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Children of the Earth

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Children of the Earth



8

\$5/4 issues

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MOVED AGAIN!

Please send your stories, articles,
and letters to the new address, above.

My Typewriter is BROKEN! Thoroughly.
I am very glad that most of the material
for this issue was sent to me typed. Camera-
ready copy is a blessing to editors. I
really hope the machine's fixed by next
issue ~ which won't be far away now that
we're settled in.

Hope you all had a good Yule.

Blessed Be!

Hestia*

PARENTING THE CHILD WITHIN

QUESTION: What to do about your favorite magickally precocious witchling?

ANSWER: Realize that you're privileged to teach them multiple realities, in child-sized steps!

Sounds easy, right? No? Okay, so here are some suggestions.

INFANTS

Reading your child soon after birth will help you know his potentials, and give you a handle on tendencies to watch for. If you have a hard time creating the requisite emotional distance, to get an accurate read, then ask the Godparents to help. That is, after all, part of their job.

Lots of parental bonding, with as much telempathy as you can generate. (Telempathy: the ability to accurately sense thoughts/emotions/physical conditions.) And perhaps a distress sensor built into the child's preliminary protections, to help you discover exactly what s/he is crying about!

Preliminary protections can include an (astral) silver Pentagram around and above crib, playpen, or wherever s/he spends lots of time. Have you ever considered creating a protective homunculus, for the child, that reports to you?

TODDLERS

Somewhere between the first step and the first bike, this may come in handy.

BEDTIME SPELL FOR KIDS

Cast a Circle 'round the bed
Where I lay my sleepy head;
In its glowy silver light
I will spend a peaceful night. SO MORE IT BE!

(Can add extra "verses" as appropriate and/or desired.)

The "All shall be well" chant helps dispel bad dreams and monsters. I first heard it from Alison Harlow of COG.

PCW. p. 2

For more data about toddlers, keep up with Cloud's column. She's currently dealing with them!

SCHOOL-AGED

The most important job with school-aged kids seems to be reinforcing the okay-ness of different viewpoints and reality systems; while at the same time, providing stability in the home realities.

Examples of things I think are important:

- * It's okay to be angry with me. Please tell me about it.
- * It's not okay to curse your friend because you had a fight today.
- * Magick doesn't replace work; you should STUDY for that test.
- * Yes, the Goddess listens, but sometimes what you "want" is only a passing thing, and not what you want for yourself in the long run.
- * Don't tell me Johnny made you do it! YOU decided.

Honesty, self-examination, and consistency are the things I most want to show kids, by example. Fill in with your own values. It seems that these three prepare you best to deal with the next phase, the dreaded

ADOLESCENCE

There are more than enough "experts" out there who are going to tell you what to do through this trying and rewarding time; I refuse to join the ranks. But there are some magickal suggestions I might make. For your consideration

- * A rite of passage at puberty, with attendant terminology and attitude changes. Classmates are no longer "kids", they're "young men/women"; or "young people". And your "child" is now an adult-in-training; perhaps s/he is ready to help make some of the household decisions, handle money, whatever.
- * Magickal training begins in earnest, for those who are interested.
- * Survival skills are taught: cooking, sewing, the mysteries of checking and credit and finance, etc. FOR BOTH GENDERS!
- * CRITICAL: Something needs to be done about discussing pre-adolescent sexuality!!!! Sexually frustrated kids cause poltergeists. And while I'm not willing to bet about whether your adult magic

PCW, p. 3

to deal with it?

RECOMMENDED READING

THE NATURAL BIRTH CONTROL BOOK by Art & Judy Rosenblum

(Published by The Aquarian Research Foundation, 5620 Morton St.,
Philadelphia, PA 19144. Phone 215/849-3237.)

Presents natural alternatives to birth control; a more natural view of
the place of sex in human interactions; and a chapter on talking with
teens. You may need to order from the publisher. New price is \$6.

*BACK TO ADOLESCENTS. The generally optimal attitude is that
you are temporarily sheltering this person while s/he learns to deal
with the outside world. When s/he flies from the nest, your job is
basically done, so ensure his magical and mundane preparation now!

Next column will touch on some of the magical "types" you'll find
in witchlines, with some control/support suggestions. Then back to
parenting ourselves for awhile!

