

Seasons of SABBATS

Oracle Deck

BONUS MATERIAL



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Preface

There's only so much you can fit into an oracle deck companion book. Things have to be the right size, have the right margins, not to mention fit within the box—plus it needs to be a font size that most people can read. It's a lot. With that in mind, we've created this bonus pdf for you. It contains suggested spreads to do readings and of course the ramblings that still needed to be expressed but wouldn't fit in the book. So, without further ado, let's begin.



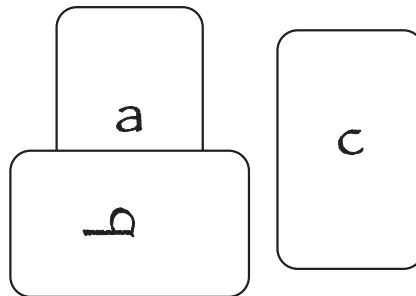
Creating a deeper relationship with your deck

It's no secret that taking a moment to connect with and focus on your deck will yield better results. The same way simply lighting a candle for healing and walking away from it would have less results than focused intention, the same goes for interacting with your deck.

So often we simply ask a short question out loud and cut to a card in the deck and then are not happy with the result that we get. It's as if the deck is responding to us with a, "if you're going to half-ass your question, then I'm going to half-ass my answer to you." In short, intention = results. While we may not always have time for a deep ritual to do a reading, it's the connection to the deck and our guides which provide the clarity.

When we do have time, it's a good idea to cleanse your space (and deck if it's new), lay a bit of protection (which can be as formal as performing banishing pentagrams and hexagrams or surrounding your space with black tourmaline or labradorite), and invite your personal guides, teachers, deities, etc. Optionally, you could also bring an item that represents your question and/or do some meditation to emphasize the connection and focus that you're creating.

Here's a sample way to connect with your deck:



1. Create your sacred space using any of the ways listed above
2. Get comfy and relaxed
3. Hold your deck and say, pray or intend something to the effect of "assist me with connecting with the Seasons of Sabbats oracle deck, the wheel of the year and progressing on my path."
4. Shuffle 8 times (once for each sabbat)
5. Cards:
 - a. The energy where you currently are as you begin to work with this deck
 - b. What lessons will I/do I need to learn or address?
 - c. What energy will the deck help me discover?
6. Take some time after your reading to look a little deeper into what the cards could mean and how they might show up in your life.
7. Give thanks to your deities, guides, teachers, ancestors, etc.



The sabbat of Ostara always gets my creative juices flowing; maybe it does for you too? That energy of a “clean slate” and beginning a new astrological year throws me into planning overdrive (sometimes to a fault). Some of this might be why I felt such a strong connection with our youthful goddess, Eostre. Here’s some thoughts that needed to be trimmed from our printed book. Put yourself in her shoes. What comes up for you?

As Eostre looks off into the distance:

Maybe it’s not a sunrise, but a sunset? Has the opportune time passed her by? Has she waited too long, resulting in having to put her plans off until tomorrow? Or the next day? Or the next? If we’re lucky, the totem of the hares will draw Eostre’s attention away from just making plans, and more plans and more plans. They represent action, a lot of it. They are impatient. They remind us that the time is now.

“Jump, Jump, Jump,” they say. “Move! Move! Move!” The obvious message here is fertility of ideas and actions. The hares are trying to tell her that the time is perfect to grow our desires and dreams—but only if we take action now.

The message of Eostre is one of growth; cautioning us against too much planning and not enough action, encouraging us to act while the time is right.



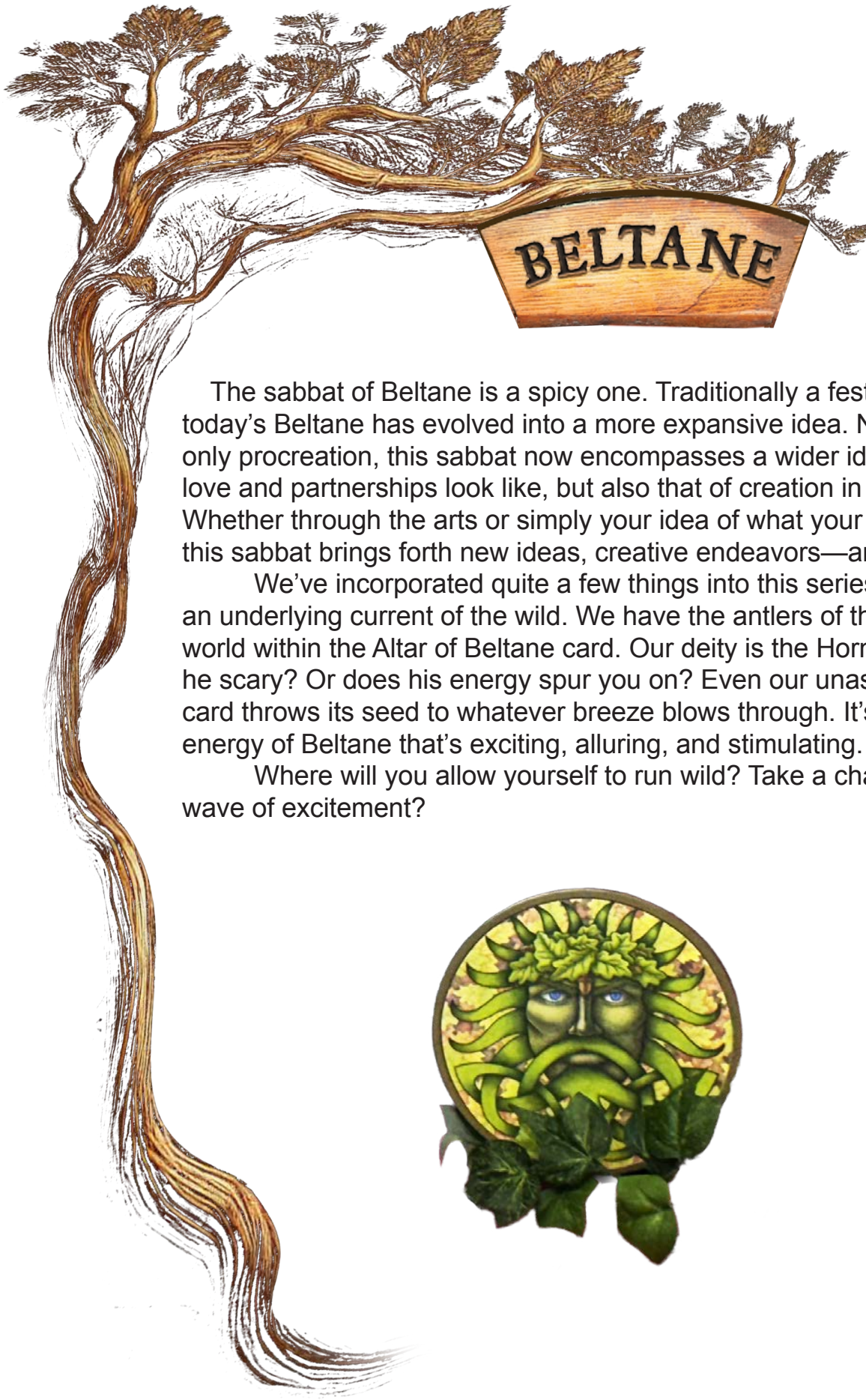
Ostara – “Growing”

