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**AIR I AM** Andras Corban Arthen

Air I am

Fire I am

Water, Earth and Spirit I am

---

**ALL AROUND YOU**

Open, open deep

There's magic all around you

Look, look within

There's beauty all around you

Listen, listen well

There's music all around you

---

**ANCIENT GODDESS** Abigail Spinner

Smiling Virgin, shining crescent

Waxing fullness, luminescent

Sickle of silver, reaper of bone

Maiden, Mother and Crone

Maiden, Mother and Crone

Ancient Goddess, daughter of moonlight

Ancient Goddess, mother of stone

Ancient Goddess, keeper of midnight

Maiden, Mother and Crone

Maiden, Mother and Crone

---

**AS ABOVE AND SO BELOW** Morganne

As above and so below

On the Earth and over the sea

The seeds of love I have planted and sown

Ready with thanks I now harvest to me

*("love" can be replaced with other words – joy, peace, family, abundance, etc.)*

---

**ASHERA** Morganne

Ashera of the sea

Mother come to me

Ashera of the tree

Strength grow in me

Giver of life, fertility

Wisdom and divine prophecy

Queen of Heaven look down on me

Keeper of the dark mystery

---

**BACK TO THE RIVER** Abigail Spinner

Back to the river  
Back to the sea  
Back to the ocean  
Home to Thee

Back through my blood  
Back through my veins,  
Back to the heartbeat  
One and the same

---

**BEHOLD THERE IS MAGIC** Abbi Spinner

Behold there is magic all around you (us) (x3)  
Awaken, rejoice and sing!  
*(chorus repeated after each verse)*

I am the Air around you  
I am the breath of life within you  
I am the wind blowing through you  
I am all that I am

I am the Fire around you  
I am the spark of life within you  
I am the flame burning through you  
I am all that I am

I am the Water around you  
I am the pulse of life within you  
I am the ocean flowing through you  
I am all that I am

I am the Earth around you  
I am the heartbeat within you  
I am the ground below you  
I am all that I am

I am the Spirit around you  
I am divinity within you  
I am the light shining through you  
I am all that I am

Awaken, rejoice and sing!

---

**BLESSED**

All I do is blessed  
All I see is blessed  
All I am is blessed  
Here and now, blessed

---

**BLOOD OF THE ANCIENTS** Ellen Klaver (ref Charlie Murphy)

It's the blood of the ancients  
That flows through our veins  
The forms change  
But the circle of life remains

---

**BODY** Mz. Imani

Peace be in my body  
And peace be in my heart  
Peace be in my family  
To truly help us grow  
We are riding a wondrous rainbow  
Into the Source  
We are guiding the true destination  
Of the earth

*(In this chant the word peace is inter-changeable with many words i.e. - love, joy, trust. Sometimes even with words called out from around the fire.)*

---

**BURN FIRE** ©1983, Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

Burn fire, burn bright  
Pure vision come to me  
Guide my path tonight  
With your strength and light

---

**CARRY IT HOME** Bestsy Rose

Carry it home to your children  
Carry in out on the street  
Carry it on to the ones you know  
And to the ones you meet  
Carry it light on your shoulders  
Carry it deep in your soul  
For we have been blessed with magic  
And the magic will make us whole

---

**CAULDRON OF CHANGE** Author Unknown

Cauldron of change  
Blossom of bone  
Arc of eternity  
Hole in the stone

---

**CHILDREN OF THE DIVINE** Mz.Imani

We are children of the divine,  
We are children of love.  
We are children of the divine,  
and we work on the earth plane now.

Blessings to our mother earth,  
Blessing to our father,  
Blessings to our children,  
As we work on the earth plane now.

---

**THE CIRCLE SHAPES US** Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

The circle shapes us  
Body and mind  
Heart and soul are one

---

**CIRCLE OF LIGHT**

Oh sister we love you  
Oh sister you help us to grow  
Oh sister we love you  
Oh sister we want you to know  
There's a circle of light around you  
There's a circle of love in your heart  
There's a circle of family around you  
There's a circle of you inside us

*(The word "sister" can be replaced with "brother" or a person's name)*

---

**COME FORTH** Christopher Hatton

I come forth by day  
into the dawning of the morning  
I come forth by day  
into the world  
that You have made new  
Oh Ra

---

**DANCE FEEL THE EARTH**

Dance feel the Earth beneath your feet  
Feel the strength that is Hadit  
Wrapt in the wings of Ra, Hour, Khuit  
Through the body of Nuit

---

## **THE EARTH IS OUR MOTHER** (Hopi)

The Earth is our mother, we must take care of her  
The Earth is our mother, we must take care of her.

