

Unveiling the Essence of SAMHAIN

The fields lie barren, their crops now harvested, leaving the earth exposed and quiet. The leaves have fallen, carpeting the ground in shades of gold and brown, while the sky above shifts to a cold, steely gray.

This is the season when the earth itself seems to take a breath, pausing in its endless cycle to rest and regenerate. As the days grow shorter and the nights stretch longer, the world around us enters a time of dormancy, a stillness that whispers of the mysteries hidden just beneath the surface.

Each year on October 31—or May 1 if you dwell in the Southern Hemisphere—Samhain arrives, carrying with it the weight of ancient traditions and the promise of renewal.

It's a sacred time, marking the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter, when the cycle of death and rebirth is most keenly felt.

For many within Pagan traditions, Samhain is a moment to pause and honor those who have gone before us, to reconnect with our ancestors and feel the echoes of their lives resonating through our own.

It is a time to light candles in their memory, to speak their names into the quiet night, and to remember that we, too, are part of this eternal cycle.

This is also the season when the veil between our world and the spirit realm grows thin, almost translucent, allowing glimpses into the unseen.

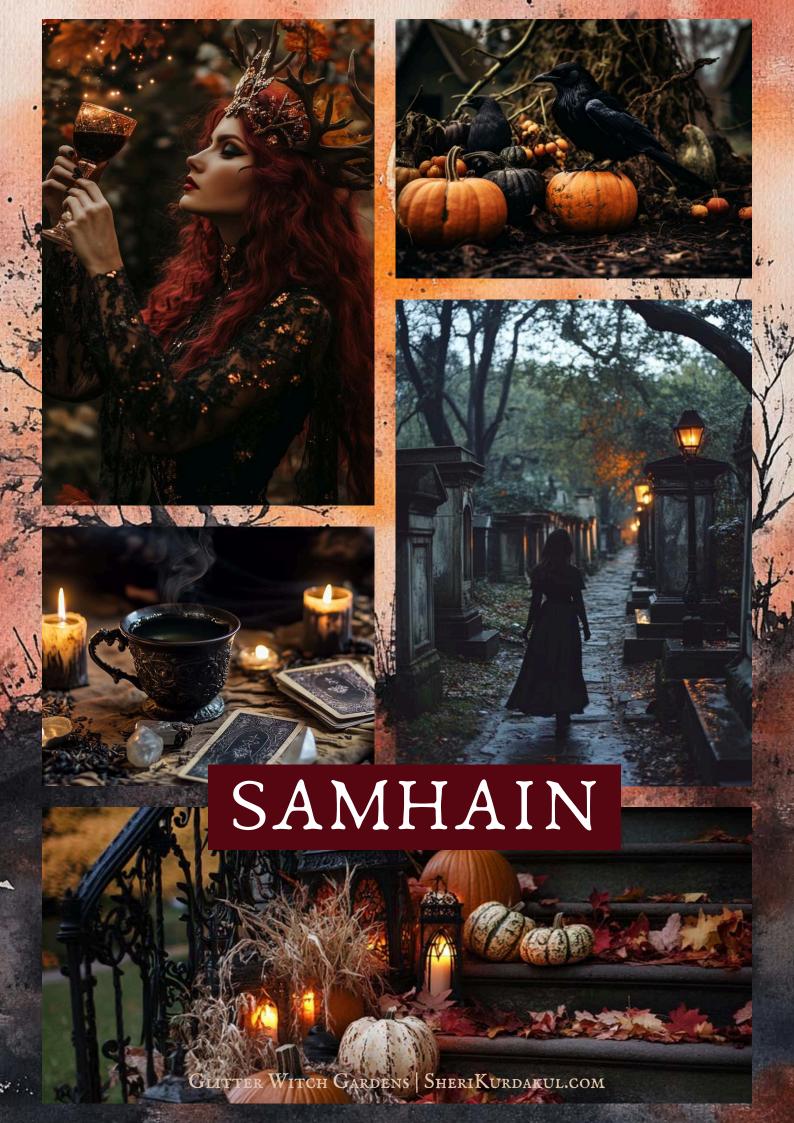
The air is thick with the possibility of encounters with the otherworldly, and for those who seek it, now is the perfect time to reach out across that divide.

