

## Endings and Beginnings by Linda Costello

Samhain marks the ending of the light half of the year and the beginning of the dark half. We notice that the sun rises later in the morning and sets earlier in the evening. The nights are longer, leaving us less sunlight in each day.

Since we believe that the ancient Celts measured their days from sunset to sunset, so did they measure their year from dark half to dark half, from Samhain to Samhain.

What does the time of darkness represent? It could be likened to the womb, the dark safe environment in which a child readies to be born. It could be likened to a seed in the dark earth as it readies to sprout with the warmth of the spring sun. It could be likened to the deep quiet moments that precede inspiration.

As we enter this season of darkness, we encounter an ideal time to turn inward to the deep quiet of the inner recesses of our being – to the place of pure potential, for that is truly what the darkness represents – a time of potential.

What exactly IS potential? According to Collins English Dictionary 2009, potential is a possibility, a latent excellence or ability that may or may not be developed.

Therefore, let us take the time to explore the potential, the latent possibility, of that which we wish are, and that which we wish to become in the year ahead, and then contemplate the path to achieving it, to bringing it into manifestation. As we do this work from a place of consciousness, we become more and more adept in creating the life of our choosing. It follows as surely as an apple tree grows from an apple seed.

Take the time to nurture the seed of your potential. Focus on it regularly; dream about it. Imagine what it will be like to be that dream, or to have that dream, and plan the steps you will take to make it real.

Once you have a clear path, take that first action step to achieving it. You'll be surprised at how that one step sets into motion a slew of seeming coincidences and events that lead you and define the direction of your heart's desire.

Here is a real life example of this concept at work. I have been dreaming of having a sustainable living community for over twenty years. I have looked at land, and planned it out more than once – how it will work, what it will contain, the structure, the vision. Recently, a friend of mine was talking about HIS long term dream of owning an organic vineyard, and we realized that we could partner and make both of our dreams come true. We began that planning process of seeing how our dreams could intertwine.

Within two weeks, we were exposed to an organization that could train us on the steps we would need to take to get funding for this project, and we are taking our first cautious steps to make it come into being. We have a web presence, a facebook page, and we have filed for incorporation.

There are many details to work out, but as we continue to take action to making this a reality, we are finding the assistance, the counsel, the guidance, AND the strategic partners that can help bring this into being. We recently connected with a green architect and also with someone who has a couple of hundred acres of land in which she had hoped for a project like this. Doors are opening, and as they do, we are seeing a grander vision.

Just as the apple seed has the potential to become not only an apple tree, but a whole orchard, so can the seedlings of your potential, with the right nurturings and appropriate conditions, become an event that could possibly affect many lives, perhaps hundreds and/or thousands, if your vision is big enough, deep enough, and worthy enough.

Buckminster Fuller once said, "The purpose of our lives is to add value to the people of this generation and those that follow."

Therefore, as we enter the dark half of the year, take the time to explore that potential, to be the change agent that you can be to make a lasting difference in your own life and in the lives of others for now and for generations to come.

Have a blessed Samhain season!