*Hey yana, ho yana, hey yan yan,  
Hey yana, ho yana, hey yan yan.*

Her sacred ground we walk upon, with every step we take  
Her sacred ground we walk upon, with every step we take.

---

## **EARTH OUR BODY**

Earth our body,  
Water our blood,  
Air our breath,  
And Fire our spirit

*(In this chant 'our' is sometimes replaced with 'your' or 'my'.)*

---

## **ENTER THE CENTER** Abigail Spinner

Enter the center  
Where all is One  
All are welcome  
All is One

---

## **FAMILY OF FIRE** Abbi Spinner

Awaken the mystery of the fire circle shrine,  
This holy golden moment, a gift from the Divine.  
Awaken the mystery of the fire circle shrine,  
This holy golden moment, a gift from the Divine.

Secret fire, sacred burning  
Ageless and endless, eternally turning  
Together we kindle the spark of desire  
The embers remember the Family of Fire.

Secret fire, sacred burning  
Ageless and endless, eternally turning  
Lead into golden sunlight in your eye  
We are the phoenix reborn; we are the Family of Fire.

---

## **FANGA**

Fanga alafia, ashe, ashe  
Fanga alafia, ashe, ashe  
Ashe, ashe, Ahse, ashe

---

**FIRE, DANCE & DRUM** by Bram Larrick

Gaze into the fire,  
It's a window looking back in time,  
Dance with me through the night,  
We'll turn golden in the morning light

---

**FOUR ELEMENTS CHANT (RETURN)** Native American

The Earth, the Air, the Fire, the Water  
Return, return, return, return

---

**FIRE OF CREATION** Abigail Spinner

It starts very quietly  
It starts with a spark  
It starts in the center  
It starts in the heart

Fire of creation  
Fire of purification  
Fire of transformation  
Fire of illumination

---

**FIRE SONG** Starhawk

We can rise with the fires of freedom,  
Truth is a fire that burns our chains,  
And we can stop the fires of destruction,  
Healing is a fire running through our veins.

---

**FIRE TRANSFORM US**

Fire transform us  
Bring us to our passions  
Fire transform us  
Bring us to our passions!  
We choose life - YES!  
We choose courage  
We choose life - YES!  
We choose courage  
To dance among the flames  
To dance among the flames

---

## **FLY LIKE AN EAGLE**

Fly like an eagle, Fly so high  
Circling the universe  
On wings of pure light

Hey witchy tai tai  
Witchy tai-o  
Hey witchy tai tai  
Witchy tai-o

Fly like a butterfly. Fly so low  
Circling the Mother Earth  
On wings of rainbow

Hey witchy tai tai  
Witchy tai-o  
Hey witchy tai tai  
Witchy tai-o

---

## **FOR EACH CHILD**

For each child that's born  
A morning star rises and sings to the universe  
Who we are  
For each child that's born  
A morning star rises and sings to the universe  
Who we are  
We are our grandmothers dreaming  
We are our grandfathers prayers  
We are the breath of our ancestors  
We are the Spirit of love

---

## **FREE YOUR MIND**

Free your mind from judgment  
Free your heart from fear  
Releasing expectations  
Bringing spirit here

---

**GAIA CARRY US** Abigail Spinner

Gaia, carry us home  
Mother, we are one  
Remember the God,  
Remember yourself  
Remember the Goddess  
Remember

---

**GENTLE**

I will be gentle with myself  
I will love myself  
I am a Child of the Universe  
Being born each moment

---

**HEALING CHANT** Alisa Starkweather

Oh Mother, we are calling  
Your Children, we need healing  
Oh Mother, we are calling  
Your Children, we need healing  
Power, power  
Our love is our power  
Power, power  
Our love is our power

---

**HECATE** Patricia Witt

Hecate, Cerridwen  
Dark Mother take us in  
Hecate, Cerridwen  
Let us be Reborn

---

**HELD IN THE HEART** Abigail Spinner

We are here, we are held  
We are holy, we are home  
Here in the heart of this holy moment  
Held in the dark of the womb  
Held in the hands of our sisters and brothers  
Here in the light of the moon

Here in the heart of this holy moment,  
Held in the light of the sun  
Held in the hands of our sisters and brothers  
Here in the heart of the One.

