

## August 2 - Lammas Celebration

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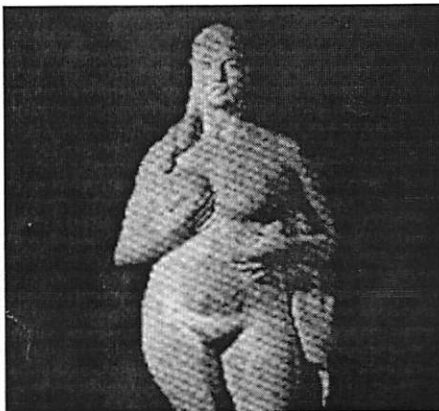
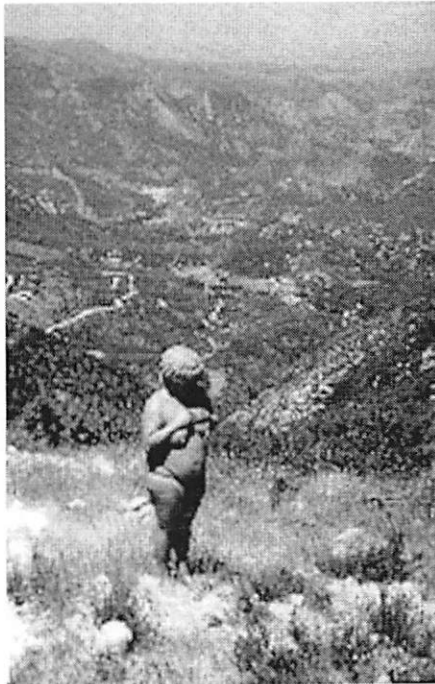
The first harvest of summer is when the early apples come in, blueberries are abundant, as are raspberries, mangoes, nectarines, peaches, apricots, watermelon & cherries. It is also the time when the first harvest of corn & grain takes place. What is sweeter & more enjoyable than tasting the summer's first tender ears of corn? Silver Queen or Peaches & Cream are among the taste triggers that bring to mind August & the abundance of the earth's generosity, of warm days, sunshine, shores & picnics.

The goddess & guardian of the harvest is Habondia, the generous one, she who is abundance. The Great Mother Goddesses of the world are overflowing with their goodness: Kwan-Yin, guardian of mothers, children & childbirth; Hestia, the keeper of the hearth & home; and, Lilith, the first bride of Adam, Arianrhod & Yemaya.

In connection with the wider world than our own, it is a time to remember that not all

peoples of the world are experiencing abundance that we may have in our lives. Due to war & interventions that are in opposition to the nature of the Goddess, the natural rhythms & gifts of the earth have been curtailed or limited for some. It is good to send out to the universe energy & wishes for peace & abundance.

Lammas is also a time for blessing animals. At your ritual, you may not want to bring your animals along, but it is appropriate to remember them in the ritual circle. The donkeys throughout history & all over the world have helped in the building, the travel & the development of civilization. It was a donkey that carried Mary & Joseph into Jerusalem. Dogs have been friends, companions, guardians, workers & lifesavers throughout history; cows, sheep, pigs & goats have given us meat, milk, cheese & warmth since they were domesticated by women. We certainly want to remember the blessing of our cats who have been mousers, psychic connectors, teachers & companions throughout all time. It is a time to bless the wild animals left in the world; in the sky, on the earth & beneath the sea.



As the wheel of the year turns, the first harvest corresponds across the wheel to the February 2nd celebration of the earth's quickening ( see CoolWomen's **Imbolc** feature). The Great Mother has moved through the seasons from the promise of new life in February to the fulfillment of that promise with the harvest beginning in August.

August reminds us also that we are in the waning time of the year. The persistent song of the kadydids tells us that in six weeks, there will be frost. Persephone, who strayed from her friends at the Summer Solstice (see CoolWomen's **Midsummer's Eve** feature) is now on the path to the Underworld & her mother, Demeter, is beginning to search for her & feels a chill.