Spring Equinox 2015 Introduction: “We are Mad as a March Hare”

The natural world is coming alive to celebrate fertility, renewal and rebirth. The Sun is gaining in strength and the days are becoming longer and warmer. The gentle whispered promise of Imbolc is fulfilled in the evident and abundant fertility of the Earth and represented by the Goddess Ostara who has the shoulders and head of a hare. It is time for the hopes of Imbolc to become action. The energy is expansive and exuberant. It is the first day of Spring!

Spring Equinox is a point of perfect balance on the journey through the Wheel of the Year. Night and day are of equal length and in perfect equilibrium - dark and light, masculine and feminine, inner and outer, in balance. In Celtic tradition, the hare is sacred to the Goddess and is the totem animal of many lunar goddesses as the hare is a symbol for the moon. The date of the Christian Easter is determined by the phase of the moon. The nocturnal hare, so closely associated with the moon which dies every morning and is resurrected every evening, also represents the rebirth of nature in Spring.

Both the moon and the hare were believed to die daily in order to be reborn - therefore the Hare is a symbol of immortality. It is also a major symbol for fertility and abundance as the hare can conceive while pregnant. Over the centuries the symbol of the Hare at Ostara has become the Easter Bunny who brings eggs to children on Easter morning—the Christian symbol of death and rebirth.

We are embracing these meanings of equinox as well as the playful spirit of the march hare- this species of rabbit is usually nocturnal, but in March, when mating season begins, there are bunnies everywhere running through the fields. The female can conceive a second litter while still being pregnant with the first. Imagine that. And there is the mating ritual which as the female hare literally boxing the ears of the courting male. As if that wasn't enough, the males tend to get frustrated when rebuffed by their mates, and bounce around erratically when discouraged. Ah to be mad as a march hare: we are encouraging you to embrace the expansiveness of spring and the playfulness of the March Hare: your symbolic eratic bouncing and boxing; your own creative madness, your childlike wonder, your delightful exuberance.

Taken in part from: http://www.goddessandgreenman.co.uk/ostara