



**Yule Issue**  
**Year of the Reform "LI"**  
**December 13, 2013 c.e.**  
**Volume 30 Issue 8**

**Editor's Note**

Best wishes to all this winter. May your Druidism be awakened even as the Earthmother sleeps. I hope the "Becoming a Druid" checklist, Winter Blues Debate and "Coming out of the Closet about Druidism" will be helpful to you in the darkness of the New Year.

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**Carleton Grove: News from Minnesota**

See the debate on 51<sup>st</sup> Carleton Reunion below

**Raven's Grove: News from Quebec**

Several Goblet meetings. Sebastien produced a few video blogs, see Blog section below.

**Oakdale Grove: News from Minnesota**

John produced the smallest ARDA collection yet (Mini ARDA debate below) and Ross postulates on whether the RDNA can celebrate the waters of life in a greenhouse during the winter (Green house debate below).

**Reformed Druids of Gaia:**

Id' like to congratulate our newest 3rd Degree Priest, Rev Druid [Hennie van Geel](#), whom I ordained via Skype just a few minutes ago. May you never thirst for the Waters of Life and May the Great Redwood Forest be with you always! SO SAY WE ALL! -Ellis

**Living Druidry: News from Minnesota**

Now happily married, Scott is making episodes of Northern Druid again, see blog section

# DRUID POETRY



There were two birds sitting on a stone.  
One flew away, and then there was one.  
The other bird flew after  
And then there was none;  
And so the stone was left alone.

Cold winds blow, hands freeze  
Forgot gloves on dog walk..ahh!  
A bag of warm poop.  
-Mike the Fool (circa 21st cent.)

A tutor who tooted the flute  
Tried to tutor two Tudors to toot  
Said the two to the tutor  
Is it tougher to toot, or  
To tutor two tooters the flute?

Thanks to the Earth for giving us birth.  
Thanks to the Sky, both wet and dry.  
Thanks to all creatures in between,  
Those that have bodies, and those unseen.

We of the oak groves here first arose,  
Praisin' you in song, fifty years long.  
Now comes the winter's cold, harsh test,  
When Sun and Earth are at their rest.

-Mike the Fool, 1992 (modified)

The Camel sails upon the desert  
It knows the way will be long & dry.  
The Camel sails upon the desert  
And only its rider can know why.

The Falcon soars with its outstretched wings  
It feels the ebbs and puffs of the air.  
The Falcon soars with its out-stretched wings  
For it's destination, does it care?

The Salmon leaps o'er the churning falls  
Leaving the water it briefly flies.  
The Salmon leaps o'er the churning falls  
And reaching its birthplace, the fish dies.

-Mike the Fool, April 1992

## I Am Me.

I am me, empowered by spirit, i shall always be, entranced,  
bewitched, and mesmerized, shred to the core, but not to size. Masks  
of a masquerade, removed once more, exit this way, exit through the  
stage door.

I am me, my passion flares, woman of the universe, woman, that  
cares, emotions and feelings are my child, always charmed by life,  
and always wild. Depth of sentiment is how i entwine, the weft of a  
fabric, the weft of mine. The woven tapestry, i share with time,  
intuiting, weft and weft sublime.

I am me, warriors heart and head, protect and preserve , where  
others fear to tread. Strength forms a double edged sword, imbued  
with wisdom, dealt by accord. Wield the sword if you must, honor the  
truth, honor the just. The sword, falls on the path we tread, it is  
often, lost and often mislead. Fair and free to all that be, the tidal  
shores, the shores of me.

I am me, in innocence i preside, the honesty and the playfulness of a  
child, bare and bold in fantastical dreams, indulging in colorful  
infinite streams. Borne on the wings, of dragons breath, rooted in life  
and rooted in death. I am, what i am, and always will be, dragon  
borne, for i am me.

By  
Penny Young

**Hennie van Geel**

the magic of the hearth  
the wishing of the mind  
the waving of the hand

the casting of the spell  
the fitting of the words  
the uttering of the sound

the knowing of the will  
the feeling of intent  
let go and let be!

**Hennie van Geel**

ain't going to fade  
ain't going to fight  
going to dance

ain't going to grieve  
ain't going to joke  
going to awake

ain't going to pray  
ain't going to curse  
going to accept

ain't going to die  
ain't going to live  
going to be

being whatever  
whatever I may be

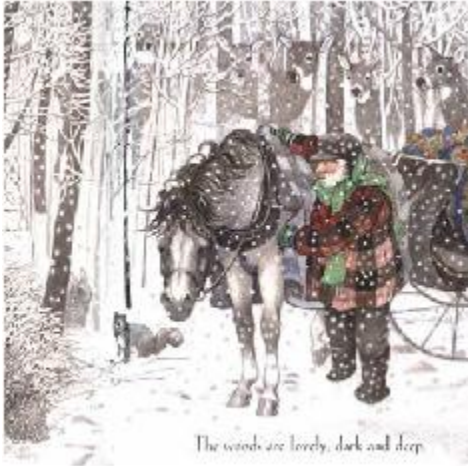
**Faith**

The rhythm of the seasons,  
the druid wisdom show,  
with the rising of the sun,  
the earth shaman glows,  
directions of the winds,  
the spirit takes to flight,  
searching for the zen,  
the Buddha comes to light,  
the aura of the christus,  
in adoration of sanctity,  
the living of a saint,  
every action for divinity,  
within our human heart,  
dwells a mystic plane,  
the soul and spirit rise,

as the moon waxes and wanes,  
This enigmatic force,  
that dwells within us all,  
the courage of the voice,  
that will eventually come to call,  
the pull of the belief,  
from our vessel, a relief,  
the strength of truth,  
as always, the root,  
can feed the righteous,  
a convincing feast,  
for without a name,  
will it sooth the savage beast?  
~j.anglehart 2012~

**NEW DAY**

Sitting at my alter,  
morning sun on my back,  
the bird's song does not falter,  
I pray to stay on track.  
Smoke wafting from my cauldron,  
as my intents begin to rise,  
about , not in abandon,  
but myself is energized.  
Eyes closed to the sight,  
ears open to the sound,  
my spirit begins its flight,  
my feet firmly on the ground.  
Inhaling long deep breath,  
my soul opens wide,  
adding another step,  
to cross the great divide.  
The natural world around me,  
the universe in my hand,  
like waves upon the sea,  
settling on the sand.  
A smile born to my lips,  
as reality rushed back,  
t'was a wondrous short trip,  
I enjoyed and thats a fact!  
J.anglehart 2012



## Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

ROBERT FROST

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.



## \_\_The Road Not Taken\_\_

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

# DRUID BLOGS

1. Ellen Hopman: The December blog is up at [www.elleneverthopman.com](http://www.elleneverthopman.com). The past Moonth's archeology, religion, nature and ethics news. Enjoy!
2. Scott Schumacher <http://www.northerndruid.net/> Northern Druid | A Minnesota Druidry Blog
3. Helgaleena's blogs at <http://helgaleena.mylivepage.com/>
4. Joanna's blogs at <http://octopusdance.wordpress.com/>

Sébastien Beaudoin



Blog on Druid Parenting

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151990048730202>



Druid Terminology

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151973046805202>



Sébastien Beaudoin



Celtic Christianity

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151968892455202>



Samhain RDNA ritual by John M.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V55V51B5pkE>

## DRUID VIDEOS



**What's invisible? More than you think** As Druids of the Reform we should not be afraid of science

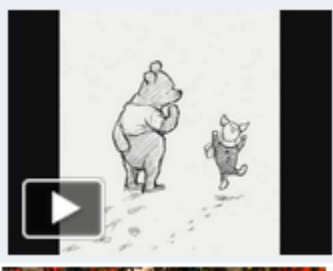
[http://youtu.be/8EUy\\_82IChY](http://youtu.be/8EUy_82IChY)

**Mike TheFool** Very nice. I feel more comfortable in my degree of ignorance. I spend a lot of time telling people how much I don't know, how much we don't know, and they if they get airs, how much they don't know. It's easier to handle Druidism when you acknowledge the huge gaps exist, will likely continue to exist, and need not necessarily be filled quickly. It's only when one claims to know all the answers, that one gets embarrassed by ignorance.



Faerie Trees by Celestial Elf – Addressing the tree blights of ash, oak in Britain

<http://bit.ly/HEnNAE>



Winnie the Pooh and Piglet go hunting in the snow and almost catch a woozle.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6Tj3ap51SQ>



Never mess with dogs, payback is a bitch!

<http://www.interestingfunfacts.com/never-ever-mess-dogs-payback-bitch.html>



Ylvis - The Fox (What Does the Fox Say?) [Official music video HD]

Because one simply cannot get enough of silly fox dancing

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jofNR\\_WkoCE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jofNR_WkoCE)



What Does The Fox Say

What Does The Fox Say

**The Backstory for the Fox: finding your voice in this world can be a hard thing. I hope you all out there find that message and sound within you and sing it out loud and clear. Don't wait until your last breath to speak truth to the world.**



Pagan Nature Walk commentary. How to do it yourself.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UA-XtUj6mvA>

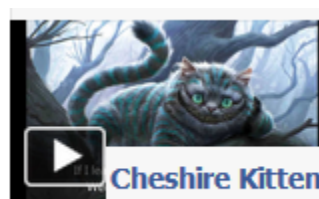
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNouvjd0Gjk>



Sharon Knight

Song of the Sea -

<http://youtu.be/hQoIdZvaQFw>



Cheshire Kitten

By SJ Tucker

<http://youtu.be/2ueZo5i6GPg>



Hahahaha! Good for a chuckle

<http://youtu.be/mbyzgeee2mg>



Yvis - Stonehenge



Please enjoy my Christmas machinima  
Flight of the Shamanic Santa  
Blessed Be By Starlight and True Sight,  
May you Ever Share Infinities Delight.  
Ho Ho Ho. –Celestial Elf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRvqddVCwBU>

## Pagans: The Wheel of the Sacred Year (opening)

<http://vimeo.com/8412120>

from Ernest Urvater

Paganism in its many varieties is one of the fastest growing religious and cultural movements of modern America. Who are the Pagans? What are they like? What does it mean to be a Pagan? What do Pagans believe, and how do they actually practice their faith?

This program provides a fascinating, highly personal look at several groups of Pagans living in New England at the close of the 20th century.

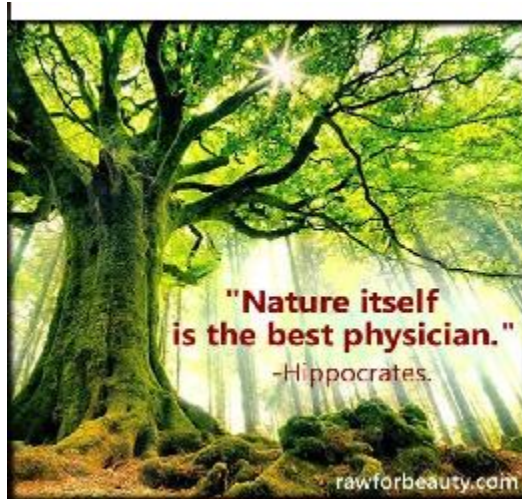
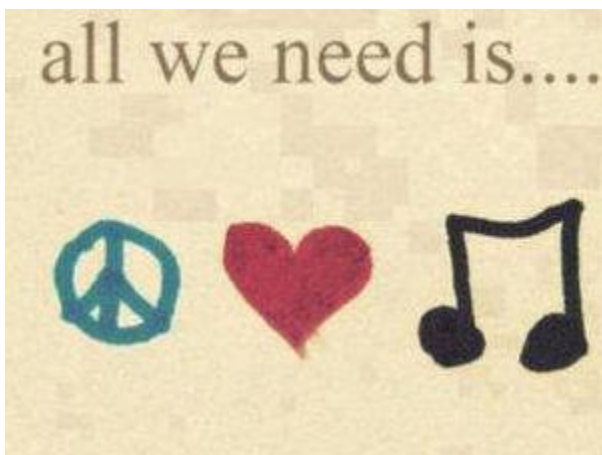
Expertly guided by Ellen Evert Hopman, a Druid Priestess, herbalist, and author of *People of the Earth*, this program records the major ceremonies of the Pagan sacred year. *Pagans* contains images beautifully captured by videographer James MacAllister, and a haunting original musical score written, performed, and arranged by Paddy Keenan (one of the founders of the Bothy Band).

