

Orion at Twilight

Highlights

April, 1995

Hours: M-Sat 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Vol. 2, Num. 4

ORION'S QUIVER

Email: OrionatTwi@aol.com

Drum Alert!

I've had so many requests for information on drum circles that I think it's about time we started our own circle. A very nice lady has volunteered her living room near Providence Hospital (I hope her neighbors enjoy drumming!). What I need to know from you, our readers, is who among you is interested in a once a week or once every other week drum circle? As I envision it, we would meet around 7:30 in the evening, probably on a Tuesday or Wednesday, and drum. I personally can teach the basics of playing the Dumbek and the Bodhran (that's Middle Eastern and Irish drumming). Hopefully, others among you can introduce us to other rhythms or styles of drumming or methods of playing, or we can explore together. What do you say, shall we **drum**? If you are interested, please call the store at 303-8624 and leave your name and phone number. If things go right, we should be starting the middle of April, perhaps April 18 or 19.

An opportunity exists in the com-

munity of Everett to take inexpensive classes on a variety of subjects, including playing music, herbs, genealogy, suicide prevention, sign language, and self-protection, among others. (These are several of the ones we are taking.) For the catalog of classes, either stop by the store or call 339-4280. Most classes are \$8 and registration starts March 27.

What's Happening

We are starting classes this month. Unless otherwise specified, everything will be held in the store itself.

Mar. 31 - Apr. 2 - GEOCON III, a gaming convention in Olympia, Washington. For more information, contact (206) 866-6000 X6036; Email: greyhat@elwha.evergreen.edu.

Apr. 1 - NORTH END PSYCHIC FAIR, on the first Saturday of every month in Edmonds, WA. Psychics, Tarot Readers, Astrologers, Vendors and much, much more. For more information, call (206) 355-9399.

Apr. 3 - COUPON DAY. Make a purchase of \$25.00 or more, and receive a coupon for a complementary Tarot Reading anytime in the month of April, from either Kyros or Elizabeth.

Apr. 6-9 - NORWESCON 18, a science fiction/fantasy convention at the Red Lion Inn in SeaTac, Washington. Hope to see you there. For information, call (206)

248-2010, or Email: norwescn@wizards.com.

Apr. 13 - DISCUSSION GROUP sponsored by the Circle of Magic Church. Topic: Celtic Paganism. At Cookbook Restaurant, Everett, at 7pm. Call O.A.T. for information.

Apr. 13-16 - SPRING MYSTERIES FESTIVAL, sponsored by the Aquarian Tabernacle Church. This is a Pagan festival that has been held for the past 10 years. We have application fliers in the store, or call (206) 793-1945. Email: AquaTabCh@aol.com.

Apr. 14-16 - WORLD RHYTHM FESTIVAL, featuring workshops, performances, giant drum circle, kids activities and loads of fun. At Seattle Center House and the Flag Pavilion, **FREE!** Call O.A.T. for more information and hours. **We're going on Sunday.**

Apr. 15 - A RENAISSANCE REMEMBRANCE, at the Burlington-Edison High School. This is an annual Spring Arts & Crafts Fair. Costumes are encouraged. For information, contact Bonnie Kyle at (360) 766-6625 or Vicki Matthews at (360) 757-1285.

Apr. 15-16 - SHAMANISM, DEATH, AND DYING with Amy Cortese. Contact Judith Keith, 202 Camden Road, Elk, WA 99009; (509)292-0482.

Apr. 16 - EASTER SUNDAY

Apr. 18 or 19 - DRUM CIRCLE. We're not sure which date it will be yet. Come have fun learning different rhythms and drumming styles. Read Orion's Quiver for more information about this get-together.

Apr. 21 - SNAKE VISIT. Q & Kali, the writers of "Just Squeezed In," will

This newsletter, Orion At Twilight Highlights, has been published since December of 1994. Back issues are available for \$.50 each. Call ahead to be sure we have a particular issue.

be visiting the store this day. If you like snakes or would like to learn more about them, come down to the store and say hello. We will have a section of books on the shelves all about exotic pets. If you have any special requests, let us know.

