

# Weaving Magick™

VOL. 7 2025

## LUGHNASADH 2025

### THE HISTORY OF CORN DOLLIES

Discover the ancient history of corn dollies and learn how to craft traditional, sacred harvest figures rooted in time-honored magick.

### THE SPIRIT OF LUGH AND TAILTU

Explore the deities of this season, Lough and Tailtu. The y the sacred waters and nurturing spirit, guardians of Ireland's ancient magick, where love, sacrifice, and the divine feminine flow freely.



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# Welcome

VOL. 7 2025

Welcome to Weaving Magick™ – where the mystical and the modern intersect to celebrate the art of witchcraft and the boundless power of Divine Feminine energy. My name is Harmony Rose and I've been a practicing Witch for over 30 years. My training is vast and varied and includes certifications in E-RYT200, Yin and Shakti yoga, shamanism, womb healing, and astrology. I believe that in our highest expression, the divine feminine truly has the power to heal the hearts of humanity, returning us to unity consciousness.

I invite you to explore the realms of the seen and unseen, the blending of ancient traditions with contemporary witchcraft practices to create spellbinding content to incorporate into your daily life. Whether you're a seasoned practitioner, a curious novice, or someone who revels in the enchanting allure of the esoteric, Weaving Magick has something for everyone.

Our mission is to inspire, uplift, and empower so you can discover your inner strength and authentic self while navigating your unique magickal journey.

Thank you for stopping by. I'm so glad you're here. May your path be illuminated with wisdom, your heart filled with wonder, and your spirit be ever curious.

### PUBLICATION

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## Harmony Rose

THE FACE BEHIND MYSTIC WITCH

Editor-In-Chief and Word Witch



[www.mysticwitch.com](http://www.mysticwitch.com)

# Lughnassadh

As the sun begins its slow descent and the days grow shorter, the wheel of the year turns toward Lughnassadh—a sacred festival of harvest, gratitude, and the fiery spirit of giving.

Celebrated around August 1st, this Sabbat marks the first fruits of summer's bounty and honors the ancient god Lugh, a shining symbol of craftsmanship, skill, and the light within us all. Imagine a time when the fields are heavy with grains, when golden wheat and ripe fruits sway in the warm breeze, inviting us to reflect on the fruits of our labor and the cycles of life.

It's a moment of deep connection between the earth and ourselves, between past traditions and present joys. This is the season to gather, to feast, and to honor the divine spark that fuels creation. As we celebrate Lughnassadh, we remember that every harvest is a gift—a reminder of the power, abundance, and gratitude that lie at the heart of our spiritual journey.



## Where The Traditions Began

Lughnassadh's roots run deep into the ancient stories of loss and renewal, echoing a poignant moment where grief gave way to rebirth. According to lore, this festival also honors the bittersweet memory of Lugh's foster mother, Tailtiu, a goddess who sacrificed herself to cultivate the earth, ensuring its fertility. Her passing was mourned as a sacred funeral, a solemn rite of giving back to the land that sustained all life. The ashes of this mourning blend seamlessly into the harvest celebrations, transforming grief into gratitude. Every plow turned and every grain gathered echoes a reverence for sacrifice—the acknowledgment that growth often springs from loss. Across cultures, the season is seen as a time to honor the passing of life's old and the promise of new beginnings, to recognize that in every death in the land, there is a seed of rebirth. Lughnassadh, therefore, is not only a celebration of abundance but also a sacred remembrance—a testament to the enduring cycle of sacrifice, survival, and renewal that defines us all.

## Seasonal Traditions

As the season shifts and the golden light of summer begins to wane, Lughnassadh calls us to honor a sacred turning point—the first of the three harvest festivals in the Wheel of the Year. In ancient times, communities would gather at the edge of fields, expressing gratitude for the ripening grains and seasonal bounty. Rituals often involved the careful reaping of wheat, oats, and fruits, marking the culmination of months of tending and growth. Participants in the communities often held spirited games on mountain tops, competitions that echoed the vigor of ancient Olympic sports, celebrating strength, skill, and agility. These contests, races, wrestling, stone-throwing, and obstacle courses honored Lugh's mastery and the physical prowess required for both survival and craft, fostering camaraderie and communal joy in gratitude for the land's bounty. Traditional feasts emerged, hearty bread, ripe fruits, and grains, celebrations of the land's generous gift. Across ancient European tales, there's a whisper of maidens dancing freely in lush gardens, their forms unencumbered, embracing the raw beauty of nature's cycle. These dances, often performed under the full moon or beside flickering fires, celebrate the unbridled joy of summer's peak, a sacred return to innocence and unity with the earth.