This program was made in 1999.

# DRUID IMAGES



At the Dung Beetle Bar.



FRONT

BACK



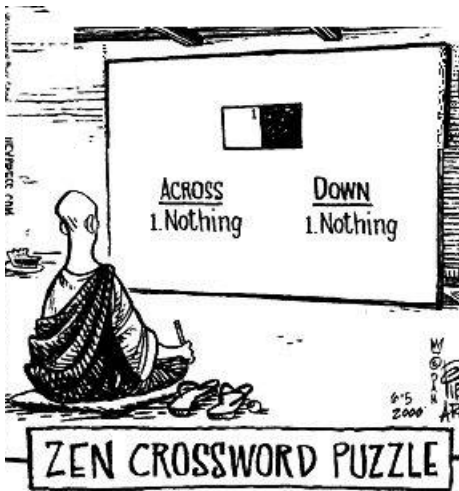
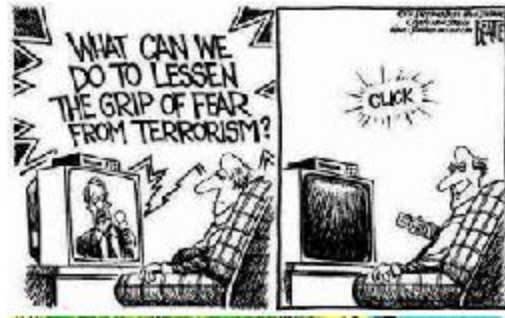
"DIY Stone Circle in a Box", just like Iolo Morganwg!  
 Portable tradition, no matter what the occasion, a  
 religious site ready to go. If people ask you if you have  
 the stones to be a Druid, you can pull them out and say,  
 "oh, yes, i certainly do."



"You took a hard blow to the head. I'll tell coach you're OK to go back in the game if you can answer these three simple questions correctly."

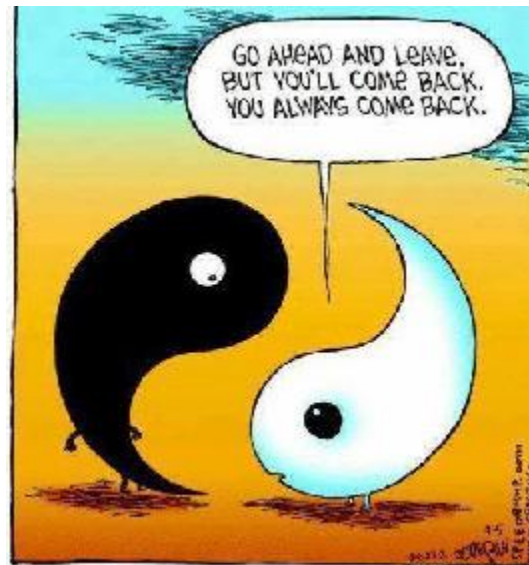
Mike's failed attempt to coach football...





I was in a public toilet and had just sat down, when I heard a voice from the next cubicle, he said "Hi!, how are you?"

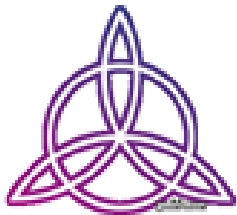
Embarrassed, I said, "I'm doing fine".



The voice said "So what are you up to?".  
I said, "Just doing the same as you, sitting here!".

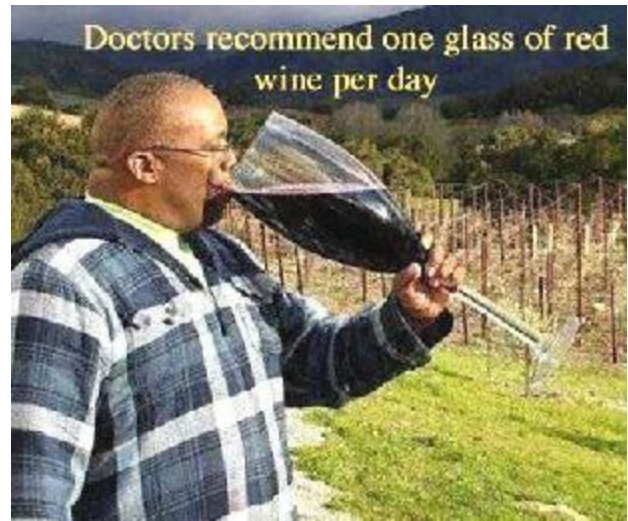
From next door, "Can I come over?".  
Annoyed, I said, "rather busy right now".

The voice said, "Listen, I will have to call you back, there's an idiot next door answering all my questions"



MAY THE EARTH RISE UP TO MEET YOU  
MAY THE WIND BE AT YOUR BACK  
MAY THE SUN SHINE FORTH UPON YOUR FACE  
AND THE RAIN FALL SOFTLY UPON YOUR FIELDS  
AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN  
MAY THE GODDESS HOLD YOU IN THE SAFETY OF HER ARMS

And may the night be long with Her.



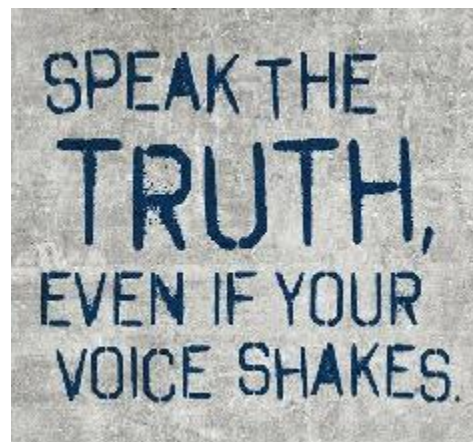
Life is about coming to terms with terms.



In case of nothing  
to do, break glass and then  
sweep up broken glass.

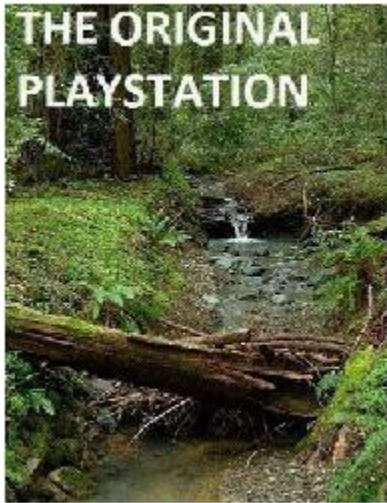


In nature we never see  
anything isolated, but  
everything in connection  
with something else  
which is before it, beside  
it, under it and over it.  
Goethe





Careful what you wish for.



A friend of mine in college commented that you can always find Druids betwixt drugs and drums, and if you don't believe me, look in the dictionary. She was right. Good company to be with? In the same vein, I list some other words for your contemplation from this weekend:

Maggot  
Magic(ian)  
Magistrate

Sham  
Shaman  
Shambles

Wit  
Witch  
With

I may not be skinny,  
I may not be pretty,  
I may not be rich  
Shit why did I even  
start this...now I'm  
depressed



# BECOMING A DRUID CHECKLIST

(by Mike) for your new year resolutions

While not at all necessary, I recommend you do the following things during the first year or two or three, while getting started. Take your time, though, and grow into your proper role. Remember that the Ancient Druids took 19 years to finish training. Some folks like lists, I suppose.

## TAP INTO LOCAL NATURE

- Find 2 or 3 nearby sites of natural beauty near your home, place of work and/or schools, and visit regularly.
- Carry a piece of your grove-site with you, a rock, twig, etc.
- Use the protogrove liturgies on the 8 major Druid festivals, until you join, or found, a full grove.
- Note and track the lunar, migrational, and local natural cycles.
- Learn to identify the name and properties of the common trees and most prominent plants at your grove sites.
- Note the names of the largest, most active conservation societies in your area.
- Set up a personal shrine or place for contemplation in your home and set up a suitable schedule.
- Make (or buy) a set of ceremonial clothes, or a set of rugged outdoor clothes, if you'd like.
- Learn some seasonal songs or music.
- Look for balance, equilibrium and moderation in life.
- Take better care of yourself and those you love.

## LEARN A LITTLE

- Keep a journal/blog. Writing solidifies & magnifies ideas.
- Set out some reasonable goals for the first 5 years.
- Write a basic code of personal ethics, if not yet.
- Read through this UWP once. Maybe skim every 6 months.
- Read the Druid Inquirer newsletter. Skim some back issues.
- Visit RDNA, RDG, ADF, Keltria, & OBOD websites so that you know the possibilities and the field of modern Druidism.
- Read 2 or 3 academic books on ancient Druidism or Celts.
- Watch National Geographic or Discovery channel programming on Cable TV more often.
- Read a text book on the religions of the world.

## MEET SOME FOLK

- Seek out and talk with smart and wise people in your social circles, not just Druids.
- Consider forming a proto-grove with some associates.
- Participate in RDNA facebook to ask questions and watch us avoid answers <http://www.facebook.com/groups/2455316244/>
- Figure out who are the most active or prominent Reformed Druids, past and present. Learn from their best traits, and avoid their worst traits.
- Visit another functioning grove after a bit of correspondence.
- Get ordained to the first order (or higher). If you don't think this will happen easily, join the "Zero Order of the Acorn" in the meantime.

After the first year or two, it's just "Wash, Rinse and Repeat" expanding and deepening on what you've built. As you start to get a handle on things, try to help others, whether or not they notice.

You'll notice ups and downs as you deal with other important issues in your life, besides Druidism. Don't let it completely get dropped on all aspects, but be prepared to cut back if it interferes with your normal life.

## THE WORDS OF MIKE

*November 2013 All out of context, mind you*

All it takes for a man to be a feminist is to stop thinking of himself for a moment and realize has a mother, sister, wife, daughter, friend, neighbor, or colleague who is female and whose future, safety, rights and prospects need his support. That's all.

You can only go halfway into a forest before you start to be on the way out.

Thor meets a girl at a bar and beds her for some ridiculous 14 hours or so, and when neither can do anymore, he wants to tell her his real identity and says "I'm thor." She looks at him in disbelief and replies, "you're thor? I'm tho thor I can't even pith!"

Perhaps when a tradition has a hiccup, it's hard to re-establish new entries by going back into it. There's a sort of "closure". This reflects a bit on the break between Ancient and Modern Druids, most outsiders dismiss the new folk as soon as that chain of continuity can't be established, no matter how much or how well one mimics the older one. Perhaps a tradition must draw strength and power from within it, even if external validation is lacking from society, especially now that Druidism is most decidedly a minority religion where it exists now, bereft of institutional and professional props that the ancient Druids enjoyed.