Apr. 22 - APRIL FAIRE (SCA). Join us for 2 days of Medieval fun featuring tourneys and mechants and Medieval splendor at the Monroe Fairgrounds. Admission is \$5.00. For more information, call Patricia of Dragonsfyre at (206) 367-7385.

Apr. 22 - ANGELS, BIRD TRIBES AND TOTEMS, a workshop on protection, assistance and guidance. For information, call Judi at The Earth's Gift Inc. (206) 820-4265.

Apr. 24 - ORION AT TWILIGHT WILL BE CLOSED

Apr. 27 - DISCUSSION GROUP sponsored by Circle of Magic Church. At 7 pm, Cookbook Restaurant in Everett. Call O.A.T. for topic and information.

Apr. 29 - ANGELS, BIRD TRIBES AND TOTEMS, a workshop on protection, assistance and guidance. For information, call Judi at The Earth's Gift Inc. (206) 820-4265.

Apr. 29-30, MAY FAIRE (SCA), an event like APRIL FAIRE, held at the Thurstan County Fairgrounds. For more information, call the Autocrat of the event at (360) 456-5888.

May 5-7 - ANGLICON, a British Media/Science Fiction Convention. Meet Nigel Bennet (LaCroix from "Forever Knight") and Randy Rogel (Staff Writer for "Batman, the Animated Series" and "Animaniacs". Held in the Quality Inn, 17101 Pacific Hwy S in SeaTac. For more information, call (206) 745-2700.

May 5-7 - BOARS HUNT (SCA). This is a wargames scenerio with camping available. It will be held at the Masonic Park in Granite Falls. For more information, call Lord Andrew the Reckless at (206) 334-4988 before 9 p.m.

May 13 - RUNES CLASS, conducted by Stonespeaker. For more information on time and location, watch for the ad in next month's Highlights or call the store to reserve your place in the class.

May 19-21 - MAY CROWN (SCA).

May 20 - BOEING PSYCHIC FAIR, a

quarterly event and one of the largest in the northwest. For more information, call Christina at (206) 544-9548.

May 26-29 - FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL, at Seattle Center. Folk and Ethnic Music, Food, Fun, **FREE!** Call Seattle Center for more information.

May 29 - ORION AT TWILIGHT WILL BE CLOSED.

Orion at Twilight Highlights

If you have been thinking that our book selection is kind of limited, you were right. We are trying our best to make our bookshelves equal the gifts area, but it's a slow process. But to that end, we received our first order from a new book supplier last month. This is one of the suppliers for WaldenBooks and B. Dalton, and they are about ten times larger than our previous book suppliers. So, our bookshelves are expanding. Our first big book order came in the third week in March, and we now have sections on **Myths and Legends, Druids, Crystals** and things **Celtic**. We have also expanded our **Psychic, Community,** and **Herbs** sections.

Thanks to this new book supplier, we now have the opportunity to go into entirely different lines that fit in with our other themes. One thing we are looking into is **Multi-Media. CD-ROMs** are coming out on all kinds of subjects, including Astrology, Tarot, Herbalism, and so many others it's hard to count. And they can hold so much more information than a normal reference book and in so many different ways. Let's bring "New Age" into the 90's by taking full advantage of current technology.

The shelf next to Aromatherapy is our display shelf for **statues**. We now have Nataraj (Dancing Shiva), Buddha, and Ganesh. If you are looking for a specific statuette, ask to see our catalogs.

We found a small series of books at a gift show in Portland that

we liked. The three so far in the series are **UFO's, Synchronicity,** and a book on **Crop Circles**. They are great topics for conversation.

Several people have complained that the **ten cent sticks of incense** are going out and that they have trouble relighting them. We think this is due to the way they were made. These sticks are hand dipped, which can cause variations on the density of the flammable material. Until we get word back from our supplier we suggest you let the flame burn more of the stick before blowing it to the coals which produce the smoke.

We do have other types of incense that come from *Essential Essences*, and we have heard nothing questionable about them. They come in 30 different scents, and are on the same shelf as the individual sticks. Also, let us know if you have a particular type you like better than others. If we don't carry it now, we will try to carry it in the future.

