

THE SPIRAL DANCE

29 October 9983

Opens with all chanting:

The earth, the water, the fire, the air,
Returns, returns, returns, returns

During the chanting, everyone lights their candle and places
it in a safe place

Song: "Burning Times" by Charlie Murphy - to be sung by all who know it

Solo: "Invocation" by Susan North

Introduction

Breath Meditation

Song: "Guardian Song" by Amber Khan - to be sung by all who know it

INTRODUCTION:

Priestess: Welcome.

This is the night of Halloween...
 The night when the veil is thin that divides the world...
 The seen from the unseen,
 The day-to-day from the Mysteries.
 Tonight we are about to take a journey into the darkness
 of Winter and through to the promise of Spring.
 For Halloween is our New Year,
 The New Year of the Witches...
 And when we say "Witches" you should know that we mean
 those with a certain wit - maybe even widwom - who
 follow the Old Religion of the Goddess.
 And when we speak of the Goddess who is Moon, stone, star...
 And Her Consort the Horned God, the Sun, the life of animals,
 We are really saying
 That we recognize our kinship with all of life,
 The interwoven chain of connection that sustains all...
 And that tapestry of life is our prime concern,
 We are committed to its service.
 When we say the Goddess is Maiden, Mother and Crone,
 We are saying that we see Her in all women,
 All shapes and colors and ages,
 and honor women for strength as well as beauty,
 For knowledge and experience and the power that comes
 from within,
 For She is the Mother of inspiration as well as children;
 When we call on the Horned God as Her lover and consort,
 We say that we see Him in men
 and honor them
 For tenderness and kindness as well as courage
 And He wears horns because we honor
 The animal self in each of us,
 Forever untamed and free - our miracle bodies...
 When we invoke the elements of Air, Fire, Water and Earth,
 We are saying that we know what is necessary to sustain life
 And we pledge ourselves to care for it and preserve it,
 Even through these difficult times, when the fabric of
 life is threatened all around us.
 When we dance the spiral we are saying that our culture
 has gone too far in the direction of death and destruction,
 And we vow to turn it back toward the balance of all life...
 And when we remember what has passed and renew ourselves
 We do it to reclaim the future.
 So join with us now - close your eyes, breathe deep...
 Feel the Spirits gathering...
 (Breath meditation)

Burning Times
by Charlie Murphy

*"To work as if the earth, the mother, can be saved.
To work as if our healing care were not too late . . ."*
Sally Gearheart in *The Wanderground*

In the cool of the evening they used to gather
'Neath the stars in the meadow circled
near an old oak tree
At the times appointed by the seasons of
the earth and the phases of the moon
In the center often stood a woman, equal with
the others and respected for her worth
One of the many we call the witches, the
healers and teachers of the wisdom of the earth
The people grew through the knowledge
she gave them
Herbs to heal their bodies,
spells to make their spirits whole
Hear them chanting healing incantations,
calling forth the wise ones
Celebrating in dance and song. . . .

Chorus:

Isis Astarte Diana Hecate
Demeter Kali Inana
There were those who came to power through
domination and they bonded in their
worship of a dead man on a cross
They sought control of the common people
by demanding allegiance to the church of Rome
And the pope declared the inquisition,
it was war against the women whose powers
they feared
In this holocaust against the nature people
Nine million European women died
And the tale is told of those
who by the hundreds
Holding together chose their deaths in the sea
While chanting the praises of the Mother Goddess
A refusal of betrayal
women were dying to be free

Chorus

Now the Earth is a Witch and the men still burn her
Stripping her down with mining and
the poisons of their wars
Still to us the Earth is a healer
a teacher, our mother
The weaver of the web of life
that keeps us all alive
She gives us the vision to see through the chaos
She gives us the courage, it is our will to survive

Chorus

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Thanks to Deena Metzger for the Goddess Chant

BLESSED BE THE GUARDIANS OF THE WORLD 211

Words and Music by Amber Khan

I. Processional Version:

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the East at dawn
Blessed be the South in fire
Blessed be the West waters
Blessed be the North earth
Homeland of our Lady and Lord

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
For they stand on a barren plain
Watching, watching all that goes round.
Guardians of the Lady and Lord
Guardians of the earth our home
May life thrive, now and always
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds...

II. Expanded Version:

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds.
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the East at dawn
Blessed be the winds of change
Blessed be the thoughts that flow
Onward in a new way that is about to begin now

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the South at noon
Blessed be the warm hearth fires
Blessed be the heart's desire
Sustenance of all life and the bright will to live

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
Blessed be the West twilight
Blessed be the womb waters
Blessed by dissolving love
Binding all and freeing all who know that love is to give

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
 Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
 Blessed be the earth's midnight
 Blessed be the corn and wheat
 Blessed be the body's touch
 Center of existence Miracle healing, ground of all being

(Instrumental)

Blessed be the Guardians of the worlds
 For they stand on a barren plain
 Watching, watching all that goes round.
 Guardians of the Lady and Lord
 Guardians of the earth our home
 May life thrive, now and always...