# Lughnassadh Continued

## The Sacred Rite of Lugh's Festival

In the rich tapestry of Celtic myth, Lugh is known as the shining hero, a master of all trades and a beacon of light and ingenuity. Born of a union between the sun god, Elatha of the Fomorians, and the mortal maiden, Ethniu, Lugh's origins were shrouded in mystery and destined for greatness. From a young age, he demonstrated extraordinary skill in crafts, warfare, and wisdom, often surpassing even the most seasoned artisans and warriors of his time.

One of the most celebrated stories tells of how Lugh arrived at the court of the Tuatha Dé Danann, the fae people of Ireland. The reigning king, Balor of the Evil Eye, had a one-eyed and tyrannical rule, and the Tuatha Dé looked for a hero capable of defeating him. When Lugh arrived, he offered his skills in a series of trials, showcasing his mastery in everything from blacksmithing to magick. Impressed, the Tuatha Dé entrusted him with the battle, and with a mighty spear forged by his own hand, called the spear of victory, Lugh confronted and ultimately defeated Balor, banishing darkness and ushering in a new era of peace and prosperity. Through this legend, Lugh is celebrated as a god of mastery, a bringer of light, and a symbol of human potential and divine inspiration—a shining example of the hero's journey that continues to inspire us today.

Lughnassadh is far more than just a harvest festival; it is a profound act of reverence that weaves together tradition, myth, and community. At its core, this Sabbat honors Lugh, the master craftsman and sun god, whose energies light the season and inspire human creativity and toil. Long ago, people gathered in open fields, not only to collect the first bounty of the land but to perform a sacred ritual of remembrance, marking the passing of summer's peak and acknowledging the cycles of life and death that sustain all living things.

One of the most ancient rituals involved the creation of a ceremonial altar adorned with grains, fruits, and tools symbolic of Lugh's crafts, such as a spear or a sickle, emphasizing the importance of skill, labor, and divine blessing. Corn dollies, representing the spirit of the grain, might be woven and placed on the altar as offerings, embodying the spirits of harvest and gratitude. Fire played a central role as well; villagers would kindle flames to honor the sun's waning power while invoking rebirth and renewal. These fires often symbolized the sacred connection between the human and divine, a bridge through which blessings and protection could flow.

In some traditions, community members would hold storytelling circles, recounting tales of Lugh's heroism, as well as local legends of ancestors and sacred sites. They might share bread baked from the newly harvested grain, passing it from hand to hand in a communal gesture of unity and gratitude. Music, dance, and offerings to the land completed these rites, celebrating not only the bounty but also the divine sacrifice embedded in every seed and every harvest. Lughnassadh, in essence, becomes a powerful reminder of how interconnected life, sacrifice, and gratitude are, echoing the ancient belief that honoring the land sustains us all.



# Witches Potion

## Tailtiu's Sweet Harvest Elixir

In ancient traditions, the harvest season was a time when treasured fruits and herbs like apples, berries, and grains were gathered with mindful intention, believed to carry the blessings of abundance and vitality. Crafting a potion such as this involves selecting these sacred ingredients—ripe berries and crisp apples—while visualizing the energy of gratitude, mastery, and renewal flowing into each step. By infusing herbs and harvesting from the land, practitioners connect deeply to the cycles of nature, honoring the sacrifices made by ancestors and the divine forces that sustain life.

The act of creating this harvest brew is a sacred ritual rooted in ancient wisdom, transforming life's gifts into a potent elixir that nourishes both body and spirit.

Across cultures, herbal infusions and sacred potions have been crafted to celebrate growth, protection, and divine blessings during times of abundance. As the season shifts toward renewal, this ritual becomes a powerful way to honor the land's generosity, invoke divine energies, and express gratitude for the sacred cycle of death and rebirth that sustains us all.