I'm not afraid of science, in fact I quite frequently get embarrassed by it a regular occurrences. Just as I admit when I'm wrong on religious matters from a good argument, I'll admit that science has a pretty good grasp of other matters. Where the two conflict, then the one that is more practical for life in this world wins, and the other gets relegated to theology and inspiration (usually religion). However much I may like secular explanations and philosophical models of ethics/society, I still think they lack a bit of enchantment that the human heart needs to truly live.

I love the moon and stars playing peek-a-boo with me on a windy night.

Brought jump ropes, tennis balls, soccer balls and frisbees to the windy park. What did the kids and I end up doing for 30 minutes? Trying to catch falling leaves. Yup.

### 7 Rules of Life

- 1. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.**
- 2. What other think of you is none of your business.**
- 3. Time heals almost everything, give it time.**
- 4. Don't compare your life to others and don't judge them. You have no idea what their journey is all about.**
- 5. Stop thinking too much, it's alright not to know the answers. They will come to you when you least expect it.**
- 6. No one is in charge of your happiness, except you.**
- 7. Smile. You don't own all the problems in the world.**

How much of anything, do we make ourselves? All materials come of the earth, and we but shape them or assist others who shape them for us.

I'd also hazard a guess that Druids tend to be less tool-using than some other pagan paths. It's just a lot of work to haul a lot of equipment outside to wooded sites that often don't have good trails. Ceremonial or indoor folks can get much more fancy. Most of my tools avail themselves at whatever site I find myself in.

At Carleton, our grove had a saying 25 years ago, "it ain't a real fire until a Druid gets singed!"

It's important to recognize that other First Nations have a priority in speaking about such spirits, and to carefully indicate that we the Druids in America respect their ancestral-closeness, but that we also are people of this land too. Just don't misrepresent yourself as a leader of another tradition, something easy to do, since outsiders lump us all together.

I think many Druids are hesitant to embrace local native american deities and traditions, for fear of



"appropriation" of elements from honestly beleaguered cultures seeking to retain authorship of a tradition. That said, if local spirits (with or without names) call to you from the land around you, how could one in good conscience not respond and work them?

The concept of "monothesis-ism" as Isaac liked to call it is the idea that there is one correct way to do things, one correct leader, one correct.... People throughout the ages have sought ways to concentrate power of many people into the hands of small groups.

The final analysis of a vocation is whether you are doing it to serve yourself first or serve others first. Might seem strange, but in serving others, you will eventually serve yourself, as their needs become yours. You preserve some ethical and physical boundaries, but a good congregation is a bit like a family or marriage and overlapping identities.

It's the fault of the congregation if all they do... is well congregate... and call that spirituality.

True one forgets how much the big three monotheist religions put emphasis on a historical origin and linear history. There are alternate ways, with origins lost in the mists of history, no true beginning or end,

just repetition and a few events that become stories independent of a date or timeline.

It's hard to get uncatholic, I've found. Apparently there is a formal process, but that's just buying into the system further as one goes out, right? Just like secular Jews, I'm Catholic by culture not practice, something I will always have as an influence, and I've embraced the parts that are life-affirming, kept a few things that are challenging, and respectfully pushed aside some aspects that are abusively shaming or demeaning. Going "athiest" is indeed a way to befuddle and end inquiries, as if it is better to "Not like sports" to avoid arguments between Football and Baseball aficionados, when one secretly likes hockey and they don't.

Quote on Seasonal Donations: "Giving to charity is like pulling out nose hairs -- pull out one and it hurts -- pull out ten together and it hurts -- pull slowly and it hurts longer -- just get it done quick." -Mike the Fool



## Druid Experiment #16

Watch this video twice.

1. First, play it with your eyes open and ears closed (mute).
2. Pause, breathe deeply, and
3. Watch again with your eyes closed and ears open.

Then, I think you might have a third eye open and a third ear open. Post your resulting data in the comment section.


I got a kick in my "Awareness" unit from this video, and I'm curious if it is just me, but if it is me, then according to the video, it is also with the universe....

SAMHAIN STORY CONTEST by Mike the Fool

## "Location, Location, Location"

(see other entries

at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6017044477/> )



It was a dark and stormy night, as the Druid thought about the strange events of Samhain. Wrapped tightly in layers of waterproof cloaks, he resolutely defied the elements as he sat upon the hill of Dunian, calling to the buried Druids before him to answer a question that his villages could no longer ignore. Why had the dead forsaken us?

Not a house reported a single spectral visitor this Samhain. All the proper rites had been done, no great crimes had occurred in the last year. True, the last 10 years it had been getting harder to reach out across the veil, but why the sudden end? Something was wrong.

Hour after hour, Aengus sent his plaintive call out to pierce the void, and then he broke through!

“Welcome to the supernatural help line. We are under new management, so please listen carefully, your choices may have changed. Press or say 1 for Christian, 2 for Roman Pagan, 3 for Celtic Pagan....”

What manner of business is this? “Three!” he called out.

“Please hold and wait, and you will be answered in the order you called.” Light hornpipes began to play.

A day and half passed in the storm, with the same 8 reels and jigs repeated endlessly. The tormented Aengus was approaching madness in his sleepless misery. Then he had a click.

“Hello, this is Manannan, but my new title is Gabriel. We are under new management. How can I help you?”

Finally! Aengus raspy voice blurted, “We can’t contact the dead anymore...”

“Ah, yes. The entire spiritual-mortal communication system is crashed. Our experts hope to reboot it in a few centuries, which we call service-ticket ‘Dark Ages’. Please be patient. A new franchise representative of the takeover corporation should visit Ireland in, oh, about 200 years. Thank you, Goodbye.”

“No, wait!” Aengus shouted, leaping to his feet. “Why?”

The voice groused, “Oh, you Druids always ask so many questions. Right, I’ll be blunt with you,. You mortals are reproducing far more than our afterlife facilities can handle. We are full!”

“Full?”

“Yes, out of room, stuffed, no vacancy. Why, there are over 100 million of you now, it’s totally unsustainable!”

“What’s a million?”

“A lot. Especially since you westerners don’t recycle souls anymore like the good Hindus and Buddhists, or reincarnation yourself like your ancestors, but no!, you Iron Age Europeans and Middle-eastern monotheists want to spend all of eternity in the parallel Otherworld. You know the dead live side-by-side with you in the same physical space on the surface of the world right, just in a different dimension? It’s not unlimited room here for us either.”

“Sure, but...”

“Come on, when the Celtic religious franchise moved to Ireland and replaced the Mom & Pop deities with your pantheon of widely worshipped stock deities, you knew that the Tuatha De Danaan and Sidhe would live in the ground and hills, and you decided your dead would go to the green fields and woods of the Summerlands, Tir nan Og, or whatever term you prefer. Same problem for Valhalla & Hel, Olympus & Hades, the list goes on and on.”

The Druid raised a finger in objection, “The dead can still come back, if they want to.”

“True, but they don’t want to. You whine and moan about dying, then you quite like being dead. Puberty, hunger, pestilence, hard work, pain, aging, no thank you. So selfish. At least the group-centered Asians realize that every spot they fill here is a spot that an incoming soul can’t use to briefly rest and recuperate.”

“Well, there’s gotta be some room somewhere,” Aengus countered, “perhaps the mountains or islands...”

“Sorry. They reached maximum occupancy four hundred years ago. We started to offload all the Europeans into the Western Sea, and that is reaching maximum permitted occupancy. And you keep on coming. No wonder, the new BigBox religion had to take over operations. You’ve probably heard of the Christians’ operations in Italy and Gaul?”

He scratched his head, “Yes. What does that new religion have to do with this?”

“Well, the Christians showed at the divine cooperative meeting in large numbers and voted in block, great lobbying effort, and they had the best business plan for developing previous forbidden afterlife zones. By agreement, you remaining pagans and large animal spirits could fill up the last surface world zone spots (30 feet up and six feet down), being as you are ‘mired in your earthly pleasures’, and the Christians would outfit the high-value souls with wings and occupy the new frontier of sky regions with newly installed inter-world media connections. That’s miles straight up of open space for Heavenly luxury spots, and the cheaper, darker ground-zone sub-surface zone of Hell is another 4000 miles straight down. Why, their plan could even support ridiculous numbers, even 4 billion people which our worst case population statistics predict could theoretically happen for another 4,233.3 years. You’ll just have to switch to new spiritual providers, pay higher afterlife insurance premiums, and hope for a good spot.”

Aengus was crestfallen; the other Druids would never believe this. “Manannan, how could you work for them?”

He heard a pause. “They offered generous retirement plans to the older gods, and good-paying mid-level management positions for the rest in the takeover negotiations. The restructuring has been difficult for priestly classes, I know, but you gotta go with the flow. There are vocational retraining programs available.”

Aengus’ bitter mind was reeling. “So there isn’t much choice in all this for the Gaels?”

The voice softened and whispered, “Hey, listen fellow, you know you could try to preemptively start your own model based on their early successes and corner the market of Northern Europe. You’d have to get an early start of it. This is some insider information, but Rome is about to hit a hard stretch of history with this Dark Age snafu and some barbarian hordes, and you’d have a good fighting chance to establish yourself, but don’t tell anyone I told you.”

“Excuse me Manannan, er...Gabriel, what happens when Heaven and Hell is full?”

“Well...” the voice sounded uncomfortable, “we do have a fall back plans, besides the messy Armageddon option that upper management loves, of introducing some competitive models to decrease a desire for afterlife existence. They are controversial and we wouldn’t introduce those until we passed the 3 billion point, as an emergency brake. We’d introduce enlightenment, rationality, science, materialism, secularism, humanism, and atheism in controlled

bursts; very clever stuff. We'd also allow the Hindus and Buddhists to outbranch their model of soul-recycling into the Euro-zone and the Americas."

Strange words, Aengus was baffled. "Americas, where's that?"

"Sorry, spoilers there, can't tell you." Then a ghostly whisper, "Go west young man!"

"Lord Manannan, you mentioned these forbidden development zones opening up..." Aengus' thin frame was racked with a cough, "Aren't there any more territories that my people could develop, beyond the three realms of land, sea and sky?"

"I don't know what you mean."

"Couldn't my people reserve in advance the moon, the sun or whatever is beyond those miles of sky?"

"That's pretty cheeky and clever, even for a Druid. Well, since they are impossible to reach, you could get them real cheap now. I guess you just have fill out form A2525 prayer, sacrifice a powerful member of your tribe, and throw in a few gold torcs or 30 silver coins to lay a stake claim. I'd recommend that your people industrialize early to get a jump on traveling to these lands, but it won't be easy."

Aengus felt faint and was exhausted. "Thank you spirits, I appreciate your advice."

"Good luck mortal, you probably won't hear from us for a while. Except for you. You've caught pneumonia and are going to die in three days."

Aengus took a deep breath, he felt this was true. "Three days?! Then I will offer my life to get my people the moon and other places and pass your message. But, I'm the only Druid for 10 miles!"

"Well, better find someone quick."

Aengus had an idea, "I will pass the message to young Brighid in the nearby village of Kildare. She can pass the torch for this plan to others. She's got a good head on her shoulders and knows how to keep a secret."