The Guardian Song

by Amber Kahn

Transcribed and notated by
 Bonnie Barnett

d:

Bles- sed be the Guar- di-ans of the worlds Bles- sed be the
 east at dawn, Bles- sed be the south in fire, Bles- sed be the north earth
 Home-land - of our La- dy and Lord. For they stand on a bar- ren plain -
 watch- ing, watch- ing all that goes round. Guar- di- ans of
 the La- dy and Lord. Guar- di- ans of the earth - our home.
 May life thrive - now and al- ways.

Priestess:

The circle is cast
 We have stepped beyond the boundaries of the world...
 Close you eyes...breathe deep...
 Breathe power from the earth and from the air
 Reach deep...reach deep inside...
 For those we call Goddess and God are only found within
 Reach down below all you were ever taught to be
 And all you were ever taught you could not be
 Reach down below fear and helplessness
 Down below breath and bone and heartbeat
 To the source of breath and bone and heartbeat
 To the source of strength that renews itself
 And the source of love that has no boundaries
 And the source of life that has no end
 Reach down and know
 When we call Her
 When we call Him
 We are calling our own power
 All powers are our own power
 To heal and to create

When you open your eyes
 She is here
 He is here
 Appearing everywhere...

Chorus and Soloes (Maiden Voice, Mother Voice, Crone Voice):

Three Goddesses: For you can see me in your eyes
When they are mirrored by a friend

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end. (3X)

There is no end to the circle, no end,
 There is no end to life there is no end.

Maiden Voice: For I am the power to begin
I dream and bring to birth what's never been
There is no end to freedom, no end

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Chorus: There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Three Goddesses: And you can hear me in your voice
And feel me in each breath that you breathe in

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end.

Mother Voice: For I am the power to sustain
I am the ripened fruit and growing grain
There is no end to my abundance, no end

Chorus: There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Three Goddesses: And you can feel me in your heart
When it beats with the heart of a friend

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Crone Voice: And I am the power to end
I am the Crone who cuts the cord that I spin
Though all things that are born must die again

Chorus: There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Three Goddesses: For all proceeds from me and all returns
All that returns to me comes forth again

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

And you can touch me with your hands
Reach out and take the hand of a friend

There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end (3X)

Low hum.....

W. A.

INVOCATION OF THE GOD:

Words by Starhawk and Lauren Liebling,

Music by Bonnie Barnett

Honor to the untamed God
We call you
Who goes down with the Sun into darkness
Yet arises in light -
You teach us that no end is final.
You are cut with the grain
Yet grow again
To comfort us
With the promise of renewal
The promise of the spiral
Come to us!
Guide and friend,
Seed sower, grain reborn

Chorus: The comforter, the consoler
Heart's ease and sorrow's end!

Child born when dark turns to light,

Chorus: The comforter, the consoler,
Youth of the Sun's waxing,

Chorus: Heart's ease and sorrow's end.
Grain sown in the balance,

Chorus: The comforter, the consoler,
Leaping fire on the heights,

Chorus: Heart's ease and sorrow's end.
Lover of blossom and thorn,

Chorus: The comforter, the consoler,
Shining face descending,

Chorus: Heart's ease and sorrow's end.
Reaper of abundant harvests,

Chorus: The comforter, the consoler,
Long-handed guide in the night.

He is here!
He is the guide!
The gate is open,
He is the guide,
The way is clear,
He is the guide,
To the unseen
The mystery
Of turning and returning
The dancer in the heart.
Who passes,
Who goes down and arises,
Who touches,

Chorus: Heart's ease and sorrow's end!

OPENING THE GATES:

Maiden and Crone step forward, form "Gates" to the ritual space.
Horned God moves between them:

Chorus: These are the gates of youth and age,
These are the gates of now and then,
These are the gates of memory and desire.
Pass through them!
Step between the worlds,
Beyond time,
Outside the boundaries of your human life.
Pass through them
To dance the spiral
The journey of renewal.

Chorus hums:



Priest/
ess: You warriors, here your battles are over,
You workers, here your tasks are done.
You who are hurt, here find healing,
You who are weary, here find rest,
You who are old, here grow young again,
For this is the Land of Youth,
The Shining Land,
The Isle of Apples...

Chorus: Here is all that ever was.
None ~~of~~ forgotten,
Nothing fades forever,
All that has passed comes round again,
For here, what is remembered lives.
What is remembered lives.

