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Incantation E-zine  
Summer 2010

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Hello,

Welcome to our first ever issue! I'm glad to say it's a good one. We've got articles on Changelings, Mabon and Crystals, a Pagan take on current news, some inspired poetry, an interview with Jo Lynne Valerie and some give-aways.

Of course most of the credit goes to the fab Hedge Witchery Books writers, who have put up with my usual chaotic editorial style.

It's been a busy few months for me what with all the goings on at HWB and being in the middle of a virtual book tour... none of which helped by a dash to hospital with suspected meningitis! But I'm fine, and all deadlines have been hit (just!)

As the majority of you are reading this I'll be on the motorway on my way to the Pagan Federation's Myddle Earth Camp with Samantha, so expect photo's and all the goings on in Autumn's issue.

Brightest Blessings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "hily". Below the signature is a circled "X" with a diagonal line through it, possibly a mark or a stylized element.

## Oil Spills, Rhymes & Newspapers:

By Gareth Dawson

So 'Drill, Baby, Drill' has become 'Spill, Baby, Spill' as the US Government and BP attempt to mitigate the scale of damage caused by the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster. If ever there was a bunch of people who need a miracle from Vileda then it's these guys. Unfortunately it will be Mother Nature and the wildlife, plant life and people of that area that will be forced to reap the rewards of the quest for cheaper fuel for the US motorists.

There was a damn good reason that, following the Santa Barbara oil rig eruption in 1969 and the events that followed it, the US Government, under pressure from the US people, put in place a moratorium to prevent off-shore drilling around the United States.

When the US Congress, under pressure from Business and Politicians, allowed the moratorium to lapse it started the clock ticking, counting down to the next disaster.

What gets me is that rather than plough money into creating a viable alternative to the petrol engine the Governments of the world are happy to start drilling the places that even the most driven oil prospector has been prevented from drilling in the past.

Some of these places are beautiful places of massive importance to the world on many levels. How narrow sighted do you have to be to realise that once damaged these things and places will never be the same?

There is a Cree Indian Prophecy that says "Only after the last tree has been cut down, only after the last river has been poisoned, only after the last fish has been caught, only then will you find that money cannot be eaten." It rings true at moments like this.

When is the industrialised world going to realise that one day the oil WILL run out? I figured this out when I was 13! And believe me at 13 I was not the brightest spark in the universe, so if I could figure it out why can't these so called "great and the good" of our societies get it through their thick skulls?!?!?

On a similar vein Scientists have created the first ever Synthetic life. Now it would appear to be a long way from being Bishop from Alien or the nano clouds of Michael Crichtons novel but it still worries me.

Now I'm not against science using what it learns to repair the damage we've done to the planet, to levelling the playing field for developing nations or curing terminal diseases.

But as any student of the children's classic "There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly" will tell you, the chain of events that start with doing something purely to try and rectify an preceding mistake can have life threatening consequences.

If you create a bacteria that eats things then eat things it will, and there is no guarantee that, once out of the lab environment, it will do exactly what you want.

Just as with the magic of spells and summoning, the creators of this science (which borders very much on the magical) need to be very, very careful where they go with this, and where it will end, as it could quite easily bite them in the arse - literally.

And, if you are not feeling despondent enough already, NASA have predicted that in 2013 the solar storms produced by the Sun will reach the same levels it did in 1859 when telegraph lines shorted out and houses caught fire.

The scientists at NASA are concerned that solar storms on that scale could knock out, or even destroy, the satellites that modern society relies on so heavily these days and also cause massive damage to the power supply of many, many countries as equipment involved in the supply of electricity is damaged by overcharged power lines.

I, personally, always take any apocalyptic forewarnings of this type with a pinch of salt but it did get me thinking about one thing.

The pagan community has flourished on the internet, as it has allowed individuals who previously have been isolated, for many reasons, to connect with likeminded souls to share ideas and support. I know that the internet has played a big part in my pagan journey and I'm sure I'm not alone.

