

## AFA UPDATE

### A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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Contact email: [afa@lanset.com](mailto:afa@lanset.com)

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### ASATRU AND THE ENVIRONMENT

One of the fundamentals of our Folkway is independence of thought. You'll find hotly-contested opinions on all sorts of subjects in our ranks, and nothing better illustrates this variety than our views on ecology or the environment.

I've got close friends within Asatru who believe that there is no environmental crisis. According to them, reports of global warming or resource depletion are all lies or at least exaggerations designed to further a globalist political agenda. I've got other friends who are just the opposite - they are convinced we are on the verge of environmental catastrophe. Probably the recipients of AFA Updates will be scattered all along this spectrum, at either end or somewhere in the middle.

My skeptical friends aren't all wrong: There is no doubt that many in the environmentalist camp want to see more government intrusion on individual liberties. They also want to give more power to international bodies, such as the United Nations, which do not have our traditions of Anglo-Saxon law.

Often this leftist tendency spills over into other areas. For example, the Sierra Club is in the middle of a debate on immigration. The population of the United States is scheduled to double within the lifetime of today's youth. Some areas of the country are already way over their carrying capacity, and doubling the population could reasonably be considered a legitimate environmental issue. Because virtually all of this population growth will result from immigration, stopping immigration is absolutely necessary to preserve a decent environment in the United States (<http://www.numbersusa.com>).

But will the Sierra Club face this fact and return to their traditional policy of population stability? No. The Sierra Club leadership believes that immigration is just fine - and calls anyone a "racist" who thinks the organization ought to take a stand against the growing numbers of illegals who stampede across our borders. In fact, the club leadership is threatening to expel a long-time member who - in a context having nothing

to do with the Sierra Club - wrote an article on the subject that displeased them ([http://www.vdare.com/walker/sierra\\_media\\_war.htm](http://www.vdare.com/walker/sierra_media_war.htm)).

Environmentalism that pushes a Euro-bashing agenda, or that wants to impose a totalitarian society and “share resources more equitably,” is not the kind of thing we can support because their values run contrary to ours. I join my conservative friends in rejecting this approach to the issue. But does this mean that there is no ecological emergency? Are all environmental groups part of a Trilateral conspiracy to fluoridate our water and take away our guns?

The problems, despite the assurances from conservative pundits that all is well, are real. There is strong evidence that the coral reefs, so important to sustaining life on Earth, are dying. Global warming, whatever its origin, is a fact that can be observed simply by looking at recent photographs of our planet’s poles. We face a series of immediate species extinctions, from butterflies to birds and gorillas, greater than anything in the last 65 million years. It just is not reasonable to believe that the scientists bearing these messages are all, to a man and woman, part of some sinister cabal to raise our taxes.

What attitude, then, should we have?

Asatru is not a “nature religion” in the usual sense. Midgard, in our myths, was created by the profoundly “unnatural” act of killing Ymir and using his corpse to fashion the world - a symbolic triumph of sentience and will over the natural order.

However, there are other aspects of our beliefs that demand a concern for the environment. We recognize something in the natural world that fills us with a sense of the holy, something that reminds us of the Gods and moves us to think of nobility and greatness. How could it be otherwise, when we (like all peoples) are products of forest and steppe? The natural world is truly our mother, the matrix from which we spring, she who gave us life and continues to nourish us. How could we *not* be awe-stricken in her presence, and seek to give her reverence?

Asatruar value the untamed and the wild - in the natural world around us, and in our own souls. The boar, the bear, the wolf, the falcon and other wild animals populate our myths. They are brothers to the berserkers and forms by which the seid-workers travel between the worlds.

Our lore speaks of the landvaettir, the unseen beings inhabiting, or even personifying, the landscape around us. These entities of trees and rocks and streams are, according to our lore, affected by the deeds of humans - they were devastated when our forefathers took up Christianity - so it is easy to see they would object to the destruction and defilement of the natural world which is their home.

If for no reason other than pragmatic self-interest, Asatruar must be proactively concerned with the environment. A world of scarcity will be a fearful and regimented world. Our ancient liberties, already tattered and worn, will be crushed under the weight

of population and ripped apart in futile and misguided attempts to distribute dwindling resources to too many people. Armies will march to secure oil, or water, or cropland, and with every campaign the state will gain power over men and women who are at first citizens, and later become mere subjects. Demagogues and tyrants will thrive.