---

**HERNE** (Circle in the Greenwood)

Herne horned one  
Hunter 'neath the Northern sun  
Watcher at the gates of winter  
Flame on the wind

---

**HIGHER AND HIGHER** Windsong

Mother I feel you under my feet,  
Mother I hear your heart beat,  
Hey yun a ho yun a hey yun yun,  
Hey yun a ho yun a hey yun yun,  
Father I see you when the eagle flies,  
Spirit's gonna take me (us) higher and higher!

Mother I can feel you under my feet  
Mother I can hear your heart beat  
Father I can see you where the Eagle flies  
Spirit gonna take us higher and higher!

---

**HOOF AND HORN** Ian Corrigan

Hoof and horn, hoof and horn  
All that dies shall be reborn  
Corn and grain, corn and grain  
All that falls shall rise again

---

**HUMBLE YOURSELF**

You got to humble yourself in the eyes of your sisters (brothers)  
You got to bend down low and humble yourself  
You got to know what she (he) knows and  
We shall lift each other up  
Higher and higher  
We shall lift each other up

---

**I AM LOVE** Samina

I am love, I am lover  
I am freedom, I am free  
I am part of the beauty that is all around me  
My feet are firm upon the ground, my hands raised to the sun  
I am strong in my power and with all I am one

---

**I AM THE EARTH** Christopher Hatton

I am the earth moving under you  
I am the air flowing over you  
I am the fire in your loins and in your soul  
I am the ocean of love.

---

**I AM THE FIRE** Abbi Spinner  
I am the fire and the union of opposites  
I am the mystery  
I am calling you in your dreams  
I am bringing you home to me

---

**I GIVE THANKS TO THE FIRE**

I give thanks to the fire,  
For warming us through the night,  
I give thanks to the spirit of the drum!

*(Community adds words of thanks, replacing Fire)*

---

**INFINITE SUN** Native American

We are one with the infinite sun  
Forever and ever and ever

---

**INVOCATION**

Soaring eagle on the wing  
From your lair new visions bring  
Lift our voices as we sing  
Enter us powers of the East

Mighty loin of the sun  
Burn my heart and will as one  
Flaming strength and passion  
Enter us powers of the South

Ancient serpent of the deep  
In your waters let us weep  
Wave your mysteries here to sleep  
Enter us powers of the West

Dark bull of the mother earth  
Winter cave that gives us birth  
Feed our knowledge of your worth  
Enter us powers of the North

Hear us, Spirit

---

**INVOCATION TO APHRODITE** Ahriana Lightningstorm

Strong like the ocean,  
Gentle like rain,  
River wash my tears away  
Aphrodite

---

**I WALK IN BEAUTY** Traditional Navajo

Now I walk in beauty  
Beauty is before me  
Beauty is behind me  
Above me and below me  
Around me and within me.

---

**LET IT SHINE** Morganne

My body is sacred, let it shine  
My beauty is sacred, let it shine  
My love is sacred, let it shine  
Let it shine, bright and full, let it shine

---

**LET THE WAY** Abbi Spinner

Sing through my voice  
Play through my hands  
Let the way be open.

---

**LOOKING GLASS** Mz. Imani

What do you see when you gaze in to the Looking Glass?  
What do you see when you gaze in to the night?  
What do you see when you gaze in to the Looking Glass?  
What do you see when you gaze in to the night?

---

**MAKING A CONNECTION** Author Unknown

Making love is making a connection  
Making a connection is making energy  
Making energy is making magic  
Making magic is making love

---

**MAY YOUR JOURNEY**

May your journey be safe may your worries be few  
May the gods always watch over you  
May your grow like a flower straight toward the light  
Grounded in the mother earth

---

**MINSTRELS OF ETERNITY** Author Unknown

Free souls are we  
Minstrels of eternity  
Situated on the land we love  
Beyond the immortal sea

---

**MOTHER** Morganne

Back to the river back to the sea  
Mother your child I will always be  
Back to the river back to the sea  
Mother, mother can you carry me

Mother, mother can you take my fears  
Mother, mother, wash away my tears  
Mother, mother can you take my pain  
Mother, this child wants to live again