The thought that struck me was that, although a lack of web connection would not stop me being

a pagan it would return me to a similar position to where I was when I started on my path some 20 years ago. At that time I was reliant on my local library for pagan source material and was finding it hard to get in touch with other pagans in my area (more to my lack of social confidence than a shortage of local pagans), and it is not a position I'd relish being in again.

The conclusion of my musings on a web less future? That we should try and ensure that those cyber-relationships (or, if you're on the iPhone, those iRelationships, that are important to us become "real-world" relationships so that should the worst happen you can still keep in touch even if the tech lets us down.

Now this article has kicked off in a bit of an environmentalist, doom laden vibe, believe me it was unintentional but the stories caught my eye and got my mind whirring.

On a definitely more Pagan, and up beat, front it's good to see that the Austrian motorway authority ASFINAG aren't afraid to utilise a bit of pagan power.

It's been reported in the Metro (24/05) that Austrian Druids have so successfully in reducing the number of fatal accidents on a stretch of motorway near Salzburg, with the use of quartz standing stones and plastic plates with magnets on to counteract radiation from a nearby mobile phone mast, that the ASFINAG are considering rolling out the project nationwide! Brilliant - the Druids have had hard results whilst scientists are saying that it's rubbish, I bet it would have been a different story if they'd come up with it first.....green eyed monster rearing its head there I feel.

It's so nice to see Paganism being written about in a balanced manner with a positive spin.

Speaking of writing in balanced manners (or should that be lack thereof?) both the Times and the Daily Mail has reacted in typical knee jerk style to the news that Pagan Police officers and staff can now formally request leave for their own religious holidays and they will be treated with the same due respect as Christian, Muslim and Jewish (to name a few of the formally recognised religions) religious festivals. Now they could have got their facts straight before writing the article. They could have celebrated the landmark moment that is a credit to this country's multiculturalism.

But no.

Why on earth would they want to do that!?!?

Instead they write about pagan festivals involving "unabashed sexual promiscuity", and, in articles that drip in mocking tones, degrade the act of setting a place at the table for the dead at Samhain. Also in an "anonymous" quote they sum up pagan celebrations as either "sitting around making spells" or "dancing around with a wand in your hand and drinking honey beer".

I'm a pagan - I don't drink honey beer (although I'm more than a bit partial to a drop of mead & whiskey) and I don't do spells....and last time I checked those that do, cast them rather than make them.

Now I nearly got quite upset about this but then I had a good laugh about it (though there might still be a letter to the press complaints commission should my bile rise sufficiently.....)

After all, it simply shows how bigoted, ignorant and narrow minded both these publications can be when dealing with other peoples deeply held beliefs...and I know that the gods will pay them back generously for their actions.

They see Paganism as a soft target, after all they would never dream of degrading Islam, Judaism or Sikhism in this way and by doing so they make themselves look foolish.

A look at the comments left on the articles on both papers websites show that these opinions are not appreciated by the British public, regardless of their religious beliefs, and hopefully in time this bigotry will cease....though I will not be holding my breath.

And so as the oil leaks from badly engineered pipes, the scientists breed killer amoebas and I wonder why the press can't just get their facts right, a number of highly paid men are getting ready for the World Cup in South Africa. and this leads me to my final bit.....

Imagine the social difference high level sportsmen (soccer, NFL, NBA & MLB players for example) could make if they followed the common Pagan principle that giving is an important part of receiving and that wealth is only truly appreciated when it is shared out?

Northern European Pagan cultures shared the principle that giving was, as all things are, a cycle. As society then encouraged all people to use their personal strengths, everyone had something to offer as a gift. It would have not always been money that was given, it could have been whatever the person produced or was able to offer as a service.

It was just as frowned upon to receive a meagre gift from another in an ungracious manner as it was to not give something to another.