This spread helps us reach for the light and gain traction on our dreams and goals. Take a moment to consider what you’d like to “grow” in alignment with the energy of Ostara.

Cards:

1. The base/focus card. This is the foundational energy of your goals/plans/dreams. Ask yourself, is it supportive? If not, how can you improve it? What’s there? What’s missing? What does this energy represent in general?
2. Energy to grow. This is the influx of energy that will help your goal grow. Is it strong? Is it lacking? Do you need more? How does this affect the focus of your reading?
3. Where your goal is currently. Are you happy with it?
4. Results. If you continue as progressing as you are, this is the outcome. If it’s not where you want to end up, take a moment to reassess how you could change or improve it. If you’re happy with it, then congrats!





The sabbat of Beltane is a spicy one. Traditionally a festival of fertility, today's Beltane has evolved into a more expansive idea. No longer limited to only procreation, this sabbat now encompasses a wider idea of not only what love and partnerships look like, but also that of creation in its simpler forms. Whether through the arts or simply your idea of what your life could look like, this sabbat brings forth new ideas, creative endeavors—and yes, sex.

We've incorporated quite a few things into this series of cards. There is an underlying current of the wild. We have the antlers of the deer and green world within the Altar of Beltane card. Our deity is the Horned God himself. Is he scary? Or does his energy spur you on? Even our unassuming Dandelion card throws its seed to whatever breeze blows through. It's the unpredictable energy of Beltane that's exciting, alluring, and stimulating.

Where will you allow yourself to run wild? Take a chance? Ride that wave of excitement?