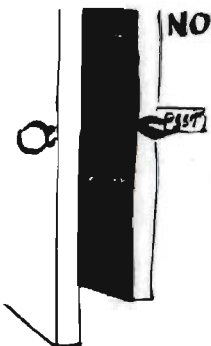
I wish you peace in the dark times

Ilana



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NOTES FROM THE BROOM CLOSET

by Cloud

I WAS THINKING ABOUT PSYCHIC KIDS

and it came to me that they probably all are. Most of us have many odd experiences as children, and our psychic capacities seem to be one of those talents we lose as we move away from a unitary view of the universe and our place in it and begin to make those divisions-into-categories that our culture is so fond of promoting. I don't know how to change that, short of a more thoroughgoing revolution than I expect, but...

It has never seemed to me that ANY capability related to surviving in the natural world (skip "wilderness"- that implies that someone needs to "tame" it) is enhanced by making divisions more than necessary. (To avoid a fatal rattlesnake bite, it is necessary to divide yourself from the snake long enough to stop communing with it and make tracks; but it has its place, and unless it's in your tent it is excessive division of yourself from the rest of creation to think you have to shoot its head off.

Children make, to begin with, very little division between themselves and the rest of the world; they wander into the street with the same attitude they have when they explore their toes. It is a survival division to keep them away from freeways but not toes - one we make BGR them, long before they make it themselves, on the basis of me/not me, safe/not safe, whatever. In a similar vein, they communicate with us and with "somethings" we can't see or with animals; they talk in words or in not-words; they wake us up (groan) in time to warn the 2 AM bottle before they cry.

We can make out of that whatever we please, I suppose. But it is at the peril of their talent that we make it something Different. To most kids, ESP is just as "normal", seemingly, as breathing, and most of it comes from feeling at one with the world. I don't suppose that if we made a discipline out of teaching them breathing ceremonies they'd do it with much spontaneity; I know that most of us who grew up as women in the fifties and sixties had that sort of experience with walking when we tried to learn to be "graceful" on high heels.

Making a big thing out of learning magical thinking, ritual techniques, etc. is highly important for us as grownups who have unlearned all that; for kids who never unlearned to see themselves as part of things, it is at least redundant, and the divisions our magical training starts with (the ones we already "know") in order to help us unlearn them, may show them separations they never knew existed.

We are not in this business to bring up kids who will follow our forms of observance; we are in this business to find ways to bring up kids who will never lose what we lost, and hence will never need the styles we've developed for rediscovery. So note it be.

GODDESS-SEAT

Now Robyn Jean looked out on life
From windows of age twenty-three.
She saw a world decayed with strife
And other forms of tragedy.

"What can one woman do for Earth?"
She asked. In earnest, then, she prayed.
Her Goddess answered that the birth
Of children would supply the aid.

So Robyn married skillfully,
Selecting a resilient mate.
She had twelve children strong and free,
Then trained them 'gainst the whims of Fate.

One grew to be an architect,
Another a respected nurse,
A diplomat for treaties wrecked,
A "prof." for knowledge to disburse.

She raised a brilliant doctor and
A Mère Theresa for the poor,
Plus six more children to withstand
The tribulations all endure.

And last, she had a healthy girl
Whose place in line became thirteen,
Who'd have grandchildren to unfurl
Good people as did Robyn Jean.

Now as you, too, look out on life,
Believe this brief, well-ended tale.
Perhaps there never was a wife
Like Robyn Jean; yet humans fail

And need the Lady's great largesse,
The boundless possibility
Of new minds' free creativeness,
Brought ever by maternity.

-FILISIS



I
see
where
She has
set May's
flowers and
* cooled June's heat with rainbowed *
showers. Should Autumn bring
gray, sunless days, our
Goddess streams gold
solar rays. Throughout
snow-night Her gowns
shine white
** **

Filisis

Response to Article on Pagan Alcoholic Family Situations

I am a pagan parent of two children who have lived in an alcoholic situation. Subsequently, my husband has had treatment, was in AA for a while, but has now dropped out of all rehabilitation. He is dry but not sober (he has all the symptoms and attitudes he had when he was drinking/using. He is still using. I'm no longer living with him.