Whether through ritual, meditation, or simply quiet reflection, Samhain offers a unique opportunity to make contact with the spirits of the dead, to hear their wisdom, and perhaps, to find a sense of closure or connection that transcends the boundaries of time and space.

As the wheel of the year turns, Samhain reminds us that death is not an end but a transition, a doorway through which we all must pass.

In this liminal space, where the living and the dead draw near, we are invited to embrace the mysteries of life and death, to celebrate the continuity of existence, and to honor the sacredness of the cycles that govern all things.





Sambain Final Pagan Harvest Sallat of the Year

Sambain is the last of the three Pagan harvest Sabbats of the year. These three Sabbats are part of the Wheel of the Year, which marks the cycle of seasons and important agricultural and spiritual events in many Pagan and Wiccan traditions.

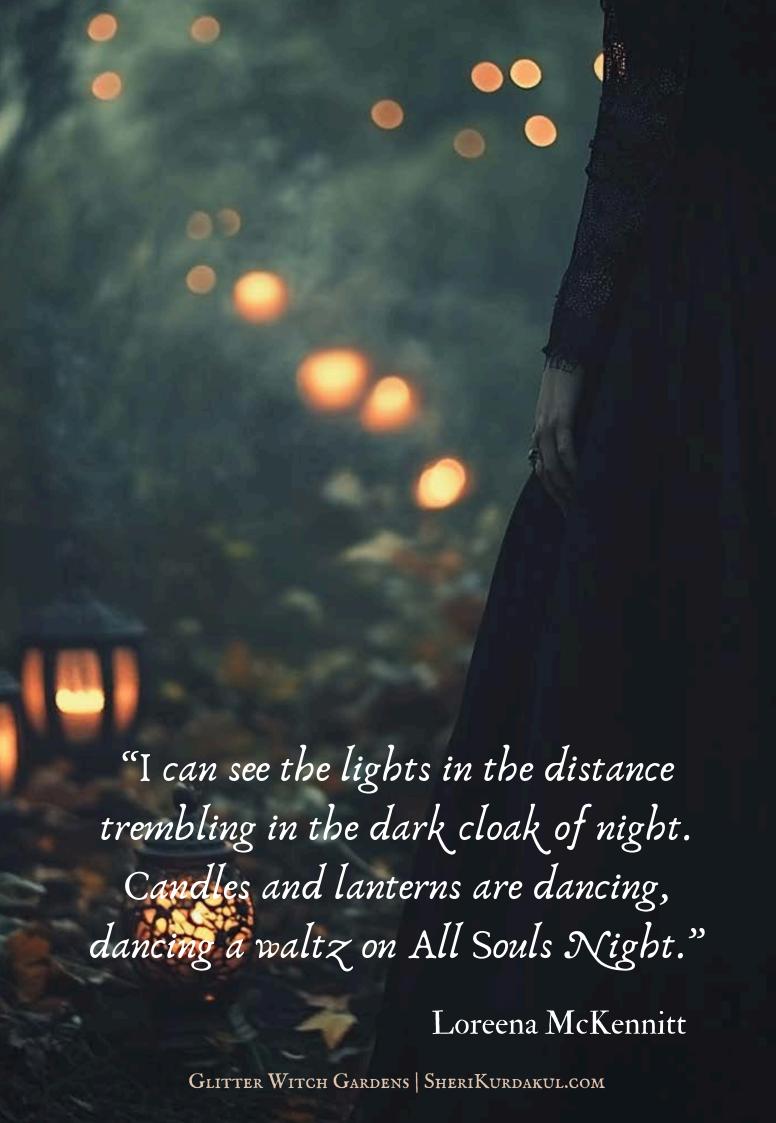
- Lughnasadh (or Lammas) Celebrated around August 1, Lughnasadh is the first of the harvest Sabbats. It marks the beginning of the grain harvest, a time to celebrate the abundance of the earth and give thanks for the first fruits of the season.
- Mabon Celebrated around the Autumn Equinox (September 21-23), Mabon is the second harvest Sabbat. It is a time of balance between day and night and is associated with the harvesting of fruits and vegetables. Mabon is also known as the Pagan Thanksgiving, a time to give thanks for the harvest and prepare for the coming winter.

