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RUNESTONE



THE RUNESTONE is a journal of the ancient, yet ever new religion known as Odinism or Ásatrú. It is dedicated to that religion and to the values of courage, freedom, and individuality which are associated with it.

THE RUNESTONE is the official journal of the Ásatrú Free Assembly and is published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$7 per year in the U.S. and Canada, and \$9 per year overseas (airmail). Write to Ásatrú Free Assembly, 3400 Village Avenue, Denair, CA 95316. Please make checks payable to the Ásatrú Free Assembly.

Staff for this issue: Steve McNallen - Editor-in-Chief, Prudence Priest - Production Coordinator, Ariel Bentley - Typing.

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May 17 is the DEADLINE for the Summer issue.

Calendar

March 21 - The High Feast of Ostara, called after the Germanic goddess of that name. This festival falls on the Spring Equinox, and is a celebration of rebirth and resurgence for Nature, for our people, for our faith.

March 28 - This is Ragnar Lodbrok Day, in honor of the semi-legendary Viking chieftain of that name. On this date in the year 845, which just happened to be Easter Sunday, this incorrigible heathen sacked Paris.

April 9 - This Thursday is the first day of Summer in the old Icelandic calendar, and bears the name Sumarsdag. It always falls on the Thursday between April 9 and April 15. In the reconstructed Vanir-faith, this day is in honor of the goddess Freya..

April 30 - Walburg is a holy day in the revived Vanir-faith, though it is better known by the German name Walpurgisnacht or as May Eve. Walburg is an ancient Germanic goddess, but her connection with the day was obscured by Christianity when they tied it to a Saint Walburga, supposedly a Sussex-born woman who moved to Germany and died there in about 780 C.E. We are now reclaiming this day.

May 1 - May Day was an old Pagan holy day of rebirth long before it was taken over by the Church and by the communists. It's not a day officially celebrated by the AFA, but its Pagan connection deserves Attention. Someday we will reclaim it!

Guild News

MARTIAL ARTS GUILD - Developing a Nordic martial art and philosophy. Write to Greg Steiner, 1120 Doreen, #1, Waterloo, IA 50701.

WOMEN'S GUILD and **PEOPLE OF THE LORD & LADY** - now known as Freya's Folk. We're growing! For now, we will have at least two pages in each issue of **THE RUNESTONE**, and are working on sponsoring some local events with the AFA. Freya's blessings to all who have written thus far. Contact Prudence Priest, 1040 Sutter, #1, SF, CA 94109.

BREWING GUILD - Devoted to the brewing of fine potables, especially mead, and to the religious aspects of the brewer's art. Contact Jace Crouch, 118 E. Downie, Alma, MI 48801.

SKALDIC GUILD - Dedicated to poetry ancient and modern. Contact Jim Wittenberg, 404 E. Long Street., Carson City, NV 89701.

DRAMA GUILD - This guild produced a fine skit at our Yule feast. We wish at this time to thank everyone who took part in this endeavor which added so much to the festivities. The leader of the guild welcomes scripts, stories, and help in any other form. Write to Ariel Bentley, 149 Mt. Etna, Clayton, CA 94517.

Ostviken Study Group

Starting in March there will be monthly meetings in the East Bay devoted to the study of our religion. Although the study will be on a very basic level, there are some requirements for acceptance into the group. They are as follows:

1. Agreement that **Ásatrú** is the matter at hand and no other philosophy or ideology, no matter how close to **Ásatrú** it may seem to be.

2. Agreement with such basic considerations as arriving on time for each meeting and doing whatever simple home assignments are agreed upon.

Anyone interested is asked to write to Ostviken, P.O. Box 2386, Berkeley, California 94702



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Dear Steve,

In the Summer issue of "The Runestone", I noted with interest your request for contributions from women readers of your newsletter. I am sending you a poem which I thought might reflect some of the feelings that I have for the Nordic past and future. The initial story which I site as source material for the beginning of the poem springs from Richard Wagner's version of the Germanic myths. I know that his renditions were not always true to the original but, I find his treatment interesting. The story which I used appeared in "Das Rheingold", the first part of his "Ring der Nibelungen". The rest is - Well... What I feel to be a comparable idea to that myth. I hope that you will be able to use the poem somewhere along the line.

It is accompanied by an illustration sketched by my mother, Mrs. Claire Lichtenberger. She felt that the mother and child that she portrayed are representative of how traditions are passed along through generations.