My children are involved in Alateen and I am involved with Alanon. While this form of therapy has been very helpful, I, too, have difficulty with the religious overtones. Many (all of me) are Christian, and some of the people do (in spite of traditions to the contrary) bring in their own religious beliefs. I would be interested in networking/corresponding with other parents involved in this type of problem. Perhaps, we could achieve this through correspondence/articles in COE.

One thing I find helpful, when saying the Serenity Prayer, I begin (in my own mind) with the qualifying phrase ...By the grace of the Goddess... God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Also, I now and then am able to pass on some of the affirmations, and meditations to the group and have generally found them very accepting. There is no way I could share my philosophy by stating I am pagan, but I have found many ways to share my beliefs and strengths without exposing myself competely. Perhaps this is an opportunity to educate our Christian brothers and sisters.

I would appreciate hearing from others with suggestions or thoughts on this subject, either by writing me direct or through COE.

Bright Blessings,

Sassafrass
P. O. Box 44
Mascoutah, IL 62258





MIDNIGHT MUNCHIES

Kimberly M.
Mascoutah, IL

Ingredients:

- A pinch of moonlight
- 2 small stars
- 1 large star
- 3 cups midnight mist

Pour 3 cups of midnight mist into a large bowl, then add 2 small stars. Mix well for 1 minute. Place large star on top, then sprinkle a pinch of moonlight over top.
Serves 5.



CEREAL

Cereal is something ordinary, but if you use your imagination look what it could be. It could be rice from the orient, little miniature pillows, with eyes, like spies, watching you while you eat!

Life

by Sonja

Life is long
 love is sweet
 We will live
 Running Free
 Soaring Free
 Sailing Seas
 Free
 Living in music
 Dancing
 Across the land
 Among the Trees
 Through Golden Glades
 Always Dancing
 Living Free
 Loving Free
 Dancing Free
 Moving Free
 This is life

(good)

