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Harvest Home 1982

The Unicorn

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THE UNICORN

BOX 8814 O MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55408 O 871-7287

A PUBLICATION OF the ROWAN TREE

V-8

Dear Friends,

Harvest Home, 1982

Certainly has been a change in the weather up here in Minnesota. It is easy to see the Goddess preparing for Autumn. Labor Day was great fun. Paul was up in Duluth for the holidays, and I stayed here in Minneapolis and played with two of my friends from Texas, Karenfu and Bjorn.

I'm looking forward to Sept. 27th, when the Rowan Tree will have a meeting for its members and many friends, and I'm hoping that many of them will bring cookies... you know how I love cookies. Then, too, maybe one of them will bring along a pretty Unicorn filly for me... The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. and any of you are invited... Call one of the members for the address and directions (871-7287).

On Autumn Eve, Unicorns of all persuasions will gather at the sacred well of Cerridwen, each bearing a portion of their harvest, flowers, vegetables, grains, poetry, and all sorts of things. A procession will wind its way to the temple of light, where we expect a visit from Aradia, the Queen of Unicorns and Lady of the Night. The harvest gifts will be dedicated to a loving winter cycle, in order that the seeds of next spring be fertile. Then, we will dance and frolic into the dawn...

I send you all much and Unikisses

Andrius

Many Pagans tend to forget about a particular faction of the great Earth religions. I'm speaking of the Sun Dance Way and native Americans. The Sun Dance is the Old Way of Amerindians. It is a Pagan-Earth religion filled with Magick, although Sun Dancers generally use the term "Medicine."


There are myriads of vital lessons in Sun Dance teaching, but at the heart of all is that everything is a Medicine Wheel. We are each Medicine Wheels. When we are born, each of us is blessed by the Power with a beginning gift, a beginning place on the Medicine Wheel, and our own Medicine animal (or reflection).

Our beginning place and our Medicine animal are of course, a spiritual reckoning. The East is the place of Illumination. Its color is yellow and the Medicine animal abiding there is Eagle. Introspection is the way of the West, and Bear is the animal. Black is the color of the West. The way of the North has white for its color and Buffalo for its animal. It is the place of Wisdom. The South has Mouse and it's the place of Innocence. The color is green.

This does not mean, however, that you can only be a White Buffalo, Green Mouse, Yellow Eagle or Black Bear. There are many paths, many Medicines, and they exist in all four of the directions. These that are mentioned just happen to be representatives of the directions. They are four ways of perceiving. One must perceive in all four directions, all four ways, in order to grow and become Whole.

It is difficult sometimes for us to recognize ourselves, to know just who we are. Yet if one wishes to grow it is necessary, for one must be able to perceive oneself in order to perceive the World.

The Vision Quest is one of perception, and it is the beginning of the path in the search to find out who you are. Your whole life can be construed as one long Vision Quest, but it is the more immediate aspect that we're concerned with. This is the event of discovering one's own Medicine and being given a name.



To journey on your own quest, you must select a secluded spot out in Nature where you will be able to stay without having any human contact. Be prepared to spend an entire twenty-four hour period of time in devotion to your quest (longer if you so desire), and to fast during the entire quest.

Start out for your spot in the early hours of the morning, preferably early enough so you may meet the rising sun from your spot. It should be a confined area, but with enough space to allow you to walk around, sit, dance or just about anything else you might care to do. You cannot leave the area until your quest is over. While you are supposed to fast, it is alright to have a drink if there happens to be a clean stream or such at your spot. You may take along a blanket or two (one to sit on, one to wrap yourself in) for warmth during the night. When you get to your spot you should take off all your clothes. If a friend dropped you off, that person should take your clothes when they leave (otherwise put them in an out-of-the-way place). Arrange to meet your friend at a nearby place once your quest is finished.

Spend your time to "commune with Nature," but don't forget the reason you're there - to find out who you are. Meditate upon your identity, analyze your life and yourself.

Many people experience fear during their quest, especially at night. Don't try to suppress it, or refuse to admit it. Your fear is a part of who you are. If you experience fear it is a natural thing, not something you have to be ashamed of.

You may also experience other emotions; loneliness, happiness, boredom, etc. As with fear, anything that you feel is a natural occurrence and should be used. Question your feelings, talk to the Power about your feelings while you're having them (this is especially useful if you're experiencing fear or loneliness). Ask yourself about it.