Now, as the ONLY people I know that get paid ridiculously high wages on the reasoning that their careers are short (because every one else is guaranteed the same job for life aren't they?!?!), I reckon that these people could begin to make a massive difference in the communities throughout the world, not only by giving a percentage of their vast earnings but by also showing that the best use of wealth is to share it for the common good. If more people could see that there is truth in the saying "what you give you get back" then the way that society approaches many aspects of life would change for the better.

Now I'm not setting myself up as some kind of pagan Bono and I am certainly not the most selfless person to have lived but I try and share what I have with those I know who need it.

After all, you don't have to try and help everyone who needs it but we should try to help at least one person who does.

PATHS  
By Amy Williamson

The wind chimes  
tinkled  
in  
the warm summer breeze  
fireflies  
flashed  
their iridescent bodies  
to the rhythm of the winds  
time had at last  
caught up  
to me  
and no longer  
could I run  
from it  
silently  
I laid down  
in mossy grass  
and the earth mother  
spoke of my  
destiny

# Mabon

By Silva Payne

Mabon is a modern name for the autumnal equinox. It takes place on or around September 23 each year, and is one of the solar quarter days; the day and night are of equal length at both the autumn and spring equinox. It is also known as the harvest festival, as it comes when the last of the summer crops have been brought in from the fields in the northern Hemisphere.

The word Mabon is most commonly used by those pagans following an eclectic or Celtic tradition. Its association with the harvest is important as it provides links to the Christian Church's adoption of harvest festival activities around the feast day of Saint Michael. Many UK pagans will be familiar with the Christian celebration of Michaelmas on September 29th, and may use that name for the autumn equinox period instead.

There is much written and promoted on the Internet as being the "true" or "correct" way to celebrate the autumn equinox. Much of this can be safely ignored, as it comes from a particularly modern wiccan section of the pagan community. There is no right or wrong way to mark or celebrate any of the points in the year. That is not to say that anything goes; simply do what feels most natural to you, without feeling you must put on any kind of show for your family, friends or deities.

It is common for many pagans to reconnect with the natural world at this time of year. Collecting hedgerow foods, and making jams and preserves is a fine way to do this. If you are fortunate enough to live in the countryside, you may be able to make use of some stalks of straw from the field sides and create a traditional corn dolly.

Corn dollies have been made by country folk for centuries as offerings of thanks for a successful harvest and petitions for continued good fortune in the coming year. The dolly itself was made from the last stalks of straw left standing, said to be where the spirit of the harvest had taken refuge. The corn dolly was effectively the "home" of the harvest spirit for the winter months, with the corn dolly being buried in the field soil the following spring to continue the cycle.

Corn dollies range from simple sheaves of straw tied together, to intricate figures and designs incorporating hearts, spirals and circle shapes. Modern corn dollies made for commercial sale often include ribbons. Home made corn dollies can be as simple or as elaborate as you desire; all you need is some long stalks of wheat, rye, barley or a similar grain, with the grain husks still attached.

An easy and traditional corn dolly can be made by plaiting the stalks of the straw until the plait is long enough to form a loop when the top is bent over to the grain husks. This can then be tied with a bow to hold the loop in place. To make a heart-shaped dolly, separate the stalks into 3 groups, plait the outer 2 sections as before, but leave the middle section as it is. When the outer sections have been plaited, tie the ends with ribbon to the middle stalks, pulling the ends down towards the grain husks to form a heart shape. You may need to bend over one or two of the central stalks at the back under the ribbon to help keep the heart in place.

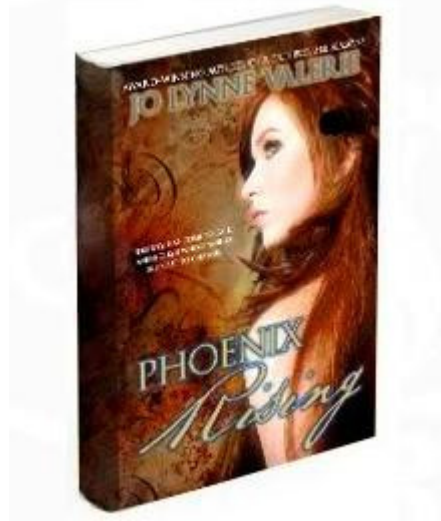
Corn dollies can be given as good-luck gifts to friends or family, particularly at the

autumn equinox, but also at Halloween and at Yule.