Wich of stars and circles



reagular

Monster



pumpkin



ghost



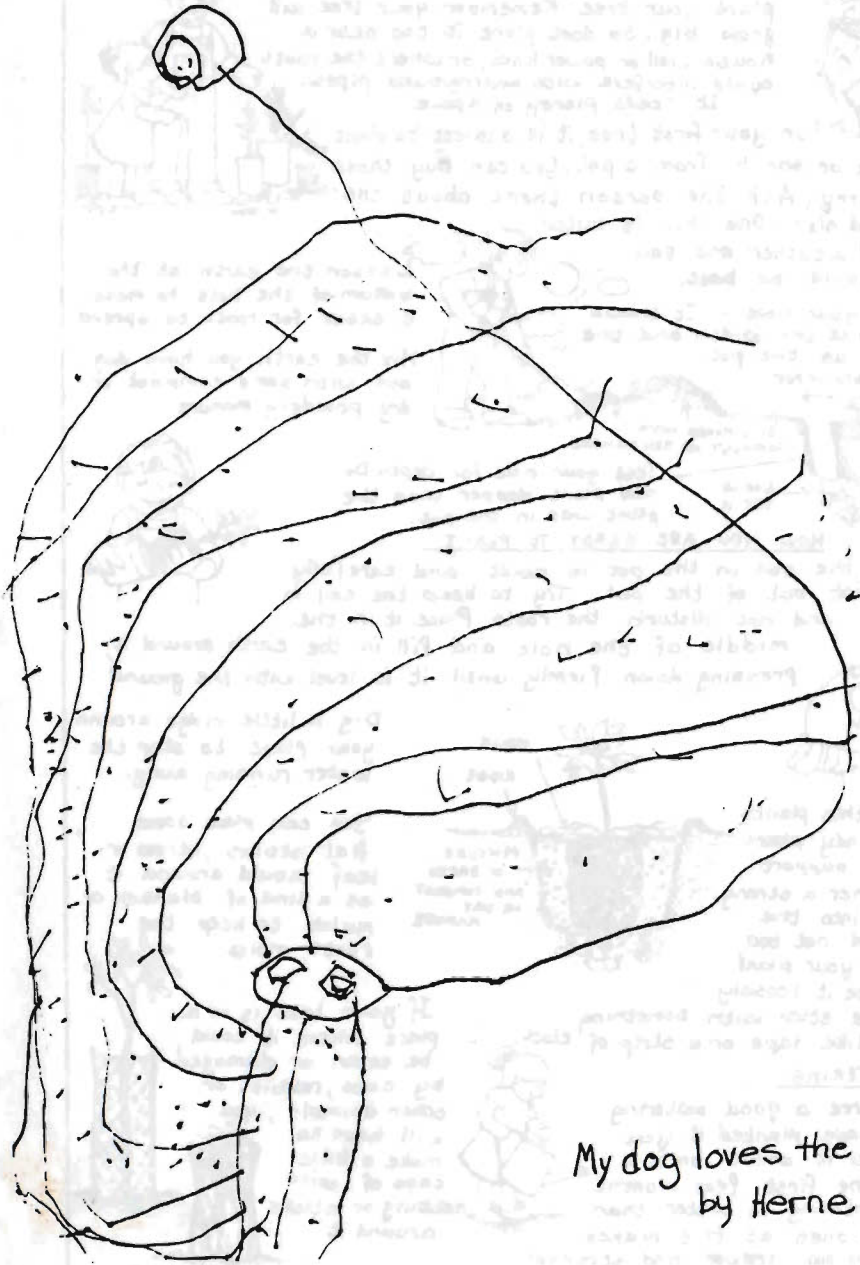
goblin



Frankstine
monster



Jenny Bean
age 8
aida-hall



My dog loves the sunshine
by Herne

A YEAR OF THE TREE SPECIAL FEATURE

A GUIDE FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE COMMON OR GARDEN TREE.

Everyone likes trees - they are a very special part of our world - but they are much more than just good things to look at and have around - they are working all the time to make it possible for all of us to live on this earth.

Here are some of the things they do for us.

OXYGEN

Trees turn the carbon-dioxide in the air into oxygen for us to breathe. We need oxygen to stay alive.

WATER

A tree transpires many gallons of water into the air every day. This helps to make rain. We need water to stay alive.

FOOD

Trees help produce the food we eat - They give shelter to plants, feed the soil with leaf compost, minerals and moisture and help the earthworms to aerate and enrich the soil.

PREVENT EROSION

Trees strong deep roots grip the ground and stop the valuable topsoil from being eroded away. If topsoil is lost, land becomes a desert.

BALANCE OF NATURE

Trees are a key part of the environment which supports all birds, animals and people.

TIMBER

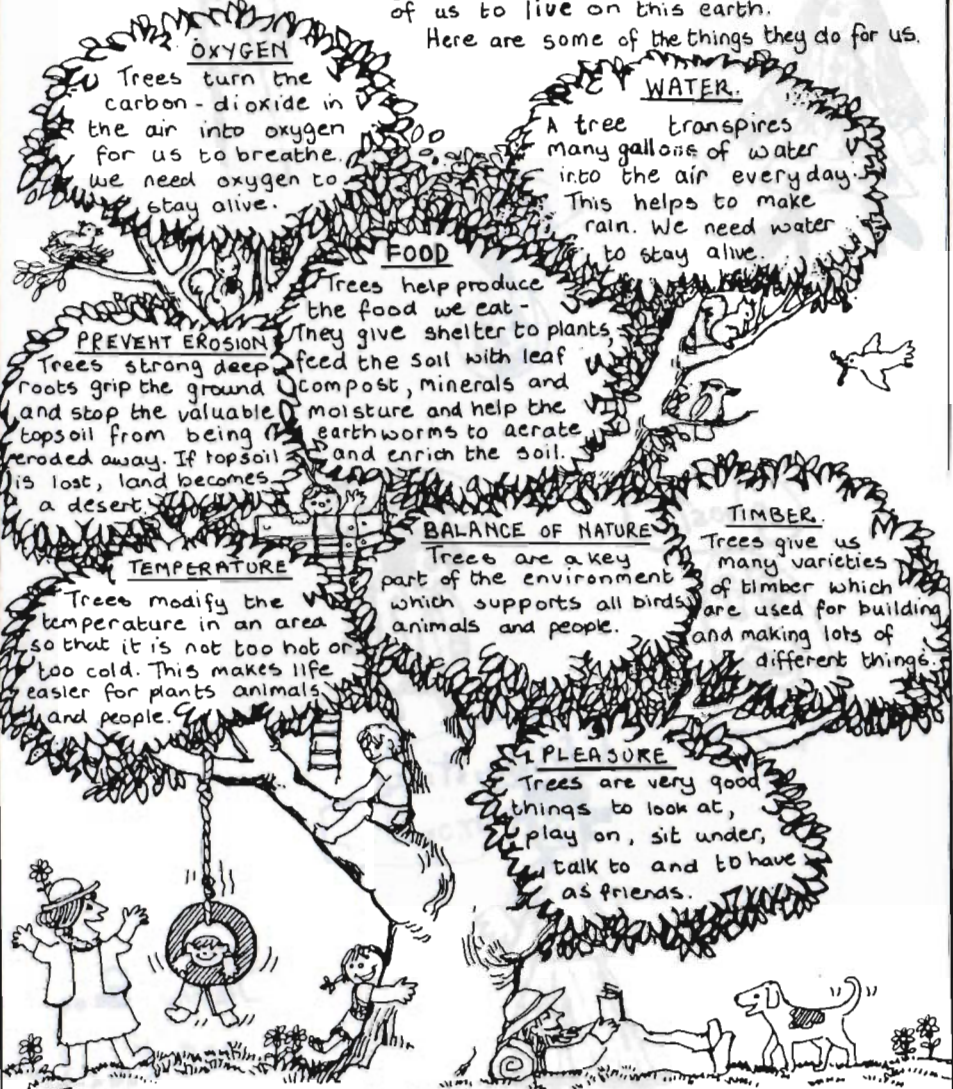
Trees give us many varieties of timber which are used for building and making lots of different things.