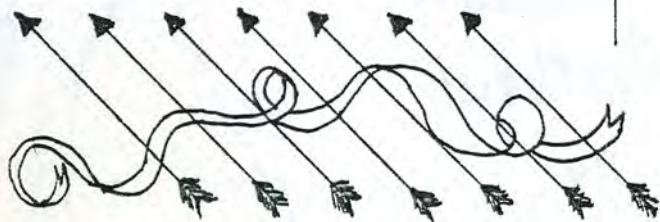
Be aware of everything happening around you during your quest. Sometimes individuals receive a visit from a living member of their Medicine animal; although it's not always easy to determine if it is actually your Medicine animal.

More often than not, a vision quest passes as an ordinary mundane day, but occasionally people do have actual visions. If you're blessed enough to experience this, don't be concerned in how it happened, or 'where it came from'. Accept it as the wondrous thing it is, and LEARN from it. No matter how trivial or abstract it may seem, it has significance.

When you return back to your more "normal" mode of living, take the time to sit back and carefully analyze what happened during your quest. If you're fortunate enough to live near a person of Power, discuss your quest with them. They will be of immense help and will draw lessons out of your experience.

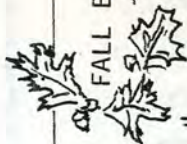
There will be things you have learned with or without the input of a person of Power. You have found out more about yourself, and you have grown.

Along the many paths you take afterward in life, there may be others that contribute to your quest lessons. Share and accept, for this is a form of touching...which is also a vital element of growth.

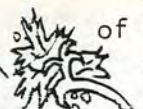


FALL EQUINOX

Tisunna



Our journey to the west
is held to the thin
path along the edge
of light and dark.
Shadow play of leaf
against our skin,
we smell the scent
of new snow
and pierce the centre
in our farewells.



our flesh feeds stars
we are away swept
into the great river
that changes not its color
though night and day
pass into it

Hello to our newest members of The Unicorn family!
Margaret McManus, Minnesota - Bob Howard, New York
Abby Burke, New York - Berta Estes, Texas
Circe, TEXAS Love ya, Blessed Be, Alex

Harvest Recipes



Well, it seems that every nine months or so something called Autumn creeps up on us. With it comes many bushels of wonderful harvest fruits (and a few vegetables) and the usual question: "What to do with all this stuff?" Judyth & Nell suggest you try their favorite apple recipes, for starts...

APPLE PIE by LADY JUDYTH

Sliced apples - Crisp
Mixture of cinnamon, nutmeg, and tapioca

Make piecrust. Slice apples into a bowl, mix in the cinnamon, nutmeg and tapioca. Place apples in crust, cover with another crust, put holes in crust. Bake 45 min. at 350° or until crust browns.

BAKED APPLES

from the vegetarian
epicure

6-8 apples
2/3 cup flour
2/3 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter
the grated rind of one lemon
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 cup raisins
1/4 cup brandy
1/4 cup creme de cocoa
1/4 cup water
heavy cream, well chilled

Core the apples, cut deep but don't go through the skin. Mix together flour, sugar and cut in the butter with pastry mixer or 2 forks. Add spices and raisins. Place in a shallow casserole or cake pan, pour over the liquids (water, brandy and creme de cocoa) and place in a pre-heated 400° oven for 40 to 45 minutes. Baste with the liquid every 6-7 minutes. Let cool 15 minutes and cut off the hard cap of crystallized sugar that forms---pour heavy cream over the apples and eat.



Some Thoughts On Initiation At
The time of Harvest



In the process of initiation we approach the threshold of a death and rebirth cycle. It is a time of harvesting the culmination of experiences we have undergone and lessons we have learned. We use these to seed the new phase in our life.

In each of our lifetimes we undergo many initiations on varying levels. Puberty and our first sexual experiences is a time of initiation. Most "primitive" cultures mark this transition with rites and rituals involving courage, testing, time spent in solitude or separated from others and ultimately acceptance into the society and company of men and women within the group. A child name is discarded and a new adult name is received. Often gifts and tools for the new life are received also. This is a period in the individuals life when they are closest to the world of magick and unseen forces. A Shaman, priest/ess or wise person generally guides the young person through this time of danger (and blessings) and returns them again to the normal routines of the tribe and clan.

Initiations that we in more modern societies are likely to encounter are generally not so dramatically set apart from our day-to-day reality - they tend to be seen as our "firsts": first sexual experience, first child, etc. Yet these are all outer signs of the internal maturing, growth and change occurring within each of us.

A ritual of initiation gives us the opportunity to set these experiences apart from our normal life and fully engage in the mindset shift which can accompany them. Initiation within the craft and occult societies deals specifically with the closing of a cycle and the beginning of a new one in relation to our faith, vision, and direction. It marks our growing abilities and understanding of channelling energy and use of altered states of awareness; it marks our determination to direct our own energy toward helping others and affirms our connection to the Earth and to the Universe around us.

