
Renewal

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"Odinism – the spiritual adventure of the new millennium"
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The Plague of Monotheism

When we look back into the past and review the horrible atrocities committed in the name of the one god, what sticks out the most are the crimes of Christians against pagans, or even the battles between the "Mono" groups themselves, such as when Muslim kills Christian or Christian kills Jew. Images of the Crusades, the inquisitions, or the glorified serial killers known as "Conversion Kings" or "Evangelical saints" come to mind.

Many pagans can quickly recite the atrocities, the villainous acts of the church, intelligently citing dates and crimes of the most terrible deeds of malevolence. The purpose of this article is to expand on what we already know of monotheism, which may allow us to delve into the reason why this destructive movement has developed in the way that it has. In researching its origins we may see the reasons why it has the effect upon people that it does.

Although this point is certainly debatable many scholars agree that it was Amenhotep IV (1375-1358 BCE), later Akhenaton, who created the first official form of monotheism. Amenhotep was heir to the throne of Egypt. He was raised in Thebes, the capital of the country, a land which was dedicated to the highest god of the Egyptian pantheon Amon-Ra. Out of rebellion towards his father, Amenhotep III, he decided to reject the city's focus on the highest god of the pantheon for a minor deity known as Aton. After taking the throne Amenhotep IV changed his name to Akhenaton "The Son of Aton". Then he made a move that would shake the very foundations of Egyptian society – not only did he change the capital of the country from Thebes to a city specifically built in honour of Aton, he also declared that Aton was the *only* god and that all of the other Egyptian gods were "false". To make Aton appear omnipotent he combined aspects of all the other gods into his favoured deity.

It is important to understand the political ramifications of such a move. The ancient Pharaohs were much more than simple rulers: they had absolute control over most aspects of Egyptian life, including spirituality. These priest-kings maintained a balanced control over different regions with different gods. By eliminating the other various deities, having their temples burned and their most avid followers slain, Akhenaton was in effect wiping out the competition. This political (and we should



This statue is generally assumed to be a portrait of Akhenaton, the Pharaoh who started the monotheistic plague.

Note his feminine breasts and hips.

Most modern medical specialists accept that Akhenaton was plagued by some terrible disease. See the sidebar on page 2 for possible diagnoses.

say deviant) strategy has been mimicked time and time again throughout history, as we shall see.

Of course, the new mandates and actions of the Pharaoh tyrant did not go over well with his subjects, who did not appreciate the violation of their ancestral faith. And so the Armana revolution began. From this we can see that from its very inception monotheism was an antagonistic faith. It wasn't until King Tutankhamen's time that the Armana revolution ended and the old ways were brought back. But by then it was too late: the seeds of corruption had already begun to bear fruit and Egypt began its decline. The same thing would happen to the Roman Empire centuries later.

Next we have the Jews. Given the timetable of things, the fact that even in the Bible (such as all throughout Exodus) it is said that the Hebrews had continuous contact

with Egypt, and the fact that the cult of Yahweh spread through Israel (and indeed much of the world) in almost the exact same way as Atonism did in Egypt, it is my theory that the Yahwehists were inspired by Akhenaton to develop Judaism. But this would not be easy. Just as with the Egyptians, the Jews would continue to revert back to the old ways whenever they got the chance, no matter how much pressure was put on them.

Originally Yahweh was nothing more than a minor volcano god, same as Aton in regards to status, but he was elevated to the "only god" and took all of the aspects of the original gods with him. His character as a volcano god is clearly shown in Psalm 18:

"The earth heaved and quaked, the foundations of the mountain shook, they heaved because He was angry. Smoke arose from His nostrils, devouring fire came out of His mouth, glowing coals and searing heat ... Thick clouds came out of the radiance before Him, hailstones and glowing coals ... He shot forth lightning shafts and sent them echoing."

Many of the old gods of the Hebrew pantheon became characters in the Bible. An indication of this is the use of the word "El" as a suffix in many of the names. "El" means god, so any name ending with this suffix (such as Ezekiel, Samuel, or Samael) signifies that the character was originally a god of something. Consequently, the word used more than any other to signify "God" in the Bible is "Elohim" (which is actually the plural form of "El" and thus should be translated as "The Gods").

It has been said that the Moses figure was actually a representation of the Yahweh cult of the time. The symbology was meant to relay an account of the Yahweh cult superseding all of the other cults of the Hebrews. The high god of the Middle East (as we now call it) was Baal, the bull god, whose image was the golden calf. When Moses grew angry at the Jews for worshipping the golden calf this represented the continuous dominance that the cult of Yahweh needed over the Jews to maintain its control. This is a scenario we are all too familiar with since all cultures have reverted to the old ways whenever they could get away with it.

From Israel the plague spread in two directions – to the East, blending with elements of Oriental religions and becoming Islam, and to the West, combining elements of

(Continued on page 2)

Greek Gnosticism and Mithraism to become Christianity. The rest, as they say, is history.

