

## AFA UPDATE

### A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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### A REFUSAL TO BE ABSORBED

Almost exactly a year ago, in the course of a pilgrimage to Ireland, I queried my relatives: Ireland had fought for seven hundred years (eight hundred, if you count Northern Ireland) to become an independent country. So why, I asked, do the Irish want to dissolve themselves in the European Union and flood their country with Third World immigrants?

I never got a very satisfactory answer. Ireland has yet to feel the consequences of some of its recent decisions.

Elsewhere, in Europe and beyond, the message is clearer: Absorption is not an option.

Consider the Flemish. A right-wing populist party, the Vlaamsblok, has just been banned by the Belgian government. The organization's policy is that immigrants should be given only two choices: "to assimilate or to return home." This attitude condemned the Vlaamsblok under Belgium's "Anti-Racism Act" and caused the judiciary to effectively ban the party.

It's important to understand that the Vlaamsblok is not some tiny fringe organization. It has 18 ministers out of 150 in the Belgian parliament, many local councilors, and even two ministers in the European Parliament.

Vlaamsblok wants independence for Flanders and has pressed this cause in a peaceful, civilized manner. The party has said "No" to the dissolution of the Flemish people, so the establishment feels it must apply political power to bring it to its knees.

See <http://vdare.com/fulford/flemings.htm> for more on this controversy.

At the other end of Europe, in the Balkans, the theme continues as Serbia, Macedonia, and Bosnia consider their eventual acceptance into the European Union. While the

general trend of our time makes it more and more likely that all these nations will give accept EU membership, not everyone is happy about the prospect. Columnist Nebojsa Malic outlines some of the reasons in his latest essay at <http://antiwar.com/malic/?articleid=2433>. He ends his essay with this paragraph:

“That the Balkan countries see their future in the EU is the best indicator of how dire their current predicament is. While it may seem that they have everything to gain and nothing to lose by joining the EU, this perception is fundamentally wrong. They do have one more thing to lose, the most precious of all: freedom to create a future of their own, for good or ill. If that, too, is gone the way everything else has disappeared over the past decade, the triumph of despair will indeed be complete.”

The assertion of national identity, however, is not limited to Europe. Three young leaders of the Tibetan Youth Congress have just completed a 32-day hunger strike in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York City. Dolma Choepel, Sonam Wangdu, and Mr. Gyatso won agreement from the organization to pursue several human rights issues of importance to Tibetans (<http://phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=6833>).

While the hunger strikers had a list of specific complaints, they made it clear that their long-term goal is the withdrawal of China from their homeland.

[How many of you were even aware that these three activists were starving in front of the UN? I did a Google search on their strike a few days ago. Sixty-six results were produced - but only about three of them were from actual newspapers; all the rest were articles from Tibet-related web sites. The world media, for whatever reason, did not report this incident.]

From Ireland and Flanders to the Balkans and Tibet, people want to keep their national and cultural identity. If you think this is mere politics, look more deeply! The national instinct - nations in the most essential, tribal sense, regardless of statist bureaucracies - is spiritual. It's not about taxes or regulations, or even votes and parties; these are only outer manifestations. Ultimately, it is about the soul of individuals and of entire groups bound by blood and history.

For this reason the Asatru Folk Assembly has supported all those who refuse to be absorbed into the globalist dream. This is the path of true diversity, and of freedom.

#### YOUR FAVORITE AFA AUDIO TAPES NOW ON CD

We've finally gotten around to putting most of our classic AFA audio tapes on CDs! Available titles include "Asatru," "The Meaning of Myth," "Stories from Scandinavian Mythology," "Thunder from the North," "Viking Heroes," and "Calasa."

Cost is \$10.95 per CD, plus \$3.50 shipping. Add 7.25% sales tax if you're in California.

## BOOK ON REBIRTH WITHIN THE FAMILY LINE

One important theme in Germanic religion is that of rebirth within the ancestral line. Opinions (not surprisingly!) differ within our community on just what that means - Edred Thorsson tells us that only certain soul components are reborn, and that the ego/ek/consciousness goes elsewhere. Other people feel that something more like the popular concept of reincarnation takes place.

Whatever your own beliefs on this subject, I suspect you will be intrigued by a book called *Return from Heaven - Beloved Relatives Reincarnated within Your Family* by Carol Bowman. I realize that the title is hardly designed to appeal to Asatruar, but it would be a mistake to let that get in the way of what seems to be information validating our ancestral concepts. You can get it *\_Return from Heaven\_* (or at least find out more about it) from Amazon.

## THE GENETICS OF MARRIAGE

An international team of scientists has found that women tend to marry men who look like their fathers. “There seems to be an advantage for animals to select a mate somewhat similar to themselves genetically” according to Dr. Glenn Weisfeld of Wayne State University. “One good possibility is that there are some fortuitous genetic combinations which are retained in the offspring if both parents are similar.” Dr. Weisfeld went on to say that, in humans, there is a lower rate of miscarriage if mother and father are genetically similar.

Obviously, there must be a balance between the need for similarity and the need to avoid inbreeding. Unions closer than first or second cousin become risky, but up to that point genetic similarity seems to confer advantages.

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/print.jsp?id=ns99994928>

## UPDATE ON “ODIN LIVES!” RADIO

Odin Lives! Radio remains a “must hear” resource for all of us who follow the Germanic folkway. A hint: Yours truly will be interviewing one of the most mysterious authors in the Odinst/Asatru scene in the near future...

For information on programs, times, and how to tune in, go to <http://www.odinlives.org/index.html>.

## THE ODIN BROTHERHOOD

We have a stock of Dr. Mark Mirabello's book, The Odin Brotherhood. They're available for \$20 plus \$3.95 postage and handling (California residents, add 7.25% sales tax). Information on this and other new products will be up on the web site shortly.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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!

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen  
Drighten, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Next update May 5th!