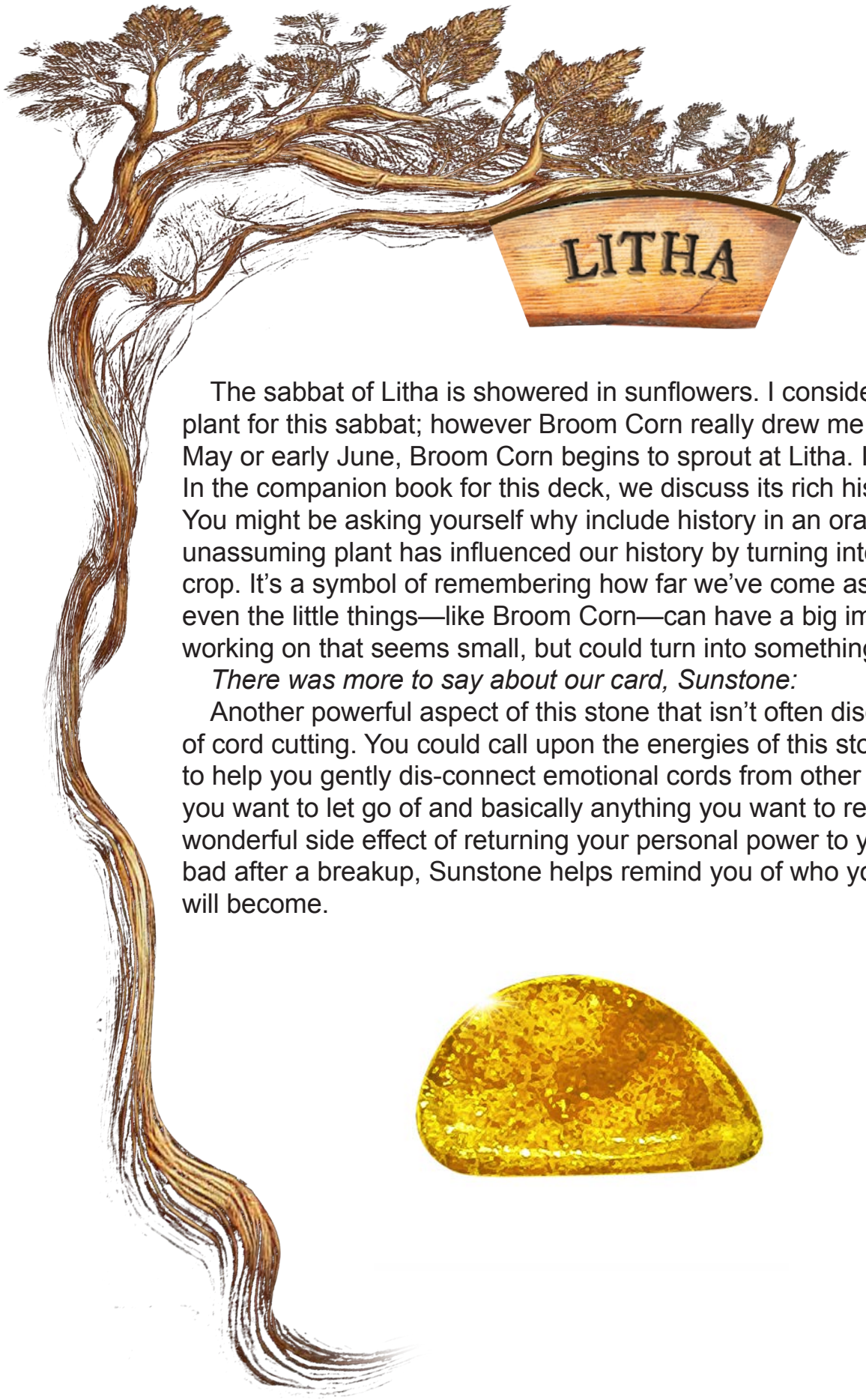


Beltane – “Light Your Own Fire”

Reminding ourselves that we’re responsible for our own needs can be both liberating and sometimes a bit disappointing. Here’s where you can light your own fire and direct the energy.

1. What are your energetic needs right now?
2. Where do you need more energy?
3. & 4. What energies can you use to feed your motivation and your spirit? Consider how you could incorporate more of these energies into your life.
5. The result (if you co-create it!)





The sabbat of Litha is showered in sunflowers. I considered making it our plant for this sabbat; however Broom Corn really drew me in. Planted in late May or early June, Broom Corn begins to sprout at Litha. It requires planning. In the companion book for this deck, we discuss its rich history for a reason. You might be asking yourself why include history in an oracle deck? This unassuming plant has influenced our history by turning into a commercial crop. It's a symbol of remembering how far we've come as a society and that even the little things—like Broom Corn—can have a big impact. What are you working on that seems small, but could turn into something of real value?

There was more to say about our card, Sunstone:

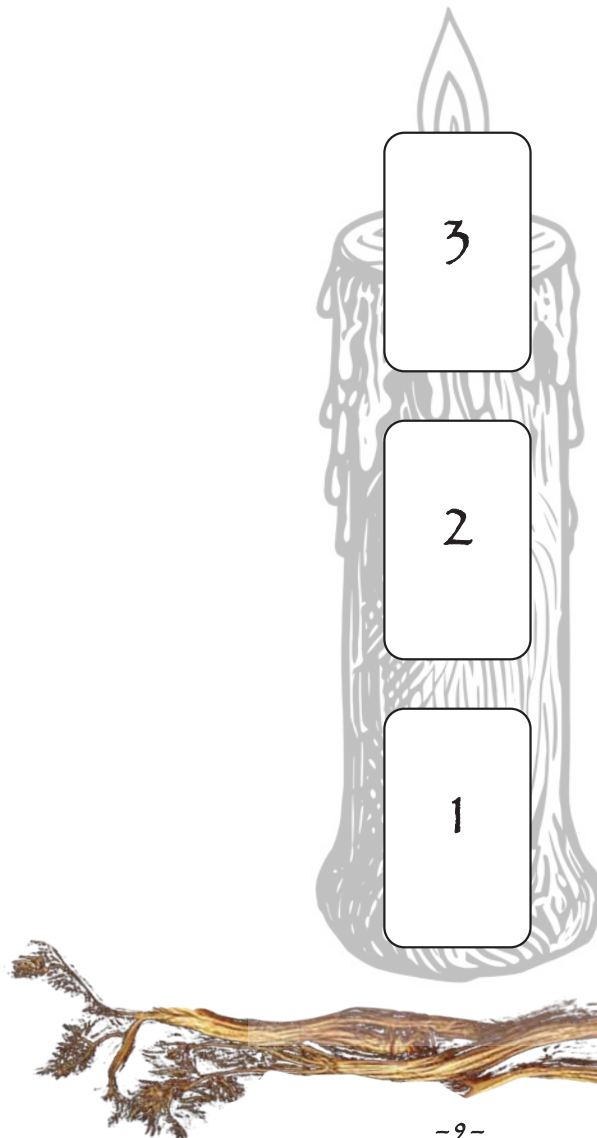
Another powerful aspect of this stone that isn't often discussed is one of cord cutting. You could call upon the energies of this stone during Litha to help you gently dis-connect emotional cords from other people, habits you want to let go of and basically anything you want to release. This has a wonderful side effect of returning your personal power to you. If you've felt bad after a breakup, Sunstone helps remind you of who you were, are, and will become.