One should feel sorry for the Jews because of the complete destruction of their culture in the name of Yahweh, which certainly plays no small part in the fact that Israel is a war-zone. Most other cultures have at least retained enough of their original pagan culture to rebuild their ancestral ways, but the way of the Elohim is most likely doomed to remain lost forever. This probably is due to the amount of time the Jews have been subjected to the one-god faith. It may have just been that their oppressors were simply more vigilant than others, since many societies, such as those of Europe, have been subjected to monotheism for hundreds of years and have still been able to redevelop pagan groups. Throughout history pagans have emerged to try to get away with worshipping the old gods in the face of the Mono tyrants. Even in colonial America there are accounts of Anglo-Saxon pagan groups springing up. Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864), author of *The Scarlet Letter* and other tales, wrote *The Maypole Of Merry Mount* about the pagans centred on Merry Mount (Mount Wollaston) in New England. Once again we see the religious oppression manifested by the Monos, for the Puritans found out about the Merry Mount group and had them all killed.

So why has monotheism been such a blight upon the world? The answer lies in the primary principle of these religions – the fact that they are centred on only one god. It was this idea that was so alluring to the monarchs of the past, for it meant a way of gaining more power, by eliminating the unruly chieftains and priests connected to the worship of many gods and developing a theocratic-monarchy. “One God, One land, One king” was the idea that cost so many their lives. At its most basic nature monotheism conditions its followers to think in terms of black and white. There is only the one god, who is good, and all other things are bad. In a world full of pagans at the time, such a new idea could only have been the foundation of countless wars.

Even today the oppression continues as all monotheists feel it is their divine duty or right to push their views on others. We see endless amounts of laws passed that legislate *their* morality, which can only be justified by *their* religious tenets. The fact that this is done by the same people who try to wave the banner of “freedom” is ludicrous. In America the Christians constantly try to claim that country as being founded by their faith, trying to claim it as their own. The truth is that most of the founders of the U.S. were deists and the church said that the Constitution was a “godless document”. What the church in America *does* represent is the destruction of the original ideals that country was founded upon.

One of the primary examples of this is the so-called “drug war”, which has cost thousands of lives, keeps the U.S. in continuous debt, and has several hundreds of

thousands of people incarcerated for a crime they committed against themselves. Many pagans today, such as myself, *choose* not to do drugs, but the fact remains that there are many people still suffering due to the continuous onslaught of monotheist “morality”. It is no different than it was during the inquisitions – people were rounded up for practicing “witchcraft” (which often involved drug use) by the church, then handed over to the secular authorities. The only difference now is that the lines between secular and church authority are certainly blurred.

Other Christian “sins” have been made against the law, such as polygamy (which is only prohibited in the Judaic faiths),

prostitution, the ban on human cloning research, etc. The only solace we can find in this is that with each generation the church grows weaker and weaker. As its corruption and degeneracy continues to be displayed before the world more and more people turn away from it. We may even see its total collapse in our lifetimes.

One can only hope so ...

- Mark

So what was wrong with Akhenaton?

We're not doctors here, but according to a seemingly knowledgeable website:

<http://egyptmonth.com/mag06012000/magf1.htm>

it is likely that Akhenaton was suffering from hyper-pituitism, otherwise known as gigantism or acromegaly

Both conditions apparently occur as a result of excessive secretion of growth hormone by the pituitary gland.

If this occurs before fusion of the bony epiphyses (i.e. during childhood), gigantism becomes the case with excessive skeletal growth.

When this increased secretion occurs after epiphyseal fusion (i.e. during adulthood), acromegaly would be the case, resulting in tissue overgrowth, particularly in the bones, which increase in thickness rather than length. This usually affects the hands, feet, head and face bones.

Acromegaly is usually associated with pituitary adenoma which grows slowly and does not metastasize.

If excessive secretion occurs before puberty, the patient shows an increased stature in comparison to his chronological age. The span (length of outstretched upper limbs) exceeds the height, and lower body measurement exceeds the upper one (distance between the symphysis pubis and soles exceeds that between the crown to symphysis pubis). Later in life, acromegalic features are added.

On the other hand, when the disease starts after puberty, acromegaly becomes manifest as a large long face with coarse features, prominent mandible (lower jaw), enlarged hands and feet, large thorax, kyphosis (bent spine) and enlarged inner abdominal organs.

Loss of libido (sexual drive) and potency may occur in male patients, together with gynaecomastia (female-like

breasts) and maybe galactorrhoea (milk secretion from the male breasts) as well. The thyroid gland is also often enlarged.

Excessive secretion of the growth hormone may be on the other hand a result of precocious puberty (onset of puberty before the age of 10 years). Hypogonadism (diminished sexual activity) occurring after puberty would secondarily lead to increased secretion of the pituitary gland as a compensatory mechanism. This results in failed (or delayed) epiphyseal fusion, and disproportionate growth of the limbs in comparison to the trunk.

Other suggestions

The most likely diagnosis of Akhenaton's disease is hyper-pituitism. All his bony abnormalities seem to favour such a diagnosis, together with the sexual ones. A late onset of acromegaly or delayed hypogonadism sounds most descriptive for his illness.

Further studies of the mummies and pictures of Akhenaton's family might add information. The mummy of his grandfather Yoya (maternal side) shows a tall man with thick lips and large nose. The mummies of his two successors Smenkh-Ka-Ra and Tut-Ankh-Amon also show large skulls. Both are thought by some Egyptologists to be his sons from a secondary wife, Kiya.