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• Samhain - Celebrated on October 31 (or May 1 in the Southern Hemisphere), Samhain is the third and final harvest Sabbat. It marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

Samhain is also a time for honoring ancestors and reflecting on the cycle of life, death, and rebirth, making it one of the most significant Sabbats in many Pagan traditions.

Sambain's position as the last of the barvest Sabbats emphasizes its role as a time of transition, both agriculturally and spiritually, as the old year ends and the new one begins.



Sambain Correspondences & Symbols

DATE: October 31st

CUSTOMS: Ancestor veneration, divination, bonfires, costume dressing, releasing & renewing rituals, feasting on traditional seasonal foods, hosting a dumb supper to bonor the dead

FOCUS INTENT: Transformation, honoring the dead, honoring the harvest, preparing for winter

ELEMENT: Water

THRESHOLD: Midnight

TAROT CARDS: The Moon, Death

DIETIES: Hekate, Cerridwen, The Crone, Persephone, Bast,

Horned Hunter, Cernunnos, Osiris, Hades, Anubis, Loki, and any

other death or underworld god or goddess

HERBS: Cinnamon, Bay Leaf, Mullein, Mugwort, Garlic, Ginger

FOODS: Pumpkin Seeds, Roast Meats, Nuts, Potatoes, Apples

CRYSTALS: Carnelian, Smoky Quartz, Bloodstone, Jet

ANIMALS: Owl, Stag, Crow, Heron, Ram, Jackal

FLOWERS: Sunflower, Marigold, Chrysanthemum, Cosmos

COLORS: Orange, Red, Black

SYMBOLS: Jack-o-Lanterns, Scythes, Corn Stalks, Bat, Bones

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Sambain Ways You Can Cefebrate











Sambain Ways You Can Cefebrate

SET UP AN ANCESTOR ALTAR: Create a space with photographs and mementos of loved ones who have passed. Burn candles and offer seasonal fruits like apples or pomegranates in remembrance.

DECORATE: Decorate your home (inside and out if you wish!) and altar with touches of orange and black, jack-o-lanterns, skulls, and other spooky symbols. These elements serve as reminders of the delicate balance between life and death, bringing a bit of seasonal magic to your space.

FIRE: Light candles or host a bonfire to honor life, the ancestors, and to cleanse and purify your space.

DIVINATION: Explore divination methods like scrying, pendulum work, or tarot to connect with the season's energies.

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



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As the veil between worlds thins, whispers of the past beckon us to gather in reverence. Among the traditions of honoring the dead, one holds a place shrouded in quiet mystery—the Dumb Supper.

In this sacred rite, "dumb" speaks not of ignorance, but of silence, the solemn stillness that invites the spirits to dine with the living.

Its origins? Lost to the mists of time. Some say it hails from ancient customs, while others claim it's a modern marvel. Whatever its beginning, the Dumb Supper has become a cherished ritual for those who feel the pull of the unseen.

To host this supper is to prepare a seasonal feast and share it in a space where the living and the dead can meet in hushed communion.

First, sanctify your dining space—perhaps with the simple swirl of sacred smoke or the quiet casting of a magic circle. Whatever feels appropriate.

Banish the hum of the mundane world by silencing phones, televisions, and any noise that would disturb this sacred gathering.

This is no festive feast, no celebration of the harvest's bounty. Instead, it's a solemn rite, where silence reigns supreme, as the very name reminds us. For this reason, it may be best to exclude the youngest among us, whose voices may break the quiet.

Each guest, adult in spirit and reverence, brings a note—an intimate letter to the departed, words whispered to the dead but never spoken aloud.