We recall Freya,
embodied of spring
and lasting life,
was given to giants-
foolish sacrifice
for Vahalla-
mere stones
one upon one
and Wotan, unexalted
did age
and scheme for her return.

So it is with
women and men-
handclasps and promises
to renew,
she bears brave sons
and faithful daughters
for him,
a sweet partnership
so that our ways
will never die
or age into oblivion.
It is a gift
that Gods did learn
from one sad lesson
and men do well to realize.



Judith A. Lichtenberger

M

An invocation to
our Gods ~

I bless Frey,
the fierce Sun
burning bright.
I bless Freya ~
Luna in the
night. I bless
the air, All-father's
land. I bless the
earth on which
I stand.



You can join Freya's Folk by sending in the coupon
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Yule Feast a Success

Our Yule feast on December 19 was a highly successful event. Fifty or sixty people showed up to enjoy the food, music, and ritual. The Stern Grove clubhouse proved to be the perfect location, nestled deep in tall trees and well isolated from the surrounding city. A lot of fine people put in a lot of dedicated work and we wish to thank each one of them for contributing to the success of the feast.

Did you miss it? Don't despair- we'll be doing it next Yule, and there are plenty of events scheduled for the year to come.



Your Allsherjargothi and editor is again a daddy! Brandon Neal Mc Nallen was born on December 8th, weighing in at a hefty 10 lbs. 7 oz. Mother Linda and baby are doing fine, and Erik is quite pleased with his new brother.

Both Brandon and Neal are names with dual Celtic and Scandinavian roots, chosen after long deliberation. Brand was a son of Woden, and the word itself means either torch or sword. Neal was carried into the Icelandic as Njal.

Linda and I send our thanks to all who sent presents or otherwise helped us during this event! Yoursupport helped a lot.

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Nomads contact your
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anyone into biking &
our religion please
write for info on
membership. Club
regrouping. Contact:*

Brøn
5429 Dehesa Road
El Cajon, Calif. 92021

Ásatrú ~ One Man's Reason

by A.J.Dillon-Davis

It gets down right, disconcerting. Whenever I tell any one I am a follower of Ásatrú, I get one of two responses: disbelief, then laughter and a shaking of the head; or, "but that's all just myth, it's untrue." And then I have to go thru the business of explaining myself.

Disconcerting it is indeed, but valuable. For in the process of explaining, I rediscover why I have always been a follower of Ásatrú, since first reading of the religion of the Northmen.

Why me? Why do I believe?

The simplest reason is that the monotheism of my upbringing is philosophically and morally bankrupt. "The problem of evil" remains a problem. No theologian has adequately explained why the one god who created all this, knows all, is all-powerful, etc. so devised the universe so that a portion of all sentient beings is condemned to damnation after death, and error and agony before.

The whole monotheist world-view makes the universe into a giant game of solitaire played by a capricious entity who changes the rules at whim and condemns not only those who cannot accept the changes but those who never heard of them. An odd and vengeful being he is, this God, and I feel that, given my perception of his malice, I could not submit to him, even if I believed in Him. It would be so undignified.

I stand dumbfounded as I hear his followers tell me he created the universe out of nothing. They are astonished when I suggest that then, really, the universe is made of nothing. They cannot comprehend that the "meaning" they blather about is much more a myth, by their description of things, than anything they may see as "myth" in what I believe. How can that which is made of nothing, that which is essentially just a dream of a deity, have "meaning?"

I, on the other hand, know that it was not the gods who made the universe of nothing, but the interaction of the universe's primeval elements which created the gods, who then went on to shape the world in their image.

The universe, to a follower of Ásatrú, is a work of art and life. The gods stand for life, in eternal struggle against the forces of chaos and death. When man stands for life, he stands with the gods. When he creates, anything, he is one with them.

But the follower of Ásatrú knows tragedy. He knows that the order of the universe, and the gods themselves, shall fall, shall die in glorious and bitter defeat. A new

world may rise, but the dragon's shadow will fall over it as well.

There are no Sunday school-kindergarten happy endings. Odin, Thor, Frey all our brave heroes and comrades among the Aesir and Vanir will face that which we face, death. And in this, our gods become heroic, as no other gods are. No other gods face doom.

At which point my monotheist friend gapes.

Yes, I say, my gods face death. and you ask "why follow them?" Because death and life are intermixed. Because my gods are close enough to my own nature for me to admire them in their ceaseless joy, courage, fertility and creativity, in their life. And of course to try to emulate them in their ceaseless joy, courage, fertility and creativity, in their life. And of course to try to emulate them in their facing of their own doom. Because, to die well, as they shall, will give the next world a clean start.