CRYSTAL ALERT! We finally acquired the big quartz crystal points that you have been looking for. Some are smaller than our own Firestorm, but the others are as large or larger. Must be seen to be believed.

Calador **OUT!** Speaks

Email: ChadL39788@aol.com

Here is an update on my last article. Searching through the Internet last month, I found an request for signatures via the Internet to get a bill in the Senate killed. To quote the message, this is "a particularly heinous piece of legislation titled the 'Communications Decency Act of 1995' (Senate Bill S. 314). Basically, the bill would subject all forms of electronic communication - from public Internet postings to your most private email - to government censorship."

Needless to say, I read the entire article and immediately sent in my "signature" for their list. They were looking to get 5,000 people to respond by the 15th of the month, and I

received a message back from them saying they had in excess of 56,000. Let's hear it for our side! I have the text of the bill if you are interested in reading it. For more information online, contact jlovette@hopf.dnai.com (Jim Lovette).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Two items came into the store that I thought you might like to know about.

First, PriceCostco is making preparations to build and open a new store close enough to us to be useful. They are looking at a location adjacent to I-5 and SR527 (19th Avenue S.E.), a short distance south of the Everett Mall/I-5 interchange. As a merchant and former military person, I've found Costco a real money saver for the past 6 years. I will welcome them to the area with most of my big spending shopping trips.

And second, the City of Everett is in the planning stages of a water line replacement project on the west side (our side) of Colby from Pacific to 23rd St. Construction is expected to start in the summer of 1996. This is a large project that will result in the sidewalks being removed to replace the water line, and each block will take about 3 weeks. We here at the store are not quite sure what we are going to do when this happens. Right now, it sounds like a great time for either a vacation or some renevation projects inside the store we have been talking about. We will let you know.

Starr Gazing

Email: wl-Kyros-nl@society.com

Well, last month I asked for stories of paranormal experiences that had happened to you, and I am glad to say that I received one shortly after the newsletter came out:

Dear Kyros;

I was glad to hear of your article. Here is one of the weirdest things I've ever had happen to me.

When I was about three and a half years old, I lived in Alaska with my

parents. Every afternoon, while my parents took a nap, I would have some free time. While they slept, I would watch T.V. or sometimes I would play in the field between our house and our neighbor's. A short while after they fell asleep, my friend, Joshua, would come to see me. Mostly, he wanted to know what I was doing, how and why, but sometimes he joined me in play.

He was the one who took me to the neighbor's house for the first time (I think he lived there, I'm not sure). It was a small house with lots of stairs and that warm, happy glow that many old houses have. The man and woman who lived there (I don't know if I ever got their names, but I'll call them Gramma & Grampa) were both ancient and wise. I used to sit with them for hours. Gramma always had a cookie or a banana for me, and Grampa, a story. Joshua was always with me, attentive and curious.

One day, while my father and I were driving back from the store, my father told me we would be leaving soon, and we'd never be coming back. As soon as the truck stopped I ran to see Gramma and Grampa. They seemed sad-happy when I told them, almost like parents at a wedding. They hugged me goodbye, smiled and wished me well. As we drove away, bags packed and truck loaded, I turned back to take one last look at that wonderful house. IT WAS GONE! Nothing but untouched leaves and grass & weeds marked where it had been. (I believe it was this shock that caused me to bury the memory for so long).

When my baby brother was born, I informed my parents his name was Joshua. They told me what they had named him and gently informed me that was his name. I stomped my foot and said "NO! His name is Joshua!" Somehow, some way, I knew that was him inside that tiny little body. My parents added "Joshua" as his first name, and that's what we've called him ever since.

Something similar also happened to me with my daughter several years before and leading up to her conception. As vivid as these memories are, I still doubt that it really happened to me. However small that doubt may be, it is there, and that is why I write now. Does this sort of thing happen to other people? Am I off my rocker? Was I dreaming?

Sincerely,
Nina

To quote my last article, Nina,

strange things happen to everyone, and it doesn't mean you're crazy. Thanks for writing, and anyone else out there who has a paranormal story, I would like to hear from you too. Remember, sharing your story may help someone else who is scared by what has happened to them and make them realize that they are not alone...

