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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 & iifesavers 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.

<http://www.coolwomen.ca/coolwomen/cwsite.nsf/0/6BB4E8309222BF5385256650004C4A>... 7/5/2005