In initiation we take ourselves down to our core, stripping off the outer layers of habits, defenses, roles, personas, pretensions and enculturation.



We strive to present our most naked self to the process of dissolving and creating ourselves anew. We seek to submerge ourselves in the eternal tides of the Spiritual Universe and return cleansed.

It is a time of purification and acceptance of the pains and joys we will experience on our chosen path. It is a testing of our courage, a time of blessings and a recognition of the abilities attained and work accomplished thus far. It is a reaping of seeds sown and the seeding anew for harvests to come. In the cycles of transition, death and rebirth, initiation is the time we stand in the centre of the wheel and watch the turning from a still, silent place before rejoining once again the movement.

Nell Morningstar

Editor's Note -

Nell's contribution here is very welcome. Her viewpoints are refreshing and credible. Look for more articles from her on the Tarot, on which she's great, and magickal theory. Alex



Before the sun
 She ruled
 Gentle goddess
 of dark and light.
 Her wealth was silver and
 the copper of the earth's secrets.
 Her motion
 was a form of stillness,
 wave rocking
 water moving
 and wearing the hues
 of the past.
 I look behind me
 and see the clues left,
 a trail leading from
 burned sorrow back to the
 circles of her surrounding darkness
 and silent strength.

- Elwing



NIGHT SONG

Noel-Anne Brennan

The earth sings
 With silver light;
 The full moon glows
 Across the sky
 And fires the land
 With cold brilliance.
 I feel the silken light
 Along my skin;
 It sparkles in my brain,
 Releasing shadows and brightness
 From hidden thoughts,
 Producing dreams
 Like flights of silver birds.

WILD ANGEL

The rapture under the skin
 wants to grow into the horizon
 wants to break through
 the thin window of flesh.
 It sings
 and I want
 another world
 an open door
 to step through
 spread my hopes
 loosen the cages
 and fly.



NOTES FROM AN HERBAL

- Paul

One question I received was from a young woman who has had difficulty in making an herbal ointment, attempting to do so with the complex method of beeswax, etc. Well, there is a very simple method of making balms and on ointments that I will share in this column, perhaps not the most technically correct, but one which is easy for all, and simple.

It requires two ingredients. First, a vegetable shortening, such as Crisco, and second, whatever herb(s) you wish to use.

Macerate the herbs in the shortening for at least 24 hours by placing it all in a large enameled pan and heating it every few hours or so. Let it set and cool in between.

Then filter it thoroughly. A paper coffee filter works well although it is slower than cheesecloth. Let it cool in your containers and voila!



Attention!

Thank You...

NEWS FROM THE ROWAN TREE - Paul

We have three openings for out-of-town students in the Mystery School. Information may be had by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Mystery School, c/o The Rowan Tree, P.O. Box 8814, Mpls., MN 55408. Out of town students study via personal communication with a mentor on cassette tapes.

A general meeting for all members and interested guests will be held Sept. 27th at 7:00 pm at the Rowan Tree, 1502 Nicollet Ave. So. Someone will meet you at the door.

A new bowling team appears in the Minneapolis gay and lesbian bowling league this year, and five of its members are involved with The Rowan Tree. They are called the Wild Cats, and are a pretty hot group...

Finally, the revised Rowan Tree Catalogue is ready. Those of you who have had requests in for this time will soon be receiving copies.

If you haven't requested one yet, they cost \$1.00 and offer for sales the services of a professional astrologer, list all Rowan Tree publications available, and gives the names and properties of many, many herbs available through the Rowan Tree Herb Shop, and...

Page Seven



Thanks to everyone who helped with this issue, specially Dudley, my typist. Alex

The Coven of Uraeus will be presenting A Samhain Seminar on October 15, 16 & 17th in St. Louis, MO.

Seminar topics include "Sex-Creation," "Birth Dance," "Huna Self Awareness," and "Dream Interpretation."

For more information write to Galena Price, 4033 Meramec, St. Louis, MO 63116.

BOOK REVIEW

Magic, Witchcraft and Paganism in America

by J. Gordon Melton

Some of you may be familiar with the research that Mr. Melton has been doing. It's finally complete.

Mr. Melton, a United Methodist minister, has been researching on an unbiased level, the Neo-Pagan movement in America and its roots through American history.

Introduced to some Witches while in California, Mr. Melton "went from one shock to another as all of my images of dark rites, demon curses, voodoo dolls and evil magicians were wrenched away."