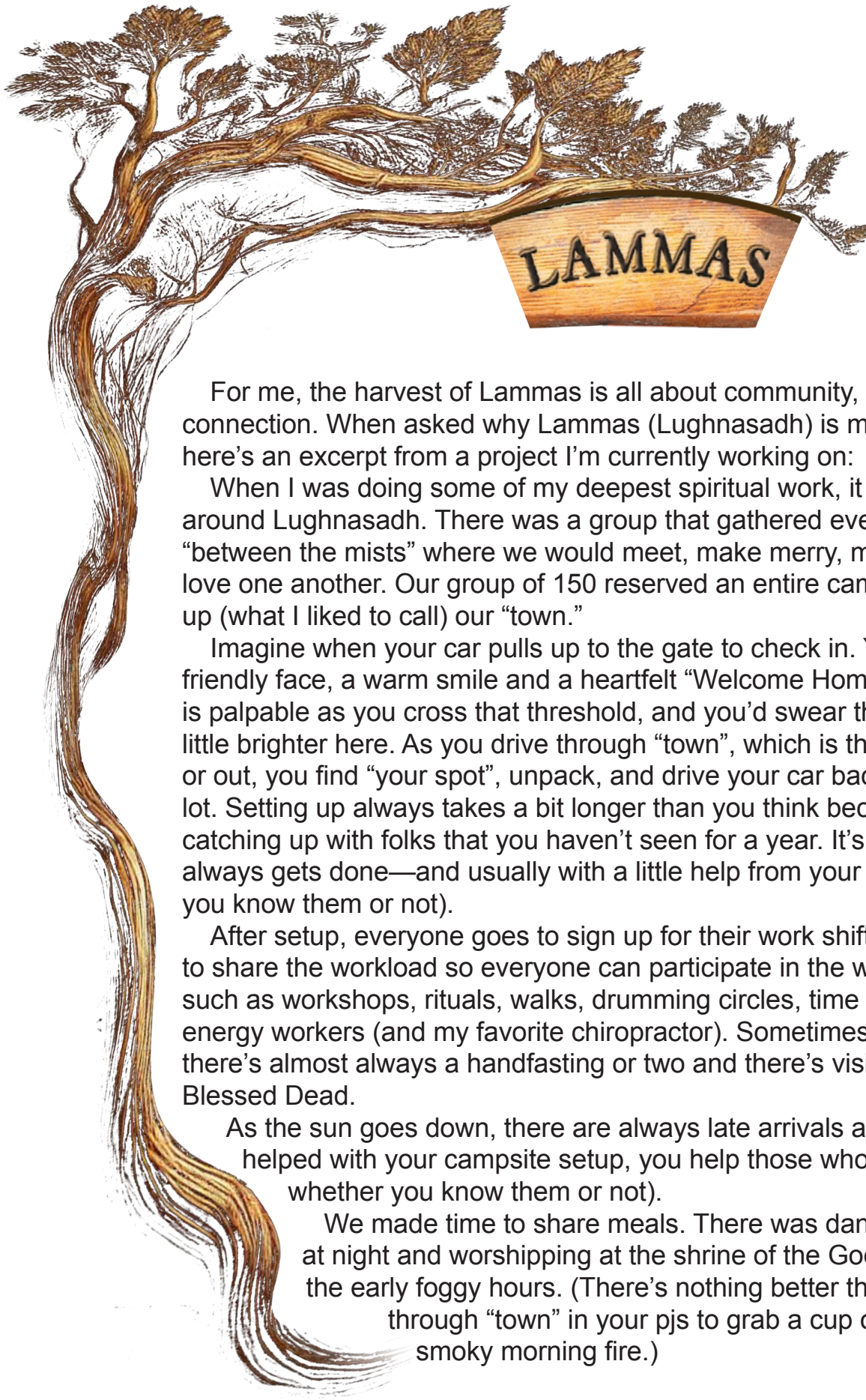


Litha – “Shine Your Light”

This is the time to shine your light and make adjustments in preparation for the upcoming First Harvest Season. Use this spread to check in on your big goals or to take the temperature of a current situation as it evolves.

1. Your focus. (Look for underlying energies that you may not have been aware of—are you sabotaging or supporting yourself?)
2. The energy that influences the outcome. What are some outside energetics that are having an effect on your focus? Is it something you could lean in to amplify what you want? Or would having a stronger boundary protect your interests?
3. Results. Based on the results card, are things going to plan? Or do you need to turn up your energy and step more strongly into your personal power?





For me, the harvest of Lammas is all about community, feeling, and connection. When asked why Lammas (Lughnasadh) is my favorite sabbat, here's an excerpt from a project I'm currently working on:

When I was doing some of my deepest spiritual work, it always happened around Lughnasadh. There was a group that gathered every year to venture "between the mists" where we would meet, make merry, make magick and love one another. Our group of 150 reserved an entire campground and set up (what I liked to call) our "town."

Imagine when your car pulls up to the gate to check in. You're met by a friendly face, a warm smile and a heartfelt "Welcome Home!" The energy is palpable as you cross that threshold, and you'd swear the sun shines a little brighter here. As you drive through "town", which is the only road in or out, you find "your spot", unpack, and drive your car back to the parking lot. Setting up always takes a bit longer than you think because you're also catching up with folks that you haven't seen for a year. It's ok, though—it always gets done—and usually with a little help from your friends (whether you know them or not).

After setup, everyone goes to sign up for their work shifts. It's customary to share the workload so everyone can participate in the week's events such as workshops, rituals, walks, drumming circles, time with readers and energy workers (and my favorite chiropractor). Sometimes there are games, there's almost always a handfasting or two and there's visiting the altar of the Blessed Dead.

As the sun goes down, there are always late arrivals and just as you were helped with your campsite setup, you help those who arrive late (again, whether you know them or not).