### Elixir Incantation

As I hold this sacred elixir, I call upon the mighty Lugh, shining sun god of craftsmanship, skill, and light, whose blessings illuminate all endeavors. I honor his divine mother, Tailtiu—the earth goddess who sacrificed herself to sow the fields and nourish the land—whose unwavering sacrifice allows us to reap abundance and growth. Together, they embody the sacred cycle of death and rebirth, of sacrifice and renewal.

With each sip of this brew—crafted with the sweetness of berries, the crispness of apples, and the golden warmth of herbs—I invoke their energies. May Lugh's mastery ignite my talent and passion, while Tailtiu's spirit remind me of the sacred duty to honor and give back to the land that sustains us.



### Ingredients:

- 1 cup spring water or herbal infusion (rosemary, sage, chamomile)
- A pinch of dried wheat or barley grains
- 3-4 ripe black berries and apple slices
- 1 tsp honey
- A pinch of caraway seeds or coriander
- A few sprigs of lavender or calendula
- A dash of cinnamon or ginger

### Preparation:

1. Bring the water or herbal infusion to a gentle simmer.
2. Add the wheat or barley grains, allowing them to steep and release their energy.
3. Drop in the berries or apple slices to infuse sweetness and abundance.
4. Stir in the honey, imagining it as a sweet blessing from Tailtiu, and the land, nourishing both body and spirit.
5. Add the herbs and spices, visualizing the light and vitality of Lugh filling the brew.
6. Let it simmer for a few minutes, then strain into a container, such as a vial or cup.
7. Say the incantation provided
8. As you drink, focus on gratitude for the harvest and call upon Lugh's energy of mastery, skill, and the radiant power of the sun.



Throughout history, the connection between witches and the moon has been deeply rooted in the recognition of women's cycles, particularly their menstrual cycles, which mirror the lunar phases. In many ancient societies—such as those of the Celts, Druids, and early pagans, women were closely linked to lunar worship because the moon's cycles of waxing, full, waning, and dark resonated with the rhythm of female fertility and blood. Women, especially during their menstrual bleeding, were seen as sacred and attuned to the divine feminine, embodying a natural power that was honored and revered. This sacred connection led to the belief that women, by virtue of their cycles and intuitive powers, were naturally aligned with the moon's influence, and thus, witches were often seen as embodying this divine feminine energy, guardians of secret herbal and magickal knowledge.

In the medieval and early modern periods, especially during the witch hunts of the 15th to 17th centuries, women were overwhelmingly targeted and persecuted as witches. These women were often accused of consorting with the moon's darkness, casting spells, and practicing magick that was seen as a dangerous form of feminine power. The moon's association with women's cycles and fertility became tied to fears of uncontrolled female power, fears that led to the brutal witch hunts and the demonization of women as witches.

Regarding gender and witchcraft, the early history shows that witchcraft was largely understood as a practice rooted in the feminine divine, women being the primary practitioners due to their intuitive and earth-connected powers. However, by the late Middle Ages and into the witch hunts, gender roles became heavily gendered, with women being the primary targets of accusations. Men accused of witchcraft started to appear in records later, particularly in the 17th and 18th centuries, but often in a different context. It was in the 19th and 20th centuries, with the rise of modern witchcraft and Wicca, that gender no longer became a strict barrier; both men and women could be witches, trained in the craft, and equal in their magickal power.

The "oldest" magickal texts written by men are a reflection of who held the power and scribal privileges during those times. Women's magick, history, and oral traditions, however, remain the sacred roots of witchcraft—hidden and preserved in landscapes, stories, and practices that are still alive and thriving today. This shift reflects a broader understanding of witchcraft as a spiritual path that transcends gender, embracing the divine masculine and feminine energies equally. The cycles of the moon are ancient sacred tools, guiding us through phases of growth, release, and renewal. Understanding when to work with these celestial energies can deepen your magickal practice and help you align with the natural rhythms of the universe.

