**The Feast of the Morrigan**

November 1 is the next celebratory date on the liturgical calendar of the Henge of the Cobbled Path: the Feast of the Morrigan. We selected November 1 instead of October 31 so the Great Queen could have Her own day without the distractions of Samhain and Halloween.

It is our obligation as members of the Henge to honor our patron deities on their days. Most times we will do this individually – occasionally we will do it together.

This is a model ritual you can use to fulfill this obligation. You do not have to do this ritual – you are free to honor and celebrate the Morrigan in whatever way seems appropriate to you. But please keep this festival in some way or another, even if all you do is call Her name and pour an offering.

**The Morrigan**

The Morrigan is the Irish Goddess of sovereignty, of battle, and of the aftermath of battle. She played a key role in the defeat of the Fomorians by the Tuatha De Danann, after which She gave her famous Peace Prophecy (“Peace to the sky…”). She was also the foil of the hero Cú Chulainn. After he refused Her offer of love and of aid, She hindered him in battle and forced him to break his geas, which led to his death.

In our time the Morrigan generally has three roles. She is the Goddess of Sovereignty, a representation of the land and its fertility. She gives the right to rule, and She withdraws that right if the ruler is unjust or ineffective. She is a battle goddess supporting those who fight for Her causes, especially the protection and empowerment of women. And She is a psychopomp, guiding the souls of the dead to the Otherworld, especially those who die in combat.

Some sources say She is one Goddess. Others say She is three, or more. Still others say “the Morrigan” is a role that was filled by different deities at different times. As polytheists we know the Gods are many and They are multiple – beyond that we simply don’t know.

What we do know is that the Morrigan is perhaps the most active deity in our world today, and She has been very active in the formation of the Henge of the Cobbled Path. And so we honor Her on Her feast day, and at other times as appropriate.

**The Ritual**

Prepare yourself for ritual. Take a few deep breaths, ground and center. Perform an act of purification – dip your fingers in water, then touch the water to your forehead, your chest, and your other hand.

Light a candle and say this invocation, which is compiled from invocations written by John Beckett and Erin Kane.

“Morrigan, Battle Raven, Lady of Sovereignty,

Join us, we ask, and bless us with your presence.

You who gives the right to rule and who challenges us to rule rightly,

Be welcome here.

Show us our strength, we ask,

So we can uphold the Great Work of this time and place.

Morrigan, Queen of Phantoms, Chooser of the Slain,

Hear us as we call to you.

Great Protectoress and Champion of Warriors, be welcome here.

We thank you for your inspiration

To stand against those who would rule our lives for their own ends,

And to stand against injustice everywhere.

Great Queen, let us fight by your side until peace is won.

Blood red Queen of Battle

Midnight haired Priestess of judgment and sovereignty.

Wrinkled hag of winter.

Great Raven on whose wings we fly to the Place Beyond.

You of Many Faces come to us in many ways,

But all your forms hold power and strength.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with you in your battle glory.

We wear the armor made from our own sovereignty.

We stand in the presence of our comrades in arms.

We hear your battle cry,

And we will do what must be done.

Mighty Raven,

We will tend to the wounded.

We will clear the battlefields of carnage.

We will repair what can be repaired

Scavenge what can be repurposed

And prepare the land for new growth.

Hail Morrigan!”

Pause, then pour an offering to the Morrigan. Red wine or Irish whiskey is most appropriate, but offer what seems right to you. Clean water is always acceptable.

Now sit or stand quietly and wait for Her presence.

Listen.

Hear.

Respond as you feel moved.

When you feel the communion is over, make another offering, and this time drink some yourself.

Listen.

When it is over, extinguish the candle and say “Morrigan, Battle Goddess, Lady of Sovereignty, Chooser of the Slain, I thank You for Your presence and Your blessings. May we always honor You in freedom and power. Hail and farewell!”

Gradually bring yourself back to this place, this time, and this world.

Make notes of anything that struck you as significant, whether you feel moved to share them with the rest of the Henge or if you simply keep them for yourself.