TEMPERATURE

Trees modify the temperature in an area so that it is not too hot or too cold. This makes life easier for plants, animals and people.

PLEASURE

Trees are very good things to look at, play on, sit under, talk to and to have as friends.



Today too many trees are being cut down and not enough are being planted. We all need trees to stay alive. If you plant a tree you will be giving a gift to the people of the earth now and for many generations - So start planting now!

--- (see over for a Do It Yourself forest guide)

A YOUNG PERSONS GUIDE TO FOREST-MAKING

HOW TO PLANT YOUR FIRST TREE -

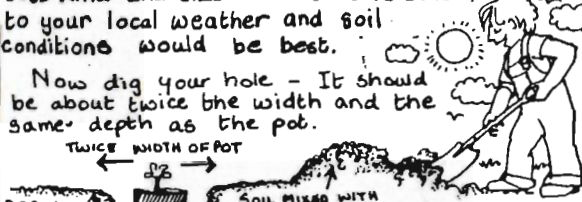


First find the place where you want to plant your tree. Remember your tree will grow big, so don't plant it too near a house wall or power lines, or where the roots could interfere with underground pipes.

It needs plenty of space.



For your first tree, it is easiest to plant a small tree or shrub from a pot. You can buy these at a nursery. Ask the person there about the best kind and size. One that is suited to your local weather and soil conditions would be best.



Now dig your hole - It should be about twice the width and the same depth as the pot.

Loosen the earth at the bottom of the hole to make it easier for roots to spread.

Mix the earth you have dug out with some compost or dry powdery manure.

Test your hole for depth. Do not plant deeper than the plant was in the pot.

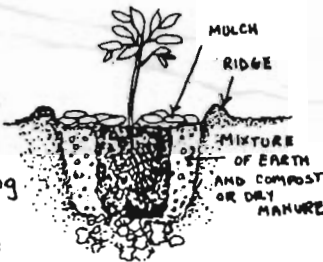
NOW YOU ARE READY TO PLANT

Make sure the soil in the pot is moist and carefully tap the plant out of the pot. Try to keep the soil in one lump and not disturb the roots. Place it in the middle of the hole and fill in the earth around it, pressing down firmly until it is level with the ground.



Pressing down firmly until it is level with the ground.

Dig a little ridge around your plant to stop the water running away.

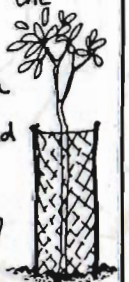


You can place some flat stones, straw or leaf mould around it as a kind of blanket or mulch to keep the roots moist.