#### **The Full Moon: A Time of Manifestation and Release**

The full moon is often called the Witch's Moon, a time when the energy is at its height, full, bright, and powerful. To harness this energy effectively, it's crucial to know the exact peak moment of the full moon in your time zone. This exact timing varies depending on your location, so it's important to look up the precise time in your area for the full moon's peak. Working during the three days before and after this peak allows you to maximize the moon's energy, set your intentions at the lead-up, and release what no longer serves you during the days following. The full moon is perfect for manifestation work for spells already in motion, doing release work, and performing potent rituals like drawing down the moon, cleansing, and protection.

#### **The New Moon: A Time of Fertility and Creation**

The new moon, also known as the witch's moon, think of her under a dark sky, casting their spells. The new moon appears when the sky is completely dark, with no visible light. Its energy is mysterious, introspective, and ripe for planting seeds, symbolic of new beginnings and fresh intentions. In the fertile soil of our spirits, ideas and dreams germinate quietly, waiting for the right moment to sprout. This is an ideal time to start new spells, set intentions, or craft new projects. The energy of the dark moon encourages you to withdraw and focus inward, aligning your deepest desires with the fertile energy within you.



# Healing The Witch Wound

## Remembering Our Power

There's a quiet ache that many women carry—a deep, ancient wound buried within our collective consciousness. It's the wound of the witch, the healer, the storyteller—those who dared to reclaim their magic and live in their truth—and were silenced, hunted, or misunderstood for it. This is what we now call the “witch wound,” a legacy of fear, suppression, and betrayal that has woven itself into our very DNA.

This wound has made us believe, unconsciously, that we need to compete to be seen, to be valued, to be enough. It creates a silent inner voice whispering, “There's only room for one,” and it keeps us caught in a cycle of comparison and self-doubt. Many women feel they must mimic what they see, trying to be the “one” who shines the brightest in a world that teaches us to stand apart rather than together.

But I want you to know—your true power isn't in trying to outshine the next woman. It's in your authenticity, your unique voice, and your sacred truth. When you follow your heart's calling, you set a ripple of light that can't be dimmed by competition. You are meant to shine, not because someone else's glow diminishes yours, but because your light completes the harmony.

Healing this wound begins when we stop fearing the success or happiness of others. When we celebrate each woman's journey as a sacred part of our collective story. Sisterhood is not a competition; it's an alchemical process—three flames burning brighter together.

When we support each other, give credit where it's due, and lend a hand without expecting anything in return, we cultivate a radiant web of divine connection. It's time for us to rewrite that story. To reclaim our magick, not at the expense of others, but in sacred collaboration. When we lift each other up, honor each other's work, and truly see one another, we break the cycle of separation. We realize that our collective light becomes more potent when shared—when every woman's voice, dream, and success is celebrated as part of our shared sacred sisterhood.

The world needs our love now more than ever. We're being asked to show up, not in competition, but in compassion—being mirrors and allies for one another's highest good. Our partnership and support can spark a new awakening—a world where we embrace the fullness of our femininity, in all its divine power.

Healing the witch wound isn't just about forgiving the past, but about forgiving ourselves for believing we were ever meant to walk this path alone. When we choose to see others as allies, not threats, we begin to heal, reclaiming our divine right to shine, together. Remember, there is more than enough love, success, and light for all of us. All we have to do is step into it.

Let's honor our ancestors' true legacy: a fierce, beautiful sisterhood that lifts, supports, and shines brighter when we stand united. Because in the end, our greatest power is when we support each other's radiance. That's how we heal, that's how we rise, and that's how we reclaim our magick.







# Seven Knobbed Candle Abundance Spell

The tradition of candles with multiple knobs, like the 7-knobbed candles, holds a sacred place in spiritual and magickal history. Though their origins are woven through ancient practices across cultures, they are particularly revered in esoteric traditions that honor the seven sacred energies, clans, or divine aspects of the universe. The Clan of Spirit, The Clan of Earth, The Clan of Water, The Clan of Fire, The Clan of Air, The Clan of Balance, The Clan of the Ancestors. In Celtic beliefs, the seven clans are not necessarily clans of people but rather archetypes or aspects of the divine, representing fundamental energies, principles, or forces that govern the universe and human experience.

