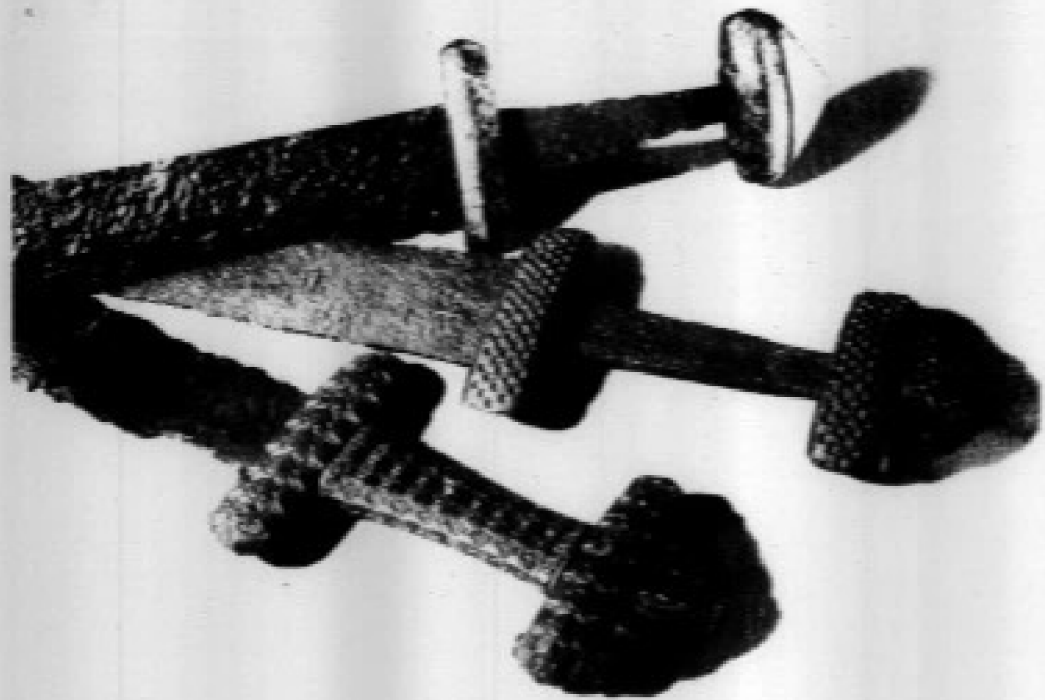


THE RUNESTONE

4:1

RUNESTONE



Viking swords, showing the characteristic guard and pommel.

(Courtesy Danish National Museum)

The Runestone is a journal of the old Norse religion and is dedicated to the revival of that religion as epitomized during the Viking Age, and to the revival of the values of courage, freedom, and personal independence which are associated with it.

The Runestone is the official publication of the Viking Brotherhood and is published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$3.00 per year. Write Stephen A. McNallen, 6587 Baumholder, Postfach 114, West Germany.

NORSE NOTES

I am glad to report that on June 13, my wife and I were married in Norse wedding ritual. The ceremony was one designed by myself, and was performed in the castle Lichtenberg in Kusel, in the Rheinland-Pfalz district of Germany. We entered the open area walled off by castle ruins, where I removed my weapons and handed them to one of the guests, and we proceeded to an area beneath a spreading tree. Once there, I spoke on what we were doing there in hallowing our union before the gods and on our responsibility to our people and our clan. The clan was spoken of as a golden chain stretching from the beginning of human life on Earth to the present, and extending indefinitely into the future.

My wife, Linda, was handed the keys to the house by her assistant, and she accepted formally all that they symbolized - the preservation of the home life, her say in matters domestic, and her vital role in raising our children as stalwart warriors or shining maidens. In like manner, I referred to my weapons and accepted the responsibility of laying down my life, if need be, to defend her, our family, nation, people and culture.

This being done, we exchanged rings and vows. I explained that these were not slave rings, and reiterated our equal but unique roles - roles which do not require subordination, but rather development of our own natures.