When setting the table, prepare a place for each living guest, but reserve the seat of honor at the head for the Spirit you wish to honor. A single chair, draped in cloth of white or black, awaits their presence.

If the spirits you honor are many, and the space too small for individual seats, let candles flicker in their stead—each flame a soul, each light a life remembered.

From the moment the first guest crosses the threshold, silence becomes their companion. Each steps toward the Spirit's chair, bowing their head in quiet prayer.

Once seated, hands clasped around the table, the host—seated directly opposite the Spirit—offers the first blessing of the meal in wordless devotion.

The meal is served in silence, oldest to youngest, until even the Spirit's plate is full. And then, in the quiet stillness of the room, the living dine alongside the dead.

When the final bite is taken and the plates cleared, the notes are drawn forth.

One by one, each guest approaches the Spirit's place, selecting the candle that represents their loved one, and burning their note in its flame.

The words, meant for the dead, rise in smoke to meet them beyond the veil.

The ritual ends as it began—in silence.

Hands are joined, a final silent prayer is offered, and then, as each guest departs, they pause at the Spirit's chair once more, offering a quiet goodbye, until the night swallows the last of their footsteps.

In this stiffness, we remember. In the sifence, they hear us.



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Sambain The Enchanted Jack () Lantein

As the crisp air of autumn stirs with whispers from the otherworld, it's time to craft an enchanted sentinel to watch over your space—no mere jack o' lantern, but a glowing guardian, carved with intention and empowered with magic.

This is a protector, whose flame and watchful gaze wards off unwanted spirits as the veil thins and the night stirs with both light and shadow.

You can carve your jack o' lantern on Samhain to use Samhain night, or a few days before hand and display it nightly.

To craft your own enchanted jack o' lantern, a beacon of protection against spirits who would seek to cross your threshold uninvited, follow along with this special rite.



STEP 1: Choose Your Guardian

Begin by selecting your pumpkin—a stout and sturdy gourd that will serve as your sentinel against the unseen.

As you choose, run your hands along its smooth surface, feeling the life force that still lingers within it.

Speak your intent softly to the pumpkin, for it will soon become a vessel of protection.

STEP 2: Sanctify Your Tools

Before blade touches pumpkin, purify your tools. You can make this as elaborate as you'd like, but this simple process will do the trick.

Pass your knife and spoon through incense smoke or sprinkle them with saltwater as you say:

By earth and by flame, by water and air, Let this blade be pure, this pumpkin prepare.

With your tools cleansed, the rite begins.

STEP 3: Hollow the Vessel

Cut a circle around the pumpkin's stem to create a lid, careful to carve at a slight angle so it can sit snugly once replaced.

Scoop out the seeds and fibers. As you do, speak these words:

By my hand, I cleanse this space, Ready now to guard this place.

Set the seeds aside—they hold the promise of renewal and can be returned to the earth later as a final offering for protection, or you can save them to grow your own pumpkins next year.

STEP 4: Sigil of Protection

Before you begin carving the face, take your knife or a stick and inscribe a protective rune or sigil inside the pumpkin.

Algiz, the rune of defense, or a pentacle representing elemental balance, are both potent symbols.

As you etch, visualize the protection taking root within, unseen but powerful.

STEP 5: The Face of the Guardian

Now, with intention and care, carve the face of your jack o' lantern. Each cut should be purposeful, crafting a countenance that watches and wards.

Whether simple or intricate, the face you carve is a mask of protection, meant to stand guard against the forces of darkness.

As the features take shape, visualize the lantern as a guardian, fierce and unyielding, standing between your home and any unwelcome spirits that would seek to harm.

STEP 6: The Charm of Empowerment

With the face carved and the rune inscribed, it's time to empower your jack o' lantern. Hold your hands over the pumpkin and chant:

Gourd of harvest, flame of night, Guard this home from evil's sight. With fire's glow, let shadows flee, By my will, so mote it be.

Imagine a protective aura forming around the lantern, a beacon of light that wards off any ill intent.

STEP 7: Light the Flame

Select a candle for your jack o' lantern—you may want to anoint it with a protective oil, such as clove, rosemary, or cedarwood.

