The Solitary Druid Fellowship
Samhain Devotional

May your Ancestors of blood, spirit, and tradition be with you on this sacred day.

This Samhain devotional can be used independently, or as a component of the SDF May Cross Quarter liturgy (for those in the Southern Hemisphere).

Samhain marks the movement toward winter, the mid-point in fall when we begin to slow down and go inward. It is a contemplative time; a still time; a time for releasing and remembering.

Samhain is an opportunity to honor your friends, family or loved ones who are no longer with you. It is also a time to acknowledge the things in your life which are no longer sustainable or viable, and to release them. Samhain is full of opportunity for deep introspection and reflection. It is the beginning of a season of inward focus.

Many find it useful to construct a special Samhain altar, one which contains pictures of those who have passed. In addition to photos, you might also fill this altar with representations of things you are letting go, aspects of your life which you must grieve and release.

As an act of devotion (or during the "Praise Offering" portion of the full High Day liturgy) you might consider performing an action which would have been particularly relevant to your ancestors. For example, if a deceased loved one enjoyed a particular song or poem, you might consider performing the piece as an offering to them. Another option would be to prepare a special meal and share it with your ancestors.

There are many ways to approach a praise offering, so be creative and find the offering that feels most relevant to you.

While the experience of Samhain may prove to be powerful and emotional for you, remember that this is but one point in a sacred, cyclical calendar. Nothing in the world is stationary. Life moves toward death, and death makes possible new life.

May you come to honor this great cycle through your Samhain observance. May you walk away from ritual with a feeling of profound gratitude for the life you live.

May you pray with a good fire.

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Bright blessings to you.
Samhain Devotional

*Statement of Purpose*

Here in the stillness,
I remember those who stand beside me in spirit;
Those who have lived, those who have loved, and those who live no more
In this physical world.

My heart is a beacon, and I call out to my Ancestors.

Ancestors!
Noble Ones, who have paved the way in the world
For my solitary brothers and sisters,
I honor you today.
May we have a moment here, before the sacred Hallows, to be together.

May you find your way to my shrine
On this sacred day of Samhain.

*Final Affirmation*

I have called out to my kin,
Ancestors of blood, spirit, and tradition.

I have lit a Samhain fire,
That they might witness my devotion.

I have made my offerings to the Kindred Three.
Affirming my place in the cosmos.
My life is woven into the fabric of all being;
The Ancestors are in me, working through me,
And I am glad for their presence.
Samhain is sacred, indeed.

I stand in gratitude,
For I am alive in the world.

*These titles correspond to the SDF May Cross Quarter liturgy, available at solitarydruid.org. If you are using this devotional outside of the High Day liturgy, you may consider combining these two parts into one.*