Finally, as the high point of the ceremony, the hammer of Thor was brought forward and elevated with both of us holding it. Up to this point I had been a little nervous, a bit touched by stage fright. As I invoked the Aesir and Vanir, the heroes of our people, and the clan - both those living and those apart, yet still with us - all of this apprehension was transmuted into a profoundly religious experience which - rightfully - defies description. There was no ecstasy or loss of self, but rather a feeling of the import of that moment and a total conviction that the beings we were invoking, the gods and the clan, were aware of our deed.

This climax subsided, we sealed our pact with a kiss and ended the ritual, which was followed by a feast of whole roast pig and huge amounts of wine and beer - plus our total stock of mead brought from England.

The guests we had invited - some fifty people - were not pagans. Most of them were non-religious people, typical cynics of the military community. Some were Christians. But throughout and following, there was not one scoffing remark, or one sour jest. In fact, some of the most cynical were the most impressed by the service. At least one conversion to Odinism resulted.

I served as godi (priest) as well as groom. For one thing, I was the only qualified man around. For another, the Eddic account of the marriage of Sigurd and Brunnhild establishes the precedent. John Yeowell of the Odinist Committee was invited over from London to perform the service for us, but due to matters that could not be altered, he could not be with us.

Photographs will follow in a future issue of The Runestone.

Available from The Runestone

- ★ ODIN LIVES! Bumper stickers at 50¢ each, while they last.
- ★ "What is the Norse Religion?" leaflets at 5¢ each.
- ★ Because of the difficulty of many of our readers in locating Thor's hammer amulets, we have decided to stock these if demand warrants it. Write for details.

One hundred per cent of profits received will be used to finance an upcoming publicity program.

Clarke Dunlap, of 3825 Bluff Place, No. 10, Point Fermin, California 90731, is interested in contacting Odinists in the Southern California area. Clarke is trying to get enough of us together in one place to get something going. We suggest that readers in the area write him; we ourselves will be working with him upon our return to the States.

Our leaflets, "What is the Norse Religion?", are effective as a means of striking back at the Christian establishment. We hope you will buy some of these and distribute them where they will do the most good. Your personal efforts are our most potent potential for growth!

NOTES ON GROWING IN THE NORSE RELIGION

Okay, suppose you've made the first step, by deciding that whatever religion you had been following (if any) wasn't what you were looking for, and you decided, after doing some reading on the subject, that the Norse religion best expressed what you believed about yourself and about the Universe. So, what do you do next? Surely, if you had the initiative to find the Norse religion, you will want to go farther. So, for the benefit of the new or not-so-new converts to our religion, we've put together this brief guide to suggest how one might try to develop oneself in the Norse way. Naturally, a process such as this one is a highly personal and individual one, and each man or woman will want to modify it to fit his or her own situation. This is well and good - in fact, it must be so if there is to be any genuine development or progress along these lines. We offer the suggestions which follow in the hope that they will be of use to those trying to put such a program of self-help and self-development into practice.

1. STUDY.

You can hardly follow a religion that you know nothing about, so find the appropriate materials and begin reading. Back issues of The Runestone are especially valuable, as they fit the historical aspects of the Norse religion into a modern context. There are plenty of good books available on the subject, some of which we have reviewed in The Runestone. Davidson's Gods and Myths of Northern Europe is one good all-around volume; there are many others. A warning: don't come to regard any one author as infallible. There are plenty of disputed points in the history and archaeology of the Norse people, and authors usually end up on one side or the other. So read them all with an open mind, remembering that no one expert holds the key to undisputed truth.

2. THE EDDAS.

For many years the Christians have been urging their followers to read the Bible daily, and not without reason. There is no doubt that the daily reading of the scriptures of one's particular religion does, indeed, tend to keep one mindful of that religion and helps one to live by its precepts. This practice works as well for the Eddas as it does for the Bible or any other religious text. I have been regularly reading the Eddas for some time, and I have found that even reading just a few stanzas each day adds immeasurably to my religious life. It is a practice I strongly recommend for all. For my own use, I have been reading from Lee M. Hollander's translation of The Poetic Edda. Besides learning more about my religion, I find the rhythm of Hollander's translation to be very pleasing, and much of it is especially beautiful when read aloud.