The early death of a younger brother at a young age should also be kept in consideration.

All reliefs of Akhenaton's family show that this large elongated skull was a common feature among his daughters, and his wife Nefertiti as well. This has led some scholars to believe that this skull feature became a model for Egyptian art during this time. Nefertiti, the six princesses and all the court as well were so depicted as a compliment to Akhenaton.

If this suggestion is untrue, then the possibility of a hereditary disease – rather than an acquired one – is very likely.

National Prison Kindred Alliance



It is estimated that there are now over 10,000 incarcerated Odinists, Asatruar and Wotanists in USA prisons. Most of these prisoners only discovered our ancient holy path after their incarceration allowed them time to concentrate on spiritual matters. In that sense it could be argued that for many of these kinsfolk imprisonment has had a rehabilitative effect.

Sadly, the US prison system is still predominantly Judeo-Christian. It provides little support for prisoners who have "seen the light" of our ancestral ways, and often in practice it discriminates against them.

Renewal has received many calls for help from US prison inmates, some of whom have even had Odinist religious literature confiscated by the authorities. In many cases we have liaised with prison governors and chaplains, usually succeeding in having individual prisoners' rights restored. (It is only fair to the prison authorities to add that sometimes the prisoners have received formal apologies after our intervention has shown that the initial problem resulted from a staff member's misunderstanding of our religion.)

However, the slim resources of *Renewal* are simply not up to the task of providing any further support to American Odinist prisoners.

We are therefore delighted that a new group has been set up to secure the religious rights and freedoms of our co-religionists in US prisons.

The **National Prison Kindred Alliance** has eight major goals. These are:

- (1) To set up halfway houses exclusively for participants of our faith.
- (2) To offer programs in drug and alcohol rehabilitation that are tailored to fit the needs of those of our faith.
- (3) To provide vocational training so that former offenders are fully equipped to re-enter our society and our faith community.
- (4) To offer our kinsfolk information on educational programs, and perhaps eventually to supply such programs.
- (5) To offer scholarships to further the potential prosperity of our Folk.
- (6) To make available family counselling and assistance to those of our co-religionists who are most in need of comfort and emotional and spiritual support.
- (7) To help focus standard Pre-Release Programs to the specific needs of our kinsfolk in terms of housing, job search, career planning and so forth.
- (8) To provide a support network that will

help former offenders re-enter our community.

Readers will readily recognise that all these aims are practical and achievable.

There will always be some degree of recidivism among prisoners, but people of our faith who currently find themselves behind bars both need and deserve every help that we "on the outside" can offer them. With our help many more of these good people can forge a new life for themselves. Without our help, some of them will certainly re-offend, and their potential will be lost.

We therefore urge any of our readers who care about the potential prosperity of our Folk to get in touch with the National Prison Kindred Alliance.

Their address is as follows:

National Prison Kindred Alliance
PO Box 6493
Napa, CA 94581, USA
Email: Himmingbjorg@aol.com

It would be easy to leave it at that, but that is not all. The NPKA is officially affiliated with the Odinic Rite and the Odinst Fellowship. Therefore, as you would expect, they have done their homework. They are a (US) federally recognised non-profit organisation to which all donations are tax-deductible. NPKA supporters in Vinland can therefore help their incarcerated kinsfolk and also help their own families' tax situation at the same time.

The NPKA people also have a good track record so far in terms of publications.

The Saga, an 80-plus page quarterly, is now in its second year of publication. As you can imagine, it covers a huge range of issues. Send \$US 5.00 to the above address for a sample copy if you live in Vinland. If you live in Britain, Europe, South Africa, Australia or New Zealand, add a bit more to help with postage.

Wyrd's Way, available from the same address above, puts out a magnificent 24-page catalogue of books, pamphlets, weapons, Thor's Hammers, Wyrd pendants, ritual items, rune sets, statuettes, videos, T-shirts, greeting cards and posters. Check out:

www.wyrdsWay.com



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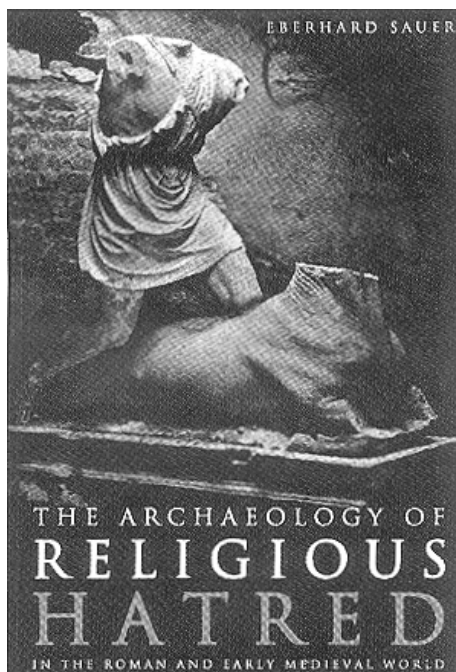
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Books

The Archaeology of Religious Hatred

by Eberhard Sauer

Tempus, 2003



In June last year *Renewal's* lead item covered the history of the Oseberg ship after it was used for a sacred buried in around 850 CE. In particular, we noted that unknown people had violated the gravesite shortly after it was sealed, hacking in a destructive frenzy at some of the holy objects it contained, and even chopping up the corpses of the two women buried there.