Peace, Kyros

Symbology 101 Labrys

by Korianna

The labrys, or double bladed axe, originated as the weapon of choice of early Amazon warriors. It served as a scepter to the Cretan Earthmother. During the classical Greek period it became tied to the goddess under several of her names, including Artemis, Gaea, Rhea, and Demeter. It is known to have been used as a ceremonial scepter at the Goddess's oldest Greek shrine at Delphi. There her priests took the name labryadae, meaning axe bearers. In Crete it became tied to the Minoan kings and was also used in the ritual slaughter of sacred bulls.

The labrys also appeared in India, carried by Shiva. Egypt's god Ptah was also represented by an axe. So was a Mayan diety known as God of the Axe. Tantric Buddhists believed the gods used axes against unbelievers and in Brittany stone axes were built into chimneys, in the belief they would avert the lightning that the pagan gods used to control. The idea was that the gods would be mollified by seeing their ancient symbol still in use.

In current times the labrys has been remembered for its connection with the Amazons and the Goddess, and has been adopted by lesbian women as a symbol. It remains tied to the moon and the horned beast because of its crescent shape.

Sources:

Women's Dictionary of Symbols and Sacred Objects, Barbara G. Walker
The Encyclopedia of Amazons, Jessica Amanda Salmonson

Bookwatch

This month I've chosen books from several sections of our store, instead of on only one subject.

MYTHOLOGY: Parallel Myths, by J. F. Bierlein. What a fascinating subject! After first enumerating the various pantheons of gods and goddesses, Bierlein goes on to compare such across the board myths as Creation, Fall from Grace, and tales of Love and Morality. Especially interesting to me was the section on Floods. Since the book covers not only the common mythologies we are familiar with, but Hawaiian, Native American and African ones, these are often tales we haven't been exposed to before. (P.S. This book could also serve as a marvelous resource for read-aloud tales.)

PARAPSYCHOLOGY: Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth, by J. E. Lovelock. In a lively, readable account, Lovelock presents the Earth as an entity capable of overcoming our interference. "The Gaia hypothesis is for those who like to walk or simply stand and stare, to wonder about the Earth and the life it bears, and to speculate about the consequences of our own presence here. It is an alternative to that pessimistic view which sees nature as a primitive force to be subdued and conquered [or]... that equally depressing picture of our planet as a demented spaceship, forever travelling, driverless and purposeless, around an inner circle of the sun." This guy's on our wavelength.

PAGANISM: Circles, Groves and Sanctuaries: Sacred Spaces of Today's Pagans, by Dan and Pauline Campanelli. What do a circle of sacred trees, a computer, and a briefcase have in common? They're all used as sacred altars for ritual. This book, rather than a travelogue of established, public shrines, is a catalog of private individuals establishing and using sacred spaces. Covering both indoor and outdoor shrines, altars, and sanctuaries, it is nicely illustrated with black and white photos and has a list of resource addresses.

MUSIC: Circle of Song: Songs, Chants, and Dances for Ritual and Celebration, compiled by Kate Marks. After an introduction regarding dancing, chanting, and drumming, the book plunges merrily into songs and chants from many religious disciplines as well

as different ethnics. Each chapter is organized around a theme: the elements, our relations, woman power, male power, healing and love, and peace and unity. Beginning each chapter is a meditation on that theme. The music itself is presented as the main music line (one or two part or round, usually), with chording symbols above. All are translated, if need be, below the music. Many are accompanied by dancing or ritual instructions, and explanatory information in some cases. Illustrations are done in striking black and white, enhancing the feel of the particular song it accompanies. The appendices are filled with a wealth of information, like recordings of the chants in the text, recommended tapes and books, drumming resources and music and dance organizations. An index of titles and first lines of songs is extremely useful, as is the chant reference chart, which is divided into Contemporary, Native American, Pagan and various ethnics. One feature this book has that is relatively new to the book market is a binding that allows the book to be opened flat without breaking the spine. This innovation replaces the wire spiral and plastic comb bindings musicians have been used to and cursed in the past. This is truly a book to explore for a long time.

Just Squeezed In...

Welcome friendsss.