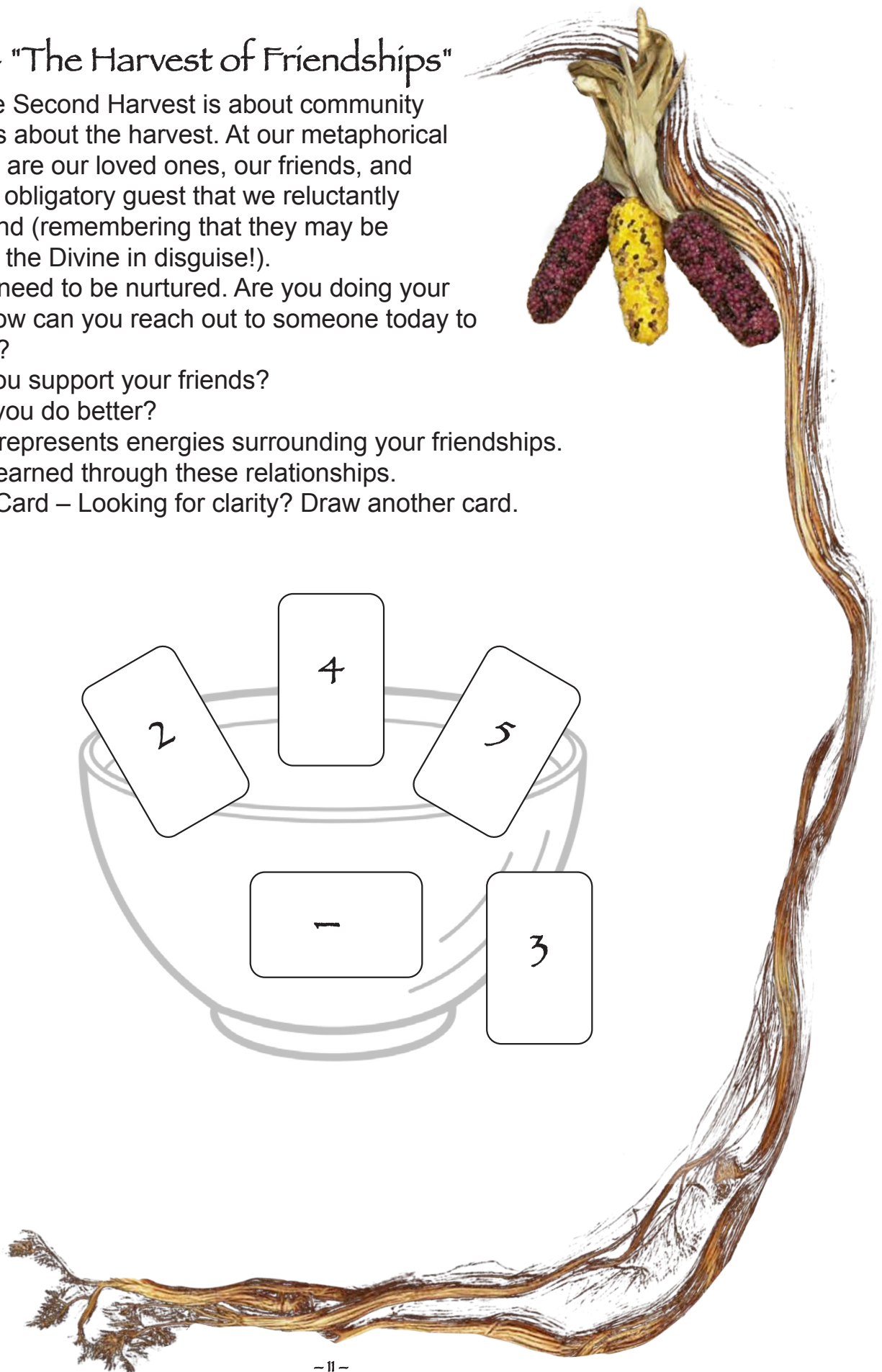
We made time to share meals. There was dancing around the fire at night and worshipping at the shrine of the Goddess, Caffeina in the early foggy hours. (There's nothing better than wandering down through "town" in your pjs to grab a cup of coffee and sit at a smoky morning fire.)