3.

Concurrently with study of the Eddas and of Norse matters in general, the novice Norseman should begin to examine and study himself - to feel out his strengths and weaknesses. This can become quite an involved process, but a few major points can be gleaned from even a superficial examination. For example, take the physical aspect. Where is improvement needed

here? Is the individual too skinny? Overweight? Poor muscle tone and slow reflexes? No wind? All these things must be corrected, and this means lots of hard work. Every person who declares himself or herself a follower of the Norse religion should keep his or her body always in superb physical condition, ready for any eventuality. There are many factors to be considered in any physical conditioning program, but perhaps the overriding concern should be regularity. It takes a lot of old-fashioned will power to devise an intelligent conditioning program and stick with it, day after day. This is where the character development comes in!

In correcting your deficiencies and overhauling your physical condition and self image, you might try some activity which will give you more confidence as you develop a better body. Sports would be good for this, be it swimming, tennis, track, running or whatever. Karate is an excellent confidence and character builder. Actually, any physical improvement will improve your opinion of yourself and make you more poised, more confident, and more aggressive. Some activities work better than others, depending on the individual. Showing well in some form of competition can be helpful to those who have an underdeveloped ego, and give them a better feeling of self-worth. An improved physical appearance has a direct effect on the personality.

4.

Begin examining your actions in the light of those principles you have accepted as your own. Do you have debts which you have carelessly allowed to accumulate? These should be resolved as soon as it is practicable, as they are against the Norse ideas on self reliance. Do you practise hospitality to all who come your way? Hospitality was a key virtue among the Norsemen. Do you fearlessly tell the truth, rather than hiding behind lies or excuses? Lying is often the sign of a coward. Do you try to be just in all matters? Our ancestors had high ideals of justice. Do you stand up for what you believe to be right, defending it by word or if necessary by violence? Do you stand up to those who think they can bully you? The list can go on and on. This is no place to write an examination of conscience. The point is that the individual who would follow the Norse Way must continually re-evaluate his behavior in the light of those standards he wishes to meet.

5.

Is your life style consistent with the religion of the Vikings? When you have begun to develop in the Norse religion, you will want to begin asking yourself this question. Are you really using your religion to the maximum, or are you just adopting a philosophy and giving some lip service to it? Are you prepared to live a Viking life? If you're stuck in a nine-to-five job that offers more ulcers than satisfaction, or if your idea of excitement is the suburban backyard barbecue, you'd better give this point some thought. Put some spice in your life! Take up karate, or skydiving. Or take up treasure hunting or anything adventurous and a bit risky. If you're a young man facing the military service, become a paratrooper or a Ranger or a member of some other elite group of warriors - don't run with the common herd! Remember, you are not like other people, content to drift with the crowd. You are the master of your destiny, a person with beliefs and with goals - you are a Norseman! If you don't feel this way about it, you might be kidding yourself about your place in the Norse religion.

Growing in the Norse spirit is a never-ending process. There are always new challenges, new discoveries. It is a long road, even an endless one, but it is the glory road of adventure and fulfillment. Those who set foot on it will never regret it.

The Wonderful World Tomorrow - and Why You Will Love It, OR WE'LL KILL YOU !!

For some time now I have been receiving all sorts of religious material - free books and pamphlets, a monthly magazine, and a correspondence course - from an outfit calling itself Ambassador College. Far from being a cut-rate venture or a shoestring operation of any sort, Ambassador College is obviously a well-bankrolled organization. Its publications are printed on high-quality paper, are lavishly illustrated and the layout is superb. The contents are very well researched and extremely readable. The most amazing thing is that all of their material, without exception, is absolutely free! Ambassador College does not send out the "begging letters" so common to such groups, nor do they solicit funds in their printed material. Definitely a high-class operation!