We concluded that, since many precious items had not been removed, the motive of the tomb-ghouls was unlikely to have been

mere robbery. Since the women whose corpses were violated had almost certainly been Odinist priestesses, it seems likely that this was a religious hate crime. The perpetrators could therefore only have been Christians, who in Hilda Ellis Davison's words on this subject must have "objected to the remains of a priestess of the goddess surviving in their neighbourhood".

Now, with the publication of Eberhard Sauer's new book, we learn that the attack on Oseberg was not a one-off event perpetrated by some over-zealous, possibly even necrophiliac, Christians. No, behaviour like this was standard Christian policy throughout the Roman and early medieval world.

Eberhard, an Oxford scholar, starts his investigation at the temple of Mithras in Dieburg, Germany. When it was excavated in 1926 it was found that all the Mithraic statues had been viciously destroyed. Some had even been thrown down a well in an ancient act of hatred. Eberhard blames Christians for committing these irrational deeds in about 560 CE. His argument is compelling.

As far as the desecration of statues is concerned, Eberhard lists five criteria by which to determine whether ancient vandalism was specifically Christian. These are:

- (1) The destruction involved a great deal of effort.
- (2) There was no attempt to reuse the stone.
- (3) Specifically pagan images were targeted.
- (4) Valuable items were left behind.
- (5) Images of naked deities suffered more violence than their clothed counterparts.

All of these criteria applied at the Dieburg site, and also at the other main site Eberhard examines, the temple at Dendara in Egypt.

The application of Eberhard's five criteria to the desecration of the sacred Oseberg ship confirms *Renewal's* earlier attribution of blame to the Christians.

First, the vandals went to considerable

effort to dig into the burial mound and break into the ship.

Second, practical items that could have been reused were left behind.

Third, only objects of pagan significance were attacked, including the wall-hangings and the great bed.

Fourth, many valuable items were left behind – they are now on display in Oslo's Viking Ship Hall.

Fifth, the most frenzied part of the attack seems to have been perpetrated against the bodies of the two priestesses. The younger woman's corpse was not even just mutilated and left there – it was stolen, for some revolting purpose, leaving behind only a few hacked-off bones. This is consistent with medieval Christian hatred of the human body, especially in its female form.

The saddest part of this blasphemous affair is that the depraved bigots who violated both the holy tomb and the sacred corpses must almost certainly have been locals, recently converted to Christianity. Their own ancestors would have had their spiritual needs ministered to by the priestesses, or at least by their predecessors. This frenzied attack on their own people's spiritual heritage perfectly illustrates how completely Christian intolerance can corrode the human soul.

Readers sometimes query why *Renewal* chooses to take such a hard line against monotheistic religions. One answer is that these religions prime their followers with so much poisonous hatred that they will destroy beautiful Mithraic statues, or mutilate and steal away the rotting corpses of people who in life had been sacred priestesses. This same hate is still around today, as we saw with the recent destruction of famous Buddhist statues by hate-filled Muslims in Afghanistan.

No-one with a spark of human decency could fail to take a stand against such vile spiritual sickness. We make no apologies – but we believe the monotheists should!

Attempt to ban ceremonial swords

The government of the state of Victoria (that's in Australia, for our foreign readers!) is planning to make all swords "prohibited weapons".

The current situation is that they are "controlled weapons". Anyone is allowed to buy and own them for legitimate purposes, but any crime that is committed using a sword is dealt with quite severely.

The new rules will require expensive police background checks for anyone wishing to keep a sword, plus expensive annual licences, and even onerous and expensive new storage requirements.

It is estimated that well over 100,000 Victorians presently own swords with antique, heritage or ceremonial value.

Under Victorian law anyone is allowed to make a submission either for or against the

proposed new laws, and as you might expect the appropriate government committee has been flooded with hostile submissions. Scottish Highland Dancing societies, for instance, have said they simply couldn't cope with the proposed costs. Serious antique collectors are up in arms, and so are historical re-enactment societies.

The proposed changes are also of great concern to Odinists, who of course use swords as (ritual and symbolic) altar furnishings.

The Odinic Rite of Australia has therefore lodged a submission opposing the changes. The ORA argues that: (a) Odinism is a bona fide religion recognised by the Australian federal government, and has had a historic presence in Australia since at least

the 1930s; (b) ritual swords are an essential part of our spiritual tradition; and (c) any attempt to curtail our freedom to worship in our own way using our own symbolic objects would amount to religious discrimination.

There has been some, but not nearly enough, media coverage of the proposed changes. There has even been some opposition from overseas. For instance, Ian Bottomley, Keeper of the Royal Armouries in Leeds (UK), has been quoted in the media as saying, "This is disastrous. I will do what I can [to help]".

The politician pushing this proposal is the Police Minister, Andre Haermeyer. His address is: c/- Parliament of Victoria, Spring St, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000, Australia.

Anyone who chooses to write to the Minister should include a full name, address and valid phone number.