---

**MOTHERWAVE CHANT** Morganne

Mother she is laughing  
Mother she is loving you  
Mother she is healing  
Mother she is holding you  
Mother she is waving  
She is calling you home  
Mother she is waving  
She is calling you home

---

**A NEW WAY** Mz. Imani

We bring a new way to walk on the earth  
We bring a new way to walk on the earth

Balance and freedom, respect for all life  
Kindness and gratitude, respect for your life

We bring a new way to walk on the earth  
We bring a new way to walk on the earth

---

**NOTHIN GONNA TAKE MY LOVE** Wendy Colonna

Nothing gonna take my love from me, no, no  
Nothing gonna take my love from me, no, no  
Nothing gonna take my love from me  
Not fear, not greed, not jealousy  
Nothing gonna take my love from me, no, no

May my eyes be bright and may my heart be light  
May my hands be filled with grace  
When the shadows fall let me light them all  
Let me smile in trouble's face

---

**NUIT** Hyland

Growing, learning, laughing, yearning,  
Down my path with passions burning;  
All the time, my heart is held high  
Connected to Nuit, my Infinite Sky.  
Grounded as I gently birth  
The lessons brought forth from upon this earth.

*SLIGHT CHANGES FOR SONG*

Growing, learning, laughing, yearning,  
Down my path with passions burning;  
Grounded as I gently birth  
The lessons brought forth from the earth.  
All the time, my heart held high  
Connected to Nuit, my Infinite Sky.

---

**THE OCEAN** Delaney Johnson, Starhawk

Call: The ocean is the beginning of the Earth  
Response: The ocean is the beginning of the Earth  
Call: All life comes from the sea  
Response: All life comes from the sea

*This song is a call/response, with the Response part beginning on the last word of the Call part, creating an "echo" effect.*

---

**OCEAN MOTHER** Inanna Arthen

Call	Response
Ocean mother healing	She is the healer of the Earth
Ocean mother crying	She is the mourner of the Earth
Ocean mother laughing	She is the brightness of the Earth
Ocean mother birthing	She is the cradle of the Earth

---

**ONE SPIRIT**

One spirit in the dark  
Like a candle wavers  
Many spirits joined as one  
Burn with the power of the blazing sun  
There is strength in community  
The circle empowers you and me  
The circle binds and sets us free  
As we will so shall it be

---

**O MA MA MA** Abbi Spinner

O ma ma ma

O-o ma ma ma

O ma ma ma

O-o ma ma ma

*(repeat above chorus after each verse)*

The earth is a circle, O ma ma ma

The earth is a mother, O ma ma ma

The earth is turning, O ma ma ma

The earth is dancing, O ma ma ma

The sky is a circle, O ma ma ma

The sky is a father, O ma ma ma

The sky is turning, O ma ma ma

The stars are dancing, O ma ma ma

The year is a circle, O ma ma ma

The seasons are a cycle, O ma ma ma

The year is turning, O ma ma ma

The seasons are dancing, O ma ma ma

---

**PEOPLE OF THE EARTH** Mz. Imani

We are people of the earth

We come from many nations

We are sculpted and formed

By the hands of time

We are circle, skin and bone

We come from different places

We are sculpted and formed

By the hands of time

---

**POWER IN EVERYONE** Starhawk

We are the power in everyone

We are the dance of the moon and sun

We are the hope that will never hide

We are the turning of the tide

---

## **PREPARE YOURSELF**

Prepare yourself  
Prepare yourself  
Open the way  
Prepare yourself  
Prepare yourself  
Open the way  
Breathe now, Be now  
Open the Way  
Breathe now, Be now  
Open the Way

---

## **RETURN AGAIN**

Return again, Return again  
Return to the land of your Soul  
Return to who you are  
Return to what you are  
Return to where you are  
Born and reborn again

---

## **RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW** Abigail Spinner

The moment we have been waiting for is here  
Right here, right now!

---

## **RISE WITH THE FIRE** Starhawk

We can rise with the fire of freedom  
Truth is the fire that burns our chains  
We can stop the fire of destruction  
Healing is the fire running through our veins.

---

## **THE RIVER IS FLOWING (Mother Carry Me)** Author Unknown

The river is flowing  
Flowing and growing  
The river is flowing  
Down (Back) to the sea,

Mother (Moon will) carry me  
(Her) Child I will always be  
Mother (Moon will) carry me  
Down (Back) to the sea.