No, I do not beg anything of my gods. They gave me, in the very creation of man and woman, all I need...life, mind, will, emotion. What else could I want? When I address them it is in admiration, it is to acknowledge my part in what they have made, it is to call upon that which is of them in me. After all, the gods did not make man to worship them, they have no need of that. They made man as a work of art, as a reflection of them in Midgard.

Reflection is the key. I follow Ásatrú because it reflects the world. The "mythos" of the Northmen, at once joyful and bitter, cosmic and homey, comic and tragic, unbelievable and full of Truth, is I think a genuine paradigm of Reality...impersonal, personal and transpersonal...it does not tell me what to do but it shows me how to live.

Lastly, Ásatrú does not claim to be the only truth, but a truth, discovered by a people. For others, there are other truths.

So Ásatrú, like all "pagan" religions is tolerant-disrespectful at times perhaps, but tolerant. It does not, therefore, try to press people into molds. That particular horror is the passtime of the monotheists, each of whom believes that his is the only way.

Hitler did not learn his techniques of oppression from Ásatrú, but from more than one thousand years of Christianity and its ferocious churchmen.

Here I stand. Pagan. Follower of Ásatrú. Mistrustful of churches and structures in general. The gods made me a free man, not the servant of a dogma, or a nation, or a god. They made me of the substance of the universe, of ultimately, their substance. So if I wish to care for myself, I must tend this Midgard as best I can, and guard it.

Hail Odin! Hail Thor! Hail Frey and lovely Freya my love and everyone's, if they but knew it; hail to all my friends among the Aesir and Vanir!



Strength Is Better Than Weakness

Only in a world as rotten and degenerate as the one in which we live would it be necessary to state the obvious. Yet there are those who say that it is better to be weak than to be strong, even those who say that to be strong is to be evil and that to be weak, somehow, is to be virtuous.

Odinists are not counted among that number!

The prophets of weakness are not always forthright in proclaiming their message. It may be hidden beneath banners of pacifism or in the curbing of even normal childhood aggressions or in the smirking pride that some few actually take in their lack of physical capability. In its muted form the worship of weakness finds its purest expression in personalities who seek to pull down all greatness, all strength, all the exceptional elite who would rise above the herd. The sickness does not discriminate on the basis of sex; "traditional" women who, unlike their sisters in the sagas, are told that they are weak and incapable, carry it in their breasts. Likewise men who use the "it's okay to cry" cop-out and who eschew anything remotely related to classical male strengths are also badly contaminated by the virus. The philosophy of weakness naturally thrives in a decaying social body; after all, it's easy to be weak - until you have to compete with the strong.

Where did all this start? There have always been the weak. But weakness as a virtue seems to be strongly linked with the coming of Christianity. Obviously, not all who profess Christianity are, or were, weak. Christ may or may not have been the pallid peacemonger modern liberals worship, but he does seem to have had a touch of masochism. Anyone who could make the famous statement about turning the other cheek is - far from being some enlightened guru - a person badly out of touch with their own instincts and hence cut off from wisdom. Many modern Christians seem to suffer from the same lack of wholeness. The Spiritually lifeless wights who forgive monsters who have murdered and mutilated their own sons and daughters, and who do so in the name of Jesus, are an extreme example. More common are stalwarts in their daily lives, but who excuse their lack of action at times of crisis by appealing to Christian love, or Christian charity, or Christian tolerance.

Noted Christian writer Malcolm Muggeridge was expressing a many-leveled opinion when he said that:

"We are henceforth (since the crucifixion) to worship defeat, not victory; failure, not success; surrender, not defiance; deprivation, not satiety; weakness, not strength."

More to our liking were the fiery Crusaders who, for all their faults and follies, were still untamed. The primal instincts of the Northern European soul lived in them despite, not because of their Christianity. They were still Nietzsche's "blond beasts"; their lips called out to Jesus but Odin had their hearts.

But why settle for such a compromise? Odinists can look back on a long line of heroes and warriors who were proud of

their strength, not ashamed of it. Feats of physical strength abound in the old sagas - the **fantastic** was the ideal which the common man sought to emulate in real life. Spiritual strength was honored every bit as much as might of limb. Perseverance, power of will, total control and coolness in the face of danger and death - all of these virtues were praised, and all exemplify a kind of strength.

Look at the very gods of Odinism! Not one is a weakling. Mighty Thor is especially a god of strength. His sheer physical prowess is an inspiration to all who would reject weakness. Odin epitomizes another sort of strength, that of the will and the spirit.