This book is a compilation of his research and should prove to be as useful a resource as Adler's "Drawing Down the Moon."

Fair warning: the book is 231 pages long and not easy reading. Shelf cost is \$36.00, but it may be purchased for \$32.00 pp from The Institute for the Study of American Religion, Box 1311, Evanston, IL 60201.

"The Unicorn" - a newsletter dedicated to sharing all the good news of our Craft & Pagan friends, since Yule, 1977

"The Unicorn" is a publication of The Rowan Tree, Inc. The Rowan Tree is formed as a tax-exempt non-profit org. Box 8814 Mpls. Mn. 55408

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*The Unicorn Provides These
Extra Pages
to aid communication between
Gay and Lesbian Pagans*

A friend of mine who has recently gone through some changes in her relationship with her lover shared the following prose with me. I feel what it says is true and want to share it with you.

-Alex

"After awhile you learn the subtle difference between holding a hand and chaining a soul.

"And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning and company doesn't mean security.

"And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts and presents aren't promises.

"And you begin to accept your defeats with your head up and your eyes ahead, with the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child.

"And learn to build all your roads on today because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans, and futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight.

"After awhile you learn that even sunshine burns if you ask too much.

"So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.

"And you learn that you really can endure...that you really are strong and you really do have worth.

"And you learn and learn... with every goodbye you learn."

-Anonymous

THE READERS' FORUM

-Paul

Last issue's question was "What techniques do we have available for exploring sexual magick through masturbation?"

"Imagine yourself with primary sexual characteristics of the 'opposite sex.' Don't pretend you're someone else. You are you and are going to stay you 'til there's no point in

making the distinction. Feel the solidity...massage the transformed areas in your mind's eye; appreciating their naturalness. Carefully note positive and negative reactions.

Shift back to your physical genitals, staying in touch with your emotional responses. Allow aversions and longings to carry you back and forth between the two. Catch yourself hermaphroditic and delight in it. Feel newly perceived breasts and same old penis, or clitoris pulsing amid newly perceived penis and testicles/clitoris and womb. Know none of these pleasures can be denied you. Know it is your responsibility to help neutralize societal attitudes that would have you believe they should be.

Self-love and self-pleasure are two qualities most of us have to reclaim as positive. Knowing you can easily and expertly bring yourself into sexual bliss re-enforces faith in other personal acts of transformation.

Concentrate on the collecting energy as you caress your genitals in the way that feels best. Let yourself view you penis or clitoris as the threshold to the resulting intensity. Let your attention merge into both for as long as you care to."

There were several responses suggesting making love (via fantasy) with either God or Goddess, suggested via same-sex exploration. Also for gays to make love with the Goddess and for lesbians to make love with the God. Interesting responses. Thank you.

Question for next issue -
Do gays and lesbians belong within the ranks of a fertility religion?



Good evening Starshine
Glowing in my night
Gentle rays of warmth
Twinkle in your eyes.



Good evening Loved One
Holding me so close
My eyes are filled with you,
Man of my dreams.

Good evening My Man
I love you so much
I'll caress you with my lips,
Let's love away the night.

- Kaloulu



Hello Everyone,

I decided this time to be a bit more personal and write you a letter. Short as it may be, hang on to it 'cause my mother would love to get her hands on one from me. 😊

Noticed in the paper the other day that a small town in western Minnesota wanted to have a pig catch as part of their community's carnival festivities. As it turns out, it would have been illegal to do so. There is a state law in Minnesota forbidding pig catching (greased or not) because it causes too much shock for the animal. It's ironic there isn't a law against causing similar shock to gays and lesbians...

How many of you keep a daily dream and activity journal? Mighty useful tool in discovering lots of stuff about yourself. Simply use a three ring binder with notebook paper (or whatever else you like) and each day write down all you can remember about your dreams from the night before and what you're doing during the day. Include random thoughts, definitely emotions and, use it as I do, to work through on paper challenges I have from day to day. After a time some interesting patterns will develop.

Hello especially to Margaret in St. Paul, our newest Extra Pages reader.

Well, blessed harvests to all of you.

Love, Alex

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Abby Burke, New York - Berta Estes, Texas
Circe, Texas - Love ya, Blessed Be, Alex

Our flesh feeds stars
We are away swept
Into the great river
That changes not its color
Through night and day
Pass into it
[Mari Jackson]

Harvest Recipes

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Love Alex

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Judyth Bartlett, Editor

Andrius - Resident Unicorn

Name

Mailing Address

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\$5.00 - Andrius Colouring Book of Numbers - numerology and mythology

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