Tall thin plants in windy places need support. Hammer a strong stick into the ground not too near your plant and tie it loosely to the stick with something soft like tape or a strip of cloth.



If your tree is in a place where it could be eaten or damaged by cows, rabbits or other animals, you will have to make a little cage of wire netting or sticks around it.



WATERING

Give your tree a good watering when you have planted it. You should water it about once a week for the first few months. One good watering is better than lots of little ones as this makes the roots grow deeper and stronger.



GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY PLANTING - You've taken your first step in forest-making - Carry on the good work and get your friends to help. -

NEO-NATAL

THE FAMILY BED, A NECESSARY REDISCOVERY

by Robin

Once upon a time families shared the same bed as naturally as any animal family. It went without saying that a newborn would sleep next to its mother until it was either displaced by the next child or old enough to sleep with siblings.

Salk once stated, "It is not the nature of Nature to provide organisms with biological tendencies unless such tendencies have survival value." Nature then cannot be suppressed or ignored without causing an upheaval in the organism at some stage of its development.

The same instinct which makes a litter of kittens sleep entwined also activates a need in human infants. Unfortunately, within the past several hundred years, civilized peoples have chosen to ignore the need for physical contact in their children, particularly when the child needs that contact at night. Albrecht Feiper, who studied the needs and developmental patterns of humans and animals all over the world, has this opinion to offer, "It is an unnatural achievement, for the human baby to have to spend its life in a crib."

Touching, particularly skin to skin contact, is absolutely essential for the proper function of the infants immature systems. By depriving the child of that contact throughout the night physical as well as emotional aberrations result. In his brilliant book, TOUCHING, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SKIN, Ashley Montague defines with great detail, the ways in which continual contact establishes in *certain physical responses, and* the infant, the ability to respond to the world effectively and without fear. This is something that many people spend their entire lives trying to accomplish. It takes time to correct physical/psychic imbalances when Nature has been thwarted,. A child allowed to cry itself to sleep alone will ultimately bond to its bed and blanket instead of to a human being.

NOTES

It will quickly learn that THINGS not PEOPLE bring comfort.

This crippling lesson will, in many cases, never be completely unlearned. Montague states, " With the bottle instead of the breast, and with toys rather than its mothers carressing hands the infant is encouraged to manipulate things rather than interrelate with people. " Extending this thought to the area of the family bed, one can clearly see how devastating the denial of nighttime comfort can be to the developing personality.

Until the 1700's most families gathered together in the evening to lay out mats which served as the family bed. The outer fringes of the family circle, aunts, uncles and so on sometimes had a separate area or room if the family could afford it, but generally speaking, everyone slept in the same bed. In the sixteenth century in England the well known "trundle beds" were created. In the bedroom a large bed held the immediate family, while the trundle beds pulled out as extensions from the main bed, and held cousins, servants, guests or older children.

In America, during the period of 1750-1780 the custom of bundling was widely practiced. In the colder months it was considered proper courtesy to allow guests to bundle with the family, or with one's wife while the husband was away. By definition, bundling involved clothed adults conversing or sleeping together on a bed, under a quilt. In Martha Washington's diary one can find the names of the men with whom she bundled when the President was away.

During the latter part of the 1700's a vast religious movement radically altered co-family sleeping traditions. Along with this Christian movement came the idea that the perfection of the individual came through early independence training. That notion, combined with the concept that anyone lying in bed with someone besides their wife or husband would certainly promote promiscuity, was the

NOTES

begining of the perverse practices still forced on children. All aspects of sexual behavior in children were forbidden. For the first time children were not allowed to be dependant on their parents as Nature intended. In part, this transformation was hastened by the smaller number of people living as a nuclear family by the mid 1800's.

By the time the Industrial Revolution was taking firm hold, even aunts and uncles no longer lived as part of the family unit. Without the help of other family members to share in childrearing and house chores, many women began turning over the care of their children to Nannies. Science was discovering that dirt and poor hygiene ^{was in some way related to} caused illness and this became one more point of reasoning for the argument against co-family sleeping. *One might "catch germs"*.