Likewise, modern Odinists know that strength is never out dated. Most people accept the illusion that there is something out there called "civilization" - that the police will protect us from all harm - that physical strength and the spiritual strength to wield it are no longer necessary. But ask anyone who has been mugged or raped. Some victims can't reply; they're dead.

Odinists know that strength is better than weakness. Strength doesn't mean arrogance or crudity, in fact, only the strong can really afford to be gentle. Strength means life and health. Strength means fulfillment of our potential, individually and collectively. To be strong is to be vibrant, wholly alive, on the very cutting edge of life. Why settle for less?

Let the Malcolm Muggeridges of the world worship weakness and hate all that is healthy and life-giving. Odinists, true to themselves, their ancestors, and their own instincts, will respond to life's challenges and wax from strength to strength. We know that, in truth, the strong will inherit the Earth - we, and our descendents, will be strong!

THOR'S HAMMER



THOR'S HAMMER

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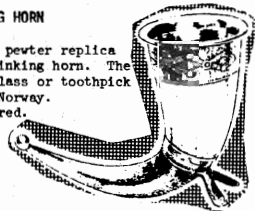
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The Ride with the Valkyries

The Spring Equinox was celebrated in fine Marin Co. style on top of Hill 88 overlooking San Francisco. The view from our lofty perch encompassed the S.F. Bay, the City itself, Mt. Tam and the Pacific Ocean. The days were azure blue filled with clear, hot sunshine and the nights were cold starry wonder, warmed with gallons of mead and a crackling pig-roasting fire.

At dusk on Friday, March 19, Prudence Priest led the opening ritual; the Ride with the Valkyries had begun. Special thanks to Ariel, Walt and Julie Ann who tended our 93 lb. hog "Miss Piggy" all through the night. While others, with full bellies and hoarse from campfire singing, trundled off to bed, our kitchen crew stood watch over the prized porker till morning had come. And thanks to Scott Stone and Steve Butler who provided two cords of firewood.

People arrived all through Friday night; Larry White and company bringing a strong L.A. contingent. War hero Harold Swenson from Reno, Nevada kept us up with stories of combat missions over Bataan, then escape to Australia on a submarine to train new pilots. By Saturday morning, there were 26 of us.

On Saturday, the political discussion group was started by a no-holds-barred, fire-eating speech by yours truly, Bruce Forrester. "Race and Territory" was the title and so stimulating was the subject matter that some could not wait until the end to jump up and proclaim what must be done! Endless discussion followed dominated by some, but everyone was given a chance to speak freely, uninhibited by political taboos of our liberal, universalist society. As it turned out, the discussion was still simmering during the mead tasting contest that evening (won by Lars Barlow and John Savage.) And some, more intellectual types, dared to question the validity of the living presence of the Gods, within us and without us! And so, a timely outburst from Steve McNallen demonstrated that the power of the heart, the power of emotion will triumph over rational intellectual stereotyped theories drawn from books and not from the experience of our people.

After the feast of Viking style roast barbequed pig and many side dishes, it was time for our torch maker, John Brooks, to lead the torchlight procession to the combat ground. The Swords and Shields contest had begun. Imagine, if you will, a ring of fire; sixteen blazing torches against a black night. And within that magic circle -- two men, armed with leather sword, heavy shield and light leather armor -- bringing back the spirit of combat, of valor lurking within our people. I believe there is nothing finer a man can do with his pants on than to drink mead and swing a sword!

It is Sunday morning, 5 a.m. -- a clarion call from the horn awakens us. It is time for the Sunrise, skyclad Ostara ritual. The beach at dawn; we are alone beneath nature's eye. Our offerings in the little boat to Aegir and Ran, are set on fire and put to sea. They are accepted -- the boat actually sails, mast ablaze, to the ocean.

A big breakfast, exchanging addresses, last minute talk. Clean up and a closing ritual by Prudence Priest. The Ride with the Valkyries has ended.