---

**SACRED PLEASURE** Shawna Carroll

I am the Goddess  
I am the Mother  
All acts of love and pleasure are my rituals

---

**SACRED WAY** Abbi Spinner

We are going to a sacred place.  
We are now in sacred space.  
We are living in a state of grace.  
We are loving in a sacred way.

We love you, be-loved.  
We love you, be-loved.  
We love you, be-loved.  
We love you!

---

**SHE CHANGES EVERYTHING** Starhawk

She changes everything She touches  
And everything She touches changes

---

**SINGING IN THE CIRCLE** Abigail Spinner

We are singing in the circle  
Singing towards the center  
We are singing through the midnight  
and the moonlight  
hand to hand, heart to heart, on and on

We are dancing in the circle  
Dancing towards the center  
We are dancing through the midnight  
and the moonlight  
hand to hand, heart to heart, on and on

We are drumming in the circle  
Drumming towards the center  
We are drumming through the midnight  
and the moonlight  
hand to hand, heart to heart, on and on

---

**SWEET SURRENDER** Sophia

We are opening up in sweet surrender  
To the luminous love light of the One  
We are opening, we are opening

We are rising up like the phoenix from the fire  
We are rising up spread your wings and fly higher  
We are rising up, we are rising up

---

**TAKE ME HIGHER** Morganne

Connect me to the source of my power  
Fill me with purest heart and vision clear  
That I may answer destiny's call  
Take me higher Take me higher

---

**THANK YOU** Morganne

I want to thank you for emptying my cup  
What I didn't know then but I know right now  
Is I'm ready to be filled up  
I want to thank you for bringing me to this  
What I didn't know then but I know right now  
Is I'm ready to find my bliss

---

**UNDER THE FULL MOONLIGHT**

Under the full moonlight we dance  
Spirits dance we dance  
Joining hands we dance  
Joining souls rejoice

*This is in 5/4, an unusual time signature. Can be done as a round*

---

**UNION** Morganne

I am the ocean breaking waves  
I am the fire burning bright  
I am the sun and I am the moon  
I am the union of dark and light

---

## **WALK IN BALANCE**

We must learn to walk in balance  
sacred steps to take  
Weaving peace and understanding  
through all that we create

The tapestry of love and light  
finest threads of gold  
sacred flame ever burning bright  
through all that we behold

When we learn to walk in balance  
the healing will take place  
the healing of earth our mother  
the healing of the human race

---

## **WE ALL COME FROM THE GODDESS**

Deena Metzger, Magnus McBride, Z. Budapest, Leonard D. Rosenberg

Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate, Demeter, Kali, Innana

We all come from the Goddess  
And to her we shall return  
Like a drop of rain  
Flowing to the ocean....

Mithras, Osiris, Cernunos, Apollo, Hunuman, Wotan, Chango

We all come from the Sun God  
And to him we return  
Like a spark of flame  
Rising to the heavens.(Floating to the heavens)

---

## **WE ARE A CIRCLE**

We are a circle  
Within a circle  
With no beginning  
And never ending

---

## **WE ARE A CIRCLE MOVING** Author Unknown

We are a circle moving  
One with another we are  
Moving together  
We are one  
I am spirit and I flow in you  
You are spirit and you flow in me

---

**WE ARE ALIVE** Rose May Dance and Starhawk

We are alive, as the Earth is alive,  
We have the power to create our freedom  
If we have courage, we can be healers  
Like the Sun we shall rise  
If we have courage, we can be healers  
Like the Moon we shall rise

We are alive, as the Earth is alive,  
We have the power to create our freedom  
We have the courage, we are the healers  
Like the Sun we shall rise  
We have the courage, we are the healers  
Like the Moon we shall rise

---

**WE ARE AN OLD PEOPLE** Morningfeather, Will Shepardson

We are an old people  
We are a new people  
We are the same people  
Stronger than before

---

**WE ARE CIRCLING**

We are circling, circling together  
We are singing, singing our heartsong  
This is family, this is unity  
This is celebration, this is Sacred

---

**WE ARE ONE** Andras Corban Arthen

We are one with the soul  
Of the earth, Mother Earth

---

**WE ARE SPIRALING**

We are spiraling into the center  
The center of the wheel  
We are spiraling into the center  
The center of the wheel  
We are the weavers, we are the woven ones  
We are the dreamers, we are the dream  
We are the weavers, we are the woven ones  
We are the dreamers, we are the dream