At the turn of the century practically all births still occurred at home. By 1940 however, most mothers delivered in hospitals. As soon as the infant was taken out of the drugged mother, it was placed alone in its crib. The myth that it is dangerous to sleep with a baby was widespread. Religion and science worked hand in hand to effectively destroy ones belief in the rightness of instinct and the basic goodness of humanity. Books on childrearing taught that the child was not to be spoiled by being picked up, rocked or held. Crying deserved little attention. Babies were fed formula on a scheduel regardless of their screams for want of food. The rate of infant mortality soared.

The historical information presented herein was taken from Tine Thevenin's book, THE FAMILY BED. It may be consulted for further historical and Anthropological evidence regarding the deterioration of the family bed. Until the 1900's the term "sleeping with" someone held no particularly sexual connotations. It was rather the suppression of sexuality, the belief in sin, incomplete scientific data, and unsubstantiated ~~scientific~~ medical theories, that, combined with

MEMO-MATAI

the changing role of women, the wars, and changes in family structure, ~~when~~ finally pushed children out of the bedroom to cry alone in the night.

Science has only recently begun to rediscover that which ALL mothers, be they human or otherwise, have known from the beginning of time. They know with a certainty which stems from the depths of All That Is, that the cry of an infant expresses a true need which deserves recognition. Parents must learn to trust that their children will mature enough to leave the parents bed when they are ready. It is easy to imagine that children will remain dependant and clinging if they share the family bed in light of all that negativity aroused in many by the idea. However, it stands to reason that children who have their biological and emotional needs met when they are infants will become self-assured and independent adults, whereas those who spend most of shildhood greiving for want of touch and attention will most likely spend a considerable part of their lives trying to fulfil those needs.

Privacy and sexuality may be issues for some, however as the saying goes, "Where there's a will, there's a way." In most family situations there are places other than the bedroom where intimacy can be a private affair. Personally, I feel that there is no finer way to learn about human sexuality, love and tenderness than from the experience of the family bed. Making love beside a sleeping child transmits certain kinds of awarenesses to that infant. It knows that sexuality is natural, it occurs between loving people, and it is merely part of, not the main focus of a relationship. The child knows that if she should wake and need ~~my~~ attention ~~she~~ would respond to that need. In so doing the child then grasps, in its child-way, that there are different but not better forms of loving and sexual contact is placed in perspective.

Have you ever wondered why children cry when they wake? Many parents feel that this is normal...as normal as the child crying itself to sleep. Children who sleep with parents or siblings rarely wake crying and, because usually these children are also put to bed with another person lying beside them, they rarely struggle to stay awake. There is much to be examined and renovated in the belief systems of many individuals who have allowed the pressures of peers, physicians and parents ^{to} override their instinct for nurturing their children.

There is nothing charming or delightful in seeing a hospital nursery filled with frightened screaming infants, and likewise, nothing natural in placing a child alone to scream until exhaustion brings merciful sleep.

The benefit of the family bed are many: bonding with both parents, physical and emotional security for the child, greater physical stamina through touch, greater rest for the mother who needs not rush out of bed to comfort her wakeful or sick child, longer and more relaxed sleeping patterns, a close knit family unit, sexual understanding, and most importantly, learning that the world is a safe and happy place to live *in*.

Blessed Be

[Handwritten signature]
A

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Panda's Poem 7/18/80 by Robin

Sometimes
When I see a woman
Waddle down the street
Smiling and whistling
With a new rhythm
As the inverse within her
Alters her center of gravity;
Sometimes
My breath quickens
And I still think
I feel you inside me.
But you are here on my back
Or there in Dads arms
And I smile
In a glad/sad way
Because I see you
I miss you
I found you
And lost you
All in the same instant
When you burst from my body
So primal
So new.
My belly is empty
But my heart
And my eyes
Are full of you.
But still,
Sometimes
In my sleep,
Or when I see a woman
Bright with that dynamic energy
About to crystalize
Outside her
I think I feel you roll over
In your liquid cloud;
and I sigh.
Do you know
When I wake from a dream
And feel full of you?
And I sit up
And look at your pretty face?
Yes, you know
You must;
For when I think of your body
Held snug in mine
You always
Smile in your sleep.

I wrote this when my daughter was six months old. I wonder how many mothers miss the marvelous joys of watching their children so peaceful and close as they sleep there beside them in The Family Bed.



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