By the ring, by the spear
we summon you
By the ring, by the spear
we summon you
By the ring, by the spear
we summon you

Great god of spears
One-eyed
Master of madness
Raven god
Wolf lord

By the giant who mothered you
By the kin you killed
By the eye you bartered
By the tree which bore you

we call on you

Gallows god
Wanderer
Hungry for heroes
Song thief

we call on you

Maker of man
Maker of woman
Shaper of the world

we call on you

God of the hanged
God of the gallows
God of the gallows

we call on you

God of the hanged
Spear lord
All wise

we call on you

All father
Wanderer
Raven god

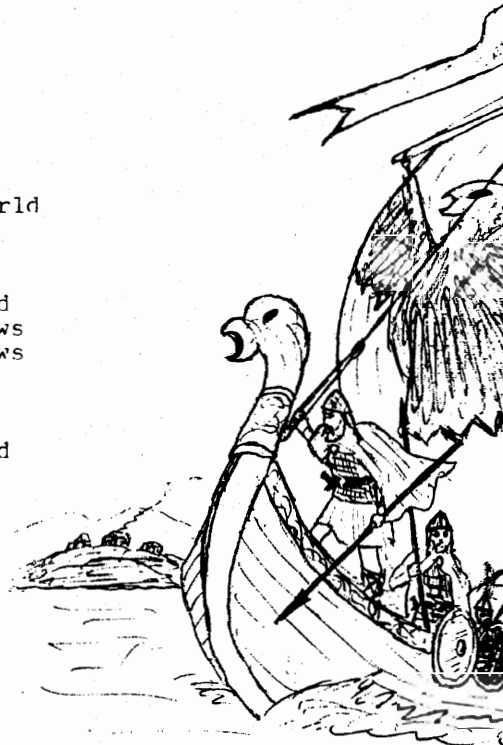
we call on you

By the ring, by the spear
By the pledge in Mimir's cup

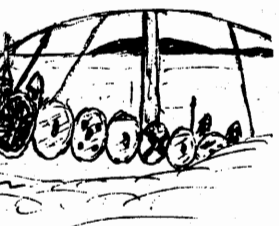
Come to us

God of the hanged
Gallows god

To Odin Invocatio



n ~ an
tion



J.H. Johnson
Jan. 52

Fill us with mead

All wise
All father
Burden of the ash

Cut runes in our hearts

Raven lord
Spear god

Prove them with blood

Wanderer
Wolf lord

By the ring! by the spear!
By the ring! by the spear!

Odin!
Wolf lord, be with us

Odin!
Spear lord, stand with us

Odin!
Mead god, sing with us

Odin!
Rune god, grow in us

By the ring, by the spear
By the ring, by the spear

When the winter comes
we will stand with you

When the bridge cracks
we will stand with you

When the chains break
we will stand with you

When the ship sails
we will stand with you

We will stand with you
Lord of the slain
Master of mead
God of the hanged
Raven lord
Wolf lord
Odin, All father
Odin, All father
Odin, All Father
Odin!

Haack, Fridrich Wilhelm. WOTAN'S WIEDERKEHR:
BLUT-BODEN-UND-RASSE RELIGION. Munich :
Claudius Verlag, 1981. DM 29.-

On the one hand this brand-new important study attempts to be a survey of the Neo-Germanic scene in Germany today. However, it also has a very definite purpose, i.e. to 'warn' the good Christians of Germany about the rise of the old National Socialist specter in the cloak of Woden. The author is himself a Lutheran pastor and teacher-- and so his words must always be read with that in mind.

The Christianist message is not a hidden one-- it is openly stated. Haack's Christianity is rather of the social-justice-gospel type, and he seems most concerned with the rightist politics and racial ideologies lurking in these groups rather than their religious conceptions. The weakest aspect of the book is the author's practice of citing only those features which support his thesis. We would have hoped for a more objective representation of the overall philosophies of the organizations involved.

If all this is so, why is it even worth reviewing? The reasons are two: 1) it is nevertheless a fairly comprehensive view of a scene little known to most Asatruarfolk in Vinland, and 2) it has some invaluable suggestions and questions which should stimulate serious Asatru thinkers to deeper considerations of the faith and its destiny.

Haack spends too much space on groups which have little or nothing to do with Wotan -- various Wagnerite Aryan-Christian groups ('Jesus was a German,' etc.)--e.g. Deutsche Christen, Deutsche Unitarier; and the essentially materialist-rationalist Ludendorff movement and Artgemeinschaft. In most cases he needs to do so to prove his racio-political thesis. However, in the case of the (now defunct) Gylfiliten he does not seem to have been forced to stretch the facts. The Gylfiliten in some instances had sunk into a regular form of Hitler-worship(!)-- including 'prayers' to him for the 'unity' of Germany.'

The more positive groups, and ones more allied with us, e.g. the Armanen Orden (and Guido-von-List-Gesellschaft) under the Grand Masters Adolf and Sigrun Schleipfer and Die Goden ('the gooar'), pose more difficulties for the political nature of the author's work. These pages prove to be quite informative and interesting.

