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Beltane

Many of us have experienced a difficult passage through the cold, dreary months, but now we emerge from our retreats, shaking off the weariness that has

oppressed us. We bathe in the morning dew, cleansing away the last traces of disappointments, of expectations left unfulfilled. Thus purified, we are revitalized, ready to face oncoming challenges with clarity and compassion.

Beltane is a celebration of spirit, of rebirth and renewal, a time to honour the life spark that resides within us all and put it on display. The seeds that we have planted within our soul and nurtured through the winter are now ready to manifest. We present to the world a kaleidoscope of colours, as varied and beautiful as flowers in bloom.

Green is the predominant colour of Beltane, representing growth, abundance, and fertility. But, in truth, all colours play a part, reflected in the rainbow that appears after a rainfall, the floral displays we see at every turn, and emerging from our opening chakras. White brings cleansing and peace, red nourishes vibrancy, yellow represents the life force and happiness, pink is a reminder to love ourselves, blues and purples symbolize expansion and magick. Beltane is rich with vibrant colour, bringing joy to the soul and nourishment to the spirit.

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Ajna DreamsAwake is an Adept of [The Sacred Three Goddess School](#). She is an eclectic Pagan, rediscovering Her Visionary Goddess Gifts.

Goddesses of Peace Ritual & Invocation

You will need:

A White Candle for Spirit/Goddess.

A Pink Candle for any women you ask for blessings on, including yourself if you are

female.

Blue Candle for male(s) you ask for blessings on.

Any gemstones that represent peace and harmony to you. Such as blue lace agate, moonstone, or if you like, heart colors such as pink and green stones. Selenite is an excellent spiritual stone and there are many others to choose from.

Incense such as Sandalwood or another highly spiritual one.

Pictures or statues of goddesses of peace/tranquility if you have them. You can print out small photos that you find from Google or Yahoo Images.

Blessing Oils, you may add glitter to them if you like. If you don't have them, then any sweet-smelling oil or plain virgin olive oil is always appropriate.

A pen or pencil, and a piece of paper.

Cast your Circle. Ask any Guides, Guardians, and Powers of Light that you wish to join you in your Circle. Call upon the four regular Elements and Akasha/Spirit, the fifth Element. Ask them to join and protect your Circle.

Take a few minutes to commune with the Higher Powers, then write down anything you feel that you can personally do to bring peace and harmony into your community, groups, friendships, and the world.

Dress (Oil) your candles. Light them, and as you do, feel Light surrounding you and filling you with Peace, Harmony and Compassion. Also feel the light of the crystals that you have put on your altar giving out their healing light. Chant the Invocation below THREE times.

Goddesses of Peace Invocation

Goddesses of Peace...

*Pax, Mary, Quan Yin, Tara
Gaia, Mother of the Earth,
We call upon you with respect.*

*Mothers of Compassion,
Mothers of Peace and Mercy,
We ask for your wise counsel.
Please help us not to give in.*

*To the everyday stresses
And resentments that assail us.
Help us connect with your Light
And the love and grace you bring.*

*Blessed Mothers, we thank you
For the nurturing and blessings
That you pour out upon us every day;
Grant that our lives also be a blessing.*

When you are through chanting the invocation three times, dismiss your Circle, thanking the Higher Powers and everyone that you invited into your Circle. Then

go to your door, open it, and say or shout, "SO MOTE IT BE!" Send any excess energy to Mother Earth. Then come in, let your candles burn out safely. Relax, eat a bit to ground if you like. You may listen to soft music or do some form of divination, as you will be relaxed and full of Light.

© September 17, 2008

Beth Clare Johnson

(Mystic Amazon)

Mystic Amazon has studied Reiki with Diane Stein and has also done Shamanic training. She is a High Priestess of the [Order of the White Moon](#) and an Ordained Minister, currently co-teaching with HP Ka Wahine Ahi at [Sisters of the Rising Moon school](#). Divorced with two children, she now lives in Mississippi. Her hobbies include writing, folk art, folk magick, Reiki, and reading.

Kumari Ghar Temple, Kathmandu

Embraced by the Himalayas, and nestled between the countries of India and Tibet, lies the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Though it is a small nation, Nepal is home to eight of Earth's tallest peaks, including Mt Everest, the area is known as the "Rooftop of the World". The capital city of Kathmandu, at a height of 4600 feet, is dwarfed by the massive peaks surrounding her.

