

# The Samhain Cycles

By Phil Brennán

## I: On Death and Rebirth

"Samhain is almost upon us," you said  
"And the nights are getting long and dark;  
The Autumn winds chill my bones," you said  
"And I'm afraid that Winter's almost here"

And then I

" 'Tis true that Winter is blowing in  
And that Mother Earth awaits the spring;  
The leaves have fallen from the trees  
And the birds have taken wing"

"But remember this, and mark it well  
With sacred rock or toll of bell;  
That Winter has it's special days  
Even Lady Moon still wax and wanes"

And then you

"This I know, tho' I can't help but feel  
When all else is dead that nothing's real;  
The trees are dead within their torpor  
While Winter plays the whore"

"And sunnier climes await us still  
When Winter's done with all her ills;  
But it's not the same when the earth is dead  
And the short, bleak days are filled with dread"

And then I

"Oh foolish Childe! Why do you mourn?  
Mustn't you wait before you're born?  
And as the snow lay upon the trees  
Isn't it the same with such as these?"

## II: The Ritual Begins

Darkness falls  
Like the welcome relief at the end of the day  
Like the softness of blankets on a child's bed  
A blanket of stars to put this night asleep

And oh, what a night this is  
To dance beneath the moon in a counter-clockwise fashion  
Widdershins and against the year  
Pyres burning tall and proud like warriors  
To be leapt over, danced around, fornicated beside  
The heat of our passions in the cold stillness  
Illuminating this sacrilegious and sacred eve

## III: The Lord of Misrule

Samhain is here again  
The freaks all come out to play  
I'm clawing at what is left of my soul  
On this endless winter's day

And the Court of Shadows dance 'round the fires  
Burning for the end of the year  
And the madness tears the veil  
'Twix heaven and hell  
And plays upon all my fears

Samhain is here again  
The freaks all come out to play  
I'm clawing at what is left of my soul  
On this endless winter's day

At last the mists come  
And we forget it all for another year  
As the sun rises the fires burn low  
And rend the veil of tears

## IV: Remembrance

Night has fallen earlier than I would wish  
As the end of the year comes swiftly like a thief  
And the freaks all come out to play  
On this Samhain Eve  
And I'm left wondering where it all went to  
The hopes and plans of the new year  
The new cycle of the Pageant of ages past  
And the sacred oaths that are made at this time

Outside the ordinary people gather together  
To keep out the chill and celebrate something  
That even their ancestors had forgotten  
With kitsch decorations in orange and black  
And costumes that bear no relation to reality  
And rituals that have lost their meanings  
To the majority of those who still observe them  
Or choose to condemn those that still do

While I, one of the few who remember  
The cycles of the year and what they mean  
Sit indoors wondering why I am unable to celebrate  
And let another Samhain Eve pass me by

## V: The Winter Court

The bitch wind sends waves crashing  
Against deserted shores, bereft of people  
As she comes howling in to chill my bones  
And enshroud me in banality's embrace  
And Samhain is fast approaching  
To herald in the Winter Court

## VI: Beltaine – The End of the Winter Court's Rule.

Let us witness  
The reincarnation  
Of the Sun  
Let us remember  
The desecration  
Of our hearts

Let us  
In the valleys and high places  
Rededicate  
Our shadow selves

I: On Death and Rebirth – Samhain #1 © Phil Brennán 7<sup>th</sup> April 1998

II: The Ritual Begins – Samhain #3 © Phil Brennán 18<sup>th</sup> September 2004

III: The Lord of Misrule – Samhain #2 Version 2 © Phil Brennán 29<sup>th</sup> July 2004 / 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006

IV: Remembrance – Samhain #4 © Phil Brennán 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004

V: The Winter Court – The Winter Court Version 2 © Phil Brennán 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005 / 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006

VI: Beltaine – Beltaine © Phil Brennán 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006