

## NOTES ON AN LATHA BHRIDE (Bridget's Day) 1<sup>st</sup> –2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

Also known as –

*Oimelc* - “Ewe’s milk”

*Imbolc* - “Rounded Belly”

*Folcaim* - “Purification, Filling with grace”

The festival for welcoming the Goddess Bridget back into the world.

Bridget / Bride / Brigid comes from the Old Gaelic “*Breo Saighil*” – Fiery Arrow.

In Druidism, she is a Goddess of “*éicse*” – usually translated as *inspiration*, but more accurately *esoteric knowledge* or *wisdom*. As such, she was very important to the Druids, who followed a mystery tradition. It is said she was their major Goddess.

Her father is the *Dagdha* (Good God), also known as ‘The Lord of Perfect Knowledge. Her mother is *Boann* (from *Bofhind* – White Cow). Boann is the Goddess of the River Boyne in Ireland. The Druids believed that *éicse* was to be found at the banks of the Boyne. Here, via her parentage, Bridget’s inherited archetypal qualities come into view.

### **Bridget the Two-faced.**

At this time of the year, Bridget is said to be in the process of transforming. One half of her face is old, the other – the increasing half – is youthful. The *Caileach* (crone) is transforming into the *Cailin* (the maiden). We see this mystery enacted in Nature - as winter moves into spring - and we can use these energies manifest in the world to inspire the same changes in ourselves.

At the Winter Solstice, the darkest time of the year, the Earth gives birth to the Sun. By *Imbolc*, we begin to see the effects of that birth all around us as the air moves towards warming and green shoots - and rounded bellies - appear. This is the return of Bridget to the world at the earthly level.

On the level of inner meaning, our bodies are the Earth. Out of Her own yearning for fulfilment, Earth/body matures into the *Caileach* and develops wisdom. But, that wisdom is not complete until it has been fertilised by Love.

Knowledge can remain self-satisfied for a long time... but, eventually, it hungers for Love – the only thing it cannot attain through its own power. It’s yearning for Love calls Love forth (at the mid-winter solstice, when the Sun/Son is born) and its light is kindled in our hearts.

The stagnant “Wise-woman” in us is reborn in the light of Love and begins her transformation into the Eternal Youth that is *Spiritualised wisdom*. The wisdom (Sophia) that Bridget represents has been infused by that Grace. This is the Bridget who enters the world at *Folcaim*.

## **The Serpent**

- is a symbol of wisdom. In folklore it is said to shed its stiff old skin on Bridget's day. It does not die – and yet it is born again. Thus it becomes a symbol of *metanoia* (to move beyond the mind).

## **Bridget of the Mantle**

In myth, the greening of the world at Spring-time is called *Bridget's mantle*. In legend, Bridget wrapped her green mantle around the world while it was being created by the Gods.

Later myth says that, when the Christ was born into the world, Bridget midwifed that birth. Then she wrapped her *Blue mantle* around the Light of the World.

On Bridget's day, Wisdom, infused with the Christ Light, offers Herself to us.

She enters our world / homes / bodies carrying with her the Christ Consciousness. She is the Holy Spirit... the Quickening... She is our soul... in love...

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