Chant begins: What is remembered lives... (repeat)

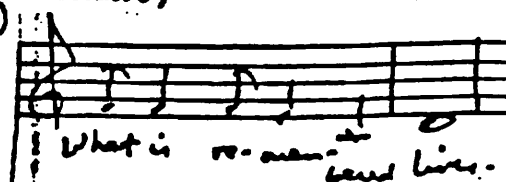
Horned God, aided by Mother and Dance Leaders, brings audience through the gates into a Line Dance that circles the ritual space.

Maiden sprinkles each person as s/he passes, for purification.
Crone encourages them to join in the chant.

SPIRAL DANCE:

Music up:

Chorus: What is remembered lives... (repeated chant)
(overtone and multiphonic chanting)



These are the gates of youth and age, These are the gates of
 now and then. These are the gates of me - mor - y
 and - de - sire. — Pass through — them.
 Sep between the Worlds. Be - yond — time. Out - side the boun - dries
 of your or men life — Pass through — them. — To dance the spi - ral, the
 jour - nay of re - new — at — (Chorus hums) (Whisper the Tale of Apples...)
 that is - all that - e - ver was. None is for - got - ten.
 No - thing - fade for - ev - er. All that has passed comes a -
 round a - gain. For here —, What is re - mem - bered lives —
 What is re - mem - bered lives —.

Horned God winds the dance inwards, collecting more and more of Audience, who continue to pass through the Gates formed by the Maiden and Crone, all chanting "What is remembered lives..."

1st Voice: "Litany of Endangered and Extinct Species"

2nd Voice: "Litany of Heroines and Heroes"

3rd Voice: "Litany of Ancestors"

As Spiral Dance reaches the center, the Horned God turns and begins leading it out again. When Audience has passed through the Gates, Maiden and Crone join the end of the line.

Soloist: Awake!

Chorus: Awake!

Soloist: Awake!

Chorus: Awake!

Soloist: Awake!

Chorus: Awake!

Soloist: Awake!

Chorus: Awake!

A handwritten musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of a series of eighth notes: A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics "A - wake! a - wake! A - wake! A - wake!" are written below the staff.

Leaders cue dancers in the spiral to begin chanting "We are alive"

Chorus: We are of each other,
We are alive,
And of the same kind.

Handwritten musical notation for the first line of the chorus. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a staff with notes corresponding to the lyrics "We are of each other".

These are the seeds of a New Year.

Handwritten musical notation for the second line of the chorus. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a staff with notes corresponding to the lyrics "We are alive, of the same kind".

Handwritten musical notation for the line "These are the seeds of a new year". It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a staff with notes corresponding to the lyrics.

We are alive

Handwritten musical notation for the line "We are alive". It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is written on a staff with notes corresponding to the lyrics. Below the staff, the notes C, B, G, and A are written.

Chorus: We are alive! }
Chorus: Let it begin now } (repeat)

Chorus continues chant while dance unwinds into concentric circles and such free-form dancing as people are inspired to do.

Soloist: A year of beauty
Let it begin now
S A year of joy
Let it begin now
S A year of hope
Let it begin now
S A year of freedom
Let it begin now
S A year of music
Let it begin now
S A year of planting
Let it begin now
S A year of plenty
Let it begin now
S A year of harvests
Let it begin now
S A year of forests
Let it begin now
S A year of fresh winds
Let it begin now

Soloist: Clear-running waters

Let it begin now

S Free-flowing rivers

Let it begin now

S Flow from the mountains

Let it begin now

S The^u high Sierras

Let it begin now

S Whose bones are granite

Let it begin now

S Whose eyes are blue lakes

Let it begin now

S Whose arms are tall pines

Let it begin now

S Mighty Sequoias

Let it begin now

S Where bear and eagles

Let it begin now

S Blue jays and squirrels

Let it begin now

S All grow and flourish

Let it begin now

(11)

Soloist: Flow through the foothills

Let it begin now

S The rolling grasslands

Let it begin now

S The waving oak trees

Let it begin now

S Down to the valleys

Let it begin now

S Valleys of ripe grain

Let it begin now

S Peaches and apples

Let it begin now

S Oranges and lemons

Let it begin now

S Make a good harvest

Let it begin now

S For those who plant them

Let it begin now

S And those who tend them

Let it begin now

S And those who pick them

Let it begin now

S And when we eat them

Let it begin now

S We taste clear waters

Let it begin now

(12)