Haack's greatest service to present day Asatru is, I think, his presentation of the well-known fact that most (if not all) of the racialist ideas sometimes present in Neo-Germanic 'religious' movements have no foundation in ancient Germanic ideology but rather have their roots in the peculiar 19th century racial philosophy of J.A. Graf von Gobineau. Another constructive criticism forwarded by the author is that the Neo-Germanic ideologies tend to be based on emotionalism (emotive arguments) in which the controlling function of the rational mind has little input-- in such a construct no 'tradition of understanding' may be built up among the members--and so the groups inevitably sputter and/or split up.

For those who can read German, the work is well worth its price.

--Edred

Odinism, the West's Only Hope

By Terrance D. Oaks

It's strange how knowledge tends to turn all same men into instant revolutionaries of one kind or another. Of course, no revolution can ever be called complete without a revolution in the system of politics.

Decadent religions eventually compromise with decadent elements to produce a decadent society.

Since Christianity professes establishing of a "kingdom not of this world", no realistic or rational individual can pretend that the philosophical principles it expounds are in the interest of any person attempting cope with day-to-day problems of life.

Many Christians try to make us believe that politics and religion are in no way related. But whatever the people practise in general as a way of life will be also expressed in their political system as well as their tyranny-toleration level as a people. As Christians tend to let the responsibility for a free and stable society rest entirely in the hands of their Oriental god, they also tend to leave the duties for maintaining these same responsibilities on the shoulders of various elected politicians who are motivated by anything but principle.

Psychologically speaking, Christianity means, "You carry the cross", "Let someone else take all responsibility", "Let someone else do the work" - after all, from these things the Christian has been "saved". The rest of us are just lowly "sinners" and so it is up to us to carry the burden for them. Reality simply is not for Christians.

Many Christians would like us to believe that their religion is "anti-communist". But there are only two major one-world movements - Christianity and Communism. Both are universalistic, both strive to put mankind under a common umbrella, both deny the existence of the individual as a true manifestation of the divine. Where the individual cannot live in freedom the tyrant will always be standing by to accomodate. For it stands to reason, that where the individual himself is not divine, the government will certainly claim its "divinity".

As most of us know, Christianity is a REVEALED Religion (someone has got to tell you about it), and Odinism is a NATURAL religion (you can come to basic religious conclusions through reason and logic). But the problem with revealed religion is, that if someone has to tell you about the source of nature, then someone will also end up dictating the principles of nature and you become a SLAVE.

Christianity as we know it today is a lie, perpetuating more lies and resting on a foundation of even more lies.

Many Christians would have us believe in the myth that "this is a Christian nation". It's as if we are all to be reduced to staring stupidity while professing our ignorance of our own history and offering our dignity to the auction block of mental slavery. At no time are we allowed to have minds of our own, as if we were not endowed with the ability to reason. It seems that with such a lowly opinion of themselves Christians in general certainly have no right to judge those of us who do prefer dignity and self-respect.

In the brief space allotted to this article I am not going to attempt to give the readers a history lesson, however, I would like to point out with a few paragraphs that the United States was not founded exclusively by Christians as we are often told.

Deism is a natural religion very similar to Odinism in that it seeks divinity in nature. Many of the forefathers of the United States were Deists and I shall mention a few. My only argument with Deism is that like Christianity it professes universalism and is therefore in contradiction with its own principles.

Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence - was a Deist. Thomas Paine - who named our country - was a Deist (he wrote The Age of Reason). James Madison - who wrote the U.S. Constitution - was a Deist. Ethan Allen - who led the first major attack against the British when he captured Fort Ticonderoga - was a Deist, (he wrote a book, Reason, the only oracle of man). John Adams - was a Deist. George Washington - was a Deist and the pictures of him praying at Valley Forge are a distortion. I might as well mention a few other Deists who in one way or another relate to history - John Locke, Voltaire and Abraham Lincoln. You see, our forefathers were simply not believers in the slave religion of Christianity as we are often told.

In our early treaty with Tripoli John Adams pens the following words, "As the government of the United States of America is not in any sense founded on the Christian Religion..."

The above research is available for any serious student of history at most local libraries. There is much more evidence I assure you, but Odinists should all be aware of the basic facts.

Since we can trace our liberties to a NATURAL religion like Deism and the ancient beliefs of our ancestors to a NATURAL Religion like Odinism, we can be proud that we are naturalists. Odinism is the only hope for Western survival.