Kathmandu is situated in a lush area of central Nepal known as the Emerald Valley, or the Nepal Mandala. Legend has it that a great lake called Naghada stood at the site. The Lake was drained by a Bodhisattva in order to create a city of enlightenment. Kathmandu has a rich spiritual heritage going back at least two

millennia, and is home to both Hindu and Buddhists religions.

At the center of the city lies Durbar Square, the "Place of Palaces". Durbar Square is home to royal residences, courtyards and temples. One of the most intriguing buildings is the Kumari Ghar, a three-story brick building with elaborately carved windows and balconies. The temple is renowned for its intricate wooden carvings of Gods and Goddesses, Tantric images and esoteric symbols. It is also home to the Kumari Devi, the Living Goddess of Nepal.

Since the mid-16th century, the Kumari has played a prominent role in the lives of the Nepalese. The Kumari is a young girl, believed to be the incarnation of the Goddess Durga, or Taleju (the Nepalese version of Durga). She is also the living embodiment of the Buddhist Tantric Goddess Vasundhara ("Bearer of Treasure") and is associated with abundance and prosperity. This integration of Hindu and Buddhist Goddesses is indicative of the harmonious coexistence of the two principle religions Nepal.

Kumari is a Sanskrit word meaning virgin, and refers to a young, unmarried girl. Kumari is also a name for the Goddess Durga as a child. There are approximately eleven kumaris across Nepal, but the Kumari Devi, the Royal Goddess in Kathmandu is the most important.

The Kumari is chosen from girls aged 2-5, who demonstrate certain signs of divinity. Eligible candidates come from the Buddhist caste of goldsmiths and silversmiths, must be in excellent health, free of scars or imperfections. Eyes and hair must be very black, with dainty hands and feet. Other attributes include having "a neck like a conch shell, a body like a banyan tree, eyelashes like a cow, thighs like a deer, a chest like a lion, and a voice soft and clear as a duck's". The horoscope of the chosen one must be compatible with the current ruler's.

Those girls who meet the initial criteria are brought together during the festival of Dashain, which celebrates Durga's victory over evil demons. The girls must spend a night in a darkened room filled with freshly severed buffalo heads and masked

men. The girl who remains calm and demonstrates no fear is thought to be the incarnation of Durga. As a final test, the chosen girl must select items belonging to her predecessor.

Once the Kumari is chosen, she is taken to the Temple of Taleju and undergoes Tantric rituals to cleanse her body and spirit. Thus purified, she is now a vessel for the Goddess. She is escorted across the square to the Kumari Ghar, where she will be worshipped as the Living Goddess until she menstruates. Once she sheds blood, it is believed the Goddess vacates her body, and the search begins for a new Kumari.

The Kumari is always dressed in red, with her hair in a top knot. An image known as the "Fire Eye" is painted upon her brow, a symbol of her powers of perception. A jeweled necklace, the Tavo, is a symbol of her divinity as a fully enlightened Buddha.

The Kumari's feet are sacred and are not allowed to touch the earth while the Goddess resides within her. She must never wear shoes, but may wear red stockings. On her rare appearances outside the Temple, she is transported in a golden palanquin. Petitioners will touch her feet in hopes of receiving her blessing.

The power of the Kumari is believed to be so strong that even a glimpse of her may bring good fortune. Crowds of people wait below the Kumari's window in the courtyard of her Temple, hoping that she will pass by the latticed windows on the third floor and glance down at them. The actions of the Kumari are interpreted by the priests, laughter may indicate illness, and picking at her food may mean financial loss. If the Kumari remains silent, her devotees take this as a sign their wishes have been granted. It is believed she can cure blood disorders, and mothers may call on her for the protection and good health of their children.

The Kumari Festival, or Indra Jatra, occurs in September and celebrates the end of the monsoon season. The Living Goddess, carried on her palanquin, participates in a religious procession through the streets, offering blessings to the people. The

Kumari also bestows a special blessing, the tikka, upon the forehead of the current ruler.

There are several legends relating how the tradition of the Kumari began. In the most popular legend, the Goddess came to the king's chambers each night to play a game of dice. One night, the queen discovered them. The Goddess, angered by the intrusion, incarnated as a young girl and fled. The king set out in search of Her. A second version has the king making a sexual advance upon the Goddess, and in Her fury, She stopped visiting the palace. When the king begged for Her return, She agreed, but would only come in the form of a young girl. In a third variation, a young girl is banished from the kingdom because she is believed to be possessed by Durga. The queen becomes enraged at this injustice and insists the king bring the girl back and revere her as the incarnation of the Goddess.