"Okay. I will see if we can channel some remaining allotted mojo towards her in the meantime, but I got to sign off now."

Aengus bowed, his connection was becoming filled with static. The curtains were closing.

"Oh, and one more thing...." Manannan offered brightly.

"Yes?" Aengus asked, hope springing up.

"If you liked my service, please hold the line and fill out a customer satisfaction survey. Have a nice century. Beep!" Another majestically cheerful voice sprang up. "On a scale of 1 to 9, how would you rate..."

(THE END)

Dedicated to Brother Isaac



## Samhain Story: The Banshee's Boon

By Mike the Fool

It was a dark and stormy night as the Druid thought about the strange events of Samhain. The aged Siobhain never thought matters would come to this situation 30 years ago, on this very night.

On that momentous evening, when she was fresh out of Druidical training, she made a most unwise decision at the request of her equally young and foolish king as he lay dying of a disfiguring disease. "When the Banshee comes to take me, you must take her," he ordered. And so Siobhain hid behind the curtain, and leapt upon the regal faerie as it approached the king's bed. She flung a silver net over the protesting phantom, and hauled it away to the lowest dungeon in the castle, whose walls and door were lined silver and cold iron. Siobhain could see the fury in the Banshee's eyes as she invoked curses upon the young Druidess and the land, but Shiobhain could not hear the words, for her ears were filled with wax to protect herself. But soon enough she would find out what the curse was.

A strange mist descended upon the land, but the king rose from his death bed and told the court, "This Samhain, I have defeated Death and you too are now saved forever!" But while death had been vanquished from the land, disease and other afflictions of the body had not, and soon the king had to wear a golden mask to cover his deformity.

Indeed, it didn't take long for news to trickle in that the dying of the land no longer departed, they stayed, and stayed. Initially the families were relieved, but then they noticed that the mortally wounded and sick usually didn't heal and got unbearably worse in their suffering. Animals too. Butchery had to be transported to remote mountains, because slaughtered animals continued to twitch and moan after being "killed", and those who would eat, could not bear to view the thrashing and twitching food as it was prepared. Even when the flesh ceased to move after burning or dicing to a mush, the spirit of the beast continued to unbearably moan and haunt the spot of its destruction. The same with any executed criminal whose body was burned to cinders.

Shiobhain watched with sorrow each passing Samhain as the economic burden of the invalids and pestilence they harbored became too great a strain on the families. Every Samhain, the officials would turn out the "monsters" into the woods to fend for themselves, to chase animals to exhaustion in the woods, steal from farmsteads, or sometimes even to attack travelers in the wood, unable to sate their inexhaustible hunger. If a monster were to voluntarily reach the boundary of the kingdom it would fall to the ground at the spot and its spirit began to howl continuously there for years to come. Soon the edges of the kingdom were ringed with screaming corpses.

The king's wish for an end to war was realized in the wrong way. Instead of raiders attacking their kingdom, their tribe had to repulse refugees seeking desperately to survive a few more weeks by seeking shelter in their "land of eternal life". Such refugees soon just added to the monsters, and so the warriors spent most of their time hunting down the shuffling bodies of their own tribe's people in the forests, moors and hills. Fortunately, the plants still grew and died, so at least their meager crops kept them alive. No land would buy their cursed livestock or deadstock, traders feared to visit their cities full of suffering and disease, the people grew poor, isolated and afraid. But still, few wished to give up the possibility of eternal life in this world, awful as it had become, and all the wise counsel by foreign Druids was ignored by the decrepit king on his throne of bones.

Two months ago, Siobhain's husband fell from a horse and snapped his neck. Like all others, Siobhain tried to nurse him back to health, although she knew better. Dripping gruel and milk into his mouth took hours from every day, and

his eyes beseeched her with a message her heart understood only too well. Samhain would begin tomorrow, and she would have to expulse him to the woods, like all others.

Late that evening, she got up and took a candle, and descended to the dungeon. She fished out a silver key and put it in the lock which had not moved for 30 years. Her frail frame heaved the rusty door open and lightly glowing in the cell was the Banshee, unchanged, with a crown on her head. It appeared that the Banshee had been waiting for her, and without a word Siobhain stepped aside as the Banshee proudly floated out the door and up the stairs.

When she returned to her husband's side, his body was still and quiet. All was quiet from the window, no sound of wailing any longer. The mist slowly dissipated and the moon shone more clearly than She had in years. As the tears began to fill her eyes, she wondered if they were tears of grieving or joy? A sharp knocking on the door was the herald, "The king has died!"

"Yes," Siobhain stated firmly, "Death has forgiven us and given back Her blessings. We are saved."

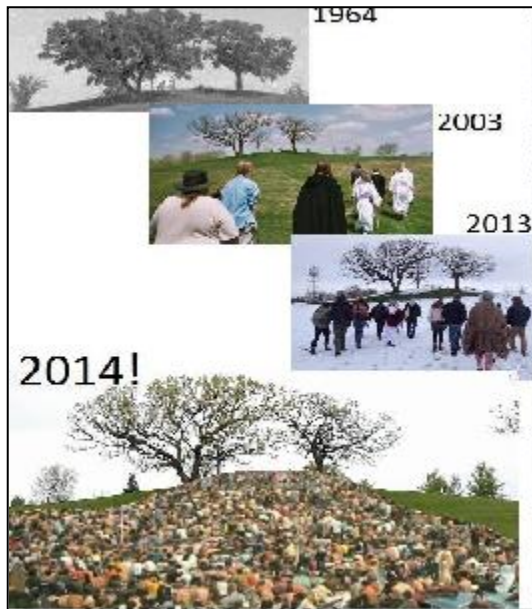
## DRUID DEBATES

### 51<sup>st</sup> May Reunion at Carleton

**John** : Never too early to start planning the 51st anniversary of the RDNA. I've been strongly advised to set the date for the 51st Beltane, so how does the first weekend of May sound? Saturday May 3, 2014 would be the main reunion and celebration, and I'm definitely open to having festivities the Friday before as well, since weather at that time of year may dictate what happens or does not happen. Sunday would be the final official day of events. So, Friday May 2 through Sunday May 4, 2014?

**Mike TheFool** can't get enough anniversaries?

**Joan** Photoshop can't fool me. The trees would have leaves by May!



**John** Actually, Spring 2013 was like a winter that wouldn't end. That photo with the snow was Saturday May 4th, 2 days after a blizzard, when the nearby town of Owatonna had 17 inches of snow in 2 days. Northfield had about 5-7 inches of snow, so spring came really late. The photo for "2014" was one that I actually took on Tuesday May 1, 2012, and we had a late spring last year too.

**Joan** I stand corrected. I guess there's just no accounting for Minnesota. In so short a season, how do the trees ever get anything done?!

**John** Well, we had like 2 "hot" weather weeks this summer, a few cold snaps, and all the leaves are pretty much down already. The ponds are frozen over and our lakes are icing up too now. I think we even had a small snowstorm just before Samhain, too.

**Joan** The fall in Illinois was very similar, but we do green up faster.

**Ian** It doesn't make sense to hold these gatherings on days when people would have ritual obligations at home.

**Mike TheFool** Ritual calendars in many religions have fallen victim to work and school calendars for 200 years. Everything has been pushed to the evenings and weekends.

**Ian** Yes indeed. Back when we did formal Wicca we worked everything on the calendar dates - easy enough for our 7 - 10 person circle. Public rites involving dozens of people are much harder to coordinate in that way.

Then of course there's the abject uncertainty surrounding the traditional dates of festivals.

**Stacey** Going to Carleton, the birthplace of the RDNA, is important enough to me to fly to for an anniversarial High Day, and forgo ritual at home. My grove would be able to go on without me being there (I've got a Third Order in training who could lead a proto-grove Beltaine service if need be).

**Sébastien** A real RDNA Druidic pilgrimage

**Helgaleena** That 2014 projection fills me with dread.

**Sébastien** I agree with Helgaleena... RDNA does not seek followers or massively recruit. Looks like an Evangelical event! lol But it is cool

**Helgaleena** Think of the poor grasses underfoot Really though, some enjoy crowds, and you are welcome to herd together thickly without me.

**Kirk** Well us Michigan RDNA folks plan on making a pilgrimage there on those dates, so we will see you there!

**John** So, if people begin to have their own spiritual awakenings, realizing Reformed Druidism appeals to them and each wish to make the pilgrimage, would there be a tipping point - a critical "mass" that goes against the basic framework?

**John** ... as long as the RDNA continues to be loosely organized, of course

**John** the shopped image of the crowd was from Woodstock... and I definitely hope that's not the direction we're going, haha. The first thing that comes to mind is "We're gonna need a bigger chalice" or BYOW (Bring your own Waters) ...and they had better recycle! lol

**Mike TheFool** Keep this up John, and we'll have to formalize annual Hadj-like tour of the arb. I already face to Carleton when I pray at services, and I think its a pilgrimage that would benefit all Reformed Druids at least once in their life. You'll note that the other forms of Druidry don't really have a "birthplace". The number of similarities of Reformed Druidism with the revealed religions are amusing, since so many were intended and not intended.

**John** damn hippies...

**Helgaleena** The more of us the merrier-- makes for diversity of approach. I definitely don't face Carleton during services myself. I face the fire!

**Sébastien** Indeed, the more the merrier, but we got to be patient and maintain a sens of creditability as druidic organization even if we are more loosely organized then others. In my understanding and experience, RDNA does not give away titles like train tickets to spiritual awakenings. There is a real process and lot more behind the titles then prestige. As 3rd order we are to help and guide people, to facilitate, to teach and to serve in our Mother. People will come and go within RDNA. My goal as a 3rd order is not to break records nor gain popularity, it is to help and share with others in order to help those that are on their way to their own path within RDNA. Initiations or ordinations for me is a serious responsibility that was given to me at my ordination. I think we will gain more seekers and sage, but with time.

**Stacey J.** I totally agree with you Sébastien . I've been a Third Order since 2000 and have only done two ordinations, one First Order and one Third. There is another aspiring Third and she is doing a training program with me. There is no timeline for her to be complete. There is no rush, and we will both know when "it is time."

**Mike TheFool** I'd probably ordain more, but ridiculously too busy to correspond with folks, host visitors, or travel. Seems like my vocation is basically to comment, point to resources, and answer questions, rather than hold services. Kind of like a receptionist, I suppose.

**Sébastien** Same process within our Grove. Thank you Stacey!

**Sébastien** hehehehe.... that is fine Mike! You have done well in your work within RDNA. You have helped many in their own path!



**Mike TheFool** Someday, I hope we'll have a charismatic speaker like OBOD's Phillip Carr-Gomm, but in the meantime, hopefully they'll put up with our jumbled chorus to the earthmother's four mumbled verses of winter, spring, summer and fall.

**Penny** You guy's are all charismatic in your own way, you all have special gifts, and your support, is what makes RDNA, a very great and special place to be

**Mike TheFool** ohby the way, the limit fir a service is 20 (or 30?), any more than that and we throw up our hands and call it a "multitude".

**Penny** Smiles

**Mike TheFool** One day, when I am more Aware, I will realize that even when I'm not at these reunions, I am there and I am united. Someday.

**John** Maybe send us a little sphere of quartz with a lock of hair... we could bury that in the Arboretum and you could astral project to it?

**Helgaleena** Since he's been there many times he doesn't need the orb and hair.

**Mike TheFool** I can walk the trails of the Carleton Arboretum in my head just by closing my eyes. I truly know them better than the back of my hand.



