

THE SOLITARY DRUID FELLOWSHIP

FIRST HARVEST DEVOTIONAL

MAY THE FIRE IN YOUR HEART BURN BRIGHT AS THE SUN!

This first harvest devotional can be used independently, or as a component of the SDF August Cross Quarter Day liturgy.

Lughnasadh, sometimes called Lammas, marks the beginning of the harvest festival. While it celebrates the fertility of the earth, it also marks the beginning of the hardest work of the harvest season.

In solitude, you are encouraged to think of ways the harvest plays a part in the turning seasons of your life. Consider areas in your practice which still require work to reap the fruits you planted earlier in the year.

Try decorating your altar with local crops, such as wheat, corn, or sunflowers. Be creative! Experiment and have fun!

Another exciting way to experience the joys of Lughnasadh is to prepare a CD or playlist of music that inspires you to sing to the ripe earth. Then, at the conclusion of the devotional (or during the "Praise Offering" portion of the full High Day liturgy) you can play this music and **sing** your offering to the Kindred!

Solitary practice can be just as joyful and jubilant as group practice. Solitude does not require us to be somber. We can cultivate a wonderful happiness while practicing alone.

In whatever way you choose to express the joy of the first harvest, may your observance be blessed! May you feel the energy of the ripening harvest, and may you be inspired to go out into the world and rejoice!

MAY YOU PRAY WITH A GOOD FIRE.

This work is created by Teo Bishop, Kristin McFarland, and Michael J Dangler for the Solitary Druid Fellowship, an extension of Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF).

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Bright blessings to you.

FIRST HARVEST DEVOTIONAL

**[Statement of Purpose]*

I raise my voice in memory of those who fight for their people!

I sing of the games that commemorate those who went before!

On this day, I honor the mother who nurtures the folk:
Offering of herself that others may live,
Deepening the work and clearing the way;
Declaring peace among enemies and friends.

Though I am alone at my hearth,
I know that others have worked before me:
I honor them today with the harvest of work done.

Bright on the earth, bright at the center,
Bright in the eye of the waning summer,
I am supported by the Kindred in my space.

Hail to the mother who gives of herself,
Hail to the folk who honor her,
Hail to the seasons that turn and bring her memory to our mind!

**[Final Affirmation]*

The work I have done brings forth the harvest;
The harvest brings forth the blessings I take to work in the world.

I have made my offerings with joy and love,
Affirming my place in the cosmos.
My life is woven into the fabric of all being;
The harvest of my good work surrounds and fills me;
The blessings pour forth through me to all others.

Hail the Mother!

**These titles correspond to the SDF August 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.*