle Magic

Yule Color Correspondences

The long nights leading up to Yule wrap the world in a hushed, frosty embrace, and the warm glow of candlelight is a reminder of the impending return of the sun.

Candle magic is timeless, but it takes on an extra spark of enchantment during the long nights leading up to Yule. The Winter Solstice whispers of rebirth and renewal, inviting us to infuse our rituals with the light and warmth that push back against the dark.

Embrace the spirit of Yule by exploring these wintry candle colors, each one carrying energies of the season's magic. Let the flickering flames tell your story—blend the wisdom of ancient traditions with your own intentions, creating a ritual that's radiant and unique.

METALLIC GOLD: *The Sun, Longer Days, Fertile Soil*

DARK GREEN: *Prosperity, Birth, New Growth*

RED: *Rebirth of the Light*

PURPLE: *Spiritual Growth, Renewal*

WHITE: *Purity, Peace, Protection, New Beginnings, Lunar Goddess Energies*

BLACK: *The Underworld, Protection*



In addition, there are some powerful color combinations we can call upon during this time of year when using candle magick. Here are some ideas, but feel free to reference the previous section and create your own:

RED, GREEN, & WHITE: *The Balance of Light & Darkness, Growth, & Purity*

GREEN, GOLD, & BLACK: *The Cycle of Life, the Sun God, the Underworld*

WHITE, RED, & BLACK: *The Great Goddess, the Cycle of Life & Death, the Underworld*



Yule

A Simple Solar Altar

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Yule

A Simple Solar Altar

Creating an altar for Yule doesn't have to be complicated. You can set it up anywhere you choose, indoors or out.

If you already have a dedicated altar space, that will of course do nicely... or, you can set your altar up elsewhere in your living space.

Do you have a mantle over a fireplace? That's the perfect location to set up an altar for Yule. Your altar becomes a sacred hearth, a place where the spirit of the season gathers to stay awhile.



Once you've chosen the location for your altar, here are some ideas and tips for setting it up and decorating it for the season:

STEP 1: Start With Evergreen Boughs

Pine or Fir work nicely, their deep green a testament to life's persistence even in the coldest months. You can harvest some small branches yourself from nature, or artificial works just fine as well. You might want to add some Holly and Holly Berries for a pop of color.

STEP 2: Add Some Candles

You can refer to the correspondences section in this guide for ideas, but in general, gold, red, or white are ideal. You can add one focal point candle, or add multiple. The flickering of the candles is a nod to the light returning out of the darkness as they cast their warm glow across the space.

STEP 3: *Add a Symbol of the Sun*

A radiant golden ornament, a gleaming golden disc, or anything that whispers of light's triumphant return is perfect.

You may want to add a space for a vessel to burn the incense we created in the last section, as well as space for any offerings you'd like to leave.

Your altar becomes a sacred hearth, a place where the spirit of the season gathers to stay awhile. If you'd like to invite the spirit of the season in and consecrate the space, you can recite the following charm to consecrate your space:

*By evergreen and candle's glow,
Through sacred light, let magic flow.
This altar now, a holy space,
Blessed by Earth and Sun's embrace.
The longest night shall turn to day,
As shadows lift and fade away.
By fire's warmth and nature's might,
This altar shines with Yule's bright light.
So mote it be!*