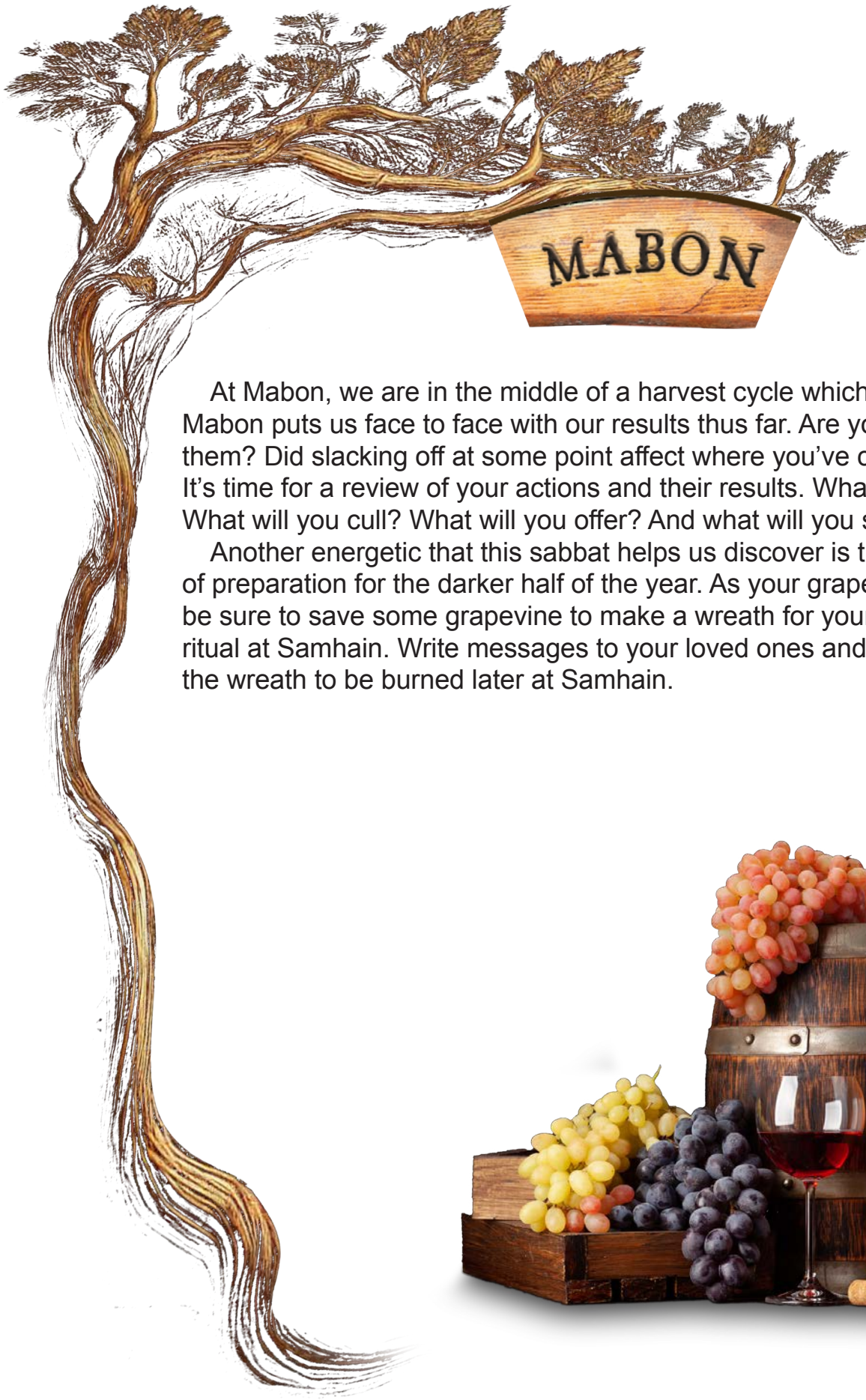
Lammas – “The Harvest of Friendships”

Lammas, the Second Harvest is about community as much as it is about the harvest. At our metaphorical gathering table are our loved ones, our friends, and sometimes the obligatory guest that we reluctantly allowed to attend (remembering that they may be messengers of the Divine in disguise!).

Friendships need to be nurtured. Are you doing your part? Where/how can you reach out to someone today to show you care?

1. How do you support your friends?
2. How can you do better?
3. This card represents energies surrounding your friendships.
4. Lessons learned through these relationships.
5. The Wild Card – Looking for clarity? Draw another card.





At Mabon, we are in the middle of a harvest cycle which began at Lammas. Mabon puts us face to face with our results thus far. Are you happy with them? Did slacking off at some point affect where you've currently landed? It's time for a review of your actions and their results. What will you keep? What will you cull? What will you offer? And what will you sacrifice?

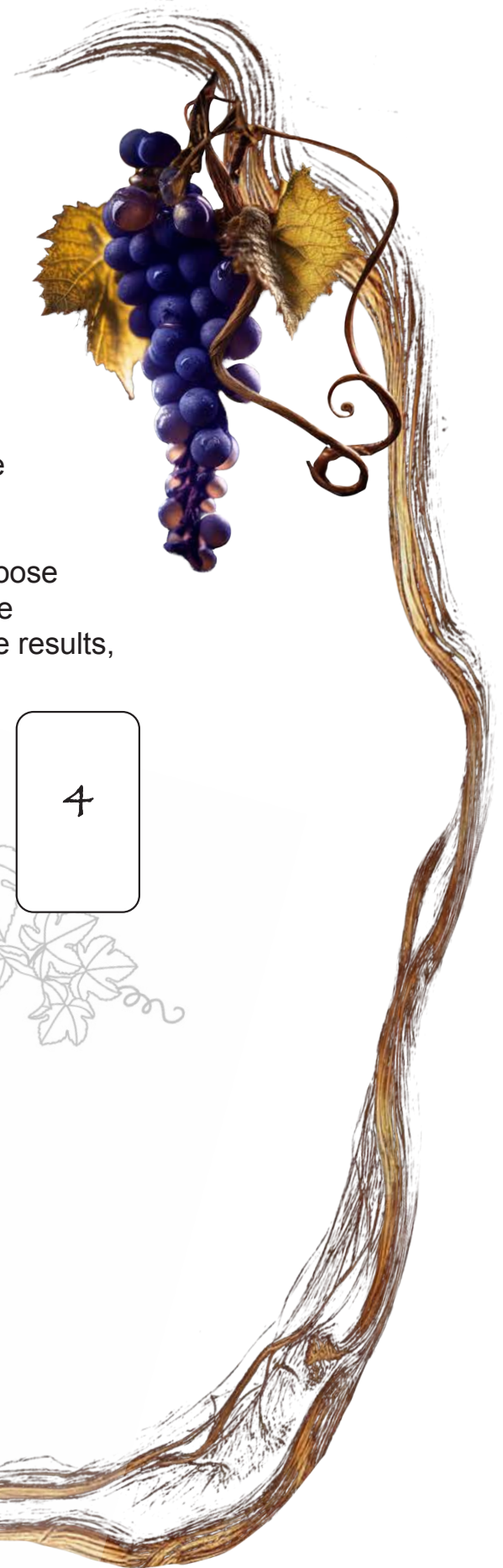
Another energetic that this sabbat helps us discover is that of the beginning of preparation for the darker half of the year. As your grapes get harvested, be sure to save some grapevine to make a wreath for your Blessed Dead ritual at Samhain. Write messages to your loved ones and tie the papers on the wreath to be burned later at Samhain.