Each knob represents a different facet of divine power, be it spiritual, planetary, or elemental, serving as a channel for focused intention and divine alignment. These candles are often used in rituals to amplify specific energies, invoke divine support, or symbolize a journey of growth and transformation. In modern magick, the 7-knobbed candle is a potent tool, a sacred ritual object that connects us to ancient wisdom, reminding us that the divine energy is always accessible when we burn intention into the flame. Each flicker is a sacred prayer, a portal to higher realms, and a bridge between the earthly and the divine. In many traditions, each knob on the 7-knobbed candle symbolizes one of these clans or divine forces. Lighting each knob during rituals allows you to connect deeply with each aspect and invoke their energy for your magickal work, especially during ceremonies focused on growth, healing, and divine alignment.

## Items Needed:

- A 7-knobbed gold candle (symbol of divine abundance and divine light)
- Grains of wheat, oats, or other harvest staples (for abundance and growth)
- Crystals: citrine or green aventurine (to amplify prosperity)
- Fresh herbs like basil, mint, or bay leaf (for blessing and manifestation)
- A small coin or piece of money (to attract financial prosperity)
- Blank paper and a pen for intentions

## Creating Your Lughnasadh Altar:

- Choose a sacred space in your home—an altar or a quiet corner—draped with natural elements like wheat, apples, or flowers.
- Place your candle at the center along with your herbs, crystals, and harvest grains.
- Light your altar with love and intention, grounding your focus on gratitude and abundance.

## How to Perform the Ritual:

### Set Your Intention:

Write down what abundance you wish to invite, whether it's prosperity, health, love, or all of it. Visualize your life as already full and abundant. Be sure to write down the names of the 7 clans and your request of each clan for abundance.

### Light the 7-Knobbed Candle:

Light each of the seven knobs slowly, one by one, while focusing on increasing the flow of blessings into your life. As you light each knob, softly say:

"Seven flames of light divine,  
Pour abundance into mine.  
Wealth and joy, come my way,  
Bless this life, this Lughnasadh day."

### Burn a Knob Daily:

For seven days, burn one knob each day connecting with one clan at a time. As the flames flicker, repeat your intentions aloud or silently, visualizing your desires manifesting as radiant energy.

### Offer & Charge:

As the candle burns, sprinkle your grains, herbs, and place your crystals and coin around the base, symbolizing the sowing of your intentions and attracting abundance.

### Seal & Reap:

After the final knob is burned, give heartfelt thanks. Keep your altar in a sacred space, and carry your crystals or charms out into your daily life, trusting abundance to flow naturally.

# Seasonal Tarot



## THE STRENGTH CARD: UNVEILING ITS HISTORY, SYMBOLISM, AND CONNECTION TO LUGHNASADH



The Strength card is one of the most profound symbols in the Tarot deck, embodying courage, inner resilience, and the mastery of our deepest instincts. Its roots extend deep into ancient symbolism and spiritual traditions, making it a powerful emblem of personal power, compassion, and harmony with nature. As we explore the history, symbolism, and its connection to Lughnasadh, we tap into the primal energies of strength, harvest, and the divine feminine.

### The History and Origins of the Strength Card

The Tarot deck as we know it today originated in 15th-century Europe, particularly in Italy, where the cards were used for both gaming and divination. The Strength card, also known as Lust in some decks like the Marseille Tarot, has been part of the Major Arcana since their earliest versions. Its imagery and symbolism, however, draw inspiration from much older spiritual and mythological traditions that predate the Tarot itself.

In early decks, the card often depicted a woman gently taming a lion, symbolizing the harmony of wild instinct and cultivated strength. This imagery is steeped in mythologies that celebrate the hero or heroine's ability to control their base instincts through compassion, patience, and inner mastery—an ancient archetype seen across cultures from Greek (Heracles' strength) to the Egyptian (the lion-headed goddess Sekhmet).

The card's evolution from the classical images of power to the modern depiction symbolizes not just brute force, but the mastery of inner strength—an ability to face life's challenges with courage, compassion, and integrity.

### The Symbolism of the Strength Card

At its core, the Strength card symbolizes resilience, confidence, and the harmonious integration of our primal instincts with our higher consciousness. The woman depicted in the card often gently holds or tames a lion, representing our most raw, animalistic drives—fear, desire, anger—and the ability to channel these energies through patience, kindness, and inner control. Colors play a vital role in its symbolism. The yellow or gold often seen in the card represents clarity, enlightenment, and divine energy.