## Jo Lynne Valerie

Interviewed by Lily Oak

Last month I took the opportunity to catch up with Jo Lynne, 2010 is



You came to the attention of most of your fans through 'a tale for all seasons', but where did you start your love affair with writing?

What a great opening question, thanks for that! A lot of my readers and fans have followed me from my magazine and television work. Back in the day, my journalism focused on holistic health and metaphysics. I was also a spiritual mentor and lover of all things Paranormal. Now, all those elements show up in my stories as a familiar thread.

I never planned on any other career but author. This is who I am, at the soul level. I feel incredibly blessed to be living my dream and what was always my life plan!

Can you tell me a little about why you wrote 'Tale for all Seasons' in the 4 novella format?

I live in alignment with the changing seasons, and the magic that comes with. I'm talking about elemental and spiritual energies, and the way they affect human lives. Each season has an energy and magic all its' own and I wanted to illustrate that, with words. I also wanted to write real stories about real people, encountering the real supernatural. I like to say my brand of paranormal fiction is 'real-world paranormal', because the

things that happen to my characters are the sort of things I've experienced myself, or have observed in other peoples' lives.

I think that I knew on some level, that readers would connect with A Tale for All Seasons because it's so organic and because the stories are big and moving. I've been amazed at the response and feedback that book received. As you may know, A Tale for All Seasons has just recently won a Next Indie Finalist award. I was so excited and thrilled!

Anyone who follows your tweets can see cosmic energies and magic play a large part in your life, how does this influence your writing and how would you describe your spirituality?

My spirituality and magical nature are the heart and soul of everything I do, so my writing is very naturally infused. As I said, when I'm writing the paranormal into a story, I pretty much keep it real... Often there's no need to research a particular metaphysical thread, because it's a subject I know intimately and have most likely taught as a class! I'm very proud of the fact that my Paranormal fiction reflects the realities of the Para world. It is my way of staying true to both my spirituality and my fiction.

As for my personal brand of spirituality, it's interesting... I come from a long line of Mediterranean olde world practitioners of witchcraft and shamanism. I maintain my line's traditions and that flavour definitely manifests on the pages of my books.

Now tell me all about the new novel! recent tweets and general nose-iness would point to a darker, edgier, more passionate writing style, is this true?

Ah, the new novel! Well, I can tell you the title: Strange Love. This book is definitely darker and edgier than anything I've written to date.

Strange Love came to me in a very sudden flash one evening while I was having dinner at a favourite restaurant. I got to thinking how cool it would be if I wrote a book with a shifter/werewolf hero that was as close to reality as I could make him.

After all, I know quite well how lunar phases impact people. I'm versed in moon magics and as the wolf is my personal totem and power animal, I'm very familiar with wolf culture and wolf totemic energies. I became so

excited I could barely finish my dinner. Once in the car, I called my editor and pitched the book idea. She loved it immediately and said, "Write it."

So I began *Strange Love* the next night. I wrote well into the wee hours, stopping when it got light out. I was instantly in love with the characters, the setting, the dark moody vibe and the story line in general. This is no light shifter story; it parallels real magic and the kind of passion that ignites between soul mates. I hope my readers will get as excited as I am!

The hero and heroine in *Strange Love* are very intelligent individuals, and their journey together is very intense. I must warn readers there is violence in this book, and there is a highly charged sexual element. Whereas my former books may be classified as PG-13, *Strange Love* will definitely receive an R rating if not hotter.

Although you do deserve a break, what can we expect in the future?

