

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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Contact email: info@runestone.com

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OPERATION BUTTERFLY WINGS

The field of mathematics known as “chaos theory” holds that seemingly insignificant actions can, under the right conditions, produce incredibly large results. The example most commonly used is that of a butterfly which flaps its wings and sets in motion a chain of events culminating in a hurricane a thousand miles away. Obviously, we can never know if a butterfly's wings created a huge storm, but the basic idea - that unnoticed incidents can trigger gargantuan responses - is not only believable but, according to chaos theorists, mathematically certain.

In recent issues of *AFA Update* you and I have discussed the other end of scale. We have touched on public relations breakthroughs, marketing campaigns, and similar plans dealing with the “macro” rather than the “micro.” In this issue, I'd like to put away the telescope and drag out the magnifying glass. Let's consider how the tiny things we do in our everyday lives can make a big difference - and what that has to do with our spreading of the Germanic Way.

Suppose, one day, you decide to wear your Thor's hammer on the outside of your shirt rather than tucked out of sight. You're walking down the street when a woman sees your hammer, asks you about it, and is given the address of the AFA website. A month later, she gives that URL to a friend who visits our site. This friend in turn mentions it to a multi-millionaire, who is so impressed that he leaves his entire estate to the AFA. Within five years, Asatru has a million adherents from coast to coast and is making significant, long-term changes in the culture of the United States....all because you decided on a whim to wear your hammer where it could be seen by passers-by. You'd never know what you had done, any more than we can blame a butterfly for starting a hurricane, but nevertheless you are ultimately responsible.

Suffice to say that Wyrð's web is tightly woven.

We cannot predict which of our tiny, daily deeds will bear fruit next week or next century. But we can increase the odds by doing many such deeds, any one of which might make a difference in the long run. I try to build a lot of such occurrences into each day. I wear my hammer proudly. I don my "Odin's Folk" tee shirt at the gym, or maybe the tie-dye one with runes on it that my son found at the thrift store. I drop comments in public dealing with heritage or the ancestors, just so see if anyone will bite. And of course, when I send out this AFA Update, I'll wriggle 650 pairs of wings - amazing how this list has grown! - excluding bad addresses and those who delete these words unseen .

I have no illusion that any of this is going to bring the AFA a million dollars. But then, it might! At the least, it contributes however slightly to building a new culture, one more influenced by the Germanic Way.

I hereby invite you to join in Operation Butterfly. I know many of you are already making these little efforts - but if we do it more deliberately, more often, we can have a greater impact. Who knows what a few hundred of us can do if we try? Get out there and stir that pot of chaos! Vibrate the Web of Wyrð! Flap the wings of your Will and let the storm arise!

NINE DOORS OF MIDGARD AND RUNE MIGHT

Runa-Raven Press has issued two new editions of classic works by Edred Thorsson, which are sure to interest our readers.

Nine Doors of Midgard is a complete curriculum in the magical uses of runes. It takes the student through nine stages, from the most elementary exercises to very advanced work. The new, third revised edition of Nine Doors of Midgard is in a convenient 6 inch by 9 inch format, making it easier to handle than the more cumbersome second edition. Those interested in personal transformation in the Odinic tradition will not find a better guidebook.

The second volume is Rune Might: History and Practices of the Early 20th Century German Rune Magicians. While the approach used in this book is hardly that of the traditional lore, it is nevertheless a valuable work that can supplement the documented older material. The techniques in Rune Might, Edred tells us, are magically effective - and the role of the 20th century German runemasters in the Reawakening was a significant one from which we can learn much.

A PRAYER FOR THE FOLK

All you Gods and Goddesses, bless and keep our holy Folk! From the cold shadows of the glaciers to the colder shadows of space, always we have been your people. Guide and guard your Northfolk now, as you did in ages past!

Odin, give wisdom and craft to wits shaped by ice and hardship, that our foes be foxed!

Thor, give strength and the will to use it!

Frey and Freya, give full wombs that bodies be found for the souls of heroes!

Let your Northern folk grow in number and in power, that our kind may live and love, survive and thrive - not just today, nor for a millennium, but forever and ever.

- from *A Book of Uncommon Prayers*, available from the AFA

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

January 22 - Thorrablót. Coming in the depths of winter, when we all need our spirits lifted, Thorrablót 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.

February 9 - Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi. Eyvind was another martyr to the old faith of Northern Europe. King Olaf tortured him to death by placing a bowl of red-hot embers on his stomach. Eyvind died, and Valhalla received another hero. Salute his courage by doing some deed to promote the Way of our ancestors.

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen

Asatru Folk Assembly

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