## MINI ARDA DEBATE

**John Michael Martens:** Behold, my latest copy of ARDA, volumes 1 & 2, plus other Druid multimedia. A grove member gave this to me to put the Anthology on so she can plug it into her Nook. She says her Nook is currently at full capacity and is unable to download anything from email attachments or websites. So there are over 2000 pages, 39 PDF files, 2 videos, and 145 images (mostly of the Carleton Arboretum) in a high tech talisman the size of a fingernail. This method saves trees and embraces the times, and will hopefully be a boon for my grove member.

**David** Behold the latest magic....

**John** That is for Wolf isn't it?

**John** yeah, she'll finally get to read the Druid Chronicles, lol

**Mike TheFool** So tiny and portable, kind of circumvents my original desire to make it too bulky to bring around.

**John** At the very least, we're still at the mercy of a device drawing power from a battery... that is, when away from an electrical outlet.

**Mike TheFool** Taranis would be pleased to note that.

**Sébastien** Naaaa print the sucker... trees are going to die by natural causes, pollution or by the sound of chainsaws anyways. Just kidding... hehehehehehe

**Sébastien** Sorry... I was just being silly. But it is a great idea...

**John** I should carve my next book on thin slices of slate... in ogham! Well, maybe the Common Order of Worship. The translation has already been done into Irish at least. I've been thinking of contributing a Russian translation, as the ancient Slavic earth goddess was the "Damp Earth Mother" Be'al would equate to Veles, Belobog to Belenos... hmm. That might be a fun winter project!

**Mike TheFool** Isn't that what God told Moses, "Take two tablets and call me in the morning."?

**Thomas** I was unaware that one could download the ARDA to Nook. Interesting.

**John** It's one of the newer ones that runs on Android ...anDRUID?

**Mike TheFool** ouch.

**Mike TheFool** Sigh from graphite to silicon to whatever's in memory chips.

**Sébastien** As long as the originality is maintained. We know what happen with the bible... lol

**John** Downloaded directly from RDNA.info!

**Mike TheFool** Sebastien, the originality of the material... well... is the material you are made of.... druidism is made of druids! I hope that you maintain it for many many years to come.

**Mike TheFool** Time for a parable, Sebastien and John (Green Book 5)

### "Transmission of the Book"

In modern times a great deal of nonsense is talked about masters and disciples, and about the inheritance of a master's teaching by favorite pupils, entitling them to pass the truth on to their adherents. Of course Zen should be imparted in this way, from heart to heart, and in the past it was really accomplished. Silence and humility reigned rather than profession and assertion. The one who received such a teaching kept the matter hidden even after twenty years. Not until another discovered through his own need, that a real master was at hand was it learned that the teaching had been imparted, and even then the occasion arose quite naturally and the teaching made its way in its own right. Under no circumstance did the teacher even claim, "I am the successor of So-and-so." Such a claim would prove quite the contrary.

The Zen master Mu-nan had only one successor. His name was Shoju. After Shoju had completed his study of Zen, Mu-nan called him into his room. "I am getting old," he said, "and as far as I know, Shoju, you are the only one who will carry on this teaching. Here is a book. It has been passed down from master to master for seven generations. I have also added many points according to my understanding. The book is very valuable, and I am giving it to you to represent your successorship."

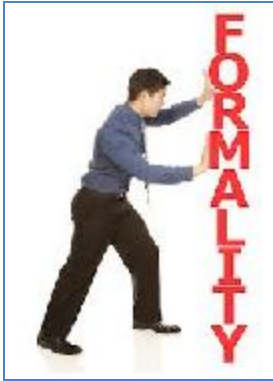
"If the book is such an important thing, you had better keep it," Shoju replied. "I received your Zen without writing and am satisfied with it as it is."

"I know that," said Mu-nan. "Even so, this work has been carried from master to master for seven generations, so you may keep it as a symbol of having received the teaching. Here."

They happened to be talking before a brazier. The instant Shoju felt the book in his hands he thrust it into the flaming coals. He had no lust for possessions.

Mu-nan, who never had been angry before, yelled: "What are you doing!"

Shoju shouted back: "What are you saying!"



## RITUAL AND FORMALISM DEBATE

**George King The Druid Root:**

**Curious how many like myself, do not feel the need for, Pageantry, Robes / Chains of rank, formal Litanies or even Holly Days. To be in contact with the Druid within you, the spirit of the ancient Oak or the call of the Ley?**

<http://thedruidking.blogspot.com/2013/12/the-druid-root.html...>

**Jamie** Me! Some of it seems pretentious and forced, though I don't look down at those that need/want it.

**George King** Jamie wise and they have their purposes. I often use all of them. What got me wondering was a post asking to help with a one lesson class on what a Druid is. For me all of these things are tools and respects, but the Druid Root is deeper than the Order or The Way. Ritual has its purpose as does formal training but it is Soul that rides the Ley. Moon Rising TDK

**Aonarach** Not at all necessary IMO - but if it works for some that's fine. The way I see it, the 'ancient druids' wore robes because that was appropriate for their time. These days the equivalent might be a leather jacket and a baseball cap... or not.

**Thomas** In my experience, it is a balance. You can get too into the rite and forget the being of Nature. You can get too wrapped in Nature as a whole and forget the community that is brought together by ritual.

**Thomas** One might have to have the 'rite' state of mind to go there...

**George King** LOL Bard Thomas !!! And Dye-rite can stain the Soul. But Oak's Tannin is True Druid's Gold.

**Mike TheFool** sometimes i feel like fancy pants and blinged out services, other times watching the sunset in shorts is just fine. my mood shifts a bit, and I have, 't had the time or money to get elaborate lately.

**Ian** Most people who reject ritual and formal practice seem to me to replace it with nothing at all. Ritual exists because it works - it effectively turns the mind toward the spiritual, focuses awareness, opens the imagination to inputs. If you don't do ritual, and you don't replace it with some other formal practice, you are probably only pretending to do spiritual work. If you think you can replace formal spiritual practice with "Just being spiritual" try replacing piano lessons with "just playing piano".

**Mike TheFool** True, its a lot of work to recreate the wheel everytime one feels spiritual. Ritual, like recipees, give you a reliable result for a reliable action, saving time and thought for other matters. I think some dodge ritual and structure for other reasons that they might not be aware of, not just creative liberty. One man's junk is another man's treasure.

**Mike TheFool** Still one wonders why there are a hundred Wicca 101 and very few Wicca 102 classes out there, seems like we're re-inventing the Wheel of the Year sometimes. Perhaps that is similar to the cyclical nature of re-creation of the cosmos?

**Ian** Yep - our local stopped writing new seasonal rites over ten years ago.

**Mike TheFool** Once the skeleton works, you can work on the flesh, when the flesh is working, add the skin, when the skin is done, add the clothes, wash and match according to style and weather.

**Mike TheFool** I like how you said that "Holly Days", is it Yuletide already?!

**Jamie** I'm not completely opposed to ritual, as I have a few of my own, but I admit I harbor some bitterness toward organization and authority from my Christian years.

I look at my approach to Nature as I did my approach to god... I don't believe I need a mediator or someone attempting to control my thoughts/beliefs by telling me I'm somehow inferior because I don't do it like them.

I guess that's why I've been more comfortable as a solitary. I lack the patience necessary and prefer the my practice stay extremely personal and private.

And if you look at my profile photo, that's my preferred holy garments: set of camo pants and a hoodie.  
December 3 at 12:53pm via mobile · Edited · Like · 2

**Mike TheFool** I think we are all bitter. BUt lets not throwout the baby with the holywater.

**Scott** There are definitely camps of us out here who believe that Druidry is a very personal and experiential practice that is driven by our direct experience with Nature. Constructed ritual tends to take a back seat to the daily direct experience. Robes, rituals, orders, degrees, certifications, etc - become external constructs that pull us away from the direct experience. Even in the Christian traditions we have "heretic references" to direct experience with diety - "Lift the stone and you will find me. Split a piece of wood and I am there."

**Mike TheFool** Yep, Druids do like camping, being campy and dividing into camps.

**Scott** i tend to think of it as "expanding" into camps rather than dividing.

**Mike TheFool** Oh, I like that spin.

**Jamie** Scott , very well said!!!

It's personal ritual I enjoy and believe that can be used to enhance the connection to nature. But in my experience group ritual seems to boost the ego of the 'priest' and laziness of the congregation. It seems some are happy with others doing for them as well as hoping those merits rub off. Personally I believe there can be no mediator, the individual must do the work to elevate their own awareness and connection to nature.

Yet, please don't think I'm bashing community or group ritual, I've had some deeply moving experiences among friends.

**Mike TheFool** But if you do have egotistical priests and lazy congregations, then its a good system, right?

**Ian** Well, it is the job of the skilled to provide content for the unskilled. Not everyone cares enough about religion (or music, say) to work at it. It is fit for folks to get as much as they need from folks who enjoy producing it.

**Scott** Jamie - can I use your words to add to my website? <http://www.northerndruid.net/> Northern Druid | A Minnesota Druidry Blog by Scott [www.northerndruid.net](http://www.northerndruid.net)

**Mike TheFool** Its the fault of the congregation if all they do... is well congregate... and call that spirituality.

**Scott** It was the job of the crusaders to "bring religion to the savages" as well, and look how that turned out. I completely agree with the "free market" principle of "religious consumerism" I guess for lack of a better phrase. Picking winners and losers or labeling one practice as superior to another, even if it is based on "tradition" is slope to dogma and control in my opinion however.

**Jamie** Yeah, sorry... let me balance my words and edit above (see last paragraph).

I also think, at least what I see among friends, is the tendency to look at unfamiliar group practices as weird or goofy. I think people are more inclined to know bullshit when they see it, and want to see what is at the heart. It's unfortunate, but many have been burned giving in to 'group think.'

**Jamie** Ian, absolutely!!! In fact, though I've been happy as a 'zero order' I would like someday work toward 3rd order, because I feel the call to serve when and who I can. The great thing about priesthood is the ability to serve with one's gifts... totally for it!

Unfortunately as druids I don't think we've been immune from those that, instead of recognizing the call to serve, have used their 'ordination' to build empires. Seems to be a natural human tendency.

Even in my own personal practice my wife very rarely sees into my journey, as there had been a time I was overbearing and zealous. I guess I'm more in the season of my life where I've preferred to walk the path alone facing myself and letting the Supreme Whatever give the good swift kick in the pants that I've needed.

**Sébastien** We all go through that stage in becoming a druid-priest. With time, our search within Druidry brings us profound changes in what we do. In the process, we all gain more patience with ourselves. Indeed, druidry is a personal call and devotion for many of us. We do become more humble and respectful towards diversity. What others think does no longer matter. The justifying becomes irrelevant cause you have become comfortable in what you do. In my opinion, druidry should never be boxed in nor become indoctrinated. What counts in RDNA is that your efforts and passion becomes recognized as you move along the stages. You gain credibility through your actions, experiences and attitude. Hence the recognition in the calling of serving others

**Mike TheFool** The final analysis of a vocation is whether you are doing it to serve yourself first or serve others first. Might seem strange, but in serving others, you will eventually serve yourself, as their needs become yours. You preserve some ethical and physical boundaries, but a good congregation is a bit like a family or marriage and overlapping identities.

