

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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Contact email: info@runestone.com

Please tell your friends about *AFA Update* and suggest they subscribe! If they contact us, we will be happy to send them an invitation.

BLESSED YULETIDE!

The winter solstice occurs at 4:42 Pacific Time, on December 21st. Tonight at sundown, our holy season officially begins. Rather than wait for Wednesday to send this AFA Update, I decided to get it to you today, along with our wishes for a very blessed Yuletide.

Tonight our household will toast the season and pour libations. The McAnallen clan will receive a shot of Bushmills (I know, it's a Loyalist whiskey, but there are reasons...) and other branches of our family will be similarly honored. I am sure many of you will be making your own connection with the sacred over the next few days.

Let us bring forth the sun and renew the cycle of time! Let Thor's hammer break the back of winter! Let Frey bring prosperity and plenty and joy! Let the One Eyed One be among us! And may the spark of Sunna's flame ignite the soul of the European-descended tribes and waken them from their slumber! We are all reborn with the unconquered sun.

THE EMERGING THEOCRACY

Most of our Christian neighbors are decent folks who, while they may think our beliefs are misguided or downright nutty, shrug their shoulders and say in effect, "Hey, it's a free country. Your religion is none of my business."

Unfortunately, not all the Christians out there agree. In the last week or so I have seen signs of the most intolerant sort of Christianity, much of it implicitly or explicitly calling for a literal theocracy in the United States. Why this is hitting us so intensely right now is anyone's guess. I think it has to do with three things that have come together in late 2004: the re-election of George Bush, the "clash of civilizations" between Christianity

and Islam, and the Christmas/Yule season. The conjunction of these events has resulted in a high tide of religious lunacy.

VDARE is a web site hosted by Peter Brimelow, author of a book on illegal immigration titled Alien Nation. Articles relevant to the fate of the European-descended peoples are often posted there, and I check it daily. Right now the normally sane writers on VDARE are overshadowed by fanatics frothing about Christmas, or rather, about the de-Christianization of what they perceive as a Christian holiday.

Last week, two ominous pieces appeared on Brimelow's site on the same day. One by Tom Piatak - http://vdare.com/piatak/041215_christmas.htm - quoted Justice Joseph Story, in effect arguing that the First Amendment only applies to Christian sects. All the rest of us, it seems, exist only at the whim and pleasure of the government. Another article, by Paul Craig Roberts - http://vdare.com/roberts/041215_gift.htm - informed us that we owe our concepts of individual worth and liberty to Christianity, and that without that wonderful gift, there would exist only "the raw power of the pre-Christian past" rather than the rule of law. Not stopping with this outrageous claim, he reminded us that there is plenty of room in the world for diversity, but not within the boundaries of a single country...in other worlds, non-Christians ought to sit down and shut up! I thought this was a little ironic, since only a few paragraphs earlier he had stated that only Christianity has given a voice to the individual human being...

I sent a dissenting email to Mr. Brimelow, but have not yet heard back from him. I still hold out a glimmer of hope that he will print it, since he did post a manuscript I sent him a couple of years ago in response to a particularly nasty attack on those of us who follow indigenous Germanic religion (http://www.vdare.com/letters/tl_121101.htm). In retrospect, I think he must have run my article only for the amusement of his readers.

Even more frustrating was the response I got from Lew Rockwell. Rockwell is a libertarian, anti-state, anti-war advocate of the free market. I check his site most days because he has some really good information there, mixed in with a lot of sheer rubbish. The rubbish that particularly irritated me last week was <http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig4/patterson-norman9.html>, where clergyman Norman Patterson advocates that the government enforce the Biblical laws in Leviticus. In fact, he insists we dismantle "manmade law" and adopt exclusively "the laws of God." Finding this call to dictatorship on a supposedly libertarian web site left me a little stunned. Writing a polite email to Mr. Rockwell, I suggested that in fact our liberties spring from the pre-Christian cultures of Europe and asked if he would be interested in an article elaborating on that theme. His response was curt and hostile.

The same day that VDARE questioned our right to Constitutional protection, radio host Michael Savage's daily rant was about the difference between "real religions" and the rest of us. Christianity, Judaism, and those elements within Islam that have been "reformed" are real religions, he says; the rest are bogus. Savage, who has millions of listeners across the country, specifically attacked "paganism."

Most Christians do not agree with these views - but a lot of them don't exactly disagree, either. The war with Islam has polarized our world into one of "for us or against us," and "us" is looking more and more like "Christians." Otherwise good Christian people could be influenced by this mania. The history of the original Crusades is a study in mass hysteria, and we would do well to learn from it.