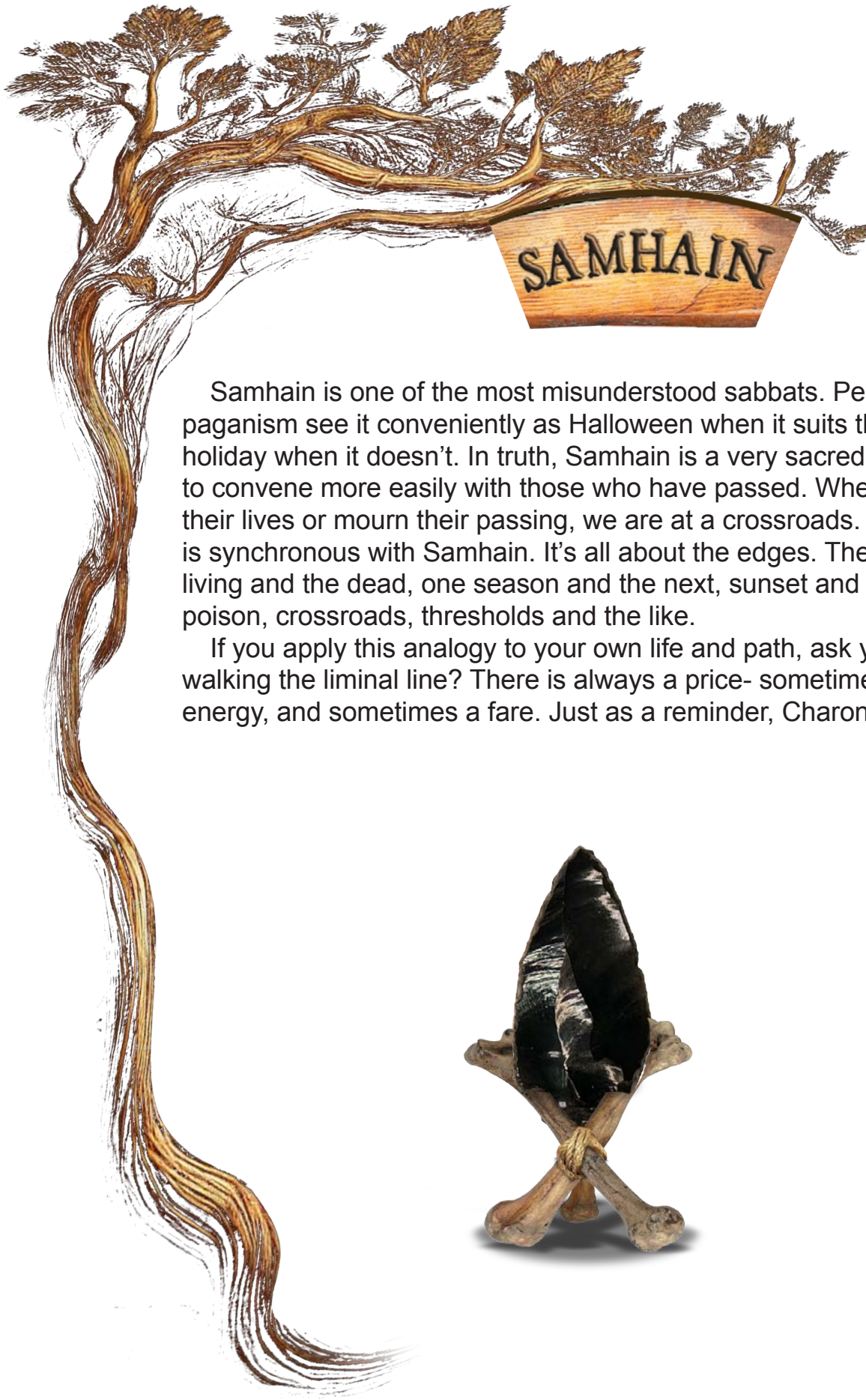


Mabon – “Fruit of the Vine”

It's Second Harvest! Celebrate what you've created! Sometimes is above and beyond what we've hoped for, and sometimes it falls a little...short.

1. Celebrate what you've been working on and the energy that you've attracted. Is it what you expected? This card represents what you've attracted.
2. Results. Continuing on this path yields this result. Celebrate it (if you're happy with it). If not, draw 2 more cards – however, remember that sometimes difficult experiences can give us some of our more precious lessons and gifts.
3. (Optional) These 2 cards can help you discover options for changing energy. You don't have to choose to use these energetics, but they are there if you're looking for options. Remember, if you don't like the results, you can change them.