The lion symbolizes raw feminine power, courage, and vitality, reminding us that true strength comes from within, balanced and aligned with love rather than dominance or force.

### The Connection to Lughnasadh

Lughnasadh is a festival of the first harvest, abundance, and the divine feminine's strength. Celebrated around August 1st, it marks the peak of the sun's power and the bounty of the earth—an important turning point where we honor growth and the fruits of our labor.

The Strength card beautifully aligns with Lughnasadh's themes of resilience, harvest, and inner power. Just as the goddess of the season embodies strength through her nurturing energy, Lughnasadh invites us to recognize our own strength—the strength to harvest our goals, to persevere through challenges, and to honor the divine feminine force within us all.

During this season, the energy of the Strength card encourages us to tame our fears, to cultivate patience, and to harness our inner resilience. It reminds us that true power isn't always about domination but about gentle mastery—being fierce and tender in equal measure. In rituals, craft, or spiritual reflection, working with this energy invites us to embody the divine strength of the season, rooted in love, unity, and abundance.

### The Inner Warrior and the Divine Feminine

The Strength card also celebrates the divine feminine—an eternal force often misunderstood or suppressed in societal narratives. When we connect with this card during Lughnasadh, we honor the goddess's power to nurture and protect while standing firm in our truth. It calls us to be the warriors of our own stories, wielding compassion as a shield and patience as a weapon.

This season, as we gather around harvest festivals, sacred fires, and rituals of abundance, we invoke the essence of the Strength card inside ourselves. It's about trusting that our true strength lies in the love we hold and the power we nurture—in the land, the community, and ourselves.

Images shown from Moon Child Tarot by Danielle Noel

# Shadow Work

## Lughnasadh Shadow Harvest: Embracing Inner Darkness and Light

Lughnasadh is a season of abundance, but it also beckons us to gather the unseen harvest within—the parts of ourselves we might shy away from or keep hidden. This is a sacred time to honor both the light and shadow, understanding that true growth is rooted in embracing every facet of our being. Use this ritual to connect with your inner landscape and cultivate wholeness.

### Materials Needed:

- A small bowl of honey (symbol of sweetness and healing)
- A black feather (representing the shadow and transformation)
- A small mirror or reflective surface (for self-awareness)
- A piece of black or dark fabric (to wrap your shadow work)
- Crystals: obsidian or smoky quartz (for grounding and protection)
- Dried herbs like patchouli, cedar, or vetiver (for grounding and cleansing)
- A small container of earth or soil (to symbolize grounding and growth)
- A candle (dark purple or deep blue for mystery and introspection)

### Steps to Cultivate Inner Balance:

#### Create a Quiet Space:

Find a quiet, cozy spot—outdoors or indoors—where you won't be disturbed. Light your candle, breathe deeply, and set your sacred intention: "I invite my shadows and my light to meet, to grow and expand in harmony."

#### Reflect and Observe:

Place the mirror in front of you. Gaze into it, and do a gentle visualization: see your reflection as a balance of dark and light, a sacred union. Observe what aspects of yourself come into view—what feelings or thoughts you tend to ignore?

#### Gather Your Shadow:

Hold the black feather, feeling its texture and energy. Imagine it embodying your shadow—fears, insecurities, or hidden strengths. Visualize yourself gently collecting and honoring these parts, acknowledging their importance in your growth.

#### Infuse with Healing:

Dip your finger into the honey and lightly trace it onto your reflection or your heart space. Visualize the honey as a nourishing balm, softening fears and inviting healing into your shadows.

#### Wrap and Ground:

Wrap the feather and herbs in the dark fabric, symbolizing your intention to nurture and protect this work. Place the earth or soil nearby, representing grounding and planting the seeds of wholeness.

#### Experience the Union:

Sit in quiet meditation, holding the wrapped shadow pieces and the earth. Visualize the shadows dissolving into the earth's sacred layer, transforming into wisdom and strength. Feel the balance between darkness and light blossoming within.

#### Conclude & Integrate:

Keep your shadow bundle close for a few days or place it on your altar as a reminder of your journey. When you're ready, thank the energies and, if desired, perform a clearing or release ritual to finalize your work.