Soloist: Taste and feel happy

Let it begin now

S That all the children

Let it begin now

S Sleep with full bellies

Let it begin now

S Curled up and trusting

Let it begin now

S That they are wanted

Let it begin now

S Sleep without fearing

Let it begin now

S Grow up so healthy

Let it begin now

S Swim in the rivers

Let it begin now

Soloist: That run through cities

Let it begin now

S Where men and women

Let it begin now

S Of every color

Let it begin now

S Smile at each other

Let it begin now

S Working together

Let it begin now

S And all the old ones

Let it begin now

S Can live in comfort

Let it begin now

S Walk the streets safely

Let it begin now

Soloist: Under the dark sky
Let it begin now
S Bright lights and music
Let it begin now
S And many lovers
Let it begin now
S Meeting each other
Let it begin now
S Having a good time
Let it begin now
S Singing the heart's song
Let it begin now
S Joy in the body
Let it begin now

Soloist: Joy in the sunset

Let it begin now

S Over the ocean

Let it begin now

S Where whales and dolphins

Let it begin now

S Fish and sea lions

Let it begin now

S All grow and flourish

Let it begin now

S Far flying seabirds

Let it begin now

S Soar in the clean air

Let it begin now

S By cliffs of redwoods

Let it begin now

S Above the clear waves

Let it begin now

S Touch many shorelines

Let it begin now

S Link us together

Let it begin now

Soloist: Under the bright Sun

Let it begin now

S That shares His power

Let it begin now

S To warm our houses

Let it begin now

S To take ^{us} ~~up~~ places

Let it begin now

S To plant and harvest

Let it begin now

S Under the white Moon

Let it begin now

S That shares Her magic

Let it begin now

S To weave our circles

Let it begin now

S ~~And~~ For all the green Earth

Let it begin now

S Where we're all living

Let it begin now

S The air we're breathing

Let it begin now

S Water we're drinking

Let it begin now

S Sun fire and Moonlight

Let it begin now

S She is our Mother

Let it begin now

S And we are of Her

Let it begin now

(2)

Soloist: This is our circle
Let it begin now

S Circle of healing
Let it begin now

S Healing the green earth
Let it begin now

S And our sore spirits
Let it begin now

S Circle of planting
Let it begin now

S Seeds of a New Year
Let it begin now

S A year of balance
Let it begin now

S A year of beauty
Let it begin now

S And all our voices
Let it begin now

S Are Her sweet music
Let it begin now

S Rise with Her power
Let it begin now

Soloist: Rise like a fountain

Let it begin now

S Of clearest water

Let it begin now

S Power of healing

Let it begin now

S Power of planting

Let it begin now

S So let us hear them

Let it begin now

S Higher and higher

Let it begin now

All do Power Chant

After the Power Chant dies down, Priestess grounds it.

Dancers pick up ritual vessels filled with grapes and pass through crowd, letting each individual take some, saying:

These are the fruits of the Old Year, and the seeds of the year to come.

Chorus: Now the old year's fruit comes to your hand
It is the seed of the year that now begins
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end.

The image shows two staves of handwritten musical notation. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics "There is no end to the circle, no end" are written in cursive. The second staff is a bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics "There is no end to life there is no end." are written in cursive.

For we have danced the spiral dance
The Wheel of the Year has turned again
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end

Maiden: Earth, we thank you for your strength
Air, we thank you for the cleansing winds

Mother: Fire, for our passion and bright will
Water, for the love that flows within

Crone: And now as we ask you to depart
Strength and love remain bright in our hearts

Chorus: There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end.

devotion of god
Crone: *> the god who is tender yet untamed who touches what is deep & soft in men
is with us as we lean to welcome down for fire is the power to change*
We remember how our hopes go up in flames
While poison and pain spread all around

Chorus: But our anger is a fire that brings change
For ours is the power to end

Mother: For we are the guardians of the World
And we can heal the Earth again

Chorus: As the hills turn green with Winter rain
Ours is the power to sustain

Maiden: And we can dream what's never been
Unbounded love for women and for men

Chorus: For all that grows, all that leaps and flies and swims
And ours is the power to begin

And you can see the power in your eyes
When they are mirrored by a friend
And you can hear the power in your voice
And feel it in each breath that you breathe in
And you can know the power in your heart
When it beats with the heart of a friend
And you can feel the power in your hand
Reach out and take the hand of a friend
There is no end to the circle, no end

* ← Together we have power to begin
There is no end to the circle, no end
There is no end to life, there is no end
Reach out and take the hand of a friend
Reach out and take the power to begin...

Priestess:

The circle ^{is} ~~is~~ open, but unbroken
May the peace of the Goddess
And Her power to heal and to create
Go in our hearts
Merry meet and merry part(y)
And merry meet again...
Blessed be;

Chorus processes out, singing:

Reach out and take the hand of a friend,
Reach out and take the power to begin.