Kali: Allow me to introduce myself and my mate. My name is Kali, and my mate is named Quetzalcoatl. Our humans have asked us to introduce ourselves to you so that you will not be surprised when we start frequenting the place that they go to during the daytime. To tell you a little more about us, I am a Mexican Boa Constrictor, and my mate Quetzalcoatl is a Red Tailed Boa Constrictor. And we have something that has been tickling our tails for a while.

Quetzalcoatl: Remember the article in Wendy's Corner, when she was talking about prejudice? The prejudice mentioned between different breeds of cats is nothing compared to the notions held by most Human cultures and

animals about our species. Let me tell you something: Legs do not a superior being make.

K: Yes, and several human legends depict us as the seducer of man, or the incarnation of evil. And earlier legends depict us as fearsome dragons that knights and saints were supposed to hunt and kill.

Q: *I wish I could fly like some of the old dragon legends. I guess that's what caused Calador to give me the name of the Serpent God of the Aztecs. But serpents and dragons come up in most if not all human cultural myths. Some good, some not so good. It all depends on your perspective.*

K: But we aren't slimy (unless we just got out of the bath, but then who isn't, right after a good bath??). We don't all bite anything in sight... I mean, some of my meaner cousins do, but they are just grumpy because they weren't lucky enough to find nice humans like I did... But, I have gotten a lot of discrimination from people because I am big (over 6 feet long) and they assume that I am going to bite them or hug them to death... I don't do those kinds of things except to my food. (Rats, YUM!!) I liked Wendy's column, but I don't think that someone as privileged as a cat has a whole lot of room to talk! Has she ever had people run in fear just seeing her from across the room? I have! It hurt my feelings to think that I scared someone just because of what I am, not who I was as a sentient being.

Q: *You're forgetting the old tales about the "evil" of a black cat, dear. And personally, I would consider it an advantage to be able to see things from 5 feet above the ground like humans do. Being able to see things far away must make catching rats really easy. And it would also make it easy for us to avoid animals that like to play rough.*

K: Well, I am not sure if our humans will print this or not, but I think it is unfair that Wendy, who is not a member of the family, has a column and we don't. I think we need to complain to Calador and Kyros that we would like to have a monthly column where we could talk about the things that concern us. And maybe there are other things that we could help them with too.....

Love and Hisses,

Kali & Quetzalcoatl

Editor: Complaint heard, Kali. Since we have a cat writing for us, why not

have two more beautiful animals writing as well. Wendy always said that she enjoyed hearing from other literate critters, and who are we to judge? I also hear that you are expecting kids sometime soon. Congradulations!

We're Still Vatchin

Since K and Q **Just Squeezed In** their own column into our newsletter, they thought that you might like to know the proud stories of their namesakes, Kali and Quetzalcoatl.

K: World Mythology, edited by Roy Willis says that Kali was dark and gaunt, with protruding fangs, and that she wore a necklace of human heads and a tiger skin. Roaring, she killed the demons. Next she was summoned by Durga to help against the demon Raktabija, who had the power to produce replicas of himself from every drop of blood that reached the ground. Durga and the Matrikas ("little Mothers") wounded him repeatedly, but only found they had even more to deal with. Then Kali gleefully appeared and defeated the demon, catching his blood before it fell, and sucking his body dry, while swallowing all the little Raktabijas with her gaping mouth.

The Thugs who worshiped her with ritual murder by strangling validated their practices by a variant of the Raktabija story. Tiring from her exertions, Kali made two men from the sweat on her arms and gave each a square of cloth, telling them to continue killing the demons without shedding any blood. Soon all the demons were strangled, and Kali told the men to keep the cloths and continue to offer victims as sacrifices to her. I like being named after a goddess that strangles since I do to!!

Q: "The plumed serpent god of Central America." Now that's someone to be named after. According to the **Dictionary of World Mythology** by

"Myths and Legends define who we **were** by how they came to be, and who we **are** by how they are remembered." - Calador

Arthur Cotterell, *Quetzalcoatl* "was the giver of breath and the god of winds. At the same time he was a creator diety, identified with the sun, and the god who descended into the land of the dead, miclan, where 'he fell like one dead'. On his recovery, perhaps aided by his double, he gathered up the precious bones there, returned to the earth and, sprinkling them with his own blood, he turned them into human beings."

