

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am subscribed to a Native American Elders' Meditation which comes to my inbox every day, because, though I mainly seek wisdom from my Celtic ancestors, I also find wisdom in the quotes, thoughts, and prayers of the people from which the maternal side of my family originates. This was today's quote:

"...we talk about each one of us having our own path to travel, and our own gift to give and to share. You see, what we say is that the Creator gave us all special gifts; each one of us is special. And each one of us is a special gift to each other because we've got something to share." --John Peters (Slow Turtle), WAMPANOAG

As I read this, I began to muse over how appropriate this concept is to the path of the Druid, this concept of sharing our divinely-endowed gifts for the good of the People. And I believe the concept is especially pertinent to us at this time of the year, at Imbolc, when we honor a powerful female figure of light and inspiration: Brighid. Some people believe that the name Bighid is derived from *brio-aigit*, "fiery arrow," which is certainly a fitting name for a goddess associated with three fires: the hearth, the forge, and the flame of poetic inspiration. She is, of course, the Goddess of poetry, healing, and smithcraft. In Irish tradition, poetry and seership are interwoven, so Brighid is often seen as the *imbas* behind divination and prophecy as well. All of these are magical arts of transformation, and all of them are talents that humans can possess. They are also gifts that can be of great value to modern society, if only we use them for the benefit of all.

Walking the path of the Druid can cause us to consider, develop, and appreciate our own talents and/or gifts. In fact, the journey will demand that we come to know ourselves and our worth. In the Keltrian Tradition, we are eventually asked to choose a discipline, which requires that we focus on ourselves for a time and on the inner work we must do to become Druids. In this introspect state, we begin to focus on what is *right* for us. As we focus on what is right for us, we will start to see our special gifts. Then we can see how to share our special gifts with others, and we will know which discipline to develop that will best utilize our gifts. We can then each be gifts to one another, serving the Gods of our People in the

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way that best suits us. We can also appreciate the gifts of our fellows and realize that they were given to compliment, not compete with, our own. We will begin to understand, as Slow Turtle reminds us, that each one of us is special.

Imbolc is considered the "Feast of Stirring" in Keltrian Tradition. It may be a good idea at this Imbolc feast for Keltrians to ask the Goddess of

Fire in the Head, Heart, and Hearth what gifts we possess that She can help us "stir up" -- especially if we are not sure of our gifts yet or how to use them. And even those of us already familiar and comfortable with the development of our own gifts might do well to humbly request Her assistance with the wise use of those gifts.

May the Fiery Arrow of Imbolc be your inspiration and your guide!

- The Topaz Owl