Before lighting it, hold the candle between your palms and speak:

O flame, burn strong and fierce tonight, Guard this home with guiding light. Let no darkness linger near, Keep this space from harm and fear.

Place the candle inside the pumpkin and light it, watching as the flickering glow transforms your jack o' lantern into a watchful sentinel.

STEP 8: Final Resting Place

Now, place your enchanted jack o' lantern at your doorstep, window, or any threshold where the boundary between realms feels thin. Please be safety conscious about the potential risks of a burning candle when placing your sentinel.

As the flame dances within the carved face, know that your home is now protected, its light repelling spirits with ill intent and guarding your space from harm.

Let the jack o' lantern burn through the night, a glowing sentinel in the dark, its flame a beacon of safety as the spirits roam. When the dawn rises, your guardian's duty is done.

STEP 9: Seeds of Protection

The seeds you gathered from your enchanted jack o' lantern hold more than just the promise of new life—they carry the essence of protection, ready to be offered back to the earth.

Scattered across the land, these seeds become a gift to nature, a quiet offering of gratitude and guardianship, grounding your space in the cycle of life and magic.

Or perhaps you'd like to leave them to rest, drying in your kitchen window sill under the sun's fading warmth. They can then be tucked away until spring, when you can plant them in your garden, nurturing them with intention and care.

As spring gives way to summer and summer to fall, your seeds will sprout into vines that present you with big beautiful orange blossoms that give way to small green fruits that grow and begin to turn orange as autumn draws near... ripening just in time for Samhain.

Harvest them, and once again, carve your enchanted jack o' lanterns and gather their seeds—continuing the circle of grounding and protection, each year adding a new layer of magic to your rites.

Not only will this cycle bless you with guardians for the thinning veil each autumn, but it will also provide a bounty of pumpkins to adorn your space or share with friends and family, spreading the magic far beyond your doorstep.



Incense A Blend for the Thinning Veil

As Samhain draws near and the veil between our world and the spirit realm becomes gossamer-thin, it's time to craft a blend of incense that honors the mystery of this sacred night. Of course you can purchase a pre-made Samhain incense, but crafting your own adds another layer of power to your magical workings.

This smoke from this ritual incense invites the spirits, casting a fragrant spell that guides their way while keeping your space protected and serene.

Gather the following ingredients, each chosen for its magical properties, and prepare to weave their energies into a powerful offering to the unseen:

MUGWORT:

A plant of prophecy and protection, its scent calls to the otherworld while shielding the practitioner from ill-intentioned spirits. Mugwort opens the gates to dreams and visions, allowing you to commune with those beyond the veil.

APPLE:

Few symbols speak to the magic of autumn as powerfully as the apple. Cut it across its middle, and the five-pointed star of the pentacle reveals itself, hidden within the heart of the fruit. Dried apples honor the harvest and celebrate the turning of the year, grounding your Samhain rituals in the beauty of the season's final bounty.

CINNAMON STICKS & ALLSPICE:

Both cinnamon and allspice are tied to the energy of death and remembrance. Their sweet, spicy smoke carries offerings to our ancestors, honoring the spirits who have passed and creating a sacred connection between realms. As these fragrant herbs burn, they become a bridge, inviting our loved ones to walk beside us once again.

ROSEMARY:

A symbol of remembrance, Rosemary calls to the spirits of ancestors, inviting them to join your circle. Its soothing aroma nurtures your connection to the past and offers peace to wandering souls.

DRIED ORANGE PEEL:

The sun's light fades quickly in the autumn sky, and the withered orange peel symbolizes this waning energy. With its citrus brightness, it honors the retreating sun, while also guiding your focus inward to the shadow self—a time for reflection, introspection, and transformation as the darkness grows.

For your blend you'll need:

- 2 parts dried Mugwort
- 6 parts dried Rosemary
- 1 part dried Apple pieces
- 2 parts crushed Cinnamon sticks
- 1 part dried Allspice berries
- 2 parts dried Orange peel

Optional:

- 15 drops of Orange essential oil
- 10 drops of Ginger essential oil
- 8 drops of Cinnamon essential oil

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.