There is a great deal more to learn about this storm god, but it would take more room than we have, so I'll let it go. The store has many excellent resources for researching myths and legends.

Editor: The column "**We're Still Watching**" will be a regular occurrence here in **Highlights**. If you have a specific pantheon that is your favorite, and would like to learn more about them, let us know and we will dig up what we can. And if you can do the research and send us in a piece, we will be happy to look it over and print it if it fits. We are also on the lookout for good resource books to add to our shelves.

Herb of the Month

MODERN MEDICINE: ROOTED IN ANCIENT TIMES

by Kathy Long

Herbs have been used successfully for over 4000 years in China for healing and balancing the body's energy. The use of herbs as body cleansers, rejuvenators, tonics and relaxers has been practiced by mankind, all over the world, from the very beginning of mankind's history of imperfection. These natural remedies are still in use today.

The code of medical ethics known as the Hippocratic Oath is still taken today by graduating students in many medical schools. Hippocrates, the so-called Father of Medicine, lived from 460-377 BCE,

and was one of the most observing and industrious men who ever lived. He was the first to conceive the idea of diagnosis and also exercised great care in regulating the diet of persons afflicted with acute diseases. Wounds were treated with the view of guarding against undue loss of blood. Herbs, diet, baths, fresh air, massage, rest and quiet formed the bulk of his treatments, and he made his followers swear on oath that they would give no poisonous remedies to their patients. Can modern medicine always say this? Between three and four hundred plants are mentioned in what are know as the Hippocratic Writings.

The familiar sign Rx, which is generally found in the upper left-hand corner of the modern prescription, has been traced to the pagan symbol for Jupiter. It has been said, that the ancient practice of placing this symbol at the head of prescriptions was instituted in the time of Nero, when the Christians were being brutally persecuted. The early Christians, whether physician or patient, were put to death, for refusing to use this symbol, their consciences would not let them use this or any symbol such as this one. These early Christians worshiped only the Creator, whose name can still be found in most Bibles today at Psalm 83.18.

The symbol indicated an allegiance of the physician to the State, whom Jupiter was the God of, and none could obtain medicine without this symbol. The symbol meant, "Take thou in the name of Jupiter." The ancients employed the Greek word 'Physis', meaning the natural constitution, to signify pharmacy and sorcery, and that in this way those who taught and practiced the healing art, came to be know as "physicians."

From the many facts existing, we may well believe that there is not a single disease in man that may not be alleviated or cured in some herb or other, if we but knew which plant and where to find it. For, who has not often seen, not only our own domestic animals, but many of the untamed creatures of forest, field, and sky, seek out some one particular herb when laboring under sickness or some derangement?

Our Creator has, of course, wisely implanted a definite instinct in these creatures, in order to serve for it's health, or restoration to health, from disease. In man, however, such instinct is not instilled. Man has been given reason and judgment and a disposition to investigate the laws and mysteries of creation, in order to secure his own health. An old proverb says, "There are sermons in stones, and books in running brooks," so do we behold volumes of wisdom in all the herbal kingdom—every emerald and variegated leaf, in every tinted blossom. In all, there is a voiceless language, eternally singing significant songs of the Creator(s) of all things.

In Hypocrites' day only a few hundred plants were known which could alleviate pain and suffering. Today, thousands have been analyzed, investigated and cataloged! We have, at our disposal, a wealth of information about illnesses, herbal cures, and the convenience of having what we need delivered to our door! So, the question is— why suffer when we don't have to?

The View from the Other Side

DO YOU WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE (OR YOUR CAR'S BUMPER)?

I read bumper stickers. Lots of people put them on their cars. But... there are inherent dangers to this popular practice as I found out recently.

My political viewpoint is one that is not held by a majority. I won't go into detail, but suffice it to say that you can tell which way my mindset goes by reading my bumper stickers. They aren't large or neon colored but they are visible and I suppose I am proud to hold the opinions they suggest.