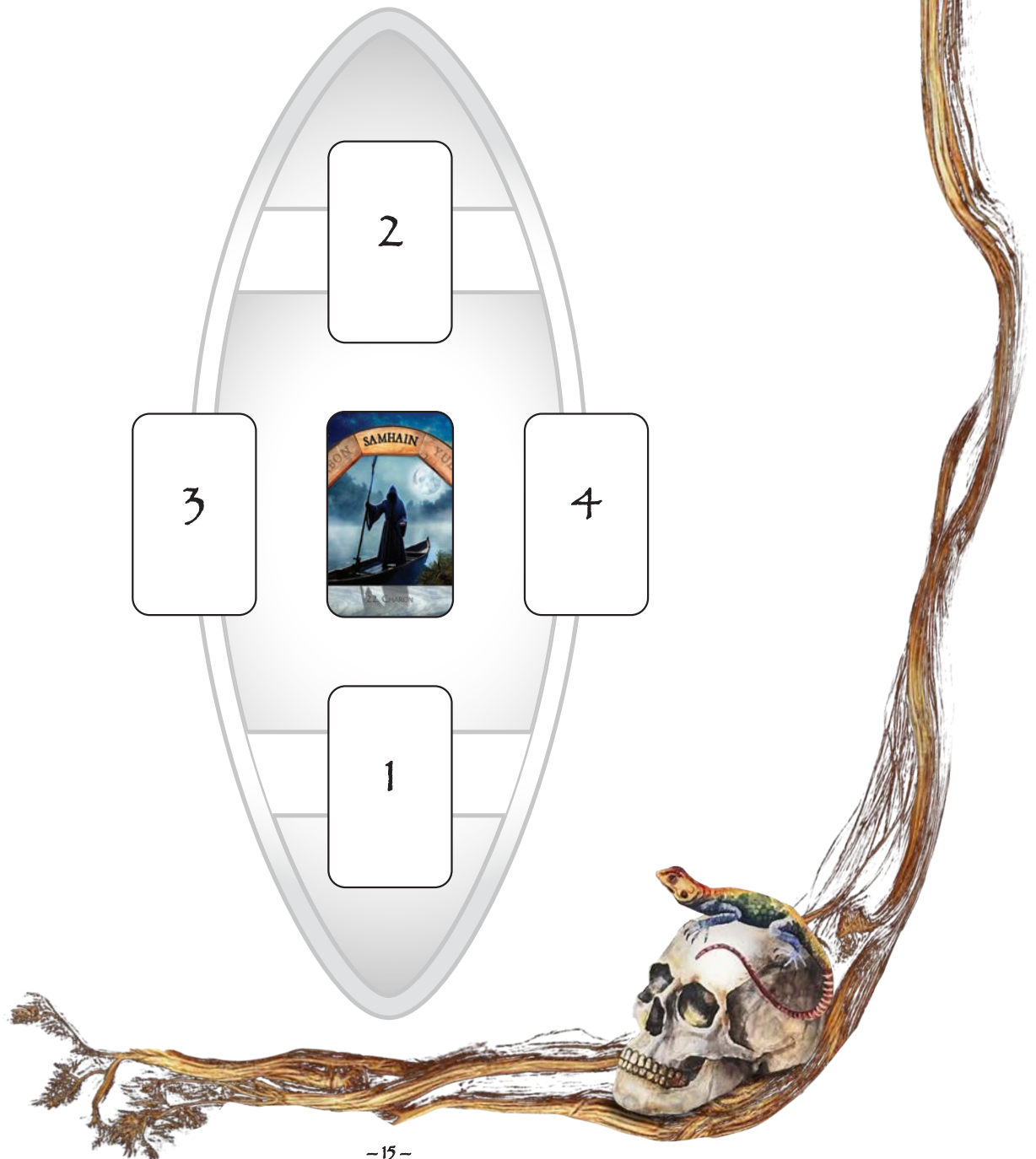
Samhain is one of the most misunderstood sabbats. People outside of paganism see it conveniently as Halloween when it suits them and as an evil holiday when it doesn't. In truth, Samhain is a very sacred time. It allows us to convene more easily with those who have passed. Whether we celebrate their lives or mourn their passing, we are at a crossroads. The word "liminal" is synchronous with Samhain. It's all about the edges. The edge between the living and the dead, one season and the next, sunset and night, medicine and poison, crossroads, thresholds and the like.

If you apply this analogy to your own life and path, ask yourself, where am I walking the liminal line? There is always a price- sometimes time, sometimes energy, and sometimes a fare. Just as a reminder, Charon takes cash.

Samhain – “The Ancestors Speak”

For this spread, we require the services of a psychopomp. We require Charon. He will ferry the messages back and forth between us and the Ancestors. Place his card at the center of your spread.

1. This card represents you/your question for the Ancestors.
2. Ancestor energy. Who do you think this might be?
3. Their message. Look deeply. Meditate on it if the message is unclear.
4. The best way to apply this energy to your life right now.





Even in the frozen season of Yule, energy is running below the surface. The Oak and Holly kings prepare to face off. Water is still running below the surface of ice. Animals still move within the Earth (albeit a bit slower). Some plants don't die off, they just...sleep. Conserve your energy, but don't talk yourself into total hibernation.

Yule – “The Shifting and the Pairing of Energies”

For this spread, we'll use card 26 for position 3. Be sure to look for the balancing of energies and prepare for future shifts in your outlook and actions. Acknowledge the lessons that are behind you and embrace what's before you.

1. Influencing energies that are below or behind you (but still having an effect).
2. Influencing energies that are above or before you (but not yet in play).
3. Current energy (intentionally use card 26 – the Kings)
4. The future energy. How can you apply this to your future plans?
5. The outcome of the future energy. (If you don't like it, forewarned is forearmed).





The sabbat of Imbolc is home to the plant Witch Hazel. Blooming in late Autumn and throughout Winter, it's one of those rare plants that you can actually see grow if you're around at the right time. The seeds pods crack and throw their seed out into the world, proving to us that even during Winter, there is growth.

Imbolc – “What’s New?”

Even though this spread looks to the future, it’s not written in stone. The final outcome in this spread is just the result of the current energies. If the current energies change, so does the outcome. You can create it. These are the ideas that are bubbling up to be born later at Ostara.

1. Your thoughts about the future and the energies that represent your plans.
2. 3. & 4. Options for your choosing.
5. 6. & 7. Possible outcomes for each of your options.
8. Hidden wishes. What does your subconscious say?
9. Hidden energetics. These energies could influence the outcome of future events.

Pull this card from the bottom of your deck.