# Deity Highlight

## TAILTU: THE MOTHER OF LAKES, THE HEART OF IRELAND'S SACRED SPIRIT



Long ago, beneath the shimmering veil of Ireland's ancient skies, there was a woman of profound spirit and boundless love, a woman whose essence is woven into the very fabric of the earth's sacred lands and waters. Her name was Tailtu, the goddess of lakes, the keeper of life, and the nurturing heart of Ireland's lush green landscapes. Her story whispers through the ages, calling us to remember the divine feminine's power, the power of creation, protection, and unconditional love.

Legend whispers that Tailtu was a foster mother to the sun god Lugh, a guardian of nature's cycles, who understood that the land and water are two sides of the same divine source. One day, in a time long before written history, a great storm threatened to drown the fertility of the land, the floodwaters rising like dark tears of chaos. It was Tailtu's fierce love for her people and the land that called her to the waters. She rose and entered the flood, not to escape, but to be one with it, to merge her love and spirit into the very waters that sustain life. From that moment, she became known as the guardian of the lakes, the protector of the sacred waters for all eternity. The story of how she became Lugh's foster mother varies among sources. One popular version is that after Lugh was born, the gods needed someone who could care for him and provide the strength and protection necessary for his growth. Recognizing her nurturing nature and her deep connection to the land, the gods entrusted Tailtu with the care of Lugh as his foster mother. In this role, she nurtured him with her love and wisdom, helping him grow into the powerful god of skills, crafts, and the sun himself.

One of her stories begins in the lush, emerald wilds of Ireland, where Tailtu wandered with gentle feet, her spirit deeply intertwined with the land she loved. Her hands were gentle, and her heart knew no boundaries. When the gods presented her with a fragile, shimmering baby, divine spirit born of the water's essence, she gazed at the tiny infant with such love and fierce devotion that she knew this child was her own. She chose to nurture and protect the divine spirit, cradling him in her arms and pouring her love into him with every breath she took.

This was no ordinary bond. Tailtu's love emanated with the pure energy of the divine feminine, a sacred current that held the power to heal wounds, to nurture storms, and to birth new life from the depths of her soul. Her embrace was a sanctuary for the baby, a place where the waters of the lake and her boundless compassion merged into one sacred entity. As the years passed, the legend of Tailtu grew, her love sacred, her devotion unwavering. The earth and waters she guarded and nurtured became a mirror of her divine heart, calm yet fierce, gentle yet mighty.

The most well-known story about Tailtu tells of her selfless sacrifice to save her people from a curse. According to legend, the curse brought a storm that left massive devastation in its wake, leaving the crops barren without fruit, and a drought. The gods tasked Tailtu with caring for the land and ensuring its fertility. Some say she gave her life voluntarily, binding her spirit to the waters in exchange for the continued vitality of the land, remaining as a sacred guardian through the eternal flow of water on earth. Others say she was taken by the weight of her love, her mortal form dissolving into the waters, her spirit forever woven into the life-giving currents. Whatever the truth, her sacrifice transformed her from a mortal guardian into an immortal embodiment of the sacred feminine, protecting her people from beyond the veil. The final act of her nurturing spirit ensures the land's rebirth and abundance. Her funeral was thus seen as a vital act of renewal that is now celebrated as Lughnasadh. Her death is shrouded in mystery, whispered in the winds as folklore that dances along the Irish coasts.

Her story is a reminder of the sacred bond between the land and the maternal divine spirit, emphasizing that through sacrifice and love, new life can flourish from the earth's depths.

In my eyes, Tailtu herself was no ordinary woman. She was a witch of the highest order, a guardian of life, a vessel of divine love, and a sacred priestess of the earth and waters. She chose to be the foster mother of Lugh because she understood the depth of her own power, the power of love, of protection, of creating sacred space for life to flourish. Her connection to the lake, otherwise known as the lough in Irish and Scottish Gaelic, was woven into her soul, a testament that the divine feminine's strength is found not in domination, but in unconditional nurturing and fierce compassion.