A few days ago, as I was driving to work, I realized I was being paced on the freeway by another car. It's happened before, and usually I pay no attention to it. Sometimes in fact, it's someone else with the same stickers and we exchange waves and everybody is happy. Not so, this time. There were two young men

(and I use the term loosely because I saw no maturity in their actions) in the car. I simply nodded and kept my eyes on the road. When I sped up, so did they. So I slowed down and they pulled in front of me. I gave no turn signals to indicate which exit I was taking, but unfortunately they pulled off onto the one I needed, and I had no choice but to follow. The light at the foot of the ramp turned red, stopping them (and me). Rather than pulling alongside them, I stayed behind, leaving plenty of room between their car and mine.

While waiting for the light to change, the passenger in the car actually got out of the car and turned to face me, making very rude (and lewd) gestures in plain sight directly at me, which were even worse than the ones they had made while pacing me on the freeway. I will admit to being VERY frightened, but I refused to let them scare me off the road. Instead, I was lucky enough that police car in the area scared them off. They turned into a parking lot and I made myself scarce.

You can bet I was lucky THIS TIME. Well, similar things have happened to me in the past for the same reasons, I'm positive, but I will not remove the stickers (not yet, at least).

After last month's article about breaking the rules and rebellion, I suppose I must say that if you are not ashamed to admit to unpopular opinions, be they Gay Rights, Alternate Religions, Left Wing Political Candidates (or Right), or whatever it might be, then these kinds of incidents will happen. (Some people might even object to Saving the Whales!) It did serve to shake me out of my complacency (again!), reminding me to lock my car doors and be aware of my surroundings.

So, be forewarned, all you rebels out there... flaunt your Pentacles, your Pink Triangles and your Greenpeace stickers, but be prepared to defend yourselves whether by physical or other means. And if you don't know how to handle yourself in such a situation or are unprepared to, then don't wear your 'heart on your sleeve'. And... it's no disgrace not to. In fact it might be the prudent thing to do. It's up to you!

Robin White

Wendy's Corner



"Where have all the Flowers Gone?"

I don't usually watch television, unlike Marcelle, the white-faced Tom with whom I share living space. I did however manage to catch part of a series on Women and Spirituality that piqued my interest though it did leave out some vital information. How many cats followed their humans to the stake in the Middle Ages?

I've never understood why the feline species was singled out as being a channel between "evil" witches and Satan. The only connection I can make is that during the Burning Times, many of the wise women kept cats as companions because they were easy to live with and demanded little in the way of attention or maintenance. They also earned their living by keeping the premises free of unwanted mice and rats. These women were more interested in helping others as healers and teachers, something the churchmen of the day frowned on. THEY preferred to be in control and the women resented it, being of a non-controlling nature. It follows then that women would have kept cats rather than more easily controlled species such as dogs. (Ever tried to control a cat?)

The incorrect assumption was made that these women were somehow communicating with some evil being with the help of their familiar spirits who just HAPPENED to take cat-shape. Black cats were especially singled out and persecuted because everyone 'knew' that BLACK was the color of evil. (I wonder who made that rule!)

An interesting aside is that when the feline population declined, the rodent population increased. Perhaps the Plague was a direct result. (Notice, I did NOT say BLACK plague!)

In any case, the circle of life was severely weakened by trying to eliminate a species. The repaired link in the form of a reduced number of cats was never quite as strong as the original.

These days, it seems the human population is more aware of what can happen when the circle is interfered with, though there are still some who persist in it. I do hate it when I hear they are trying to eliminate the sea lions who are eating the salmon, or the mountain goats who are eating all the flowers... ("Where have all the flowers gone...?")

Meow for Now!

Wendy Tiger

EXPLORATIONS

Welcome to a new column. In it, I will address subjects in the metaphysical field. The first few columns will cover various forms of divination or oracles, ways of predicting the future or answering questions regarding the present or the past through use of psychic powers and/or occult symbols. The most prevalent method of divination these days seems to be the **Tarot**, in its many forms and incarnations. However, Tarot is by no means the only method, nor even the oldest. Other methods of divination using various objects or cards include **I Ching**, **Amulets of the Goddess**, **Oracle of the Bones**, and **Runes**, the method I'd like to explore today.