Add your dry ingredients to a 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 herbs, stirring well as you do so to help distribute the oils throughout the blend. Feel free to adjust quantities to your personal taste.

As you blend your incense, let your thoughts turn to the magic of Samhain. This is a time to honor the thinning veil, where the living and the spirit world touch.

With the addition of each ingredient, focus on your intent, crafting a blend not only for protection but for remembrance.

Samhain marks the end of the harvest and the beginning of the dark half of the year, a time to reflect on the blessings you've gathered and to honor the ancestors who walked before you.

You can charge your incense with a purpose by stating the following charm as you blend the herbs together, focusing on your intent:

Samhain draws near with shadows and light,
Guiding the spirits through the veil of night.
I honor the past, the present, and what's to come,
Embracing the mysteries from which we've all sprung.
Samhain herbs, bring protection and peace,
As I will it, let the magic release.

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 Samhain 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.



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Candle Magic Autumn Color Correspondences

Candle magic, ancient and eternal, takes on a new depth as autumn's shadows grow long and the air crackles with mystery. The season of Samhain invites us to weave our rituals with the rich colors of fall, resonating with the energies of the turning wheel.

Embrace the spirit of Samhain by exploring these autumn candle colors. Feel free to weave your own meanings, blending the old ways with your personal magic.

RED: The Mother, Passion, Love, Fire Element, Protection

ORANGE: Energy, Happiness, Harvest

GOLDEN YELLOW: Knowledge, Wisdom, Sunshine, Air Element

METALLIC GOLD: The God, Success, Wealth, The Sun

DARK GREEN: Earth Element, Green Man, Healing, Lord of the

Forest, Nature Spirits, Good Luck

ROYAL BLUE: Water Element, Peace, Healing, Hope

BRONZE/BROWN: Grounding, Security, Happy Homes

BURGUNDY: Desire, Life Force, Tempestuous Passion

DARK PURPLE: Protection, Power, Spirituality

BLACK: The Crone, Banishing, Removal of Negativity, Protection

WHITE: The Maiden, The Moon, Truth, Fresh Starts



Ritual Remembering The Dearly Departed

As the wheel turns to Samhain and the veil between worlds grows thin, you stand at the threshold of both light and shadow. This is a night for honoring your ancestors, reflecting on the past, and embracing the mysteries of what lies beyond.

With the casting of a circle and the calling of the quarters, you will protect and sanctify this sacred space, inviting the elements to guard and guide you as you walk between worlds.



What you'll need:

- A black or white candle (representing protection and the spirit realm
- A bowl of water (symbolizing the veil between worlds)
- The Samhain incense you crafted, along with a means to burn it
- A dish of bread, fruit, or nuts (as an offering to the ancestors)
- A quiet space, either indoors outside beneath the stars

STEP 1: Prepare Your Sacred Space

Begin by finding a peaceful, undisturbed area to work. If you've created an ancestor altar, you may wish to work there.

Breathe deeply, centering yourself as you prepare to cast your circle.

STEP 2: Cast Your Circle

Stand tall, close your eyes, take a deep, slow breath, exhale, and visualize a glowing, protective energy surrounding you. Imagine this energy slowly forming a circle of light, rising from the earth and wrapping around you in a sphere of sacred protection.

Breathe it in, imagining it spreading through your entire body, extending out through your crown chakra, your fingertips, down your legs and your out the soles of your feet, deep into the heart of the earth.

Exhale slowly, and begin.

Light your incense and place it in the East of your circle.

Light your candle and place it in the South of your circle.

Place your bowl of water in the West of your circle.

Place your offering of bread, fruit, or nuts in the North of your circle.

As you do, say:

By earth, by air, by fire, by sea, This circle is cast, so mote it be.

Feel the space around you shift, becoming a place between worlds, where only peace and protection may enter.

STEP 3: Call the Quarters

To add a layer of protection as you work your magic, you'll want to call in the guardians to watch over your rites.

