

Heilsan!

GINGER MARSH FUND REPORT

Over the past week or two, Asatruar have proven they will stand by members of our community. As of right now, more than eight hundred dollars has been collected for Ginger Marsh's family!

Ginger, for those of you who have just signed on to Bearclaw, is a single working mother of teenagers. She has no health insurance for her children, so when thirteen-year old Justin and a friend were attacked by a car load of black youths two weeks ago, Ginger is faced with staggering medical bills.

Justin is doing well, and we are helping Ginger check into possibilities such as compensation through the state's "victim relief" fund.

We are a people, a community, and we must stand together! The help you have given will make a difference! There is still time to make a donation, so if you have intended to send one, don't hold back. It will at least help offset the many thousands of dollars debt facing this solid Asatru family.

Donations can be sent to the Asatru Folk Assembly, PO Box 445, Nevada City, CA 95959 - or you can use the PayPal link on our web site. Annotate your payment to make it clear that this is for Ginger's family. Every penny will go to help her in this time of need.

GODS OF THE BLOOD

Like many people, I've been awaiting the release of *Gods of the Blood*, the new book by Stockholm University professor Mattias Gardell. It arrived in the AFA post office box two days ago, and I've spent quite a few hours pouring over it since then.

Dr. Gardell came through our area back in 1996, when he questioned me for hours about my beliefs, the history and structure of the AFA, and a thousand other things. I was one of a score of people he talked to all across the United States. One of the best things about *Gods of the Blood* is that it is the result of thousands of hours of work in the field. This book was not pulled together in front of a computer, or through the mail.

Ever since 1996, I've wondered if Gardell would treat us fairly or whether we were being set up for an attack. I can finally relax. The author quotes me extensively and accurately, giving me a chance to explain the AFA's stand as well as my own opinions on a multitude of issues ranging from the nature of the Gods to metagenetics to support for other indigenous cultures.

But Gardell does something else that is very important. He draws a sharp distinction between “racist” Asatruar and “ethnic” Asatruar - and he puts us solidly in the ethnic category. To have a scholar acknowledge that the ancestral or folkish view is not in itself racist is a major breakthrough, and it greatly undermines the attempts of those who want to picture us as some sort of Nazi-related cult.

Almost as useful are the quotes from the hard-core racists denouncing the AFA and myself as “soft on race,” “politically correct,” or just plain cowardly. Nothing could make it clearer that these individuals do *not* consider us in the same category with themselves. Their candid quotes specifically demolish the lies about our alleged “extremist associations” that, every now and then, get floated around the cyber-Asatru community.

But there’s a lot in *Gods of the Blood* other than the AFA and Steve McNallen. You’ll find plenty of material on the Asatru Alliance and Tribe of the Wulfings, as well as a whole chapter on Wotansfolk and a fascinating exploration of “darkside” Asatru, Satanism, and occult National Socialism. There are also discussions of paganism in general, the racist counterculture, and much more. I do wish he had taken a look at Theodism, however, and how it fits into the larger scheme of Northern religion.

Gods of the Blood runs 445 pages, counting the notes and bibliography. Twenty-six photographs, mostly taken by Dr. Gardell in the course of his extensive interviews, give faces to what otherwise would just be names in the text.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

We’ve made *Gods of the Blood* our “Book of the Month” selection on the AFA website, and you can order it directly from there - go to <http://www.runestone.org>, then enter the main site, and you’ll find the icon on the left-hand side. If you order through us, of course, we get a percentage!

Hail the Gods!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen
Drighten, AFA

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Our email address: afa@lanset.com

Your friends can subscribe to Bearclaw by sending an email to AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Please tell them about us!

Your donations to the Asatru Folk Assembly are tax deductible!

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