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M O O T ↑ P O I N T ↑

To friends at Ásatrú,

In a letter to "The Runestone" in the most recent issue, A.J.Dillon-Davis gave some useful theological background to Nordic Religion. I would like to give some additional viewpoints.

There have been many cosmic cataclysms in history. Such books as "Ragnarok" by Ignatius Donnelly and "Worlds in Collision" by Immanuel Velikovsky, point this out clearly. The eschatological feelings of the Norse, as well as their cousins the Iranian Zoroastrians, indicate that there will be another, final catastrophe. Many of the Pagan gods can be viewed in this cosmic-catastrophic context.

Others can be viewed Euhemeristically. Euhemerus, while on a trip to India, saw a monument set up by Zeus while he was yet an Earthly king. Odin may well fit into this second category of Earthly leaders who because of their greatness went through an apotheosis.

The cosmic deities and those great humans who were deified both deserve our respect. I would add, however, that Nordic religion has a place for an ultimate source of justice, mind, and love. Ours is not a hopeless belief. It is the justice of the Great Deity that will bring on Ragnarok, and see the pusillanimous churls suitably shaken. It is the mind of this Deity which we honor by the development of our superior intellects.

We can reflect our beliefs in our lifestyles. From time to time substitute roasted lamb for frozen pizza. Rather than watching "Dork and Ninny" on television, go see "Excalibur" again. Instead of a Chihuahua, get a Great Dane! Instead of buying a "Holofil-2 insulated nylon parka", make a cloak with furs. Isn't it amusing to see people "getting back to nature" without a single article on their persons that wasn't concocted in a chemical lab! If we improve ourselves intellectually, physically, and spiritually, our superiority will be evident and we will prevail!

Fredrick A. Lord



Dear Steve,

I enjoyed the Yule feast very much; the mead was delightful and the music was sad, but one thing disturbed me about my first Odinist get together. It was pointed out to me that perhaps half, or perhaps less, of the crowd were card carrying members of the KKK or the American Nazis. I had expected to meet a few, but was quite appalled to find so many.

It's well known many A.F.A. members first make contact with the group through its ads in Soldier of Fortune magazine. This I suppose does attract many fine people, ones interested in the true spirit of Asatru, but surely it also attracts a group who the Odinist movement could do without.

I am not saying someone's politics should have any

bearing on being an A.F.A. Member. I don't care if the person standing next to me in the ritual circle is a liberal, a fascist or a bomb throwing anarchist, just so long as he (or she) is on with the old ways, knows the gods and the way of our ancestors.

It was quite obvious from the dealings I had with them that the Nazis and others had very little interest in the religion of Asatru, they seemed interested in the cultural aspects of the group. This was made abundantly clear to me when one asked who Frey was, this at a gathering to honor the god.

The question I am asking is, is Odinism a religion of hate? is there an underlying presumption of a master race? I don't think so; the Vikings had no love for Christianity, but beyond that is there an example of racial prejudice ingrained in the culture or the religion of the North. Yes, the first Norsemen in Greenland called the Eskimos "Skraelings", wretches, and treated them in a less than brotherly fashion, and yes, there are other examples of the Viking's dislike of other non-White peoples - but the Vikings rarely got along with anybody.

The point of this is simply that there are two groups in the A.F.A. - a core of men and women dedicated to the old faith of the North and another interested in Norse culture, in other words arts and crafts, dressing up in costumes and playing at being a Viking. There is more to Odinism than dressing like Hagar The Horrible.

At some time the A.F.A. is going to have to address these questions. Is there room for the politics of hate in Asatru? Shouldn't something, some gesture, be made to show what we are interested in is sharing the love of the gods, not encouraging hatred for those different from ourselves?

Nazim is based on Christianity, something I would have thought was mutually exclusive to paganism. If a Nazi wants to join a religious organization where he is encouraged to hate Jews, Blacks, and others let him join the Moral Majority, let's keep the A.F.A. out of politics, away from hatred, out of the hands of the lunatic fringe!

You can treat this letter as a letter to the editor of The Runestone or just a voice crying in the wilderness. But, if you publish it or not, Steve, think about what I've said. This issue must be dealt with some day.

Well, I seem to have been on my soapbox for longer than planned. By the way, in case you're wondering about MY politics I'm a rather conservative shade of Democrat.

Hail all the Gods!

S.W.

Dear S.,

The issue you raise is an important one, and I will attempt to deal with it here.

First, let me clear up one thing - there were, so far as I can tell, not more than a couple of Klan or Nazi members at the Yule feast. Out of a crowd of perhaps sixty people, that comes out to 3 or 4 percent - not a very high figure!