RUNES

Runes come down to us from the peoples of the north of Europe, the Norsemen and Vikings, from a time over 2000 years ago. Originally used as ceremonial symbols probably derived from even more ancient cave paintings and rock carvings, their use gradually expanded to the areas of business, poetry, monuments and jewelry. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, when common wisdom says Europe was completely Christian, runes and paganism still existed side by side with Christianity in the northern countries. It wasn't until the fourteenth century through the eighteenth century, the "Burning Times" that the Inquisition and the Church and witch hunts thoroughly buried paganism and, as a by-product, runes. For centuries thereafter, the word **RUNE** came to mean any magical symbol used in a spell or incantation, usually in a derogatory sense. Then, late in the nineteenth century, an upswing of interest in Norse and Germanic paganism again brought runes into the public eye. Today, runes and books on runes are widely available. Part of the current interest in runes can be traced to their study and use by various pagan groups, including Wiccans, practitioners of Teutonic magic, and other Neo-pagan religions.

The runes themselves are generally called the **Futhark**, after the first six of 24 letters of the runic alphabet (the **th** represents one letter). In the Ralph Blum tradition, which I'm

most familiar with, a 25th stone is left blank and represents God

























or Odin or the Unknowable (your choice). The letters correspond fairly well to our traditional alphabet and can be translated one on one into names and spells, if you so choose. The runes are, in their traditional order, in the table above.

Rune stones historically were made of oak, ash or yew wood. However, today they can be found in a multitude of materials, from paper and plastic to metal to semi-precious stones, as well as traditional wood.

For a more personal set, it is suggested that you make your own. This puts your own creative energy and life force into them and attunes them to you. It is best that they be 1" to 1 1/2" wide (short side) and 2" to 2 1/2", and either square or oblong. The symbols can be carved or burnt into wood, etc., or painted or carved into stone. The resulting cavities should then be colored. Tradition recommends royal blue or purple (for Odin), red (for Tiw), or green (for Freya). Otherwise, black or white are acceptable and useful, especially since these two colors can contrast nicely with any substrate. (By the way, it is considered bad vibes to just go out and cut a limb from a tree. It is best to find fallen wood or to buy it from a friendly dealer.) The finished set can be kept in a simple draw-string bag of material or leather.

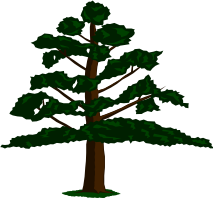
If you cannot make your own set, however, you can purchase a set and attune it to yourself. I recommend looking at as many sets as you can find, until one set "reaches out and grabs you". One set will seem special to you, whether because of color, material, shape, size, or any combination of things. **That** is the set that will work best for you. (By the way, this method of search works for any kind of oracle. I've seen it work many times for Tarot decks and rune stones.) After you get your own set, try to keep them near you or in your pocket for awhile. In moments of inactivity, take them out and handle them. You may want to make a pouch for them yourself, or find one that seems "right" to you. Do these things and anything else you can think of to "personalize" the runes to your own energy and "vibes".

Next month I will cover methods of using the Runes. Until then, **Enjoy the Learning Journey!**

Modern English Letter	Rune	Germanic Runic Name (Old English Name)	Short Meaning
f		fehu (feoh)	Possessions
u		uruz (ur)	Strength
th		thurisaz (thorn)	Protection
a		ansuz (os)	Signals
r		raido (rad)	Journey
k		kano (cen)	Energy
g		gebo (gyfu)*	Partnership
w		wunjo (wyn)	Joy
h		hagalaz (haegl)*	Disruption
n		nauthiz (nyd)	Constraint
i		isa (is)*	Standstill
j		jera (ger)*	Harvest
e (ei)		eihwaz (eoh)*	Rebirth
p		perth (peorth, perthro)	Initiation
z		algiz (eolh-secg, elhaz)	Protection
s		sowelu (sigel)*	Wholeness
t		teiwaz (tir)	Warrior
b		berkana (beorc)	Growth
e		ehwaz (eh)	Movement
m		mannaz (man)	Self
l		laguz (lagu)	Flow
ng		ingwaz (ing)*	Community
o		othala (ethel)	Property
th (as in FATHER)		dagaz (daeg)*	Wholeness
blank		Odin*	The Unknowable

*These runes have no reversed (upside down) position.

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