Her story is an ode to the divine mother within us all, whispering that love is the most magickal force of all, far deeper than blood, and only known within the thread that connects us at the heart. It teaches us that in caring for and protecting what we hold sacred, be it the earth, the sacred water, or children, we channel the primal energies of creation and rebirth. When we walk the path of the witch, we are walking in her footsteps, those of Tailtu, the eternal mother of lakes, who chose love above all else. So, when you gaze upon the earth's landscapes, the lakes, or the gentle currents of the rivers, remember her. Feel her divine love rising within you, a call to nurture, protect, and honor the sacred balance of life. Tailtu's story reminds us that true magick begins with the heart, at the place where love flows as freely as the waters on the earth she once cherished.

# Historical Rituals a Modern Guide



## How to Make a Corn Dolly in the Irish Tradition

Corn dollies are a sacred and ancient tradition in Ireland, crafted from the last stalks of harvest wheat or barley. These beautifully woven figures were more than simple decorations—they were symbols of gratitude, protection, and the cycle of life. Traditionally, corn dollies were made to honor the spirit of the land, ensuring a bountiful harvest in the coming year and safeguarding the crops from evil spirits.

The term "**corn dollies**" originally comes from the word "**corn**," used in older English and Irish tradition, which referred broadly to **grain** or **cereal crops**, not just maize (corn). In many European countries, including Ireland, the term "corn" was used to describe harvest crops like wheat, barley, oats, or rye—essential grains that were vital to the community's survival. These grain stalks—what we now often call wheat or barley—were harvested at the end of the season, and the last sheaf, known as the "**corn**", was often carefully saved. This sheaf was then woven into a corn dolly as a sacred symbol of gratitude, protection, and the cycle of life. Over time, the "corn dollies" became a universal term for these harvest figures, even though they are made from a variety of grains, not specifically maize. In modern witchcraft, we see many making them from corn husk as it's a bit easier.

### Materials Needed:

Fresh wheat, barley, oats, or straw (preferably bundled in a single stalk or sheaf)  
Twine, natural cord, or strips of straw (for binding and weaving)  
Scissors or a small knife (for trimming)  
Optional: Small decorative items like ribbons, beads, or charms

### Steps to Make a Corn Dolly:

#### Choose Your Grain:

Select a sturdy, intact bundle of wheat, barley, or oats. Clean it gently, removing excess stalks if necessary, but leave enough to work with.

#### Form the Body:

Hold the main stalk straight in your hands. This will be the body of your doll. Sometimes, an additional smaller stalk is attached for the head.

#### Create the Head:

Gently braid, twist, or tie a smaller stalk or bundle at the top of the main stalk to form the head. Use twine or strips of straw to secure it tightly, making sure it's firm yet gentle.

#### Weave the Arms and Legs:

Divide the remaining straw or twine to create arms and legs. Wrap these around the main stalk, weaving and braiding as you go, or simply tie separate stems to the main body for limbs.

#### Add Details:

Decorate your doll with ribbons, charms, or other natural adornments to give it personality and beauty. These decorations can be symbolic of good luck or protection.

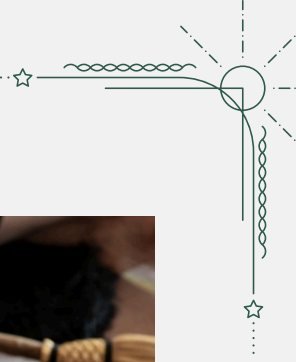
#### Secure and Finish:

Wrap twine or strips of straw around the entire doll, binding it securely and ensuring all parts stay in place. Traditionally, the doll is left with exposed straw or coated with mud or clay to preserve it.

#### Place and Celebrate:

Once complete, the corn dolly can be hung in the home, placed in fields, or used in rituals to honor the land and the cycles of nature. Many still keep their corn dollies as symbols of gratitude and good fortune for future harvests.

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Celebrate the gentle embrace of Mabon, honoring the balanced harmony of the earth and the harvest's fullness, as we invite gratitude, renewal, and the sacred connection to nature's abundance into our lives through rituals, stories, and the vibrant energy of gratitude for all that has been yielded.

### MABON RITUALS

Celebrate the energy of Mabon with sacred rituals that honor the bounty of the 2nd harvest and the balance of the year. Wear flower crowns and light candles as you flow them down a gentle creek, inviting the energies of gratitude, renewal, and abundance to flow freely into your life as you embrace the earth's sacred gifts and the harmony of the season.

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