

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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AFA GOES TO AEGIR FEAST!

Some while ago, Sheila and I received an invitation to the Aegir Feast, a gathering held at Big Sur on the California coast. We accepted.

None of that seems unusual; we go to gatherings as time and money permit and we never fail to have a good time. But this invitation was different, because the hosting organization was Hammer of Thor Kindred...of the Troth.

There has been a good deal of vocal disagreement between the Asatru Folk Assembly and the Troth over the years. The Troth is the main "universalist" Asatru organization, and the AFA is one of the leading "folkish" groups, so we have some genuine philosophical differences. It's been easy for each camp to stereotype the other, and we've both done so with enthusiasm.

The time has come for us to grow up. For the span of this weekend we set aside our differences and met as human beings devoted to the Aesir and Vanir - and yes, to the ancestors as well. That doesn't mean either one of our groups has changed its beliefs or practices, but it was good for once to focus on what we hold in common, rather than what divides us.

Stefn Thorsman, Steersman of the Troth, was generous and hospitable. I had expected at least some hostility, but on the contrary we were greeted with respect and warmth by everyone there. At no point were we made to feel uncomfortable. We met good folks, and some of them are folks with whom I intend to maintain contact.

I gave a presentation on the early history of the Asatru revival in this country, as I experienced it. My point was that we had come a long way - and this Aegir's Feast was even further proof of that.

The general tone of the event was more Vanic than many AFA gatherings. In fact, there was no blessing to Odin (Blessings to Thor, Freyr, Aegir, and Hella were held during the weekend). Seith was prominent, perhaps due to Diana Paxons's involvement with the group. I missed her seith session, but hope to attend one in the future.

The outcome is this: I am resolute in my interpretation of Asatru. However, I intend to be less critical of other groups, and I extend my hand in friendship to the many good and worthy people to be found in all organizations. We all have our jerks, and we all have our gems.

Our attendance at a Troth event would have been unthinkable even a few years ago. I am convinced this is a positive step for all of us.

THE LATEST FROM SWEDEN...DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SWEDES!

Imagine a country where saying unkind things about immigrants can earn you a prison sentence...but writing viciously hateful things about the native population (or white males in general) is entirely legal!

Yes, Sweden has traded the furor teutonicus for the self-hatred of the European welfare state. New hate speech laws make impossible to accurately describe the effect of immigration in Sweden, while declaring "open season" on white Swedish males. Who could have thought that the land of the Svea, the last outpost of Germanic religion to succumb to Christianity, would ever surrender to such absurdity?

Sad as it is, the situation gives us a perfect example of how the values of our native religion apply to modern life.

Consider this sentence: "Bunkeflo was one of the last few refuges in Malmo where you could go out and not see Arabs loitering all around you." This sentence, sent in an email to public officials, earned the sender a fine amounting to about twenty percent of his annual income.

Or, "I don't think I am alone in feeling sick when reading about how Swedish girls are raped by immigrant hordes". The cost of these words was two months in prison.

But on the other hand, a tirade about hating white males titled "I Will Never Give Birth to a White Man" does not fall under the law, and is unpunished.

As a follower of Asatru, I believe in fair and just treatment for everyone regardless of race, religion, or anything else. But this double standard, this blatant attack on all things European, is both absurd and infuriating. Fairness and hospitality is a part of the Germanic Way - but so is self-defense, pride, and honor...not to mention the survival of one's people. If the Swedes aren't angry, they ought to be!

The situation in Sweden, though, may get worse before it gets better. At the rate immigrants from the Third World are infiltrating Europe, pressure on the Swedes and their native European cousins from Iceland to the Urals can only increase.

Superficially this is a political matter. But at a more significant level, it is entirely spiritual. We have lost our connection with the ancestral wisdom and with the wellsprings of spiritual life. Only when we find the Way that is ours will we be healthy again, strong enough to reject attacks like the ones described here. Our task, yours and mine, is to lay the groundwork for that spiritual revival.

Information for my comments was gleaned from a recent article at <http://vdare.com/taylor/sweden.htm>, where you'll find much more of interest.

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

October 8 - Day of Remembrance for Erik the Red. Erik was the stouthearted father of Leif Erikson, and a dedicated follower of Thor. Hot-headed and clever, Erik made his mark on history by organizing the Viking settlement of Greenland. Raise a toast to this rascal, or read from his saga, in honor of his intrepid spirit.

October 9 - Leif Erikson Day. This holiday was first officially proclaimed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965. Remind your friends of the Norse colonization of North America more than a thousand years ago!

October 16 - Winter Nights. This is the time we honor the Disir, conceived of as the female ancestors of our family lines. The Disir look on from the Otherworld, with loving concern for us, their descendants. Pour them a libation on the chilling autumn earth, and think on the wise and powerful women whose blood flows in your veins.

October 31 - Samhain, the Celtic New Year. The Celts among us will honor the ancestors on this day and celebrate the unity of the clan, which transcends time and space and mortality.

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

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