**Mike TheFool** But where power, money, influence and other perks accumulate in any profession, you can expect people to do it for reasons other than the love of the job itself, and corruption will occur.

**Mike TheFool** Scott It can be slippery indeed. To like something can easily become "not liking" every thing else. To be proud of a tradition or culture, can slide into claims that it is inherent better, or that others are worse. Much harder to just like it, and not compare/contrast/rank/justify it. Very hard.

**George King** Wise and Heart Felt Words from All.

I was one told I was a King of Obtuseness . So even as much good was discussed the Artery I was aiming for I have missed yet hit many veins of wisdom. An yes I guess this is obtuse also. LOL

Moon rising and Migwetch to all of you Dear Druids.  
TDK

**Jamie** Go for the jugular!

**Stephen** A very good question and much interesting discussion. A bit of the background to my answer..... "I was sitting in my favorite climbing tree on a sunny autumn morning. This tree, surrounded by other trees, seemed to stand alone in the forest. It was a peaceful sanctuary and a great place to get above the mundane and see the world from a different perspective. On this day I noticed a trail through the woods which seemed to light up with a soft glow. An invitation, "Come, follow me" was offered. I walked along this trail for what seemed to be a few minutes, but got into trouble for being gone for a much longer time. But the trouble was not unbearable, I had changed in some way."

Ancient oak and cedar, flowing water, the bones of the earth.....these have been my teachers and sources of inner druid strength. Speaking only for myself, being Druid does not equate to religion so my rituals are for private, the "congregation" gets me with sleeves rolled up and a pair of work gloves handy.

**George King** Stephen hi. Sounds like you found what I call "The way of the Ley" Or to be more correct it found you. And thanks for a good Druid Root share. Moon Rising TDK

**Monica** I felt a need about a year ago. For 10 years I did not. Now I like formal ritual as much as I like searching on my own.

**Aoife** If you go to the fact that it is the soul if you will that does the communicating than the outside shell is unimportant so what you where and what your EGO what's to show off to others really means squat to the Gods and Goddesses it's your Energy that spark of life that is important and that truly honors the Deity not the outside trappings.

**George King** Aoife, interesting.

WE (my path) uses the Model of Soul and Over Soul. We see the incarnate Soul as somewhat Hooded or Bound by the Organic Tri-Mind and its beliefs or programming, untill death releases it fully. TDK

**John B** The gnostics used to say, " you must experience ego death in order to understand all "

**Mike TheFool** Egos are like zombie, can't kill them just once.

**Ian** I think that the true ego - the I Am center of the self - is whole and holy, and need not be fought against. The confusion arises as we mistakenly identify our reality with socially constructed personas - mask selves, and bet our self-worth against the status of those personae. That's what common vernacular seems to call 'ego'. Learning to destroy the 'who I think I am' in favor of the 'who I am after that' is a valuable exercise.

**George King** Getting Deeper to the roots!

**Mike TheFool** The more I re-read that Ian, the more I am getting out of it. It reminds me of the Zen question, "What was your face before you were born?" We wear so many masks, either by our construction or given to us by our society, that one forgets we are wearing them, and that they are removable and wearable at our decision.

**Ian** That's one of the magician's skills

**Mike TheFool** The greatest wordsmiths pass many messages to different audience with a few words...



## WINTER HOLIDAY BLUES DEBATE

**Mike TheFool:**

**Holiday Season in the U.S. Is always a difficult time for Some Druids forced back into close proximity with their closest ancestors (usually monotheistic), inquisitive relatives, and numerous semi-religious customs. Curious if anyone wants to vent or seek advice on their plans and coping mechanisms?**

**Domi** Stay calm and drink mulled cider or wine!

**Pamela** I moved to florida.

**Victoria** My family is full of Christians so I am unable to celebrate and that all. I cope by leavening I good to the woods for days so I can get away

**Geert** We celebrate Yule and the beginning of a new year I even place a (fake) pine tree with lights in the house to remember my early ancestors where three worshipers.

**Earl** I was raised Roman Catholic (that being said), I am going to be doing an Advent Candle Wreath, for the first time in years. I was able to bring something from my families custom and merge it with my Druidry.

**Vivian** When my Mom was in hospice, I had the hospice minister talk to my brother and sister in law about not trying to convert me and being respectful of my Pagan faith. I don't know what he told them but it did the trick mostly for my sister in law. It took a little longer for my brother, but he is doing better. They come to my house for Yule.

**Lynn** Just keep drinking.

**Lynn** Seriously though, alcohol is not a coping mechanism. It's a prerequisite.

**Margaret** I'm still in university- and being dependent on less than supportive family I usually just play along and take the dog for a nice long walk on solstice.

**Rua** I just slip in my own flavor of the festivities among the others, and if anyone is bothersome I point out the germanic solstice tree in the living room.

I tend toward more secular type of relative things anyway (night time themes for longest night of year) so it usually only goes as far as an odd or curious look and sometimes fun conversations

(being in Canada I often forget when Thanksgiving is in the USA - we have ours a month earlier, so I wasn't thinking in terms of the Thanksgiving holidays)

**David** I tell people that "Druid Christmas" is basically "Christian Christmas" but without the family guilt and capitalism.

**David** But when the holidays really suck I like to watch Ingmar Bergman films.

**William** I'm not here to vent, or looking for help, but I'd love to share a little of my experience regarding family members who practice different religions. When I make the journey back to New Orleans from Colorado, I experience it as a guest AND as family. Fifty-one weeks of the year I live, work, and minister in Colorado. This is my

home, and where my roots are... and as that, I go as a guest (and a good guest, for the Virtue blessing of Hospitality works both ways). I also go as a visiting family member, afforded all the rights, privileges, and drama that comes with the mantle of family. Ultimately, should anything arise regarding religious practice, I answer as a guest would (takes a BOATLOAD of practice).

**Sébastien** Love the title "Druid Christmas" lovely mixture

**Lynn** We have Druid Christmas every year.

**Gillian** Spend as much time outdoors as I can, make sure to fit in plenty of yoga, morning thankfulness ritual and otherwise just try to stay grounded and remember my own practice and to slip it in here and there in decorating and celebration. Plus the eggnog... LOL.

**George King** On Other People's Faith. <http://thedruidking.blogspot.com/.../on-other-peoples...> Herbalist Wurm [http://overlookedholidays.com/.../festivus\\_wallpaper\\_3...](http://overlookedholidays.com/.../festivus_wallpaper_3...)

**Ian** I've been the family witch for 30 years - the fights are over.

**Pamela** I am going to the beach for sunrise. My family is far away and they don't care about my beliefs- but I work at a christian facility (it was the only job around) and I play it straight and just wish them a merry christmas. It's their holiday too and I honor it but they would fire me if they really knew about me. however- my boss is cool-he gave me the solstice off without my asking- and he is a pentacostal. go figure. he teases me a bit but he has been kind. Oh- two weeks ago they accused me of being a witch because I got some flawed apples, carved faces on them and let them dry on the oven top. I was making early american doll heads. Well- do you know that I know voodoo and I am a witch ???( well, maybe a bit true) I wanted to say to the main nasty person in this- "if I was a witch you'd be dead". I think my boss took care of this one as nothing else has come up. OK- done ranting for the rest of yuletide.

**Rua** Grew up in a Pentecostal household, my folks found out when they saw me on national news partaking in Pagan Pride Day (was leading the music) - My particular flavor of Path may have saved a lot of headaches. They called and accused, "Are you Pagan" and were aiming for an intervention or something. So I asked, "what do you mean by Pagan?" Their response, "You don't believe in God." "Then yes, I'm Pagan", then they started on other deities and I stopped them and explained I don't believe in any Deities, None. Further explaining that I'm essentially atheist. Then they stopped cold - completely unexpected. They seemed to not know how to wrap their heads around that and haven't really brought it up since. In my case being an atheist is like a get out of jail free card and can't help but wonder how is it that atheists on the state side get the grief they do? I'm still surprised by the kind of flack minorities of all sorts of paths get just because they go against the main stream. @Pamela, You appear to have a very reasonable boss. Its a shame that being in a Christian facility is what prevents having progressive discourse on different beliefs. If it weren't for the need to keep that job I'd be really tempted to break the topic wide open and have the conversation - just because I like to diffuse ignorance, whatever the topic may be. If only it could be breached in third person talk without singling yourself out for accusation, its a pity it often comes to that - can't talk about something for the sake of knowing more about it without being accused of partaking in it. Once did a history presentation, the project focused on what isn't in the text books, and found fascinating accounts of the KKK affecting politics in various regions in our early national history. Afterwards everyone thought I was an affiliate! Seriously people? How do you even respond to that? What have you found to be the most effective way of tackling the topic with co-workers, friends, and family?

**Camille** For a couple of years now, my 'Christmas' has been Dec 21. That day is for me, even if I do nothing at all. As a military spouse, in the last few years I've spent more Christmas holidays away from family than with. I've gotten to the place where it's their jubilation I'm sharing in and I enjoy it for that and for them. When I think of it like that, it's easier. I'm doing it for them, not for me. Like a funeral for the family member of a good friend. Thus, I have no venting to do. But I commiserate with those who struggle with conflict because I've been there; I know what it's like; I know how it makes one feel. These days, the 'conversion spiel' I get is met with smiles and nods; and polite refusals



to 'join them in prayer'. My mother just throws her hands up each time with the words 'in time' and 'God has infinite patience'. I just smile and nod.

**Mike TheFool** Most Christians sadly won't reciprocate, "I'll celebrate your divine beings if you'll celebrate mine with me"

**Sam** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9H9Fi4Qcus> The Christians and the Pagans  
song by: Dar Williams Title : The Christians and the Pagans

**Sébastien** Heard it before... thanx forgot about it!

**Camille** It is sad how dismissive most Christians are. And when they're done, they call us damned. /sigh

**Margaret** I have found that among many of my younger friends- even the most Christian of them, they are far more accepting than my own family- none of which routinely attend a church. I wasn't raised with much of any faith. When I asked my parents about religion...See More

**Mike TheFool** It's hard to get uncatholic, I've found. Apparently there is a formal process, but that's just buying into the system further as one goes out, right? Just like secular Jews, I'm Catholic by culture not practice, something I will always have as an influence, and I've embraced the parts that are life-affirming, kept a few things that are challenging, and respectfully pushed aside some aspects that are abusively shaming or demeaning. Going "athiest" is indeed a way to befuddle and end inquiries, as if it is better to "Not like sports" to avoid arguments between Football and Baseball aficionados, when one secretly likes hockey and they don't.



## Coming out of the Closet about Druidism during the Hollydays this Winter

*Telling your loved ones and enemies that you are a Druid.*

*By Mike the Fool..... I hope it helps you.*

Many of us are Druids and the people around us don't know. Come to think of it, do you really know the denomination of most of your co-workers and friends? Bob's Jewish, Sam's Christian, Alice is an atheist, etc. is about all you know. We don't know much about our neighbors and relatives like we used to when they were vital to our survival in previous centuries, we're kind of anonymously floating about in our current society, changing location, affiliation, employment and such.

We all have concerns about not being liked or accepted by others because of labels or affiliations. Most would rather be in the majority rather than in an minority, especially when that minority has ever been persecuted in the past. Druids, Wiccans, Neopagans, New Agers, Athiests, Bahais, Jews, etc all have been targets of larger mainstream scorn, dislike or prejudice. One might worry about the security of one's job, family relations, reputation, children's custody, vandalism by stupid bigoted teens, or biting gossip by neighbors. It's enough to have second thoughts.