In fact, the only thing repulsive about Ambassador College is its message. Inside the pages of their tasteful booklets we find what has got to be some of the most abominable ideas in Christendom. You see, all of their material is oriented around the belief that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent, and when He does come, all you sinners have had it! The people at Ambassador College proclaim the coming of a very real, very literal government run by Christ on this planet, rather than some sort of ethereal afterlife in some place called "Heaven". This coming total theocracy will rule all men with an absolute and ruthless authority. "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11). The spirit of man, says the literature, must be totally broken and humbled by the power of God. "His eyes will flash like flames of fire. His face will not be pale white. It will be like the sun shining in full strength. He will come with all the POWER that created the universe! He is coming to crush every government of men, as if to grind them into powder! He is coming as the King of kings, ruling over ALL NATIONS.

He is coming to change human nature (emphasis in the original)! He is coming to enforce the WAY of outgoing concern, of love, of giving, serving, sharing, helping, instead of grasping, taking, and self-centeredness. He is coming to abolish war, competition, strife, and violence. He is coming to inaugurate a universal, right education. He is coming to clean up this filthy earth. He is coming to restore the government of God as the all-powerful world government!"

This, of course, is supposed to make us absolutely ecstatic. The great problems of the world, be it famine, over-population, crime, war (?) or "Immorality", are seen as being completely beyond the ability of

humans to control. Since we can't govern ourselves, obviously, we need a dictator - God! And there is no doubt whatsoever that "dictator" is the only possible name for the God extolled as perfect and loving by this Christian cult.

There are a number of holes in their theories, at least from the Norse point of view. Take one of the quotes above as an example. How do you change human nature and still leave any vestige of freedom? Hitler was going to create a new man, a Superman, to fit his New Order, and the Communists want to change human nature to produce communal Marxist Man. Why is it wrong for earthly tyrants, but right for an unearthly one? And how is He going to abolish competition and strife without destroying the virtues of courage and the strength of character developed in the crucible of strife? "Right education" - isn't the term "brainwashing"?

Even if it wasn't for this sort of thing, I would begin to doubt their reason when they say that God will "level the awesome Pamir Knot, the huge giants of the Himalayas, the Atlas, Taurus, Pyrenees, Rockies, Sierras and Hindu Kush - level the immense sweep of the Andes, and all the other forbidding, towering, virtually uninhabitable mountains of earth" to provide land for farming and habitation. The thought is at best infuriating - what sort of venal, craven, twisted mind - or Mind - could propose such a project? Is the whole world to become a featureless, crowded, "civilized" plantation? But then, since there won't be any more need of revelations I suppose there won't be any need for mountains, since that's allegedly where God perches when making his announcements.

The mentality that is exhibited by those who push this sort of drivel is patently a slave mentality. These are the people who put Hitler in power, and who praise Mao today. The masses of men, not having the guts to live by their own merits, cry for a dictator to give them security. Not having the strength to compete, they urge the end of competition. Lacking the ability - or the courage - to solve their problems, they invoke divine intercession. Knowing themselves possessed of the Absolute Truth they stoke the fires of the Crusades and the Inquisitions. The most appalling thing is the support they receive, and their immense resources with which to poison the souls of free and brave men. With their slick paper and their radio stations broadcasting around the world, they can reach tens of millions of people with this gospel of despair, of submission, of bondage. Somehow, we must find ways of opposing them, of defending freedom. We must fight them to a standstill, then forever destroy their plans for the Ultimate State, whether presided over by a mortal tyrant or a supernatural one, a man or a God.

Free men don't need Lords!

ADVERTISEMENT



The Odinist Committee

COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE ODINIC RITE

10, Trinity Green,
London, E.1.

BOOK



REVIEW

THE SKALDS by Dr. Lee M. Hollander

Dr. Hollander, famous for his translations of The Poetic Edda, Heimskringla, and other Norse classics has scored another victory in The Skalds. He is a foremost expert in his field of Scandinavian literature, and this volume adequately proves it.

The Skalds will be good reading for anyone interested in poetry, the Vikings, literature, or any number of other subjects. Hollander analyzes the poetry of thirteen skalds, gives what facts are known about their lives, and presents a selection of their poetry. Included in this anthology are such figures as Egil Skallagrímsson and Harold Hardraadi. Most of the selections deal with the typical Northern themes of warfare, adventuring, and the virtues of the generous and brave ruler. Rather unexpected was the section of erotic poetry, featuring the works of three skalds whose writing fell in that category. Consider, for example, this stanza of Halfréd Ottarsson:

Eager am I ever -
even though the billows
crash 'gainst the sea-courses -
to kiss the lovely maiden:
liefer were the love of
lady high-born to me
unwed, almost, than if
I had her in marriage.