After *Strange Love* releases this summer, I'm off on a book tour to promote it and my previous two books. When I cease travelling in the fall, I'll begin revisions on the release scheduled for next spring, which is another book I'm very excited about! All the details of my tour and current adventures can be read on my blog: <http://www.JoLynneValerie.blogspot.com>

If you've been visiting [www.hedge-witcherybooks.com](http://www.hedge-witcherybooks.com) - (and if you haven't why not!?) - you'll have spotted the signed book give-away. Well I can now reveal the winner is...

Roxanne Rhoads who entered via *Incantation's* facebook page!

# Inward Tides

by Theresa C. Newbill

Fairies dance to tunes in lower frequencies,  
sounds that generate natural tones between  
the output of thought and sensory sunlight,  
the kinaesthetic component to multidimensional  
messages that tend to the gardens of my mind,  
eliminating the depths of despair underlying  
the emotional.

The midsummer night holds heart's secrets,  
touched and kindled by both fear and anticipation.  
I seek courage to keep the flame of life burning,  
to breathe in the essence of you, making our love  
the provision for subsequent meals in a sense of  
deep intent that takes precedence over the ebb  
and flow of inward tides.

To understand your complexity I stay in accordance  
with the beauty and solitude of peace that warms  
the tossed air, re-evaluated, redefined, and reset. The  
journal is one of wonderment, growth, correctness,  
beneficial to me, beneficial to you, in a dynamic  
beyond time; endless. My dream now sweats as  
eyes glaze over,

behaving in patterns of red coloured light, appropriate  
to the level of sensitivity. There, we walk, hand in  
hand, in sync and with soul expansion. You write the  
words in the sky, allowing me to move in my own  
direction, even as you protect me from the heat of  
raging

fires that integrate our two realities before death into a  
process of Earth awareness.

Morning comes on hot as you take the sun in your  
arms,  
turning it around to its underside, bright orange in  
your

hair, woven within the texture. You solicit my face,  
close to the apple blossom of your breath that sways  
summer winds with the richness of your nourishment,



my

wrists bound by the foundation of your love, my palms,  
opened, threadbare against the morning rising star.

# Programming a Crystal

By Margaret West

Many people have come to me with crystals and said theirs don't work. They have picked them up from a shop, taken them home, and like magic, expect them to do what they want. It won't happen. Crystals receive and hold thought forms. So YOU need to program them. Information or commands are stored in the molecular structure of the crystals as magnetic charged data. Thoughts are energy, and they are magnetic in form and are powered or intensified by emotions.

The Brow, between the eyes, method is a great way to program a crystal once it is cleansed. First, you need to determine the purpose of your programming. Then think of the end result you would have if the program worked. Place the crystal against your brow, close your eyes and go inside your crystal. Picture yourself sitting inside it. Create your thoughts around it. See it, smell it, hear it, taste it, make it real. When it feels real, come out of your crystal and open your eyes.

If you want a healing crystal, you need to visualise a person pick it up. See them dancing, running, leaping, full of good health and happiness. If the crystal is for a person with a special problem, see the person functioning and happy without the problem.

If it is used for meditation, fill it with your special prayer or mantra. Call in all the Masters, Guides, healers, especially the angels who work within the angelic healing light. Fill the crystal with the feeling you have when you truly feel at peace within.

Always remember the rules for programming. First, determine what you want. Second, picture the end result. Third, hold the crystal against the Brow chakra. Fourth, go inside the crystal and picture the end result with great intensity.

Amulets through the ages are crystals programmed for protection and personal power. People who are moving strongly on their spiritual path often use them. A crystal is powered by the Universal life force. Never underestimate its power.

# The Crystal Cave Shop

## Crystal Competition

Thanks to The Crystal Cave Shop we're giving away this fantastic Rainbow Fluorite pendulum with three of Lily's favourite tumble stones (Amethyst, Green Aventurine & Citrine).

To enter please comment on the what's your favourite crystal on Incantations facebook page or tweet the following phrase on twitter;

“Hi @IncantationEz can I have crystals please”



[www.crystalcaveshop.co.uk](http://www.crystalcaveshop.co.uk)

# The Changeling

By Samantha 'Faerydae' Lee

## Change'ling

**n. 1.** One who, or that which, is left or taken in the place of another, as a child exchanged by fairies.

*Such, men do **changelings** call, so changed by fairies' theft.*

- Spenser.