Biblical Bloopers

The first article in a new series by PAUL

To followers of the Semitic god, i.e. the various sects and congregations of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the Bible is the “Word of God”. Of course the more educated and sophisticated adherents of these religions have long recognised that the Hebrew Bible, along with its New Testament appendage, is basically a collection of folk tales, mythology and some very doubtful history. But even many of these more liberal adherents acknowledge that the Bible is, at best, “Divinely Inspired”, and at worst, a source of wisdom and truth. But to most Pagans and Heathens (although speaking as a Pagan I am sadly forced to admit to a degree of Political Correctness in certain Pagan circles) the Bible, far from being inspirational literature, is a profoundly distorted collection of writings with a fundamental message not of inspiration, but of bigotry.

Whilst the personalities of the Bible’s principal teachers – Moses, Abraham and Jesus – have been a source of great inspiration to countless Jewish and Christian writers, theologians and movie makers, I have to admit to sharing Nietzsche’s opinion that the only really evolved and truly admirable character in the Bible – and one of the few we can confirm historically – is Pontius Pilate (I would add the character of the Hellenistic king of Greek-Syria, Antiochus Epiphanes, to that short list – an enlightened Pagan ruler in the classical Greek

mould whose heroic stand against the spirit of fundamentalism and theocracy anticipated by 2300 years the future spiritual and intellectual battles to be fought by equally brave men and women for the hearts and minds and very soul of the West – a battle still being fought today).

In this occasional series of articles I shall be presenting what I will call BIBLICAL BLOOPERS. Although taken, of necessity, in isolation, I will endeavour to keep these assorted gems in context. What should emerge from these still photographs is a sense of the tradition that we, as Pagans and Heathens, stand diametrically opposed to. I hope, at least, to keep my readers’ contempt fresh; at most, to possibly reinforce that which hardly needs reinforcing: OUR RIGHTFUL SENSE OF SUPERIORITY!

So, here we go. This first in the series is taken from the 1st Book of Samuel, chapter 15, verses 2-3 and verse 18. The subject is Jehovah’s advice to the Jewish King Saul as delivered through Samuel the Prophet. I will let the words speak for themselves, tentatively entitling this gem, “Biblical fair Play and Mercy”:

“Thus speaks Yahweh; I will repay what Amelek did to Israel when they opposed them on the road by which they came up from Egypt. Now go and strike down Amelek; put him under the ban with all that he possesses. Do not spare him, but

kill man and woman, babe and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and donkey ... Go put these sinners, the Amelekites, under the ban and make war on them until they are exterminated.”

Oh!

I almost forgot – by way of comparison:

“An unjust act always dishonours the perpetrator. We must cause no injury. Neither must we return injury for injury, as many people believe is right. We must injure no-one at all. We must not retaliate or return evil for evil, whatever the evil we may have suffered ourselves.”

That very different view is from Socrates, regarded as one of the seven great sages of ancient Greece.

Renewal

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Renewal exists to share the views of modern Odinists, both within Australia and world-wide. In Australian and British law Odinism is described as “the continuation of ... the organic spiritual beliefs and religion of the indigenous peoples of northern Europe as embodied in the Edda and as they have found expression in the wisdom and in the historical experience of these peoples”.

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Odinist ideals at Melbourne scientific conference

The eddic poem *Rígsþula* is largely an account of the physical evolution of humanity under the active guidance of the gods. Another well-known poem, *Völuspá*, suggests that humanity will continue to evolve to higher levels after the present “Wolf Age” is over. The idea and ideal of human evolution – in a sense that even Darwin would have understood – is therefore an intrinsic part of our ancient Odinist spiritual heritage.

That this heritage is moving toward the centre of modern science was demonstrated yet again at the XIX International Congress of Genetics, held here in Melbourne last July.

One of the principal speakers was Dr Francis Collins, the director of the Human Genome Project. He is also the discoverer of the defective gene that causes 70% of cystic fibrosis cases. Collins said that science is now on the verge of eliminating scores of genetic diseases, including high blood pressure, diabetes and breast cancer. So far so good!

James Watson, who discovered the structure of DNA 50 years ago, couldn’t attend the conference in person. Instead, he told a British documentary that human

“stupidity” could soon be eliminated, and before long we may be genetically engineering for beauty: “People say it would be terrible if we made all girls pretty. I think it’d be great”.

Professor Lee Silver of Princeton University foresees an entirely new human being, the “GenRich”, who will have synthetic genes for health, intelligence, longevity and athletic ability. “The GenRich class and the Natural class will become ... entirely different species with no ability to cross-breed, and with as much romantic interest in each other as a current human would have for a chimpanzee,” he said.

Gregory Stock, another leading US scientist, said that parents would “want to give their child the latest gene cassettes and artificial chromosomes. It’s not so different from upgraded software; they’d want the new releases.”

Nietzsche famously stated that humanity “is a thing to be surpassed”. The authors of *Rígsþula* and *Völuspá* would have agreed with him. After all, our gods would not have taken such an interest in our evolution if they didn’t want us to become more like them.

We now have a DIY technology to do so!

● *Are Jana and Viggo Odinists?* ● *Our ancestors knew a thing or two* ● *Science gets (yet) more Odinist* ● *Gaia strikes back*

Thor's Hammers and household names

Viggo Mortensen is the actor who stars as Aragorn in *The Lord of the Rings*. He has recently been photographed several times wearing a Thor's hammer.