Of course there's plenty of traditional battle-poetry, like this of Egil Skallagrímsson:

Slammed halberds dire
'gainst helmet-fire,
bit winged arrow
into warrior's marrow;
by steel ice-cold
struck, I am told,
fell Odin's trees
in Weapon-breeze.

This book is more than worth the price of \$1.95 asked by the University of Michigan Press. You can get their address from the Guide to Books in Print from your local library.

8

ECO CORNER

This section of The Runestone is set aside for the subject of individual action to support our ecology, for two reasons. First, our religion is a religion of nature, of the free and the wild places on the Earth. Secondly, the worsening ecological crisis will result in more regulation and less freedom, unless we solve it ourselves.

The energy crisis of a couple of years ago illustrates only a sample of the difficulties we can expect when we run into a real crisis. Now that it's out of the headlines (at the moment of this writing) we should look to see what we're doing to prevent a recurrence. Here are some items for action, from Environmental Action, Inc.:

- ★ Turn off lights, radios, etc. in unoccupied rooms. Obvious, but easily overlooked.
- ★ Use air conditioners only sparingly. Don't leave it on all day, cooling a vacant house, just so you can walk into a cool house after work. If you're only in one room, don't try to cool the entire house - close the door. Shade your windows from the sun or install an awning.
- ★ Turn the heat down at night.
- ★ Use appliances like the dishwasher and clothes washer only when you have a full load.
- ★ Don't use electric gadgets like tooth brushes, pencil sharpeners, carving knives, and the sort. What's more, don't give them as gifts. Use an electric typewriter or frypan? Remember to turn them off immediately after usage.
- ★ Keep the refrigerator away from direct sunlight or hot spots which force it to work harder.

Remember, being an ecology activist doesn't require an organization, money, or resources - you can do something in your daily life, effective immediately.

Editorially Speaking

I have saved the most important message in this issue for the last.

We are tottering on the edge of catastrophe, on the very brink of disaster and so very few people give a damn. The gay revolution has become more or less accepted. The family as a viable unit has been crippled. Drug usage has become an integral part of our society. Bureaucracy grows; freedom shrinks. The domains of our culture are whittled away, and our enemies stand on the ancient breeding grounds of our peoples. On every front, we're taking a licking. It's time to stop all this nonsense about how Christianity is crumbling and how our people are sure to return to the true ways. It's not going to happen - unless we make it happen.

9

People subscribe to The Runestone for many reasons. Some are curious, some are into metaphysics, some are interested in history, and some, like myself, are believers in the Aesir and Vanir. Right now I want to appeal to those in the latter group who talk a good game, but won't do anything more. What about those of you who wrote us talking about how you were going to organize a skeppslag? We never heard from you again; you don't even answer our letters!

Dammit! Unless something is done, we as a culture have had it! Nature doesn't forgive losers, she allows their enemies to kill them. If we are to survive, we must fight tooth and nail, without hesitations or half measures. Thinking about it won't help. Talking about it does little. I for one am sick and tired of the weakness and indecision which has so far characterized our efforts. What have you done for your beliefs lately? We need fighters! There's a hell of a lot to be done! Those of you who've been with us for a while know what we must do, but for those who are new to our cause, here's a partial list of things that you, as an individual, can do to help restore our culture and our freedom:

- Buy copies of our leaflet "What is the Norse Religion?" and selectively distribute them to your friends or place a few of them in public places.
- Promote The Runestone to your friends.
- Persuade the local library to buy a copy of the Eddas, the religious writings of our people.
- Boycott the culture-destroyers, the pornographers, and the propagandists, the slick magazines which are helping to bury us.
- Protest! Write well-written letters to editors of newspapers and magazines, expressing your opinion of the morass into which our country and our culture are sinking.
- Stand up for your religion. Buy and wear a Thor's hammer amulet, and answer fearlessly your friends' inevitable questions. Contradict Mrs. Grundy when she tries to talk Jesus to you. Sit when others stand for public prayer.
- Grow in our religion by study, by the rituals, and by improving your physical condition.
- Help groups like ourselves, the Odinist Committee and the Odinist Movement to fight for our cause.
- Finally, if you have what it takes, start a skeppslag either covertly or overtly.