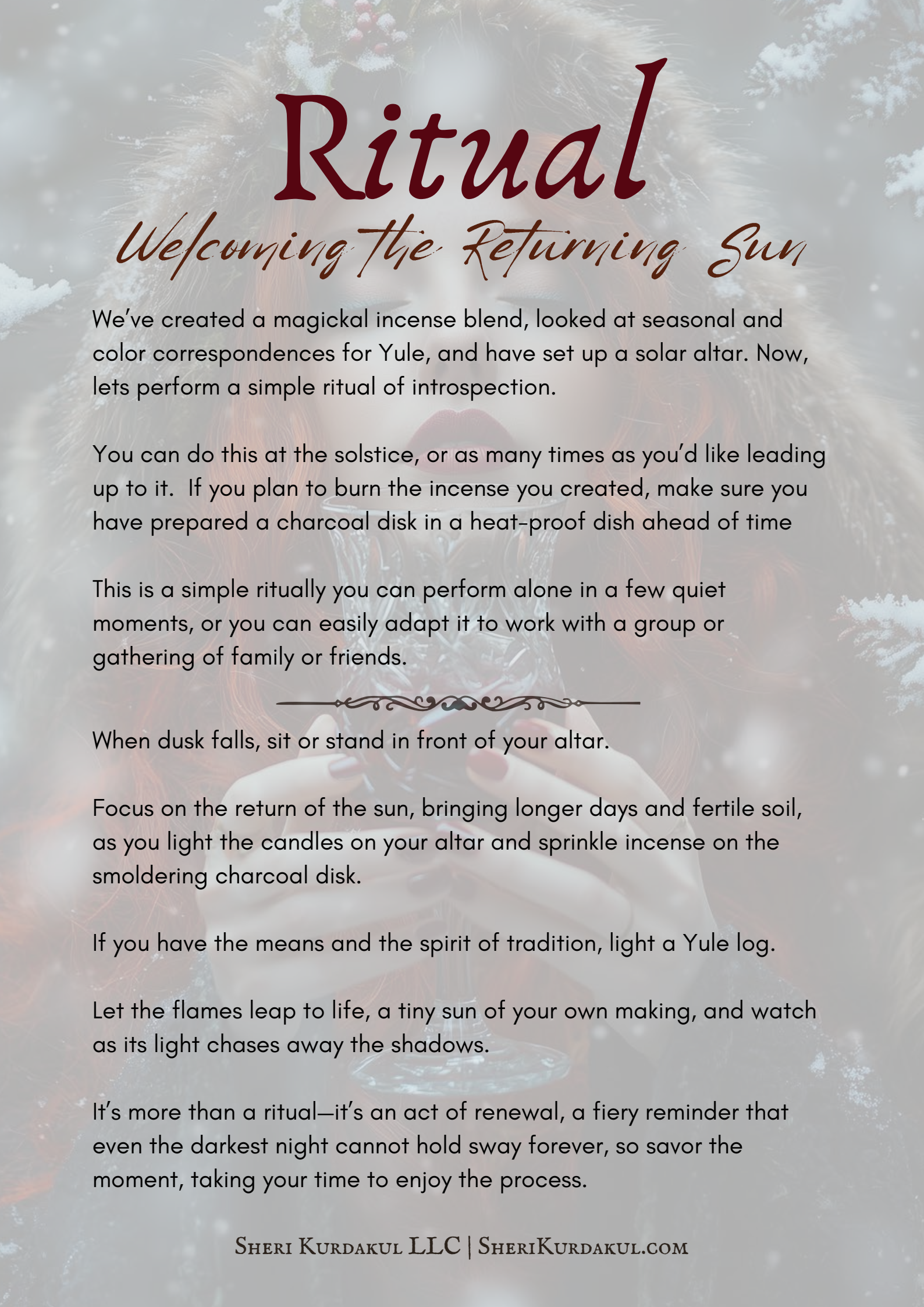
And so it is!



Ritual

Welcoming the Returning Sun

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Ritual

Welcoming the Returning Sun

We've created a magickal incense blend, looked at seasonal and color correspondences for Yule, and have set up a solar altar. Now, let's perform a simple ritual of introspection.

You can do this at the solstice, or as many times as you'd like leading up to it. If you plan to burn the incense you created, make sure you have prepared a charcoal disk in a heat-proof dish ahead of time.

This is a simple ritually you can perform alone in a few quiet moments, or you can easily adapt it to work with a group or gathering of family or friends.