We have checked our CD of *Lord of the Rings*, and we can't spot any hammers there, so Viggo's jewellery is not just a memento of his acting role. Whether or not he is an Odinist is, at this stage, anyone's guess. Viggo is apparently of Danish origin.

Another celebrity who has been spotted sporting the hammer is Jana Pittman, the Aussie holder of the women's world 400 metre hurdles title.

Even if Viggo and Jana turn out not to be committed Odinists, the fact that they have been photographed wearing *our* sacred amulet will still help to make it familiar to thousands, perhaps millions, of people who might otherwise have thought it is some sort of upside-down Christian emblem.

If any readers can offer further information on this subject, please let us know.

Playing those mind games ...

Two of the great literary repositories of Odinist folk-belief are the Anglo-Scottish border ballads and, of course, the Icelandic sagas. From both of these sources it is clear that our ancestors believed that some people had special powers similar to what we today would label telepathy.

Modern research into telepathy has been rare, with mostly disheartening results. A standard experiment has been to show random images to a "sender" who then tries to project them to a "receiver" in another room. The receiver has to try match the right image. If there are four images then the receivers would get it right purely by chance 25% of the time. Previous studies have shown that receivers tend to be successful at only this chance rate.

But the old sources always suggested that only a few specially gifted people had telepathic abilities. It is not a fair test of what our ancestors believed to use randomly selected laboratory subjects in any telepathic experiment. We need to be able to identify the small minority of the population that might have telepathic powers, and then test members of that group.

In September 2003, a research team from the University of Edinburgh announced that this may now have been done – successfully.

The "special" people studied in isolation were musicians and painters, drawn from local schools of music and art. There were 300 individual receivers, and they had a success rate of 40%. According to Robert Morris, who led the research team, this was "an outcome likely to occur less than once in over a million

times just by chance".

The results will have to be independently replicated, and perhaps the selection procedure for those participating in the experiments may need to be further refined. Among musicians, for instance, performers and composers might have different abilities. Even so, it seems that modern science is well on the way to confirming another of our Odinist folk-beliefs.

No more retarding dogmas

Our ancestors also believed that some people could project aspects of their mind or soul out beyond their physical bodies. This ability was not always welcomed by the neighbours, since it could be used for hostile ends.

The closest that modern folklore comes to this belief is in claims of out-of-body experiences at or near the time of death. Many people undergoing serious surgery have reported that while under anaesthesia some conscious aspect of themselves left their bodies and hovered above the operating table watching the procedures.

Could this really happen? Well, no, not according to the contemporary scientific understanding of how our minds work. But of course modern Western science is still centuries behind where it would have been by now if not for the Christian Dark Ages.

The Odinist attitude to matters like this is strictly empirical. We do not accept that something is true merely because "It is written", any more than we believe something is impossible merely because some theory says it can't happen. If out-of-body experiences can be shown to really happen, then any science that declares them to be impossible must be wrong.

We were therefore very pleased to learn of an experiment announced in September 2003 by the British Association for the Advancement of Science. 25 hospitals will be placing special objects and pictures around cardiac wards in places where patients could not normally see them.

All survivors of cardiac arrest will be asked whether they noticed these objects during any out-of-body experience.

According to neuropsychiatrist Peter Fenwick, "If they do notice them when the brain is not functioning, then it makes the case for the mind being separate from the brain."

This is exactly the sort of experiment that Odinists would like to see more of: pragmatic, practical, and not blinkered by some modern priestly theory. Remember, it is little more than half a century since scientists were dogmatising that supersonic flight was impossible. Only Chuck Yeager's epic flight in 1947 was able to smash through that imaginary "sound barrier".

Scientists may not be converting to

What's new

Odinism in large numbers, but the never-defeated pragmatic spirit of our ancestors is rapidly Odinising science itself.

Odinism could be the world religion

Renewal has reported in previous issues that about one in every ten people of British Isles and Northern European descent is immune to AIDS. The rate of immunity declines rapidly in central Europe and ends altogether at the Mediterranean. This means that if every individual in the world were exposed to HIV the only survivors would be people whose ancestors were Odinists.

With no-one else left around to convert the survivors, or to prey on our high sense of morality, it is likely that we would revert to something like our ancestral faith.

After all, there wouldn't be all that many survivors – perhaps up to a million in Australia – and the necessary shifts in both daily behaviour and mental paradigms would all tend in an Odinist direction.

There are two main reasons why this may not come about. First, not all people are exposed to HIV. Exposure is usually caused by medical accident or unhygienic behaviour (often by the victim's partner, or partner's partners). Second, some of the best minds in medical research are working night and day to find a cure or a preventative vaccine.

In a sense, what we're witnessing is a race between science and nature. Will the geniuses in the labs come up with a magic bullet in time, or will the AIDS virus mutate into something far more virulent and contagious? Science has a poor record in races of this sort. Even antibiotics are becoming less useful nowadays, as resistant strains of bacteria continue to evolve.

At this stage of the race it looks like nature has gained a break on the researchers. According to July's *New Scientist*, two major subtypes of HIV-1 have created a new virus in a female patient by exchanging genes. The hybrid became the dominant virus and the woman's previously manageable condition nosedived. Scientists now fear that any imaginable form of vaccine could be overcome by hybrid versions of the virus.

