

## AFA UPDATE

### A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 72

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### POETRY... WRITTEN AND SIGNED BY PIPARSKEGG!

Stefn Ullarson, known to many of us as Piparskegg, has generously donated twelve numbered and autographed copies of *A Skaldic Pebble* as a fundraiser for the AFA. This spiral-bound collection contains forty poems from Piparskegg's hand. Some are quietly reflective, while others are much stormier. Several of them - such as "All Worthy" - could be used to call the Gods in ritual:

Wassail Woden, All Father wise  
Drinker from Mimir's Well  
Battle Slain and Wild Hunt Lord  
Inspirer of the Skald...

We are selling these special copies of *A Skaldic Pebble*, numbered and signed by Piparskegg himself, for \$13.50, which includes first class postage within the United States.

To order: You can send us a check or money order in the mail, but if you do so, email us so that we can set one of the twelve copies aside for you! Alternatively, you can email us and have us bill you via Paypal.

### "ASATRU 101" COURSE ON TRACK

The AFA's fundamental course on Asatru is still on track and may be ready for initial testing as early as the end of August. Currently, it consists of eight modules, each of which is in turn made up of from six to twenty lessons. Once finalized, the course will be available in several different media.

The team working on this project - Ed Broneske, Chris Mumma, and Scott Buckley - deserves a lot of appreciation and applause for the huge task they have undertaken!

## GENE STUDY SAYS BRITISH MOSTLY UNCHANGED SINCE THE ICE AGE

It's become popular to interject, in the course of any discussion on ancestry or heredity, that "We're all mixed-breed mutts anyway," with the implication that any talk of preserving the physical heritage of a group is pointless simply because there is nothing unique to preserve.

The next time you're at a party and someone uses that argument, you should politely point them to a copy of *The Tribes of Britain*, by archeologist David Miles. (First, of course, you should order it from [http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0297830864/qid=1122436614/sr=1-1/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/103-6948608-8449411?v=glance&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0297830864/qid=1122436614/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/103-6948608-8449411?v=glance&s=books) .)

Dr. Miles argues that about eighty percent of the genetic characteristics of modern white Britons are derived from a few thousand Ice Age hunters who moved north with the melting glaciers. Despite waves of Romans, Saxons, and Vikings, these core traits remained unchanged.

Miles, who is a researcher at the Institute of Archeology at Oxford, England, cites new information from the analysis of blood groups, traces of oxygen in teeth, and DNA samples. You can find an excellent article about his work at [http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/07/0719\\_050719\\_britishgene.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/07/0719_050719_britishgene.html).

If humans bred in accordance with an exact mathematical formula, everyone on Earth would be a direct descendant of Charlemagne - and probably Genghis Khan, as well. But indiscriminate mixing has been the exception, not the rule, throughout our evolutionary history. Humans have generally chosen to mate within their own branch of the species. As a result, very few Chinese and virtually no Nigerians have Charlemagne in their direct line of descent. To say that the human race is universally mixed, and that our various populations have no distinctive genetic traits worth preserving, is just not true. (An interesting article explaining some of these points is <http://www.vdare.com/sailer/presentation.htm> .)

Red hair is one example of a distinctive trait cited by Dr. Miles. This mutation, a gift from those Ice Age hunters, appeared about 8,000 or 10,000 years ago. There are more red-haired people in Scotland and Wales than in all the rest of the world. It is, Miles says, perhaps the most visible British genetic marker.

Real diversity means that our differences are good things, to be treasured. Not just hair color, or eye color, but all those other traits inherited from the ancestors - many of them subtle, but sensed nevertheless in our temperaments, our attitudes, our distinctive senses of humor and so much more.

## NORWAY'S WOLVES - A LIVING SYMBOL OF ASATRU!

There is a lot of discussion right now on the AFA member's list regarding a permanent logo for the AFA. What symbol most clearly says just who and what we are? Arguments are being made for hammers, ravens, various rune staves, and much more.

In a way, the few remaining wolves in Norway are a symbol...not of the Asatru Folk Assembly, but of Asatru itself. In our lore, they are intimately connected with Odin, father of the Gods. They are fierce, loyal, graceful, and wild. The wolves tread through the mist-clad forests much as the Gods themselves eternally wait, often unseen but always there, on the edge of our consciousness.

Help us save the extremely endangered Norwegian wolves! They've been hunted to the edge of extinction - and it will be a poorer world without them.

Take a look at our Yahoo group, [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/norwegian\\_wolf/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/norwegian_wolf/). Here you'll find updates on the wolf project as well as photos, various files, and other resources.

Please sign our petition at  
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/399085910>

...and drop a line to [Kimberley@troi.ws](mailto:Kimberley@troi.ws) to find out what else you can do to help.

## ...AND A WORD FOR THE POLAR BEARS

Polar bears aren't in quite the dire situation as Norwegian wolves, at least not in the short run. But in the longer scenario, the great white bears of the North are very much at risk. Warming in the northern polar regions is already impacting the amount of time they have to fatten and to breed, as both these functions are dependent on the ice. Some scientists project an ice-free North Pole within a few decades, and the end of the bears as a result.

What does this mean to us? Bears are associated with the North Pole through the two great northern constellations, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. But more than this: The word "arctic" derives from arktos, a Indo-European word for bear. This etymology has echoes of the ancient Hyperborean bear cult. And what could be more appropriate for a white landscape than a white bear?

The ongoing melting of the polar ice is symbolically disastrous for all us Hyperboreans...bears and human folk alike.

Here are links to good information on the plight of the polar bears. Please read them - and take the action you deem appropriate.

<http://www.physorg.com/news4955.html>

<http://www.savearcticrefuge.org/sections/species/polar.html>

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/polarbears/index.cfm>

<http://www.defenders.org/wildlife/arctic/polarbears.pdf>

## LORE CLASSES

The AFA sponsors twice-monthly classes on Eddic lore in the Sacramento area. Anyone interested in attending can contact us at [afa@lanset.com](mailto:afa@lanset.com).

## AFA MEMBERSHIP

Do you believe in what the AFA stands for? Do you like what we're doing?

If so - we want you as an AFA member!

You can find relevant documents and an application on our web site at <http://www.runestone.org> or you can contact us at [afa@lanset.com](mailto:afa@lanset.com).

## DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible. Why give money to the government when you can use it to advance the program of the AFA?

## 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

August 9 - Day of Remembrance for King Radbod. This Frisian king ejected Christian missionaries and upheld our ancestral faith in his land, against great pressure. Pour a

libation to the ancient Frisian Goddess Friagabi, “Giver of Freedom” and declare yourself free from alien creeds this day!

September 9 - Day of Remembrance for Herman of the Cherusci. Herman learned the art of war under the Romans, then deserted the Imperial eagles to lead his tribe in revolt against the Mediterranean intruders. In the fall of the year 9 CE, he annihilated three legions in the Teutobergerwald, a victory which saved Germania from Roman occupation. Plant an oak tree, eat in a German restaurant, and remember Herman with a glass of fine beer from the Fatherland.

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen  
Asatru Folk Assembly

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