

Rituals for the End of the World

Draw a bath. Add a measure of salt¹ to the water, but make sure the water isn't much warmer than your skin. Using a white² cloth, make a bundle of hollyhock³, basil⁴, and laurel⁵. Bathe in this water while the moon is high.

Tie a red cord⁶ around your right hand. To a jar of room temperature water, add thin slices of ginger and two peppercorns. In the same glass, arrange petals of striped carnations⁷, yellow tansy⁸, and amaryllis⁹. Cover with tepid water and let steep for several hours.

In the full light of the sun, bring the infusion to your lips
as if to drink it, but pour it out onto the ground instead.

Before the sun rises, while boundary between times remains hazy, take a seat near a window and observe the coloring of sky. Weave snapdragon¹⁰, marigold¹¹, and foxglove¹² into a small wreath and bind it with a black¹³ ribbon. Place the wreath in your oven until it's time to bake bread.

Standing in pale¹⁴ moonlight and with a mirror in view, arrange sweet briar¹⁵, stinging nettle¹⁶, and purple hyacinth¹⁷ into a small bouquet. Try not to gaze at your reflection while working. Slip the arrangement under your pillow, for restful sleep.

1 and when she looked back
she became a pillar of salt & then
2 a crown was given unto Him. But your roots
3 mean ambition. I mean: amen &
4 success
5 & renown.
6 And then there was given unto Him a great sword,
but for you I lay claim to
7 a symbol of refusal,
8 a declaration of war,
9 Pride. Did you know
the etymology of amaryllis traces back to the Greek 'amarysso'
meaning "to sparkle"? Sparkle, which is a facet of light without
the pinion of time. Recall
10 deception. &
11 pain + grief-- as bright as gold &
12 symbolic of insecurity—you are every more than a
13 pair of scales & measure of barley.
14 And should Death come rattling the windows anyway,
Hades a lapping dog bounding right behind him,
sniffing for a
15 wound
and eager to take between its piercing teeth your
16 pain,
17 *Please forgive me.*