

Greetings, friends

If you're reading this, you've probably been one of those people who've been following Pathways' "31 Days of Samhain". Wow! We are about half-way through this series! Some of you might be wondering, "Where's my video?" or "Where's my cheat sheet?" As I mentioned earlier, we are about half-way through, so it's time for a check in.

For those of you who are picking up things here and there or trying new things – *carving a turnip anyone?* – bravo! Adding to your magickal toolbox is always a good idea! Some of those new things will really resonate with you and return again next Samhain. Some of those things will not only return, but become part of your personal traditions- the *evolution* of your own path. You might share some of these ideas with friends or coven mates and they might incorporate it into their traditions as well.

The very idea of evolution is defined by "the gradual development of something, especially from a simple to a more complex form". Just like our magickal path/toolbox, we add things over time. From learning new stones to adding ritual or prayers, our path *develops* (evolves) into something more... *personal*. If we're looking at the above definition, however, please don't confuse the word "complex"- it's not just "adding more things"; think of it more as "grouping" things together that have true meaning for you. We've often seen folks work their magick by stacking more and more things in a ritual. While this works fine for correspondences, the more things you add, the more you become focused on "ticking off all the boxes" instead of going "deeper" within your path. In short, you may not be as energetically focused, therefore less effective in your efforts.

For those of you wondering, "why are we even discussing this?" well, it's pretty simple really, we're going to go *deeper*. So, for those of you who are only interested in the "fun stuff" – which is totally fine – this is your last stop. Thank you for flying Pathways Airlines. We hope you've enjoyed your flight. No seriously – we **really do** hope you've enjoyed this extended series from Pathways and truly appreciate your support.

For those of you continuing on, thank you. We touched on that idea of “deeper” when we started talking about the ancestors, and of course the inevitable “elephant in the room”- grief.

To go deeper, is to go “beneath the surface” or to peel back the metaphorical layers. Here is where the real evolution happens. As we move into the second half of this series – just as in the first half- some things will really resonate, some won’t- which is totally fine.

There will be more meditations. There will be some opportunities for some personal work. We will talk more about protection- especially as it relates to doing divination and spirit guides. We’ll discuss how to craft your ritual.

Please do whatever works for you. If something makes you a bit uncomfortable, I’d encourage you to at least figure out why. Peel back your own layers- there may be a bit of healing to do, or a gift waiting to be unwrapped.

Regardless of what you’ve chosen or choose to do in the next 16 days, it’s been wonderful sharing this journey with you and I look forward to unpacking part 2 of this series together.

*Blessed be, Blessed We,*

*~Melina*