

THE WICCAN GUIDE TO YULE





YULE (CIRCA DECEMBER 21st)

Yule is the shortest day with the longest night of the year. It is the time when the sun will begin its journey back to earth, bringing longer days than nights. It is the time when family and friends get together to share the spirit of giving. Sounds familiar? Yule is to Pagans what Christmas is to Christians. If you are in the Northern Hemisphere, Yule will be on December 21. If you're below the Equator, Yule will fall in June.

Yule is a time of physical and spiritual beginnings. At this point, the wheel of the year has made a complete circle. So it is the perfect time to reflect on the year that has passed. The darkest night of winter inspires self-examination and self-realization. It is then followed by the New Year which will come a little earlier than usual.

DECORATING YOUR YULE ALTAR



Winter is here so use cold colors to decorate your altar. Add candles in different cool and wintry shades like silver and gold.

Yule also celebrates the return of the sun. So add solar symbols to your altar like bright and shiny objects that represents the sun. Solar images are also very appropriate for this time of year.

If you want, you can add Christmas things to your altar as well. That's totally okay to do, as long as you feel good about it yourself.

Colors:

blue
silver
red
green
white

Foods:

nuts
apples
pears
cakes
cider
pork
ginger
tea
cinnamon

Herbs and flowers:

holly
mistletoe
pine cones
oak leaves
Yule log ashes
ivy, comfrey
elder
cinnamon
cloves
nutmeg
Chamomile
wintergreen
apple leaf
dried apple

Incense:

bayberry
pine
spruce
pine
spice
cedar
cinnamon

Gemstones:

clear quartz
jet
ruby
diamond
garnet
alexandrite
kunzite
citrine
green tourmaline
blue topaz
pearls

Symbols:

sun wheel
snowflakes
bells
pine cones and
needles
fruits and nuts
mistletoe

Santa Claus and
presents (if you
want)



GROUP YULE RITUAL

This ritual is a great way to celebrate winter solstice with your coven or just a group of likeminded friends.

It's easy to do and you won't need a whole lot of tools.

What you need:

Dream and sun symbols
A candle
A glass jar
A big bowl of water

What you should do:

1. Have everyone sleep in the same room on the floor.
2. Form a circle with all your heads together.
3. Place a small altar in the middle of the circle.
4. Place a big bowl of water on the altar.
5. Place dream and sun images on the altar.
6. Place a candle in a glass container.
7. Have everyone prepare a dream or question in their heads.
8. Once everyone is ready for bed, light the candle and say:

***"Today is winter solstice,
we celebrate the birth of the sun,
the divine child of the Goddess.
This is the longest night,
a time of dreams.
A time to bring forth a dream,
that can help us in the coming year."***

9. Over the bowl of water, say:

***"Sacred water, you pass the womb of the mother,
into the rain and river and back.
You who nourishes us and quenches our thirst.
Help us as we ask for a dream.
In our dreams, show us where to go in the coming year.
In our dream, show us what we need to see. "***

10. Have everyone in the circle take turns speaking into the water, asking their question and dipping their fingers into it.
11. Once everyone is done, lie down and share yule stories.
12. When everyone wakes up in the morning, give thanks to the water and say:

***"Blessed water, thank you assisting us in our journey
to the night and back again.***

***Thank you for the dreams and for the light borne from the darkness.
As we send you on your way back to the mother,
We bid you farewell."***

13. Pour the water outside to return it back to the Earth.

SOLITARY YULE RITUAL

This ritual will make use of evergreen pines and needles to celebrate Yule.

This ritual will give you a sense of peace and it's a great way to get some extra energy for the long winter nights that awaits.

What you will need:

Dried herbs- pine, rosemary,
juniper, cedar, bay
Cauldron
Red candle

Preparations:

For this solitary Yule ritual, you will need to gather some pines. You don't need all of them if not possible, but try to get as many as you can. You can also use dried herbs. Both will do.

What you should do:

1. Adorn your altar with evergreens like pine, rosemary, bay, juniper, and cedar. You can also place dried leaves on the altar.
2. Place the cauldron on a heatproof surface and place a red candle within it. You are going to need to start a fire in the cauldron during the ritual.

3. Stand before the cauldron and look inside it and say:

***“Even though the world is asleep,
I will feel no sorrow.
Even though the icy winds blast,
I will feel no sorrow.
Even though the snow is falling hard,
I will feel no sorrow.
This too shall pass.”***

4. Light the candle in the cauldron. Once the fire has started, say:

***“I light this fire in honor of the Mother Goddess.
You created life from death, and sprung warmth from cold.
The time of light is waxing, and the Sun will live once again.
I welcome you, the God of the Sun!
Hail, Mother of All!”***

5. Circle the altar and cauldron in clockwise motion as you watch the flames, while saying:

“As the wheel turn, the power burns.”

6. Meditate about the sun's birth and think of how birth is not as the beginning of life but its continuance. After taking time to meditate, stand before the altar and say:

***“I welcome the return of the God of the Sun.
Shine brightly upon the Goddess and the Earth.
Scatter seeds and fertilize the land,
as you hold all blessings.
May you be reborn,
The Great God of the Sun!”***

7. You can close this ritual by performing Solar Magick. It all depends on how you want to honor the Sun God.



Note:

There are many other rituals you can choose to perform during Yule. It all depends on what is in accordance with your desires and beliefs. It is very important to be comfortable with the ritual you are performing. The common denominator of Yule rituals is honoring the Sun God, reflecting on the year that has passed, and looking forward to the next year to come.