Obviously the other fear is that HIV could evolve so as to spread by droplet infection, like the common cold. That would expose practically everyone in the world to its menace. Most of us would die, in a catastrophe that would make the black death of the middle ages seem benign. But 10% of all people descended from Odinist ancestors would survive – to inherit a green world.



Ota's Talking Point

Odinism is "the continuation of ... the organic spiritual beliefs and religion of the indigenous peoples of northern Europe as embodied in the Edda and as they have found expression in the wisdom and in the historical experience of these peoples".

The wisdom and the historical experiences of our people include the scientific revolution against "absurd [= Christian] prejudices" that began in the Renaissance and has been gathering pace ever since. There is simply no room in Odinism for "absurd prejudices" – they are the prerogative of your lot; and as the 21st century European scientific revolution

whose thinking is constrained by the Abrahamic religions that we get down on bended knees like Christians, or bang our heads on the ground like Muslims, or do a head-banging jig against the Wailing Wall like Jews.

Having said that, we **do** "worship" our gods and goddesses, but we do it in our own way. The divine forces are our allies and we are theirs. Nothing more, or less. We "worship" our deities in precisely the same way that we "worship" our ancestors. We don't grovel. You do. Our gods wouldn't want us to grovel. Yours do. Clearly we don't have a lot in common, do we?

4. *They all preach, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"; not "Do unto the other guy before he does it to you."*

In reality, the triple-headed death-cult has never been serious about the Golden Rule. Witness the human misery and massive loss of life caused by the Abrahamic religions over many centuries, which on its own makes them unfit for any reasonable person's respect. But there is more! Central to the teachings of Judaism is that there is an in-group and an out-group, with the in-group being encouraged to shaft the out-group in any way they choose – as they did in Egypt with Yahweh's blessing, if the Bible is to be believed. Islam has never hesitated to convert by the sword, and Christianity's record on that score is almost as bad.

Of course, I am not saying that any religion **should** follow the Golden Rule, which reminds Odinists (or at least this one) of a couple of old rug-peddlers haggling in the bazaar. Each wants to shaft the other, so they need some rules of engagement to keep their antagonism in check.

Nor is it hard to think of some practical situations in which following the Golden Rule would be disastrous. For instance, plenty of red-blooded young Aussie men would be quite delighted to be sexually harassed by Anna Kournikova, but if they ever met her they would be far too decent to shove their paws up her tennis skirt.

By contrast, the Nine Noble Virtues of Odinism are truly spiritual, since they are all about striving for the highest possible level of individual development. (In case you aren't aware of them, "Lost", here they are: Courage, Fidelity, Industriousness, Discipline, Self-reliance, Honour, Hospitality, Perseverance, Truth.)

Any Odinist who achieves these virtues to the best of his or her ability has moved far beyond the need for any "Golden Rule"! □

That is not to say that Odinists and, say, Shintoists cannot learn from one another or support one another. In fact, when the Odinic Rite was first formed one of the main Shintoist temples in Japan sent its blessings.

gets set to rock, your people are increasingly bunkered down in backward-thinking university "ethics" departments and sad suburban Christian cults, frantically and superstitiously trying to fend off the advances that are increasingly being made by the best minds of our people.

2. *... yet they all claim to be the true religion, the one closest to God.*

Odinism makes neither of these claims.

To start with, we believe in many deities, both male and female, and the very idea of a singular entity you dudes call "God" strikes us as being absurd, pretentious, and patronising.

Yet even if you substituted a more neutral term like "the divine" for "God", your statement simply would not apply to Odinism. We do not believe that we are "the true religion, the one closest to [the divine]". By total contrast, we believe that Odinism is the most appropriate spiritual tradition for our own people, the form of spirituality that is best for us. Other peoples are no doubt better served by their own traditional spiritual paths, or, if you prefer, religions. We do not want to appropriate their paths, and they will gain little by trying to appropriate our path.

That is not to say that Odinists and, say, Shintoists cannot learn from one another or support one another. In fact, when the Odinic Rite was first formed one of the main Shintoist temples in Japan sent its blessings. The point is that we go our way and they go theirs, in a spirit of mutual respect and, when it may be appropriate, cooperation.

3. *Conversely they are all similar in that they worship a divine being and have the same credo, The Golden Rule, although it may be worded a little differently.*

Nothing could be further from the truth.

First, **we** pay respect to a multiplicity of divine beings. "Worship" is not quite the best word, since it probably suggests to people

Dear Ota,

I wrote in for a sample copy of the *Odinist* magazine, but I was put off by your own anti-Christian column in the June issue. You also implied in that column that you had been equally dismissive of Islam and Judaism in the past. That sort of attitude is just off-putting. I would earnestly suggest that you learn more about these religions before condemning them as you do.

Think about all the religions that exist all over the world. Granted that many have absurd prejudices, including Christianity, yet they all claim to be the true religion, the one closest to God. Conversely they are all similar in that they worship a divine being and have the same credo, The Golden Rule, although it may be worded a little differently. They all preach, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"; not "Do unto the other guy before he does it to you."