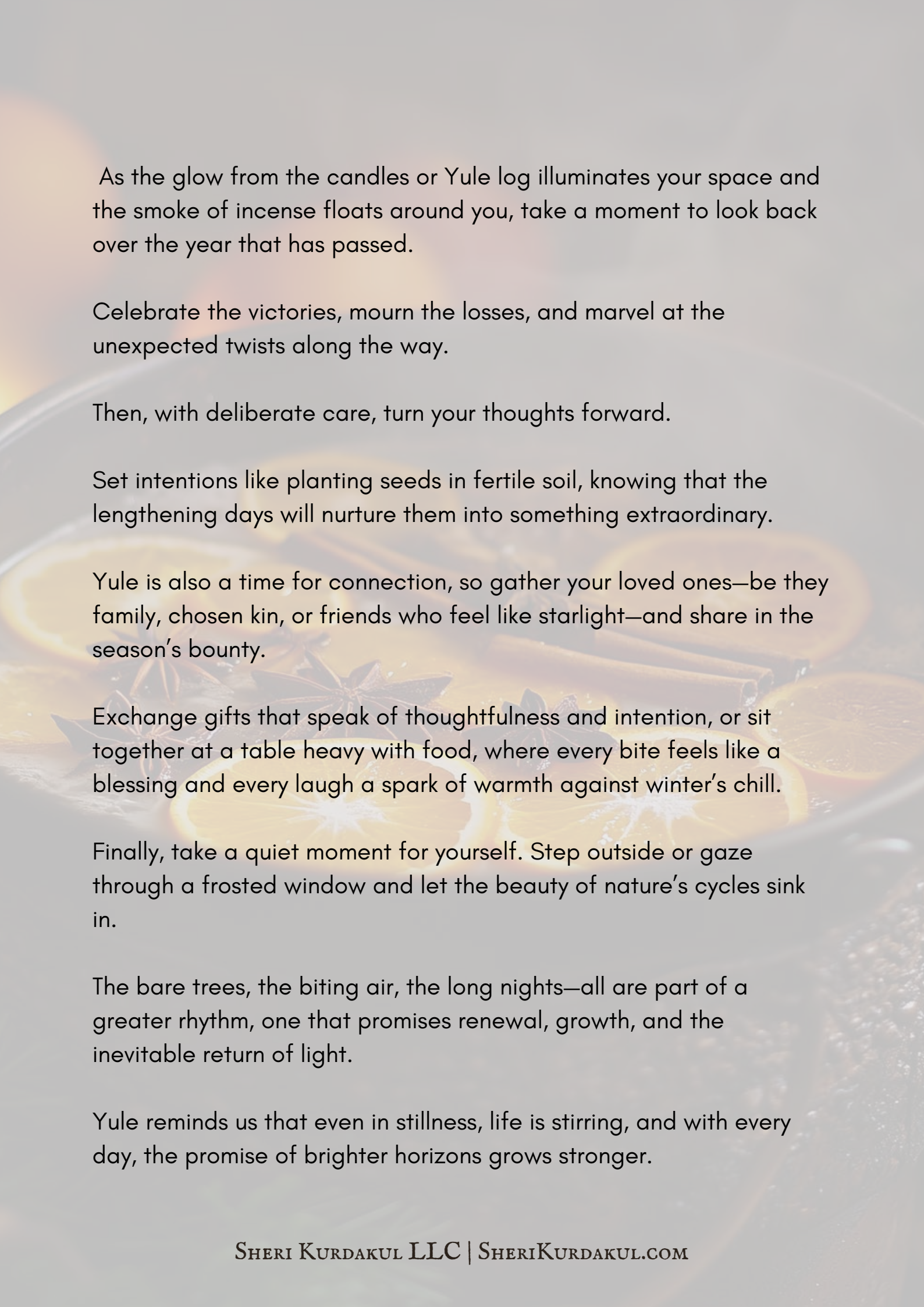
When dusk falls, sit or stand in front of your altar.

Focus on the return of the sun, bringing longer days and fertile soil, as you light the candles on your altar and sprinkle incense on the smoldering charcoal disk.

If you have the means and the spirit of tradition, light a Yule log.

Let the flames leap to life, a tiny sun of your own making, and watch as its light chases away the shadows.