Face the east and extend your arms as if reaching out to the winds. Call upon the element of air to bless your ritual:

Spirits of the East, of air and sky,
Bring clarity and insight as the veil draws nigh.
Bless this circle with the winds of wisdom.

Turn to the south, feeling the heat of the flame within. Call upon the element of fire to ignite your magic:

Spirits of the South, of flame and spark,
Ignite my will as I walk through the dark.
Bless this circle with the fire of transformation.

Now, face the west and call to the element of water, flowing and deep:

Spirits of the West, of water and sea,
Guide me through the mysteries that are yet to be.
Bless this circle with the waves of intuition.

Finally, turn to the north, the realm of earth and stone. Ground yourself as you call upon the strength of the land:

Spirits of the North, of earth and bone, Protect me in this space where I stand alone. Bless this circle with the roots of stability.

With the elements invoked, feel their presence settle into your sacred space, guarding and guiding you.

STEP 4: Invoke the Spirits

With the circle cast and the quarters called, it's time to invoke the spirits of the dearly departed.

Move to the South of your circle, cup your hands out on either side of your candle, gazing into the flickering flame. Allow your gaze to soften, then say:

By flame and night, I call to thee,
Ancestors come, and walk with me.
Through the veil, your wisdom flows,
Guide my steps where the shadow grows.

Visualize the candle's light as a beacon, drawing the spirits of your ancestors closer, creating a bridge between your world and theirs.

STEP 5: Share the Offering

Move to the North of your circle, taking up the dish of bread, fruit, or nuts in your hands and say:

I offer this in honor of those who have walked before me,
For the ancestors who laid the path I now tread.

May your spirits find peace, and your wisdom light my way.

Place the offering beside the candle or, if you're outside, on the earth as a gift to the spirits.

STEP 6: Sit in Silence & Connect

Close your eyes and sit in silence, feeling the presence of the elements and the spirits.

Breathe deeply and reflect on the wisdom that the ancestors offer, or simply bask in the quiet connection between worlds.

If you wish, speak to the ancestors in your heart, asking for their guidance or offering your gratitude.

Now would also be a good time to turn to the journaling prompts or tarot spread included in this guide, utilizing them while your connection across the veil is high.

STEP 7: Release the Quarters & Close the Circle

When you are ready to close the ritual, face the North and say:

Spirits of the North, roots of stability, I thank you. Go in peace. Hail and farewell.

Face the West and say:

Spirits of the West, waters of intuition, I thank you. Go in peace. Hail and farewell.

Face the South and say:

Spirits of the South, flames of transformation, I thank you.

Go in peace. Hail and farewell.

Face the East and say:

Spirits of the East, winds of wisdom, I thank you. Go in peace. Hail and farewell.

Raise your arms above you, taking a deep breath in, slowly exhale, visualizing the circle gradually dissolving and say:

With gratitude and grace, I release this circle, leaving this place as it was before.

The magic lives within, as above, so below.

So mote it be.

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STEP 8: Ground & Reflect

Feel your connection to the elements and the ancestors settle, knowing that their wisdom and protection are always with you, even as the veil lifts.

Whenever you're ready, you can extinguish the candle if you'd like, or you can leave it to burn down on your altar if it can do so safely.

Take the bowl of water outside and pour it onto the earth as a final offering, grounding the energy of your ritual.

Sambain Tarot or Pracle Spread













I) What is ready to die within me?
Release and let go of patterns, habits, or relationships that no longer serve you.

Cara Drawn:	



2) What do my shadows have to reveal?

Explore the hidden aspects of yourself, acknowledging and integrating the parts you've been suppressing.

Card Drawn:	
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3) How can I best nourish myself this season? Focus on self-care, honoring your physical and emotional needs, and cultivating inner strength.		
Card Drawn:		



4) What maging the Tap into the transpotential for reb	c is brewing sformative ener	g in the grow gies of Samhair	ing darkne n, envisioning th	ss?
potential tor reb	irth and renewo	ıl.		
Card Drawn:				
		15 (16)		
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				12



5) What message do my ancestors Listen to the guidance of your ancestors, se and wisdom.	
Card Drawn:	



What patterns, habits, and relationships do you need to let go of?

	nanted or <mark>chard that represents your life.</mark> What fruits
	of letting go? Maybe they've rotted on the vine, or release them so you can move forward?
V	

Explore the hidden aspects of yourself.

