

Día de Los Muertos Circle

~ Saara Fahey

This circle was written to honor and bridge Día de Los Muertos, All Hallows Eve, and Martinmas/Lantern Walk time. The images and words came to me while traveling. I woke up to the words and essentially wrote it down verbatim. I conferred with two native Spanish speakers, who confirmed the language accuracy. Included here is a picture of my installation corner, which changes with the seasons and festivals. Our Día de Los Muertos altar, always has the mariposas (butterflies), as their arrival represents the souls of the ancestors returning to visit for Día de Los Muertos.

Mirá, mirá - las mariposas están llegando...

Whoosh...blows the wind.

Vuelé, vuelé mariposa
Los ancestros están llegando.

Before we welcome our ancestors, family & friends all in
Let's make our house tidy & neat,
With a beautiful ofrenda and plenty to eat.

We grind our masa for tamales,
Grind our masa, just like so.
And bake our pan, our pan de muertos, just like so. (Repeat)

Now polish the windows
And sweep the floors,
So we may open wide the doors.
"¡Bienvenidos!" we say.

Whoosh...blows the wind.

Vuelé, vuelé mariposa
Los ancestros están llegando.

Meanwhile a little up north,
All the leaves are turning.
Firewood is stacked and burning. (Repeat)



Our Día de Los Muertos altar

Children in cities & towns big & small,
Fill the night
With their cheer and pumpkins' light.

Whoosh...blows the wind.

Vuelé, vuelé mariposa
Los ancestros están llegando.

At Waldorf schools all around the world,
We gather together big & small
United as a family one & all.
We tend our light and bring our lanterns into the world so bright
Along with our songs we fill the dark night.

Insert Lantern Walk songs you sing with your children, for example:

Glimmer lantern glimmer...

I go with my little lantern...

My lantern, my lantern...

Saara Fahey is the Rose kindergarten teacher at the Portland Waldorf School in Milwaukie, Oregon. Saara grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area in a multi-cultural home and community with a Brazilian mother and German father. From this has grown a deep desire to connect with people of all walks of life. She wholeheartedly believes in the cultivation of a magical childhood and is dedicated to creating an environment where all children feel at home in her classroom.