As for myself, I am an admirer of one of the most colorful characters ever identified with the environmental movement in the United States - the iconoclastic Edward Abbey. Abbey seems to have been a rather standard leftist in his youth, but he soon realized the shortcomings of that philosophy and by the time of his death in 1989 he was renowned as a man who thought for himself and who spoke the truth as he saw it. He was vocally non-Christian, anti-authoritarian, pro-freedom, and profoundly skeptical of government. Toward the end of his life, Abbey drew the wrath of the liberal-minority coalition for his anti-immigration stance (He believed that the Mexico-US border should be closed and patrolled by the military).

## WILLY DIED FOR OUR (ECOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL) SINS

Sometimes a personal incident teaches lessons that raw statistics never can.

Thorgrun is an Asatru stalwart - a friend of the Holy Powers for many years, true to the ancestors and to the folk. Willy was Thorgrun's dog. Socially inept, occasionally embarrassing (Willy was an incorrigible crotch-sniffer), he nevertheless protected Thorgrun's home, guarded his truck and toolbox, and gave us a lot of laughs with his antics. He was a good companion and a good dog. And now he's dead.

Willy ingested a chunk of meat soaked in a powerful herbicide called paraquat. He died after several days of increasing pain as his organs shut down from the poison. Willy had found the meat along the edge of a strawberry field next to his home, and swallowed some of it before Thorgrun could shake it out of his mouth.

Willy's death caused Thorgrun to reflect that he hadn't heard the coyotes howling lately. The hawks that used to soar overhead were missing, too. Now the poisoned meat had claimed its latest victim, a trusting dog that had never harmed anyone.

Let me tell you about this strawberry field: It is one of those intensive mega-operations requiring lots of chemicals, tons of bug killer and lots of questionable herbicide - paraquat, to be exact. The owner spends much of his time in Mexico, and from looking at the fields, he brings half the population back with him. Mexican flags adorn the tractors and Mexican music wafts over the neat rows of plowed dirt. Immigration agents would be very unwelcome here. Wildlife of any sort is unwelcome, too, since it might eat strawberries or crap in the field...so of course the critters native to the area have to be poisoned. And if someone's dog gets in the way, well, that's too bad. It's only a dog, after all.

Thorgrun is grim and motivated. He's plodding through the legal system trying to do something about the death of his friend. Of course, the suspected perpetrator has the support of the Hispanic-liberal power structure (Thorgrun is one of the few "white non-Hispanics" left in his town), and it remains to be seen how much luck he will have.

This little tragedy has it all - poisoned animals, polluted soil, a water table stressed from overuse, ethnic politics, runaway population fed by immigration, dollars over principle. It's a story of our time and place and it has everything to do with the environment, values, and ultimately with religion. There are fundamental truths at stake here: If we have no regard for wild animals, we will lose our own sense of wildness and become tame. If pets are disposable, we turn our back on values like loyalty and kindness. If we poison the soil, we poison our own bodies and souls. If we exploit illegal aliens to make a buck, artificially depressing wages for our own kin and crowding the land in which our grandchildren will live, we are traitors.

## WHAT TO DO?

We all must act in accordance with our convictions. This will mean different things for each of us; Sheila and I are getting ready to build a home and we want to use solar energy. We're considering getting a hybrid for our next car. Both these decisions are just good sense, considering the rising price of utilities and gasoline, but they are also better for the world around us. Nor has either of us ever been attracted to conspicuous consumption, so we buy fewer of the gadgets and toys that thrill some people.

I believe, too, that we must never neglect the spiritual dimension. By honoring the turning of the seasons, we become participants or co-workers in the maintenance of the world. In honoring the landvaettir we implicitly make a contract to preserve all that is natural and wild.

We sometimes say that we are acting on the sides of the Holy Powers, or calling the people of Europe back to their Way. We say that we are working on behalf of the forces of consciousness. All this is true. But in addition to that, we (among many others, of course) are working on behalf of all life on this planet. We dare not fail.

## IMPORTANT DATES

April 15 - Sumarsdag/Sigrblot. This was the first day of summer in the Icelandic calendar. It falls on the Thursday between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April, about the same time of year as the annual sacrifice to Odin for success in the upcoming raiding season. Welcome the warm months, and make an offering to the Father of Victory for triumph in your personal struggles!

April 30 - Walburg. This Germanic Goddess safeguards the dead heroes who sleep in the burial mound, and harbors deeds yet to bear fruit. Pour a libation to the bold ones awaiting rebirth, and think on how your own acts will live after you.

May 1 - From the gloom of Walburg we enter the sunshine of May Day. Think on Freya, take a walk in the forest or send flowers to a friend. Make love outdoors.

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen  
Drighten, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Next update April 21st!