The **changeling** [a substituted writing] never known.

- Shak.

**2.** A simpleton; an idiot.

**Changelings** and fools of heaven, and thence shut out.

*Wildly we roam in discontent about.*

**3.** One apt to change; a waverer.

**a. 1.** Taken or left in place of another; changed.

**2.** Given to change; inconstant

## changeling

noun

1. (*mythology*) In British and Irish mythology, an infant of a fairy or sprite that the fairy has

secretly exchanged for a human infant.

2. (*colloquial*) An infant secretly exchanged with another infant.

When I was young my mother often told me I wasn't her child but a changeling, a fairy child and that one day, especially if I was badly behaved, the Goblins would come and take me back...

I can remember that more than once I packed my teddy and some books and waited at the gate or them to come. Through my early years I mostly read fairy tales so enjoyed the idea of being one of their children, seeing myself as something magical and special and this has probably lead to my love of mythology and folklore. When I recounted this story recently however, someone said to me that it would be considered child abuse now because 'changeling' was another word for a child that was 'different', possibly one that was sickly or unwanted and as a result was often neglected or mistreated. Babies whose defects were not obvious at birth but appeared in the first few years could then be explained as not truly human. Determined, as ever, to get to the bottom of this I re-read the stories and tried to find out more about the children that, like myself, were considered to be changelings.

In mythology a changeling was considered to be a child of the fairies that had taken the place of a mortal one, though the reasons for this vary from fairies exchanging one of their own poorly children for a healthy human one, to the protection of the fairy child, general mischief and even to trolls wanting their children to be brought up as humans as it was considered to be the troll equivalent of a finishing school! Of course when these stories were first told, the image of the fairy was not of the tiny, sweet winged creatures of

Disney, but that of a race of human sized supernatural beings with magical powers almost akin to gods, something to be both feared and in awe of.

Although most people associate fairies with the Celtic lands, tales of similar magical creatures can be found the world over, from the Chinese Devas and the Dryads of Ancient Greece to the Elves of Norse mythology. As Christianity began to replace the old Pagan beliefs, the stories changed to that of unbaptised children being stolen, possibly in a bid to help convert the masses from the old religions. Some Folklorists believe that the 'fairy' stories could have been a supernatural way of explaining the indigenous population being forced into hiding by invaders and that changelings were the way of exchanging their children for the invaders to ensure their survival.

The tests to see whether you have a changeling instead of your own flesh and blood were many and varied and in some cases very cruel. A brew made from Foxgloves, containing digitalis, which can be poisonous, was given to the child in the hope of returning it to its real family. Another way was to try and drown the baby or to place the child on a fire and if it was a changeling, it would leave, climbing up the chimney. At no point however, does it appear that any harm came to the human child when taken unlike the stories of what happened to child left in its place and I shudder to think how many innocent children may have been badly injured or killed in this way. As these tests were applied to the children who generally looked different or behaved oddly; more recently doctors have concluded that the changeling legend may have developed to explain the differences in children with disabilities such as autism, spina bifida or cystic fibrosis. Indeed some autistic adults associate themselves with changelings or aliens for this reason and their own feeling of being in a world where they do not belong and of practically not being the same species as the "normal" people around them (taken from Kim Duff, *The Role of Changeling Lore in Autistic Culture*).

So how did the majestic fairies of old become the Tinkerbelle's of today and what does any of this have to do with my childhood? Could the changing religious beliefs have decreased the stature and importance once associated with the 'fair folk', making them all but disappear? Do the stories come from an actual event in history? Is there a link with previously unknown disabilities? Possibly, but still it does not answer why mother called me a changeling all those years ago. There was only one way to find out, so I asked her. Her reply was simply that I had been a naughty little imp.