Why "come out" at all? Maybe you're the extrovert, open-book type, that blurts out your innermost thoughts and feelings to each and every person that passes by. Most are a bit more reticent about talking about spiritual beliefs, which are actually often more personal and vital to our core identity than nationality, sexual orientation, ethnicity or social class. Many Reformed Druids continue for quite a long time without people catching on, while they continue their activity in a mainstream religion that attracts and nourishes them. But in many cases, there may seem no other option but to come out to certain people. Just like a chick coming out of an egg, if it keeps growing, eventually the shell cannot contain it any longer.

No two "outing" stories will be the same. There are too many variables and possible outcomes. You'll have to think carefully about how it will unwind and whether you want to do it.

Druidism is simply not as popular as Wicca, there aren't dozens of Hollywood movies & TV characters (pro or anti) about it every year. Most modern Druids seems to come from well educated stock, it seems, not to get big-headed or anything. So most likely, the parents/family of the new Druid have probably heard of "Druids" either historical or those guys mucking about Stonehenge recently. More than likely we'd still get lumped together with the Wiccans during an explanatory phase.

This is natural, if I were in Japan and became Christian, most likely my parents would confuse Catholicism and Protestantism, since to an outsider, the differences seem small compared to the differences between Shinto/Buddhism and Christianity.

## **The stages of coming out are probably:**

1. Deciding who to tell. Probably a friend first, to test the waters.
2. When and where to tell. Perhaps on a hike or on a lazy sunset on a porch drinking mint-juleps, but not in the middle of a Thanksgiving dinner. Often, though, it just happens, when you're parents stumble across your altar or they see a book on your shelf, and a panicky "what's this?" moment occurs.
3. How to tell. Either pick a day on the calendar and screw one's courage to the sticking point or waiting for that conversational "sweet point". Or dropping hints in advance. Perhaps, when your mother is talking about putting some rocks in the garden, you could mention that it would be nice to align them, or leave an offering to little faeries to help the plants to grow.
4. Tell them.

## **Telling them and Reassuring them:**

I think the big points I'd want to get out in advance are somewhat similar to coming out of the closet for homosexuality (except that condition is more genetically determined):

0. I'm not stupid or weak-willed enough to join a "cult", so don't worry about brain-washing. I can explain to you this difference between a small controlling strange religious movement and a small strange religious movement, i.e. the word "controlling" .
  1. This is nobody's "fault" in raising me. You all did a fine job of educating me.
  2. I'm still a kind and gentle person, and have no intention of hurting anybody, including you.
  3. This is a permanent thing, probably.
  4. It "fits" me, and I like it and it makes me a stronger, better person.
  5. Yes, it is not a "popular", and so I'll face discrimination from bigots, so I'll need your support and love to carry through.
  6. I have no intention of "converting" you or my relatives, we're not into proselytizing.
  7. What I learned in my previous religious phase will continue to influence me and help me, but some aspects/tenets cannot be followed any more, so I am making an official break with, or "bending" them to remain in loose association. I don't "hate" that religion, more like a divorce for unreconcilable reasons, we can still be friends.
  8. I'll eventually tell most folks, when I feel its right, probably gradually.
  9. I love you, that's why I'm telling you about a new aspect of what defines me.
  10. I'm no super-theological expert, but I can explain the basic tenets and structure of the group/beliefs to you when you're curious, but I don't expect you to believe all of them yourself.
  11. If you are Druidic in a purely philosophical or supplementary fashion to your old religion, then say so, but if you are polytheistic, explain it in a way they can grasp (many facets of the same gem, archetypal images, kind of like Catholic saints with more autonomy, etc.)

## **The aftermath**

No telling where this may go. You may lose friends. One person may blather the story to all and sundry, against your wishes and desire for timing. You might be ganged up upon, or shunned. Who knows? I suppose everyone responds differently.

1. Supporting love and kisses and curiosity and well-wishing, well, that's the ideal.
2. Tears and wailing for a while, self-blaming for your "decision"
3. Indifference. "Whatever"
4. Anger and attempts to "fix you". Perhaps seeking professional help.
5. Something completely unexpected (positive or negative).
6. A combination of these, one after the other, not unlike the cycles of grief after a death (denial, anger, negotiation, sadness, adaptation, etc.)

## The questions:

Hopefully they'll get around to asking some of the contents of your religion. Think carefully, when your friend told you they are now a born-again baptist, how much did you really want to know about being a Baptist?

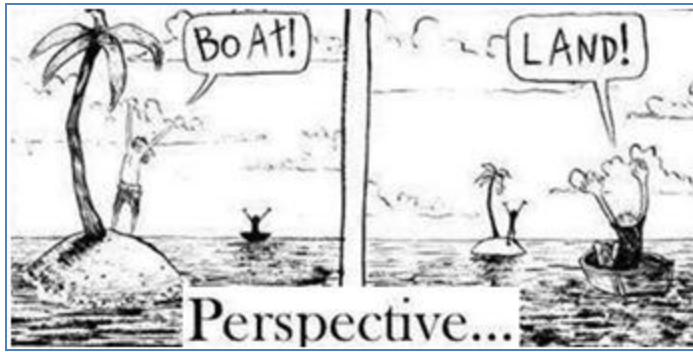
0. Earth centered, affirming of life and celebration of changing seasons. No animal/human sacrifices. Yuck.
1. Modern interpretation of the ancient practices of Celtic/Indo- European people, adapted for modern times.
2. Not a very strict hierarchy, no one tells me what to do. I could change religions tomorrow and there would be no obstacle to that, but I think I'm here for awhile.
3. Lots of research and putting pieces to gether.
4. Lots of materials, some quite inspiring, some I don't agree with.
5. Not a lot of people in the group, but most are quite interesting, and the exchanges have helped me.
6. I can interact with any religion, borrow even, and not get "in trouble". So, I'll still be studying some aspects of Christianity that blend well.
7. Interpretation of the "gods" can be philosophical or religious.
8. Not buying a lot of stuff, just books at Amazon for research.
9. Meet each season, sometimes monthly, when I feel like it.
10. Not doing sex, drugs or crime. It's not dangerous.
11. Pretty folky-stuff mostly.
12. Spending a lot of time outside, thinking, asking questions.
13. This is something like what my ancient ancestors once did, and those millenia of beliefs and wisdom are important to me. I revere my recent Christian ones too.

When you have time, after each occurence, think about your "presentation" and how to "tune" it appropriately to the next likely person. Perhaps it might be a year or two until the stars align, or it might be the next day.

There will be certain relatives "Fundy uncle John" that you'll never directly address, or perhaps your boss. But one by one, everyone will know that you've got some unusual ideas, but most will probably know that you've always been unusual and add this to the list. The ones who know you're a good person, should continue to beleive so, since your actions and words will reflect this.

What is most amazing is that, it feels good to be honest about who you are, the double-act is gone, the pretense and shame of not telling those who should know is gone. It won't be easy, it won't be painless, but down the road, it will be right.

Sincerely,  
Michael the FoOI



## DESERT ISLAND DEBATE

**Jamie** : As Druids of the reform, any specific books that you go to consistently for inspiration, not counting the ARDA?

**And if you were allowed only one book to take with you to live on a secluded island for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

**Mike TheFool** I think I'd take one of Mircea Eliade's tomes on modern religion, it would provide endless ideas and concepts from different faiths to keep me busy. Other than that I'd bring a manual on surviving on a desert island.

**Jamie** Lots of books I have taken inspiration from... Of those I consistently look to involve a constant reminder to awareness, especially that which could be considered the "essence of the universe." So the Tao Te ching, but especially the hua hu ching and wei wu wei ching. But the one work I would take would be the wei wu wei ching. It would also be the one book I'd like to give my daughter representing if there be one thing I could teach her about my own path and practice. (Not the writer Wei Wu Wei aka Terence Gray, but the ancient taoist text that Brian Browne Walker recently translated)

**Mike TheFool** Perhaps if I want the most inspiring book to bring, I would take a large blank book with me Jamie . Perhaps with a shiny cover to reflect upon. I'd then press leaves and dry them inside and scribble notes, for certainly Nature would teach me many lessons there. And I'd leave the book next to my bleached bones for the inevitably late rescue party to discover, and dedicate the movie rights to you.

**Mike TheFool** Tao Te Ching is so short, you could memorize it.

**Mary** I'd bring, "Boat Building for Dummies"

**Jamie** Mike TheFool, make sure you leave your coconut rum recipe in there somewhere.

**Scott** Living Druidry by Emma Restall Orr. Also her introductory book that is online and free:  
<http://www.whatisdruidry.org/>

Frank MacEowan's books "The Mist Filled Path" and "The Spiral of Memory and Belonging"  
What is Druidry  
[www.whatisdruidry.org](http://www.whatisdruidry.org)  
The text on this website is essentially that of a book written by Emma Restall O...

**Glenn** It is not possible for me to be stuck on an isolated island for the rest of my life. I am a regular donor to my college alumni fund. They will find me no matter where I go!

**Thomas** The National Audubon Society's Field Guide to being a Druid on a Secluded Island for the Rest of My Life.

**Thomas** A good bartender's guide and an outdoor survival guide.

**Thomas** or maybe a subscription to the Old Farmer's Almanac... just sayin'.

**Helgaleena** Whitman's Leaves of Grass.

**Mike TheFool** if you get a subscription service, then you could escape on the next delivery, clever!

**Jeffrey** The Silmarillion.

**Mike TheFool** How about the all-in-one Tolkien reader? If it's gotta be one book, go whole hog.

**Thomas** There are several editions of the works of Willy Spearshaker. Those are a constant source of inspiration. I also like Marcus Aurelius' Meditations. I try to stay away from Augustine's Confessions.... they're quite depressing and whiney.

**Mike TheFool** Marcus AUrelius' was a great work.

**Andrew** I agree

**Glenn** <http://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/stoicismtoday/> Stoicism Today



## GREENHOUSE RITUAL DEBATE

**Ross** : John and I were discussing doing a ritual at the Como Park Conservatory. My question is that since the conservatory still has living plants in them do we use the waters of life? or do we use the waters of sleep because its the season of sleep?

**Jon** According to tradition, since it is November (and after Samhain), it is the Season of Sleep (at least in the Northern Hemisphere)

**John** We were philosophizing as to whether or not an omen would indicate the sacrifice has been accepted if we are among the plants that are full of life as if it were summer. It almost seemed like an RDG philosophy, but if the Earth-Mother has given forth of her bounty inside the Conservatory (despite being a manmade facility with real nature inside) of what then, would we partake?

Perhaps it should be to Waters-of-That-Which-Grows-In-the-Conservatory? Maybe a flower blossom cordial or Noxious Pitcher Plant Schnapps, lol! The conservatory is like an "Eternal Temple of Life" ...still seems like a bit of a gray area.

**Mike TheFool** Hmmm. Clever. Energy wise, I'd say you are in a pocket of awakesness if you are drawing the blessings from the vegetation. If you are taking omens from the four winds, that can be difficult inside a building. If you are drawing energy from the land, you're in Minnesota, and she's definitely sleepy. If your priest's already gone into "hibernation" druidically, she/he can try the omen taking but suspect she/he won't have good results. The larger question is when you seek omen, and they tell you results that don't fit the calendar or your hopes, do you accept them, or politely thank them and continue on what you want the answer to be. That's a grove/priest decision ultimately, between you folk and the gods.