But on to a more basic question. Is Odinism a "religion

of hate"?

Odinism does not and will not preach hatred of other races. At the same time, we teach that Odinism is a religion which springs from the soul of the People of the North (to use David James' phrase) - from the unique needs, perceptions, and insights of White people. Thus, our religion is linked to our existence as a race. If there are no more people of Northern European descent, there will be no more Odinism. And the stark demographic fact is, we are an endangered species. We are experiencing negative population growth at a rate which insures our extinction in a few more generations. All this can be documented using standard sources.

Is this insistence on standing by our kinsmen to be seen as negative, as an expression of hate?

Not at all. When a Hispanic leader proclaims the right of his people to exist as a distinct group, no one accuses him of hatred. No Black leader will be villified for working for the survival and the success of his race. Likewise, it is not bigotry for us to say that we demand a right to exist, and to exist with a fair share of influence and success. And that's basically all we're saying. There is no implied threat to any other group, so long as our legitimate interests are not at stake.

The link between biology and religion which we assume here is one that is supported by the work of Dr. Carl Jung and by more recent research as well - we covered this subject fairly well in an article about five issues back called "Metagenetics". In a nutshell, human beings are a continuum of body, mind, and spirit. These componets are not indepent but function as a whole(holistic) unit.

Logically, The fact that our native spirituality is unique implies that all other groups have their own unique spirituality. Different doesn't mean better or worse, it just means different.

We reiterate our opposition to totalitarianism in any form.

Your comment on the individual who didn't know who Frey was is well taken. We have a lot of educating to do. Remember, we're all raised in a Christian mileu and it takes a while for people to get a grounding in the beliefs of Asatru. Give them time and they will rediscover our innate spiritual springs.

Just as a footnote, S., the Moral Majority is not anti-Jewish; Reverend Falwell has declared himself an ardent supporter of Israel.

For our Gods and our People,

Stephan A. Mc Nallen



Dear McNallen:

Congratulations on another fine Runestone and (alas!) yet another interpretation of the days of the week. This latter threatens to become a major specialized area in Odinst Studies.

But what really prompted my letter was your exchange with S.O., concerning nudity. I think I agree with your position.

It seems to me that all of us are still steeped in and permeated by and even scarred from Christianity. You cannot undo the inclusion and exclusion of experiences and ideas that accompanies the formative years of Christians (or any other religion.)

That being true, it seems only sensible to avoid final positions on moral questions until we have one or two generations who are brought up in Odinist homes with no Christian overtones. I firmly believe that the Divine Grace will act as it acted in ages past and that true Odinism will flower. In the meantime, it seems that all of us should live by our best lights and what lore we can glean from the past. Nowhere is this more true than in the area of sexuality, for nowhere is Christianity more irrational, more obsessed and all of us reflect that madness to some extent, including those of us who are in reaction against Christianity.

"Odinudism" will stand or fall as future Odinists perceive it to be harmonious with the rest of Odinism which "rest of" Odinism contains many elements that we have not discovered or reconciled with each other as yet.

It seems to me that the only sexual teaching that we must all share is the absolute necessity of White procreation and raising healthy minded children. Different methods of doing so should be judged by their results, even different concepts of "healthyminded."

We simply do not have the data to go beyond that. You can find a citation for virtually anything in the Old Literature, including, I am told, homosexuality (sorry, don't have the cite.)

It is peculiarly our burden, as we discover kennings about our Holy White Religion, to believe that each new revelation gives us the total picture. Such a conclusion at this time is really not very likely. Dogmatism may even prevent discoveries and insights that are necessary to White spiritual development.

It seems merely discreet to be very conservative about leaping to dogmatic conclusions, especially those which might alienate each other or freeze us into premature positions.

II

Because of the above, it seems to me that dialogue should be encouraged and not restricted to what you want to print in RUNESTONE. Pursuant to that, could you not have a policy of printing names and addresses of correspondents (at least those who do not object to it) so that we may cross feed?

Hail Odini!

Athanaric
Holy Southern Church
Box 8262
Van Nuys, Ca. 91409

P.S. Although I am not opposed to nudism on principle, count me out. I am neither built like Baldr nor hung like Freyr and I fear that Aryan self-esteem (and my own) might never recover.

P.S. II, The above strikes me as suggesting a return to creating given names from the names of the Gods. Baldr - built sounds like a brand name for prefabricated housing, but Freyrhung has a nice ring.....

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