---

## **WE ARE SPIRIT**

We are spirit wearing skin  
We are spirit deep within  
We are spirit dancing bones  
We are spirit standing stones.

descant

I am the air and I am blowing  
I am the fire and I am glowing  
I am the water and I am flowing  
I am the earth and I am growing

---

## **WE ARE THE ANCESTORS** Mz. Imani

We are the ancestors of the ones yet to be  
And we are the paper of the previous trees  
May everything we think and do  
Make it all come round right, for....(repeat)

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## **WE ARE THE FLOW** Shekhinah Mountainwater

We are the flow and we are the ebb  
We are the weaver, we are the web

---

## **WE GIVE THANKS**

We give thanks for unknown blessings  
Already on the way  
We give thanks for unknown blessings  
Already on the way

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## **WEAVERS** ©1994, Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

Weavers, Weavers  
We are weaving the web of life.  
Weavers, Weavers  
We are weaving the web of life.

Spirit weaver, Bone weaver  
Breath weaver, Stone weaver  
We are weaving the web of life.

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## **WHEEL CHANT**

The seasons of our lives are spinning in the wheel  
Learning returning, great mystery revealed  
A circle of spirit formed, by opening the heart  
The spinning of the wheel, in love meet in love part

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## **YOU ARE MY FAMILY**

You are my family and you are healing me  
I am your family and I am healing you  
Together we are one we are one  
Together we are one we are one

---

## **YOU WERE BORN**

You were born to dance with the fire  
You were born to reach up so high  
You were born to dance with your feet on the ground  
And your heart in the sky

## OLD WOMAN

Old woman is watching  
Watching over you  
In the darkness of the storm she is watching  
She is weaving, mending, gathering the fragments  
She is watching over you

So weave and mend, Weave and mend  
Gather the fragments safe within the sacred circle  
Sisters weave and mend  
Weave, and mend  
Old woman, weave and mend

Old woman is weaving  
Gathering the threads  
Her bones become the loom, she is weaving  
She is watching, weaving, gathering the colors  
She is watching over you

So weave and mend, Weave and mend  
Gather the fragments safe within the sacred circle  
Sisters weave and mend  
Weave, and mend  
Old woman, weave and mend

For years I've been watching  
Waiting for old woman  
Felling lost and so alone, I've been watching  
Now I find her, weaving, gathering the colors  
Now I find her in my self

So weave and mend, Weave and mend  
Gather the fragments safe within the sacred circle  
Sisters weave and mend  
Weave, and mend  
Old woman, weave and mend

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## **WINTER SOLSTICE CHANTS**

### **LIGHT IS RETURNING** Charlie Murphy

Light is returning  
Even though this is the darkest hour  
No one can hold back the dawn

Let's keep it burning  
Let's keep the light of hope alive  
Make safe our journey through the storm

One planet is turning  
Circles on her path around the sun  
Earth mother is calling her children home

---

### **OAKEN LOGS** (Circle in the Greenwood)

Oaken logs will warm you well that are old and dry  
Logs of Pine will sweetly smell, but the sparks will fly

Birch logs will burn too fast, Chestnut scarce at all  
Hawthorne logs are good to last, cut them in the fall

Holly logs will burn like wax, you may burn them green  
Elm logs like to smoldering flax, no flame to be seen

Beech logs for the winter time, Yew logs as well  
Green Elder logs it is a crime for any man to sell

Pear logs and apple logs, They will scent your room.  
Cherry logs across the dogs, Smell like flowers of broom.

Ashen logs, smooth and grey, Burn them green or old;  
Buy up all that come your way, Worth their weight in gold.

Oaken logs will warm you well, That are old and dry.