**Mike TheFool** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_S7LOcgxa4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_S7LOcgxa4) It's not nice to fool Mother Nature

**Deborah Gavrin Frangquist** Here in California, there's always something growing. In fact, since our rainy season is pretty much October - March, we have more green living plants during the season of sleep. But the days are still

much shorter, plants' second bloomings are smaller and fewer, and the omens of the season of sleep are fairly clear to those who know the landscape.



## DALON AP LANDU OGHAM DEBATE

**John** This might start a lively discussion among the Ogham scholars in this group. I had a creative idea of considering adding an Ogham inscription ascending from the bottom ends of my 3rd Order liturgical stole (stole as in the vestment, not the past tense verb), naturally I would want it to spell out "Dalon Ap Landu."

So with the thought in mind that Ap is distinctively Welsh, I was looking to descriptions of Ogham stones in Wales. It seems that ancient Irish Gaelic did not have a letter P, but since Welsh did, the Ogham stones in Wales tended to use the letter Iphin, or two interwoven Xs, which was later used to represent the diphthong "IO" in later manuscripts.

The topic as a whole was quite difficult to interpret in a Welsh context, but unless there are any major discrepancies, the picture attached is how I determined the spelling would theoretically be, if a Welsh druid would have inscribed it in ancient times. Thoughts?

**Jon** I am certainly no Welsh scholar by any means, but perhaps a "beith" would be a near substitute for a "P"

**Sébastien** May the Ogham inspire you! Really nice

**Jon** I typically do not use the forfeda for phonetic pronunciations

**Tony** Typically, where you find a 'p' in Brythonic Celtic langs (Cymry, Brezhoneg, Kernow), Goidelic Celtic (Gaelige, etc) had a 'k' So pean (head) in Cymry is ceann in modern Gaelige, so you could work from that idea as well.

**John** I remember when I was living in Ireland, that when I was first learning about the Ogham, there seemed to be a strong sense of Celtic Pride, and I remember that someone who was explaining it said that the Ogham should never be used to spell things in English (or any non-Celtic language for that matter, either). Was an interesting observation.

**John** So, either Dalon "Ab" or "Ak" Landu would be correct spelling, too?

**Jon** My comment was about approximating the "p" sound, using the phonetic constraints of the 20 ogham. I wouldn't certify it as "correct". Mine was merely a thought

**John** Ah.

**Mike TheFool** Seems like a doable design. Haven't seen anyone visually use the name on items before.

**Paul** From what very little I've read on this and seeing it here, yes, it seems likely that Dalon "Ab" Landu would be correct as well. Not sure about the "Ak" though again, knowing what little I do I wouldn't be surprised if it was also correct.

**Rusty** I use that treatment on Swords, just with other Names...Ogam lends itself easily to being produced with masking tape and spray paint...

**Mike TheFool** Ab seems good idea.



## THE RARE MEDIUM DEBATE

**Stephen: Question of the day: Does being a Medium increase your danger to Trance Fats ?**

**Mike TheFool** You mean is a demon who eats a chubby Medium in danger from eating Trance fats?

**Stephen** Two questions - same answer. Only when the medium has been deep fried.

**Mike TheFool** I'd be worried about a raw or half-baked medium.

**Helgaleena** According to my reading on psychics in USA, they tend to be fatter than average.

**Stacey J** Having a friend who is a psychic I can vouch for that. Did I just write that?

**Helgaleena** I must be psychic-- I knew someone would!

**George King** One also needs to factor in the many shared health issues that most Good Psychics have . Plus the well know but not shared for Safety Natural Witch DNA markers.

**George** Also the Poor economic state many find them self's in.

**George** Eating Healthy in most areas is very costly. (Organic and Fresh Fruit and Veggies). Yet not as bad as the other health issues it solves. One Lemon and one Banana a day are cheap Blood Pressure medicine .

**Stacey** Don't you mean selves? The one I know is doing well. She has a day job doing something else.

**George** Yes Stacey my grammar and spelling are both poor.

**George** But I am sure you have noticed that. LOL, Just a child of another experimental education experment in the 50s that failed.

**George** Some early brain wiring is hard to undo.

**Stacey J.** Oh you got put through that? I heard of that in the 60s but forget what it's called.

**Sean** Only a danger if they are deep fried.

**George** Well at least RDNA got the Joke, better than some others.





## FVCKING AWESOME DEBATE

**Helgaleena** posted this picture with the comment:  
**aka, Nature is good.**

**George** Nature is Nature, yet Humans used to know how to talk to her.

**Jamie** I like cussing. As long as folks address her in truth, I don't think she fucking minds.

**Mike TheFool** sacred profanity?

**Helgaleena** Oh, I thought that word was a natural function

and should therefor be considered sacred. Sorry.

**Jamie** Sacred profanity... Why not?

**Jessie** Its sacrelicious!

**Glenn** "Nature is good" might not go over so well in the Philippines now.

**Mike TheFool** What's the alternative to Nature? I'll take "good enough, most of the time."

**George** Are you sure Man's hand was not in this?

**Glenn**

**Helgaleena** Maybe Nature is Very...

**Helgaleena** Yep, Nature is very! And better at a distance.

**Glenn** I don't doubt than human induced global warming has increased the frequency of extreme weather events, but hurricanes/typhoons/etc. were around long before we had any noticeable impact on the ecosystem.

Actually, a big earthquake would be an even better example of my point.

Even more so, a big asteroid impact, such as that of the dinosaur extinction. On Saturday I heard an astronomer describe such large (diameter > 1 km) asteroids as "ecosystem reset buttons."



## Oklahoma's 10 Commandments To Get A Sister Memorial ... From The Satanic Temple

AUTHOR: [NATHANIEL DOWNES](#) DECEMBER 6, 2013 10:10 PM

Remember the [Satanic Temple, which performed a ritual to turn Fred Phelps' dead mother gay](#)? They are still at it, now in Oklahoma. The [Satanic Temple](#) has filed the papers to put up a memorial on statehouse grounds, next to the state's display of the [10 Commandments](#). They are doing this by citing Okla.'s [religious displays legislation](#), signed into law in 2009. And they are absolutely serious about it. According to their [press release](#):

*The Satanic Temple, an established New York City-based religious organization, has offered to donate a public monument to Oklahoma's Capitol Preservation Commission for display upon Oklahoma City's capitol grounds. Described as an "homage" to Satan, the purpose of the monument is to complement and contrast the Ten Commandments monument that already resides on the North side of the building. The donation offer has been submitted and is currently awaiting the commission's reply.*

### The Satanic Temple Is Dead Serious About This.

When Patheos heard of this, they reached out to the temple, and had some [questions answered](#). The statement boils down to the Satanic Temple's willingness to embrace the new Republican-led insistence of religiously backed memorials, and they plan to take full advantage of it.

Earlier reports of the temple called them the [Religious Yes Men](#). The irony is that the tenets of the [Church of Satan](#), founded by Anton LaVey in 1966, not only make this mix of satire and dogma plausible, they embrace it.

While none would consider [Father Guido Sarducci](#) a spokesperson for the Catholic Church, Satanists have no problem with getting its message out through any means possible. After all, the founding principles of Satanism can be found in the works of none other than [Ayn Rand](#). If anything, Satanism is [the epitome, and the end-form of Ayn Rand's Objectivism](#). With the popularity of Ayn Rand's philosophy among the Republicans, including [one-time GOP VP hopeful Paul Ryan](#), the idea of them rejecting the Satanic Temple's monument is impossible to fathom. It would instead be a true affirmation to their love affair with selfishness.

### Okla. brought the Satanic Temple upon itself.

Okla., thanks to its argument for [religious monuments on public display](#), now must accept the Satanic Temple and their memorial. The law allows them to put it right next to the 10 Commandments, if they so desire. Next week, who knows, perhaps the Satanic Temple will get the opportunity to name a new public school. It's not like the state would be hypocrites who would only [accept their own narrow religious views in direct violation of the US Constitution after all](#). Wouldn't that be something to witness?

So, what is it going to be GOP? A memorial to 666 himself, courtesy of the Satanic Temple and its members in Okla., or a return to the tenets of this nation, with a wall of separation between Church and State. Because once you open up the gates, and let the [flood of religion](#) into the public commons, you can no longer control whose messages go out to the public.

## NEW BOOKS

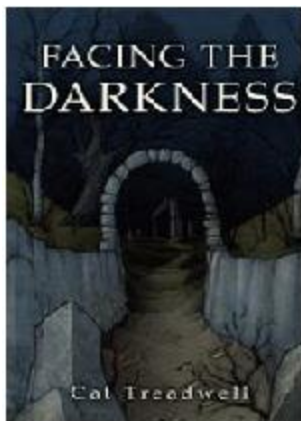


### "Chicken Flavored Soup for the Druid's Soul" (aka Green Book Vol. 5)

This is a 120 page collection of 300 stories, jokes, and tidbits that I hope will please your good-humored, eclectic taste for the wise surprises.

Share for free with a morose friend.

<http://orgs.carleton.edu/Druids/ARDA2/doc/2part6-5.doc>



### FACING THE DARKNESS

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Facing-Darkness-Cat-Treadwell-ebook/dp/B00FAIFZAM/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_title\\_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1384761957&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Facing-Darkness-Cat-Treadwell-ebook/dp/B00FAIFZAM/ref=tmm_kin_title_0?ie=UTF8&qid=1384761957&sr=1-1)

#### REVIEWS

*Mark Townsend, Author of Jesus Through Pagan Eyes* -- This rather 'counter cultural' little book (and by that, counter to the current 'light' obsessed perfection-driven and success-oriented western spirituality culture) is profoundly honest and filled to the edges with the gritty wisdom of one who's not avoided the pain-filled way. It's a book to be read slowly and mindfully. The exercises are practical and quietly powerful if given adequate time. As one also prone to the black clouds, I was grateful for the immediate sense of solidarity and support.

*Paul C Newman, Bard & Storyteller* -- It takes a certain special something for words in a book to reach you through a tar-pit of depression - the words in this book have that something. Cat shares her own experience and that of others simply and sensitively, offering insights and suggestions in small doses which have helped sufferers to hold on when it is hardest to do so. Some books expect a lot from you - this one accepts you where you are, as you are, offering perspective and a safe place to be when you're vulnerable. If the best in us comes out when we are tested, maybe these words will guide you to the best in you.

## **DRUID INQUIRER INFO**

### Publishing Information

Title: Druid Inquirer: A Scrapbook of the Reformed Druid Communities

Editor: Michael the Fool

Published: 8 times a year. No mailed copies, just free on the internet, print your own. Submissions Policy: Give it to me! If you have news about your grove, written a little essay, like to write up a book or move, have a poem, saw an interesting news article in the paper, or have a cartoon, send it in to [mikerdna@hotmail.com](mailto:mikerdna@hotmail.com) or send by Facebook message to [mike.thefool](https://www.facebook.com/mike.thefool). I'll try to give credit to whoever the original author is, and they retain the copyright to their works, and we'll reprint it one day in a future binding also. Nasty works will not be published. Although my standards are not skyhigh, incomplete works will be nurtured towards a publish-able form. Submissions are accepted from other publications and organizations, so you need not be a formal member of the RDNA to have your items published.

Deadline for Oimelc Issue is January 15, 2014