The Royal family of Nepal relied on the blessings of the Kumari to legitimize their throne. If the reigning monarch did not receive the blessing of the Living Goddess, his reign would end and a new king would be crowned. In 2008, the last king of Nepal was dethroned by Maoist insurgents, the kingdom was abolished and Nepal became a Republic. The new government, though they did not believe in religious principles, continued the Kumari tradition, and the newly elected president received the Kumari's blessing. Despite her growing popularity among Western tourists, the Maoist government believes the Kumari is no longer an essential institution and may eventually be abolished, as have most traditions associated with the former royal family.

Human Rights groups have also weighed in on the abolition of the Kumari tradition, believing the chosen girls may suffer from exploitation and psychological damage from their isolated upbringing. The Supreme Court of Nepal upheld the tradition itself, but allowed that the Kumari should receive an education, as guaranteed by the United Nations Rights of the Child.

The majority of Nepalese girls live a miserable existence, poorly educated, they must enter the work force at a young age, marry much older men or may even be sold into prostitution. With an education, the Kumari may be able to use her

position to better the lives of these vulnerable girls. It may seem impossible for such a young girl to effect social change, but her influence upon the Nepalese people cannot be dismissed. Several years ago, when the government attempted to raise the admission price at the Temple, the Kumari went on strike causing uproar among the populace. The government, realizing the significance of her role among the Nepalese, relented and the admission price was lowered.

The Maoist government may want to abolish the position, but its popularity among the Nepalese people and the added advantage of increased tourism dollars may allow the tradition of the Living Goddess to continue for many years to come.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kumari_%28children%29

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/nepal/kathmandu-kumari-ghar>

<http://musetheplace.com/kumari-ghar-nepal/>

<http://www.asianart.com/articles/kumari/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathmandu>

[Sacred Places of Goddess: 108 Destinations Karen Tate](#)

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White Moon Happenings

Our sisters and students in the Order have been quite active, this quarter!

[The Sisters of the Rising Moon](#), led by High Priestess Ka Wahine Ahi and High Priestess Mystic Amazon, are delighted to announce the following accomplishments of their students Ahes and Rosemary!

Ahes has completed Level III to become a Priestess of the Order, and will soon begin her Level IV studies, preparing her for elevation to High Priestess, and legal ordination. Please enjoy her wonderful Level III Final Project on Dahud Ahes, at <http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/DahudAhes.pdf> . We on the High Priestess Council are very much looking forward to Ahes's work in Level IV, soon to come!

Rosemary has completed Level II to become an Adept of the Order! Please enjoy her marvelous Level II Final Project on Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Goddess of the Americas, at <http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/Guadalupe/guadalupe.html>.

[The Sacred Three Goddess School](#), led by High Priestess Kerritwyn Ceannaire, is thrilled to congratulate her student, Cherdwyn, for completing Level I of our White Moon studies, and for thus becoming an Initiate of the Order! Please enjoy Cherdwyn's inspiring Level I Final Project on the fiery volcano Goddess, the glorious Pele! <http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/VolcanoGoddessPele.htm>.

HP Kerritwyn Ceannaire is also delighted to report that her student, Priestess Aethyia Dannan, continues to work her way through the demanding work of Level IV toward legal ordination, and elevation to High Priestess!

If you would like to learn more about the [Order of the White Moon](#), the schools which offer [White Moon Studies](#), or take a look at our wonderful [Goddess Gallery](#), we would be delighted! Blessings to you on your Path, wherever it takes you.....!!

HP Kerritwyn Ceannaire is the President of the Board of Directors and the Head of the Order. She teaches White Moon lessons to women in [The Sacred Three Goddess School](#), and to male-to-female transgendered seekers in the [Rainbow Moon School](#).

The Writer

*She sits in her favourite chair, silent anticipation
Pen in hand, she opens up to the muse
One word, then two, the deluge begins
She cannot suppress the torrential flow
Words pour out of her soul onto the paper
A song that is hers and hers alone
Orgasmic bliss of the writer
She sits in her favourite chair, silent appreciation*

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OWM Hex Sign

This gorgeous mandala is an original creation from our OWM Sister, Myriam. It is available as a printable download in this issue. Please note, this is copyrighted material for personal use only.



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My name is Myriam current student of the [Sisters of the Rising Moon school](#). I love creating (from cooking to fashion design) and adding a magical touch to all my projects. I have 2 cats and a beautiful Succulent garden currently in bloom.