It's more than a ritual—it's an act of renewal, a fiery reminder that even the darkest night cannot hold sway forever, so savor the moment, taking your time to enjoy the process.

A close-up photograph of a bowl filled with warm, aromatic ingredients. Several cinnamon sticks are visible, along with slices of orange and whole star anise pods. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the same ingredients, creating a cozy and inviting atmosphere.

As the glow from the candles or Yule log illuminates your space and the smoke of incense floats around you, take a moment to look back over the year that has passed.

Celebrate the victories, mourn the losses, and marvel at the unexpected twists along the way.

Then, with deliberate care, turn your thoughts forward.

Set intentions like planting seeds in fertile soil, knowing that the lengthening days will nurture them into something extraordinary.

Yule is also a time for connection, so gather your loved ones—be they family, chosen kin, or friends who feel like starlight—and share in the season's bounty.

Exchange gifts that speak of thoughtfulness and intention, or sit together at a table heavy with food, where every bite feels like a blessing and every laugh a spark of warmth against winter's chill.

Finally, take a quiet moment for yourself. Step outside or gaze through a frosted window and let the beauty of nature's cycles sink in.

The bare trees, the biting air, the long nights—all are part of a greater rhythm, one that promises renewal, growth, and the inevitable return of light.

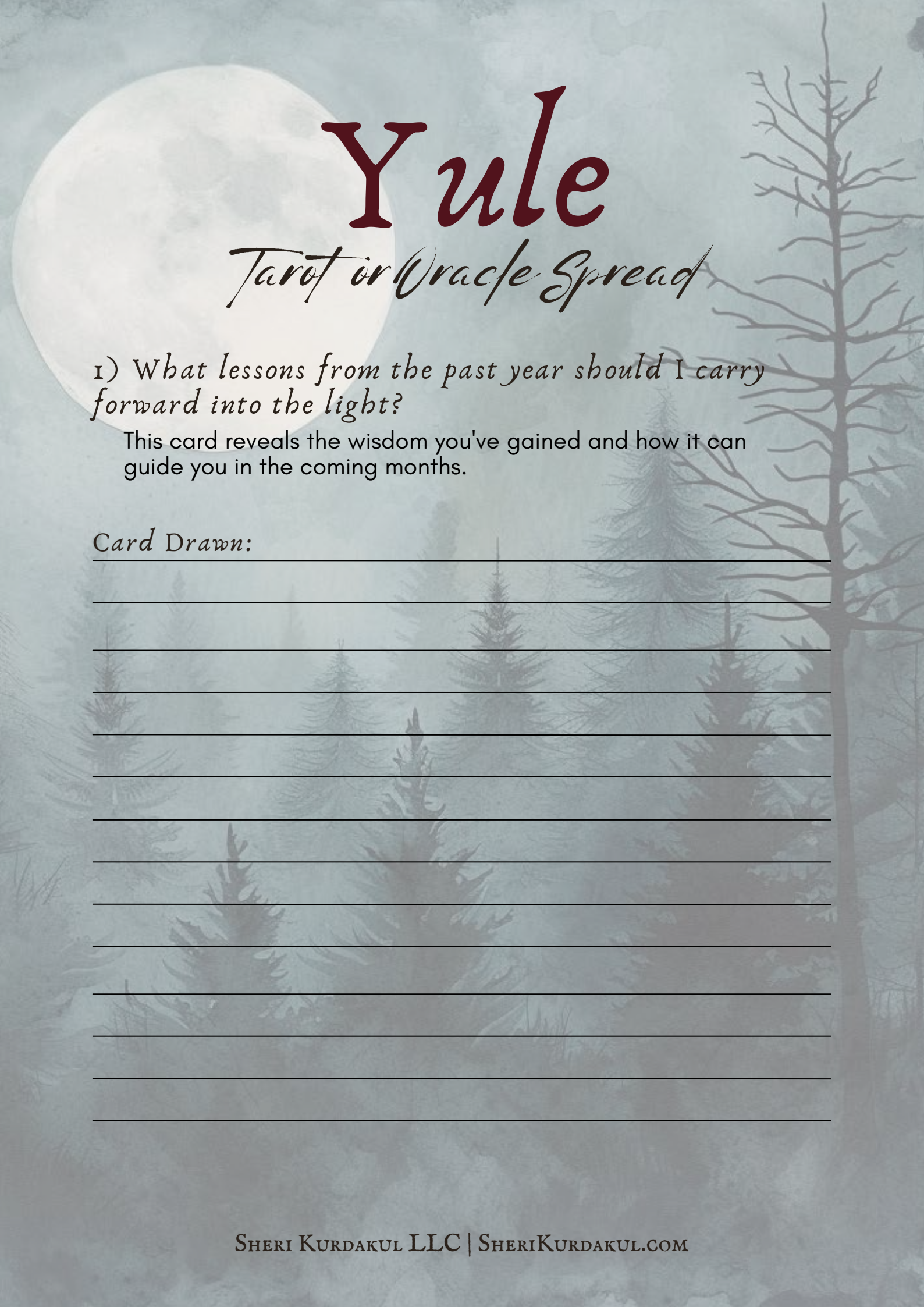
Yule reminds us that even in stillness, life is stirring, and with every day, the promise of brighter horizons grows stronger.