ASATRU'S RESPONSE TO THE THEOCRATIC THREAT

We must increase our numbers, our communication with the society around us, and our influence. In short, we must "increase the base," as we said two AFA Updates ago. Everything we do personally and collectively to strengthen Asatru promotes this end - including the vigorous, regular, and passionate practice of our religion. Increasing our numbers and our influence will take time, but we must begin immediately.

Additionally, we must educate people around us concerning the Germanic roots of freedom and the truth that America owes its institutions of liberty to our pre-Christian ancestors. Much theocratic rhetoric centers around the myth that liberty is a Christian concept, and that Christianity laid the basis for law and the rights of the individual, so anything we can do to undermine this propaganda is to be welcomed.

One good "talking point" is Anglo-Saxon Common Law. We must remind people that this is of pagan, not Christian, origin - and we can cite no lesser authority than Thomas Jefferson to back our claim.

Here is information we originally published in *The Runestone*. Feel free to use it to refute allegations that our ancestors were "barbarians," or "lawless":

The following excerpt from page 109 of *The World of Washington Irving*, by Van Wyck Brooks (E.P. Dutton and Company, 1944) is relevant to the often-heard assertion that the spirit of American government derives from the Bible:

"In his youth, [Thomas Jefferson] had studied Anglo-Saxon, and while he also followed the suggestions of Montesquieu, Locke and various others, he based his affirmation of human rights on the laws of the Saxon forefathers. For he found that the Anglo-Saxons, when they settled in England, were fully aware of the natural rights of man and that their common law proclaimed the principles of liberty which he proposed to vindicate as a racial birthright. They had established these principles indeed before Christianity appeared in England, and Jefferson conceived American freedom as a restoration on a new soil of the 'happy system of our ancestors,' as he called it. This was the reason why, as John Adams remembered later, Jefferson suggested that the great seal of the country should bear on one side the images of Hengist and Horsa [The Saxon leaders who settled their people in England]."

The errors of the last couple of centuries have wrought havoc on this ideal, but the original design of America was one inspired by Asatru and Asafolk!

Thomas Jefferson acknowledged Common Law's pre-Christian origins in this letter to Thomas Cooper on February 10, 1814:

"For we know that the common law is that system of law which was introduced by the Saxons on their settlement of England, and altered from time to time by proper legislative authority from that time to the date of the Magna Charta, which terminates the period of the common law...This settlement took place about the middle of the fifth century. But Christianity was not introduced till the seventh century; the conversion of the first Christian king of the Heptarchy having taken place about the year 598, and that of the last about 686. Here then, was a space of two hundred years, during which the common law was in existence, and Christianity no part of it...that system of religion could not be a part of the common law, because they were not yet Christians...

There is of course much more that can be said on this, but this is at least a beginning!

DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible. If you're a person who will be itemizing your deductions for 2004, it's still not too late to donate to the AFA rather than to the government!

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

December 20 - Mother Night. Coming just before the winter solstice, Mother Night is when the new year is born. The traditional twelve days of Yule begin now. This is a season for honoring the family line and rejoicing in the sun's renewal. Celebrate Yule with all the ancient trimmings, such as wreaths of evergreen, a Yule tree, and good cheer. Visit kin. Tell your children stories about the family and show them photos of their ancestors. Drink a toast to the God Frey, and to the reborn sun.

December 31 - Twelfth Night. As Mother Night is the beginning of Yuletide, Twelfth Night is its culmination. Meditate on the past year - what you did, and what you wish you had done. Take stock and set a course for the future. Making New Year's resolutions is an old Germanic custom that goes back at least to the Viking Age, and

perhaps much earlier. In the old days, these oaths were sworn on a boar sacred to Frey, the God of fertility and prosperity.

January 9 - Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong. King Olaf Tryggvason of Norway executed Raud by making him swallow a snake. His crime was refusing to give up Asatru, the religion of his forefathers. Tryggvason then confiscated Raud's land and all his other wealth. Praise Raud by lifting a horn (or cup or glass) in his honor, and by doing something deliberate to spread the holy lore that King Olaf tried so hard to stamp out.

January 22 - Thorrablot. Coming in the depths of winter, when we all need our spirits lifted, Thorrablot is our obvious antidote to the blues. Thor, most approachable of the Northern deities, is its cheery, gregarious patron. Build a snow statue of the hammer-wielding God, or go winter camping, or have a party. Take a walk without your coat, mentally accepting winter, and go home for a shot of brandy.

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

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Asatru Folk Assembly

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THESE UPDATES?
Contact us at info@runestone.com and we will send him or her an invitation.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE at <http://www.runestone.org>.