

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 66

Odin's Day, April 27, 2005

Contact email: info@runestone.com

Please tell your friends about *AFA Update* and suggest they subscribe! They can do so by going to AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

AFA MEMBERSHIP

The initial two weeks of AFA membership have been more successful than we dared hope! Despite technical difficulties - when some of our email messages were "eaten" by our new software, for example - the last couple of weeks have been invigorating. Those of you who have already sent in your membership forms will be hearing from us in the next few days. If you don't yet have the forms, you can download all five files from the AFA website, <http://runestone.org>.

Some people have asked me if membership in other organizations precludes membership in the AFA. Absolutely not! Valgard Murray of the Asatru Alliance has given his blessing to our enterprise, which is complementary rather than competitive. Likewise, members of the Ring of Troth or any other group are invited to join us. The bottom line is agreement with our Declaration of Purpose, a desire to work toward our goals, and a willingness to abide by the Law of the Hall.

NEW CD: VISION

You can now order our new CD, titled Vision, through the AFA website at <http://runestone.org/flash/store/index.htm#cds>. The introductory price is only \$10, plus shipping and handling.

This CD expresses my thoughts on the challenges and opportunities that face Asatru (and people of European descent...and the world in general) in the coming years. I discuss the spiritual malady of the European peoples, and describe how we can recover that connection with our innate, ancestral essence. I outline the specific goals of the AFA and give a vision for the near-term future. Many of you, I believe, will find it of interest.

NORWEGIAN WOLVES UPDATE

Kimberley Remen is continuing her correspondence with organizations in Norway regarding the critical situation of the country's endangered and besieged wolf population. She has obtained permission for the AFA to use some outstanding photographs of these magnificent animals, which we will be including on our web site. This will be a long-term project for the AFA but I feel it is an area where we can make a positive contribution. If we destroy the wildness that surrounds us in nature, we will destroy the wildness in our own hearts as well - and that must not happen!

ROBERT E. HOWARD: SOME REFLECTIONS

A few nights ago, I watched the movie Conan the Barbarian, in the DVD version. While no one is likely to claim that this entertaining epic is Academy Award material, I find it a refreshing recapitulation of much that is important to our Way. Heroism, revenge, loyalty to one's people, even a valkyrie-like figure - it's all there, accompanied by some great one-liners that summarize much deeper truths.

I was distressed, however, to see that the original ending had been swapped for a much weaker one, and that inferior dialogue had been added in some places. The result was a dilution and distraction from the main theme. Nevertheless, this decay of the original movie reinforces an opinion that Conan's creator, Robert E. Howard, would agree with - namely, that we live in a degenerate age.

By the way, if you're interested in Howard and his work I urge you to see a movie called The Whole Wide World, chronicling the life of this complex and tragic author. And by all means, read his stories if you want heroic tales well told!

Coincidentally, the week's mail brought notice of the annual "Robert E. Howard Days" held in Cross Plains, Texas, where Howard lived out most of his life. It is scheduled for June 10 and 11 and you can get information from Project Pride, PO Box 534, Cross Plains, TX 76443.

RUNE AND LORE CLASSES

The AFA sponsors twice-monthly classes on the runes and on Eddic lore in the Sacramento area. Anyone interested in attending can contact us at afa@lanset.com.

DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible.

ODIN LIVES!

The groundbreaking radio program Odin Lives! is broadcast every Thursday night at 8 PM Eastern Time on a frequency of 7.415 MHz. This broadcast is repeated the next Tuesday morning at 12:15 AM on the same frequency. You can learn more by going to their web site at <http://www.odinlives.org>.

IMPORTANT DATES

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, go on a picnic, or send flowers to a friend.

May 9 - Day of Remembrance for Guthroth. This Norwegian martyr spoke out against the tyranny of the Christian fanatic Tryggvason, and urged others to resist him. For this, the king had his tongue cut out. Call up a friend who follows our native Way - use your own tongue to participate in the bond that ties us to the Gods!

June 9 - Day of Remembrance for Sigurd the Volsung. No Germanic hero outshines Sigmund's noble son. His courage and nobility won him fame shining through the centuries. Recall his glory by listening to Wagner's Ring operas, or by doing something noble, or by slaying one of your own private dragons.

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen
Asatru Folk Assembly

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