Yule

Tarot or Oracle Spread



This spread mirrors Yule's themes of reflection and renewal, helping you align with the solstice's transformative energy.



Yule

Tarot or Oracle Spread

1) *What lessons from the past year should I carry forward into the light?*

This card reveals the wisdom you've gained and how it can guide you in the coming months.

Card Drawn:

Yule

Tarot or Oracle Spread

2) *What shadows or challenges must I release to embrace the sun's return?*

This card highlights what you need to let go of as you prepare for renewal.

Card Drawn:



Yule

Tarot or Oracle Spread

3) What seed of intention should I plant for the year ahead?

This card offers insight into your most aligned goal or focus for growth.

Card Drawn:

Yule

Tarot or Oracle Spread

4) *What magic is brewing in the growing light?*

Tap into the transformative energies of the Winter Solstice, envisioning the potential for rebirth and renewal.

Card Drawn:

Yule

Tarot or Oracle Spread

5) What guidance does the returning light have for me as the wheel turns?

This card brings a message of hope and clarity for the next chapter.

Card Drawn:

A background image of a misty forest with evergreen trees, overlaid with horizontal ruling lines. The image is in grayscale and has a soft, painterly texture. The trees are dense and layered, creating a sense of depth. The mist is thick, obscuring some of the details of the trees in the background. The ruling lines are thin and black, spaced evenly across the page.



Yule

Journal Prompts

*What does the return of the sun symbolize
for me in this moment of my life?*

Explore how the solstice's promise of brighter days mirrors your own journey toward renewal and hope.

Reflect on habits, beliefs, or situations that no longer serve you and envision letting them go with the waning year.

A faint, artistic illustration of a holly branch with large, dark green leaves and clusters of white and red berries. The illustration is overlaid with a series of horizontal black lines, creating a template for writing.

Dive into your hopes and dreams for the year ahead and how you can nurture them into reality.

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Consider how to honor winter's invitation to slow down and restore your energy.

What wisdom can I gather from the cycles of nature to guide my path forward?

Draw inspiration from the turning of the seasons, the rebirth of the sun, and the resilience of life.