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### **FAIREST MAID** (English Women's Carol)

Now sing we of the fairest maid with gold upon her toe  
And open up the Western door to let the Old Year go  
For we have brought fresh holly all from the grove so near  
To wish you and your company a joyful healthy year

Now sing we of the fairest maid with gold upon her chin  
And open up the Eastern door to let the New Year in  
For we have brought fresh ivy all from the grove so near  
To wish you and your company a joyful healthy year

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**MAOZ TSUR** (Light in Darkness)

Light in darkness let us sing  
Brightness is returning  
House of Prayer once dark and cold  
Now with candles burning  
When the lamp seemed empty  
And its fire forever spent  
Then the flame sprang up anew  
For our hearts deep yearning

*(Sung to the tune "Rock of Ages")*

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**WINTER SOLSTICE SUNRISE** Arianna Lightningstorm, Dierdre Arthen

We are the Earth  
We are the Moon  
Come rising Sun  
Lead us from the tomb

The frozen Earth,  
The pale, cold Moon,  
Come, Solstice Sun,  
We are reborn

This longest night,  
This darkest hour,  
Come bring the dawn,  
We wait for you

---

**SEE THE SUN ARISING** Deirdre Pulgram Arthen

See the sun arising,  
See the sun arising;  
Darkness is gone!

---

## THE FIRST SONG

A tale of how Yule got its name

© 1994, Andras Corban Arthen

This is the story of the very first song; it is a true story, as all stories are, if you believe in them. This story begins a long, long time ago, when the Earth and Sun gave birth to the first beings-the very first plants, and animals, and people. It was springtime, and the Sun shone warm and bright from his high perch above, and Earth, proud mother that she was, held and fed her newborns and relished them with tenderness and love. It was a time of joy, it was a time of great delight.

The Moon waxed and waned time and again in the night sky, and the children of the Earth grew well and strong through summertime. They played and danced, and Earth and Sun watched over them.

Then autumn came, and the Earth began to sleep much longer every day. She grew tired and pale, she could no longer feed her children, and had no strength to grow new life. High above, the Sun grew distant, and took longer to return each morn. The nights grew longer, and cold winds blew where none had blown before.

And then, one day, Earth went to sleep and never did wake up. She wrapped herself in a blanket of snow, and rested her tired head on pillows of dried leaves, and she did not wake up, Her children could do nothing to rouse her from her slumber. They prodded her, they called to her, but she would not awaken. In the sky, the Sun was nowhere to be seen, and the children of the Earth felt fear, and also felt despair. This was the longest night that they had ever known.

"What shall become of us?", they pondered. "Earth Mother sleeps, and Father Sun is oh so far away that we can barely see him in the sky. He is much too far to hear our call. What shall we do?"

So they brought their questions and their fears to the Moon, the sister of the Sun, for they knew not where else to turn. She closed her eyes, and took a slow, deep breath, and looked within herself, and awoke thoughts that had never been awakened until then.

She opened her soft eyes, then said, "When hope is lost, the best way to get it back is with a song. Climb you the tallest trees, the biggest hills, the highest mountains, and yule a song to reach the Sun". (Now, yule is a word from one of the most ancient tongues. It is related to words like yell or yodel, and it means to call out in a song).

But the first beings had never heard a song, so once again they sought the Moon's advice. "How shall we yule?", they asked. "How shall we sing a song?"

"Take the best of what you have", she said, "the best of what you are. Take what you love, take what you cherish most. Take your joys, your dreams, your fondest hopes, and weave them all together in a sound."

And so they did. They climbed atop the tallest trees, the mountains and the hills. They stood on all the places that would bring them closest to the Sun. They shut their eyes, and thought and felt the best of thoughts and feelings, and dreamt the finest dreams. And, as they did, their voices rang and made a bridge of song across the sky, to reach the distant Sun.

He heard, and turned, and smiled, and wrapped himself in all his light and warmth, and sped to where the yuling voices called. As he drew near, the sleeping Earth did stir, and dreamed a dream of spring. The wheel of life made its first round, and hope and joy prevailed. And ever since, that time of year has been called Yule, in honor of the song.

But the first song did not end. It had such power, such eldritch allure, that the first beings kept singing it throughout. And then the second beings born of the Earth took up the song, as did the third. And so it ever since has gone, through seasons and through years, until this very day.

At times the song is very soft, and scarcely can be heard above the din and clatter of our lives. But when Yule comes, it rises and it swells in memory of that night when the Sun heard, and light and life were spared.

And so do we, upon this longest night, gather with those we love and who love us, and stand upon the body of slumbering Earth, and light the log with last year's coal, and lift our voices soaring to the Sun, and join the song that first was sung so very long ago.

We sing our thanks to those who went before, and sing our fondest wish to those who come behind. We bask in the returning light of reawakened hope, and welcome Yule.