**June 21-Summer Solstice -Goddesses**

Happy midsummer to you all! Now the Earth has reached the midpoint on her journey around the sun. From this time on, the daylight hours will begin to shorten again. This peak of the summertime is Midsummer, Summer Solstice.

 The goddess of this season is Litha (European, North African). She is abundance and fertility, power and order. If you wish to conceive a divine child, (and whose child isn’t!) lie with your lover tonight. Tonight is lovers’ night all over the world. Renamed by the Christians as St. John’s Day, Midsummer is an excellent time to perform divinations about affairs of the heart.

 For protection in the coming year and purification from sorrow, jump over a balefire or a candle (or your trusty hibachi) in your backyard. If there is something that bothers you a lot, write it on a white paper with red ink, smear it with honey, fold it gently and burn it in the flames, saying:

 *I give my sorrow to the flames; the Goddess of Fire will consume my pain. It is done.*

If you are single, it’s a good night to cast a love spell.

 Another goddess associated with this season is Cerridwen, who usually has her cauldron of rebirth handy as she brews the ingredients of our lives. Her sacred animal is the sow, so eat some port tonight if you are not a vegetarian.

 Ishtar (Babylonian), Astarte (Canaanite), Aphrodite (Greek), Yemaya or Oshun (Brazilian) are all love goddesses who may be celebrated with fires and fruit offerings tonight. The fiery goddess Aine (Irish) is honored with torchlight processions around the fields; cattle are driven through fires to purify them from sickness. The wheel of the year is turning; from the high point of summer, we now face the coming winter, even though its first signs are far away.

 Summer Solstice is a magical time for wishing. Walk to the nearest river, ocean, bay, brook, or lake and chanting to yourself (the Muses will tell you how), float a flower with your kiss on it—traditionally a rose—into the waves to carry your wish home. It is a message to the Cosmic Mother (whose symbol the rose is) on the waters (her life-giving element) to send something to her daughter or son—yourself.