Regards,

"Lost Interest"

Dear "Lost",

Your letter epitomises the arrogance of the adherents of the tripartite death-cult – the Christians, Jews and Muslims. What on earth makes you think that I know little or nothing about these grisly religions? And what on earth makes you think I could write of them as I do, often quoting chapter and verse, if I hadn't studied them extensively?

Furthermore, dear "Lost", nothing but your arrogance could possibly allow you to write as if all religions follow the Christian/Jewish/Muslim Abrahamic model. You are in fact trying to subsume pagan religions to this inferior paradigm, as if we don't have our own, and far superior, model.

Let's look at your claims in order.

1. *Think about all the religions that exist all over the world. Granted that many have absurd prejudices ...*

Many perhaps do. But not Odinism. How could it? I suspect you didn't even read the legal definition of Odinism that is printed in every issue of *Renewal*. It runs as follows:

Dear Ed ...

❑ WOW, a most excellent newsletter! I must admit that since having joined OR that I am truly at home in the intelligent part of our Folk. Both the *ORB* and the *Renewal* publications are works of art. It is newsletters like this that set "us" apart from our other Folk. What do I mean? Well, in the "White" movement here in the US... it is pitiful to say the least. Their newsletters and web sites are very poor examples of our Folk. They're usually very emotionally-filled gibberish. Most that I've ever talked with in the Klan, Neo's and the like are NOT the calibre of Folk I've found at OR and its members. Thus, I have found that there truly is hope for our Folk as long as we survive. Of course...that is the problem before us though, isn't it?

Sig

Dragon's Eye Kindred, USA

❑ Here at "Heathen HQ Downunder" we have no more time for kooky Christian groups like the Ku Klux Klan than we do for ... oh, say, the Papacy or the Taliban.

Cults like the Klan uniformly represent regressive alien ideals, whereas all we ask is for the right to pursue the destiny of our own Faith, Folk and Family – wherever that may lead us.

Odinism is the spiritual adventure of the 21st century. Former Klansmen will be welcomed aboard, just like everyone else, once they have dropped their alien intellectual baggage.

No-one has any idea where or how this adventure may end. Perhaps it will lead us to the stars, or even to Valhalla. Perhaps it will end in heroic tragedy like Thermopylae.

At least we Odinists will have lived our lives to the full – a claim to which very few Klansmen – or Taliban, or Christian fundies – could aspire.

We're glad to have you with us, Sig!

❑ Please re-publish the quote from Tacitus from two issue ago.

Jan, Perth

❑ OK. Here it is:

"It stands on record that [Germanic] armies already wavering and on the point of collapse have been rallied by the women, pleading heroically with their men, thrusting forward their bared bosoms, and making them realise the imminent prospect of enslavement – a fate which the Germans fear more desperately for their women than for themselves. Indeed, you can secure a surer hold on these nations if you compel them to include among a contingent of hostages some girls of noble family. More than this, they believe that there resides in women an element of holiness and a gift of

prophecy; and so they do not scorn to ask their advice, or lightly disregard their replies. In the reign of Vespasian we saw Velleda long honoured by many Germans as a divinity; and even earlier they showed a similar reverence for Aurinia and a number of others – a reverence untainted by servile flattery or any pretence of turning women into goddesses."

**- Tacitus (c. 55-120 CE),
Germania, Ch. 8**

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Notice Board

For updates on the *Australian Viking Ships Museum*, see:

www.australianvikingshipsmuseum.surf.to

The AVSM aims to build a replica of the Gokstad ship, and also to collect other replica ships that have been built in Australia. In addition there will be a land-based interpretation centre, through which thousands of people will be exposed to our heritage.

The National Prison Kindred Alliance aims to help Odinists who are incarcerated in US prisons. Contact: NPKA, PO Box 6493, Napa, CA 94581, USA;

email: Himmbjorg@aol.com

The Odinist is back! The world's longest-running Odinist journal has returned after a necessary break. For details write to: PO Box 1973, Parkesville, BC, V9P 1R8, Canada.

The Scorpion is an independent magazine dealing in depth with matters relating to the survival of European culture. Its address is: *The Scorpion*, BCM 5766, London, WC1, England or stormloader.com/thescorpion. A sample issue costs £5.00 sterling.

éléments: pour la civilisation européenne is a stylish and intelligent magazine sympathetic to the heathen world-view. Published in French, a year's subscription costs 180 F or 240 F by air. Address: 41 rue Barrault, Paris, France. This is an often brilliant publication!

Odinic Rite Briefing is a quarterly publication of the (British) Odinic Rite. Enquiries to: BCM Runic, London, WC1N 3XX

The Runestone is a quarterly journal of Asatru, "dedicated to our Gods and Goddesses, to the people of the North, and to the values of courage, freedom, and individuality within the context of kinship". Cheques for \$US15.00 airmail should be payable to S. A. McNallen, PO Box 445, Nevada City, Ca, 95959, USA.

The *Asatru Alliance* believes in "standards of behaviour which are consistent with the spiritual truths of the Norse gods and goddesses and harmonious with our deepest being". The Asatru Alliance, PO Box 961, Payson, Az 85547, USA.

Theod has suspended regular publication, but plans to put out occasional special issues from time to time. All back issues will be kept available, and a free brochure is available for the asking at any time, from PO Box 8062, Watertown, NY 13601, USA.

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