We do not have forever. In fact, we may have very little time at all. Indications are that we are in a crucial stage where we stand to lose all if we do not fight. Perhaps, allegorically (or not so allegorically!) Ragnarok is at hand. Those of us who are loyal to Odin, Thor, and Frey see our duty and will not submit to the forces of the enemy who surrounds us.

Our thoughts will be with you, our friends, and with our clan this Yule. Celebrate this important day in our pagan calendar by honoring the clan and the god Frey, in hope of the turning of the sun and the eventual return of life and warmth to the frozen land. Let there be feasting and merrymaking, the eating of pork and the drinking of beer.

Send your friends Yule cards - which can be made simply by altering the ever-present Christmas cards. Let people know whose festival this originally was!

'ODIN LIVES'

ADS - ADVERTISEMENTS - ADS

Earth Religion News

THE TRUTH ABOUT Paganism and Witchcraft

GUARD THE MYSTERIES REVEAL THEM (CONT.)

Paganism?

ABOUT THE Pagan GODS OF ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, EUROPE, MEXICO, NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, AND THE ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC

BY W. L. GARDNER

PUBLISHED BY THE Pagan Press, P.O. Box 1000, Berkeley, CA 94701

Subscription Rates: 1 Year \$5.00, 2 Years \$9.00, 3 Years \$12.00 (Outside USA add \$2.00 per year)

Single Copies: 50¢

ADVERTISING RATES: 1 Line (10 words) 1st issue \$10.00, 2nd issue \$8.00, 3rd issue \$6.00, 4th issue \$4.00, 5th issue \$2.00

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: 1 Line (10 words) 1st issue \$10.00, 2nd issue \$8.00, 3rd issue \$6.00, 4th issue \$4.00, 5th issue \$2.00

MAIL THE TEN AND Pagan PUBLICATION "MAGAZINE" CHECKS OF \$10.00 TO: Pagan Press, P.O. Box 1000, Berkeley, CA 94701

PAGANISM SECTION: (WITCHCRAFT, WICCA, ETC.)

WICCA SECTION: (WITCHCRAFT, WICCA, ETC.)

URANIAN SECTION: (Pagan Gods, Norse Gods, etc.)

Amulets & Talismans - Books - Candles - Crystal Balls
Incenses & Aromatic Gums - Jewelry - Perfumes
Pipes - Records & Tapes - Spell Kits - Tarot Cards

--- and many other items can be found at

The Magick Circle
Occult Shop
747 N. LAKE AVE.
Pasadena, Calif.

The following services are also offered:
Personal Consultation - Tarot Reader
Practicing Magician & Advisor available
Classes & Instruction in several areas.

One question answered Free with this coupon, limit 1 per adult.

Phone: 794-6013 Hours: Noon to 6 PM, M-Sat.

Here's another group of followers of the old Norse gods:

The Odinist Movement
Box 731
Adelaide St
Toronto 210
Ontario, Canada

A new publication of the occult is The New Broom from Dallas. Write:

The New Broom
Box 1646
Dallas, Texas 75221

GNOSTICA: NEWS OF THE AQUARIAN FRONTIER is America's most respected Occult journal, a monthly paper featuring reliable, soundly researched articles, columns, and occult fiction by experts in the fields of Astrology, Witchcraft, Neo-Paganism, Magic, Parapsychology and more. Sample copies are 50¢ each, subscriptions are \$5/year for 12 issues. Write: GNOSTICA: NEWS OF THE AQUARIAN FRONTIER, P.O. Box 3383-R, St. Paul, MN 55165.

Here are some other Pagan groups you may be interested in:

The Central Wiccan
Archives Library
P.O. Box 364
Lawton, Oklahoma
73501