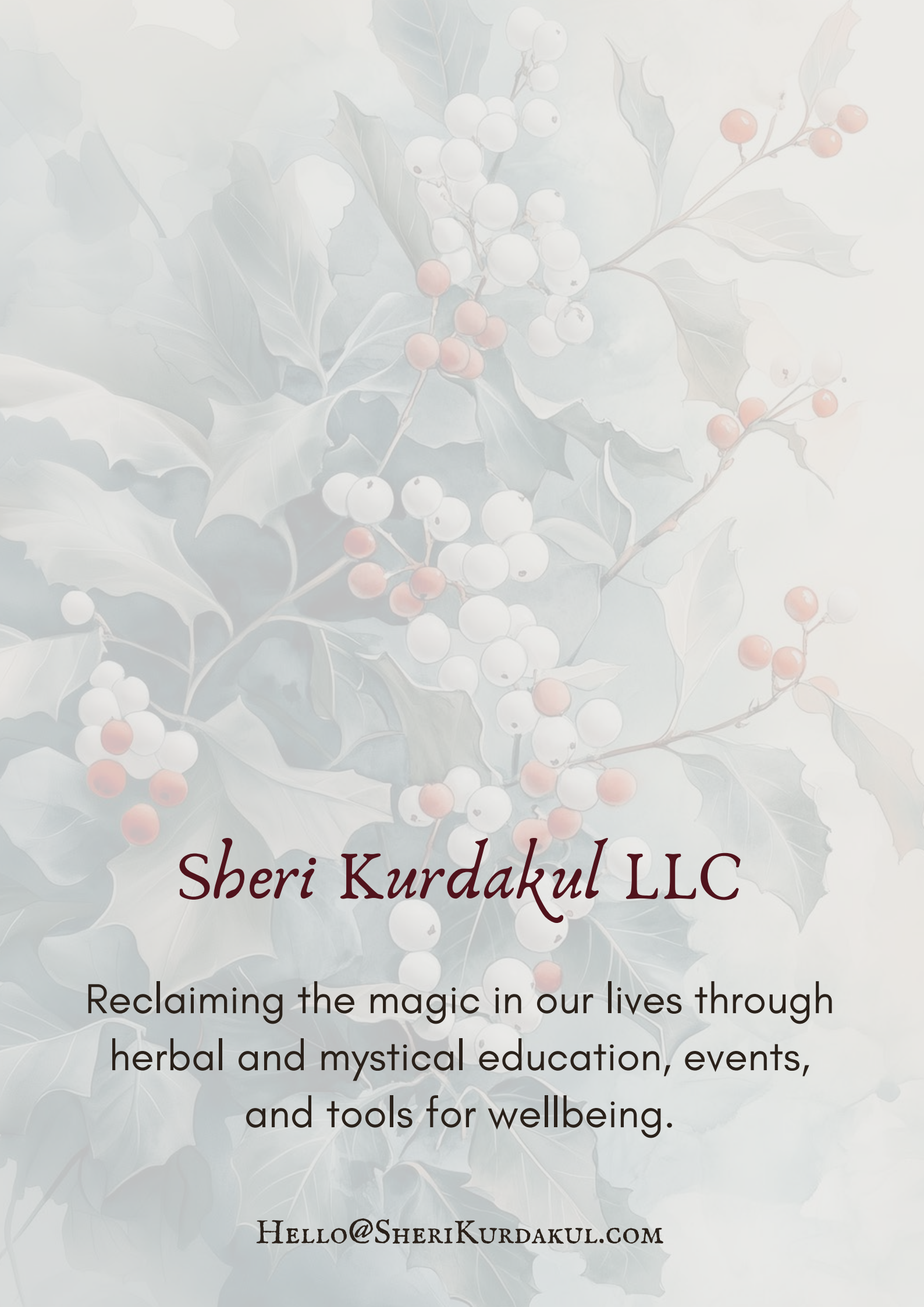
A faint, artistic illustration of a bearded man, likely a representation of Santa Claus or a similar figure, wearing a crown of holly. He has a long, flowing white beard and is holding a branch with red berries. The illustration is overlaid on a background of horizontal lines, which are part of a larger graphic design.

A faint, artistic background illustration of a bearded man, likely Santa Claus, wearing a crown of holly and holding a staff with a candle. The image is overlaid with horizontal lines for writing.

*“In winter the stars seem to have
rekindled their fires, the moon achieves
a fuller triumph, and the heavens wear a
look of a more exalted simplicity.”*

John Burroughs .





Sheri Kurdakul LLC

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