

Imbolc Rededication with Fire, Water, Tigers & Yosemite Sam



Michael McClure told me one that he did “little rituals” for himself about which he told no one. I assumed it was a soul-building activity, which he believed poetry could be. A line from his author’s preface to *Three Poems* says: “If poetry and science cannot change one’s life, they are meaningless.” This has resonated with me since 1995. So much poetry today lacks the duende. The poem is a gift and poetry is part of the gift economy. That has been known for centuries, but many forget it in the fog of reductive materialism and focus on career goals. (This might be a good time to revisit Larry Dossey’s brilliant essay.)

From Witches Almanac:

Imbolc

(Observed: February 2nd)

Wiccans celebrate a variation of Imbolc as one of four "fire festivals", which make up half of the eight holidays (or "sabbats"), of the wheel of the year. Imbolc is defined as a cross-quarter day, midway between the winter solstice (Yule) and the spring equinox (Ostara). The precise astrological midpoint in the Northern hemisphere is when the sun reaches fifteen degrees of Aquarius... Among Dianic Wiccans, Imbolc (also known as "Candlemas") is the traditional time for initiations. Among Reclaiming-style Wiccans, Imbolc is considered a traditional time for rededication and pledges for the coming year.

I believe Imbolc 2022 is February 1, which also happens to be the Lunar New Year. This year is the Year of the Tiger:

The Year of the Rat (2020) was about survival, and the Year of the Ox (2021) was about anchoring ourselves in a new reality. The Year of the

Tiger will be about making big changes. This will be a year of risk-taking and adventure. We're finding enthusiasm again, both for ourselves and for others. Everyone is fired up, generosity is at an all-time high and social progress feels possible again. The Tiger is associated with Yang (masculine, active) energy. Tigers do things their own way and hate being told what to do. Expect things to rapidly change this year. (READ MORE.)

Find your Chinese astrological sign here.



EXERCISE:

Find time to do a ritual alone between January 31 and February 2. Ideally you could have some fire by the water. That could be as simple as a candle by the lake, or as elaborate as a bonfire by the river. Use this ritual to rededicate your life to a writing practice, to enhance a specific project, or ask the water that a longterm project be revealed to you. (Water amplifies prayers. Planting an intention by/to water can speed its revelation to you.) Write a poem by the water, or later, inspired by your Imbolc water ritual. You can include any of the information above, write an Imbolc poem, a Year of the Tiger poem, a Chinese astrology poem, or something else. You could slip in a Yosemite Sam saying if one feels right for your poem, but be aware that Carlton Johnson has figured out that an anagram of our favorite cartoon cowboy is "My Easiest Om." (A good poem title!)

Here's a playlist that may inspire you:

[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2q5F0XIC8lwLnZZkkzV8m8?
si=a5041b631359418b](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2q5F0XIC8lwLnZZkkzV8m8?si=a5041b631359418b)



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26-JAN-2022