## The Oak vs. The Holly - The ultimate romantic battle?

By Darren Owen

According to pagan mythology the Oak and the Holly Kings battle twice a year. This battle is fought during the summer and winter solstices and it will be fought every year until the end of time. The conflict these two engage in has roots as old as time and there are many, many reasons why it will continue. But the main question is to what end do they battle?

Like every epic battle throughout history, mythology and legend the reason has to do with a woman beautiful but frightening, bold and shy, enigmatic and wise. That woman is Gaia, the Goddess, the Earth or however you wish to name her. The Oak King kills the Holly King at the winter solstice to be with the earth during the time when the sun grows. The Holly King returns the favour at the summer solstice to be with her when the darkness grows.

The Oak King represents the sun, the growing nurturing power of light. It is this power that nurtures the earth and makes her fertile and swollen with new life. It is as the sun that he gives us warmth with which to warm ourselves and sunlight to help us stay healthy physically, mentally and emotionally. Without this king the earth would remain barren and we would literally not exist.

The Holly King meanwhile represents the darkness within everything. As the darkness stretches out his hand over the earth plants start to fall to slumber. Animals go into hibernation and we start to suffer and go through many different problems. Night holds primal fears for many people, with good reason and so the Holly King is seen as the negative to the Oak King's positive.

But is our pagan path ever that simple? No, there are layers to the story that would take books to unravel. While the Oak King brings positive life affirming warmth and light, he can also bring droughts and killing heat. When roused he can bring famine and destroy entire villages. The Holly King meanwhile brings life negating properties and at the same time healing sleep and the dreams we love. When seduced the Holly King can give us the ability to hide away and access that mystical time of night that so many of us love.

They do have certain similarities as well though. Both are associated with Christian symbolism, the oak being the only tree that wouldn't split when Romans hued it and therefore made into the cross and the holly being associated with Christ's crown of thorns. Both were known for being kind to farmers with the oak giving acorns with which pigs would be fed, and the holly was known for being good winter fodder for barn animals even if it had to be ground up a little!

They also both are associated with other plants that grow on them. The Oak tree has

mistletoe that grows on it. Mistletoe is the most magical plant known to druids and the word druid actually means "oak men". Mistletoe also killed the Norse God Baldur, which could explain why Thor hits the oak with lightning so often! Holly on the other hand is well known for Ivy. Holly and Ivy represent man and woman and it is said that the first plant into a house will determine who rules that house during the year.

However they both compete when it comes to the love of the land. One brings fruitfulness and can be seen as the good provider, and the other is seen as the dark mysterious stranger who comes to in the night. The Oak is hardy, strong and will always bring fruitfulness but anger him and you will feel his wrath. The Holly is strange, elusive and will always bring a sense of danger that may or may not be realised. If the goddess is seen as the sacred feminine then these two gods will always represent the sacred masculine.

Ultimately both have fallen in love with the earth and must battle each and every year for who gets to woo her. And both will succeed and have their time with her even if it costs them their life. Isn't giving your life for someone you love just so you can have six months with them not the most romantic act of all?

# Hope Ocean

Hope Ocean is a mystical, magical, slightly occult anthology, themed around the ocean. This small collection, by a wide variety of writers, was put together in just 7 days. Their aim was to raise money and awareness to aid wildlife charities dealing with the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Contributors: Jo Lynne Valerie, Lidia Tremblay, Gareth Dawson, Melody Dempsey, Mary Muhammad, Kiki Howell, Lily Oak, Theresa C. Newbill, Helen Minto, Ami Blackwelder, Rob Bond, Samantha Lee, Chazz Upton  
Cover Art: Rob Bond

Available now in paperback and ebook, see Hedge Witchery Books 'Book Shop' page for full retail options.

To celebrate the release of 'Hope Ocean' we are giving away a paperback copy - (plus extra goodies) - to one of our readers.

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“ Hope Ocean: raising money for BP Oil Spill charities [www.hedge-witcherybooks.com](http://www.hedge-witcherybooks.com) @IncantationEz”