What do your shadows have to reveal? Acknowledging and integrating the parts you've been suppressing can help you move past blockages in your life.

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Shadow work is a form of self-care.

Focus on honoring your physical and emotional needs, and cultivating inner strength. How do you think shadow work can help you understand the importance of honoring your need for self-care?

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Tap into the transformative energies of Sambain

What magic is brewing in the darkness, just beneath the surface? Envision what it would look like to bring it forth and nourish it. What do you see?

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Seek the support and wisdom of your ancestors.

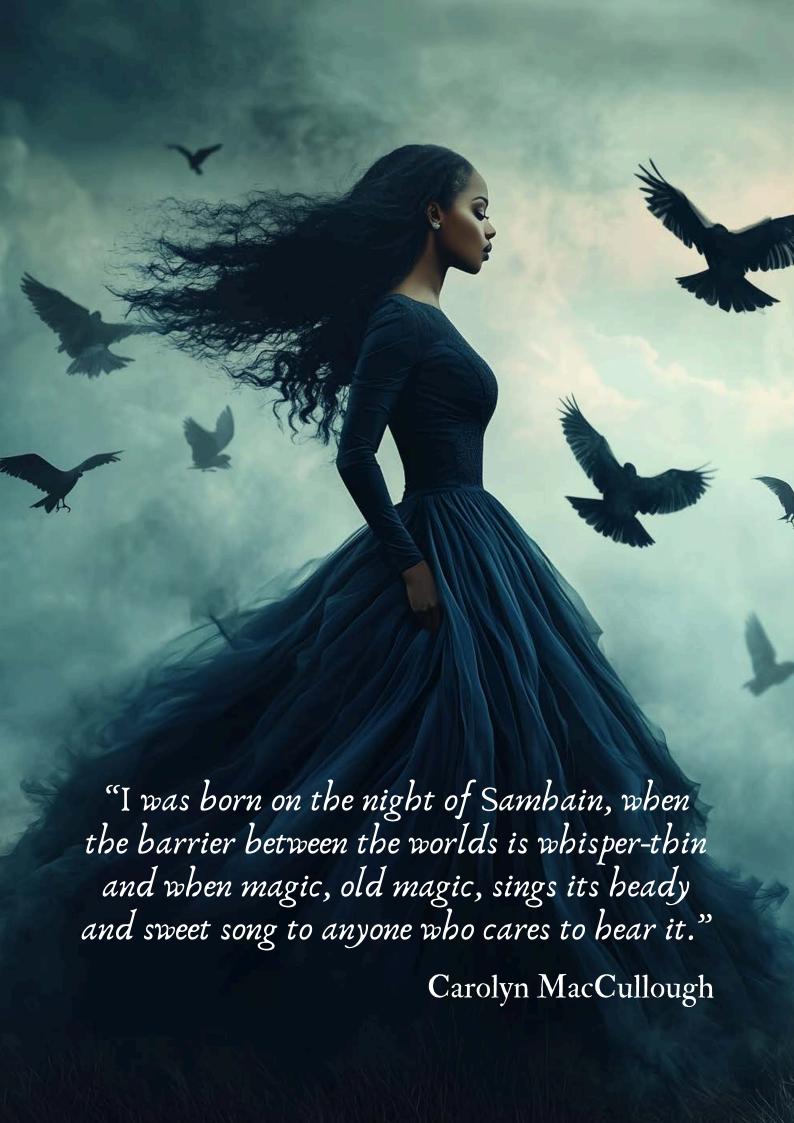
Ask for their guidance, tapping into your intuition, and listening to the small still voice within. What messages do they have for you? Use the space below to write whatever comes into your mind.

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Sambain Setting Intentions

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