

Beltane 2003

Earthtides Pagan Network News

Living in Maine, Celebrating the Earth

Starcat's Corner: Perfect Love and Perfect Trust

One of the tenets of some pagan paths, often heard at Beltane in particular, is "in perfect love and perfect trust." Just what does this mean? Beyond the bounds of our coven, how can we welcome this idea into our lives?

It's scary to trust, because many of us were raised not to trust anyone fully, not even ourselves. We question our intuition until it no longer comes knocking. We're told not to talk to strangers, don't leave your valuables unattended, make sure you double-check your bank

statement. Don't listen to your body to find out when you're hungry, but eat at noon and 6pm regardless.

In the area of romance, it gets even more sticky. The concept of having "the one perfect mate" is something I question, but that's a whole other essay (or a book). But even given that notion, you're supposed to subtly (or, for the more paranoid, covertly) check up on your boy- or girl-friend to make sure they're not "cheating" on you. You may gossip about

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About the Earthtides Pagan Network

The Maine Pagan community is diverse, independent and geographically distant. We worship in groups or alone, but sometimes need contact and a shared forum to express our ideas and concerns for this community.

The Earthtides Pagan Network was established in 1989 as a support resource for Maine Pagans. All solitaries and groups are welcome to join.

A subscription to this newsletter is available

for a suggested donation of \$11.00 per year. Single copies may be obtained by sending a \$1.50 donation and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343
E-mail: epn@maine.rr.com

The deadline for submissions to the Litha/Summer Solstice issue is June 1, 2003.

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Editor: Starcat

Contributors to this issue: Arwen, Mark, and Quester.

Assistance: Quester

From Aesir to Zeus

By Arwen Evenstar

The Magical Personality, by Mike Leslie, outlines twelve different personality types, based on the four ancient elements. Leslie believes that self-knowledge is the key to successful magic, and brings his professional experience as a psychotherapist to help the reader identify personal strengths and weaknesses. Llewellyn, \$17.95.

Meditation, by Jan Purser, is both attractive and extremely useful. In addition to offering the "how," "when," and "where," the author suggests techniques using music, colors, crystals, and essential oils. Penny Lovelock's illustrations lift this guide above the crowd. Red Wheel/Weiser, \$14.00.



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Garden Witchery, by Ellen Dugan, gives readers advice on creating magical gardens. Full of practical advice on cold hardiness and soil requirements, this book also offers flower folklore, herbal spells, working with solar and lunar cycles, garden crafts (dream pillows, wreaths, and more), and includes a gardening journal. Llewellyn, \$16.95.

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your mate's shortcomings behind their back. It is almost expected that there'll be some dishonesty involved in romantic relationships.

What if there wasn't? What if you and your loved one(s) agreed that perfect love and perfect trust would be what you'd aim for? First of all, what does "perfect" mean? It means that there's no failing. Love gives you another chance, and so does trust. But does it? You have to overcome a lot of programming to be able to give someone another chance once they've lied to you. To deal with them without suspicion from that point on is challenging, to say the least. And there can be a fine line between forgiving others and being a doormat, if they continue to regularly exploit your trust.

But say you do trust each other, and love each other, as near to perfectly as possible. How liberating! You grow to trust yourself, and furthermore, to trust in the Universe! You realize that all the energy you once spent lurking around

(whether literally or in your head), waiting for someone to screw up, is now available for other things. The time you spent worrying about not getting what you need in life is now yours to spend in joyous ways.

I think perfect love and perfect trust, once you invest in them, begin to ripple outward, affecting your entire life and that of those around you. Instead of assuming that strangers or acquaintances are "out to get you" in some way, you can be more open and real with them. That type of open and positive energy will resonate with people subconsciously, and they are then more likely to return it in kind.

Living this way doesn't mean being stupid, like leaving wads of cash on your car dashboard, but it does mean trusting that you, in league with the Universe, can take care of yourself, and that there is more than enough love for all of us.

Networking

The people and groups listed here are mentioned because they have done two things: They have volunteered to serve as points of contact for those seeking Pagan community, and they have signed the EPN Standards, which pledges them to follow a set of basic rules of ethical conduct. Any person or group may be listed here by subscribing to this newsletter and agreeing to those Standards; please contact EPN to arrange such a listing.

EPN has no interest in serving as the "Pagan police," and explicitly supports the autonomy of each person and group in matters of faith, belief and worship. The Maine Pagan community encompasses a wide variety of people and practices, and seekers are cautioned that any person or activity that makes you uncomfortable is probably wrong for you.

Groups and individuals who seek networking opportunities but are reluctant to sign the Standards are encouraged to take advantage of our advertising columns.

AUGUSTA AREA

Bill and Johanna Chellis. Pantheists working with the circle, wheel and labyrinth. 685-3860

Immanent Grove. A fellowship of practicing Pagans of all persuasions. Members pursue their own personal relationships with the Gods. We're interested in corresponding with experienced Pagans who would like to work with us. *Harper and Arwen, Immanent Grove, Box 2328 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330*

OXFORD HILLS AREA

Khyrohn Ni Mara. Eclectic Wiccan focusing on healing through herbs and drumming. RR1 Box 2606, N. Waterford, ME 04267. 583-4215.

PORTLAND/YORK COUNTY

Temple of Brigantia. Wiccan group honoring the Goddesses and Gods of Britain and Rome. Offering open Full Moon rituals and accepting selected candidates for apprenticeship. *Jane/Cassius, 646-6634 or temple@janeraeburn.com*

Circle of the Silver Cauldron, Atlantic. Eclectic Wiccan coven emphasizing creativity and self-development. Great Day celebrations open to the community. *Thea or Harry, 282-1491 or oldewtch@maine.rr.com*

WATERVILLE AREA

Lilith Dragonfly. Eclectic and Reclaiming Wicca. Mmmmoongoddess@yahoo.com or 873-0528.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Deaf Pagans. I would love to meet Deaf adults who are Pagan and other Pagan parents of Deaf children. *Ede, 353-6202 (V/TTY) or ede@clinic.net*

PanCraft. Pagan artists, musicians and others beloved of the Muses get together to share their work and honor the Deities who inspire them. *Harper and Arwen, Box 2328 Middle Road, Sidney, ME 04330*

ONLINE RESOURCES

EPN Web site, <http://www.earthtides.org>
Maine Pagan Resource Page, <http://www.janeraeburn.com/maine>

Maine Pagan Mailing List, to join send blank e-mail to mepagan-subscribe@egroups.com
EPN Mailing List (open to newsletter subscribers only), to join send blank e-mail to earthtides-subscribe@egroups.com
Maine Pagan Politics List, to join send blank e-mail to meppolitics-subscribe@egroups.com

Calendar

NOTE: If you'd like your event included in our calendar of events, please send us an e-mail, with Calendar Listings as the subject, to grove@ctel.net before the deadline for the issue in which you'd like it listed. Each issue of the newsletter lists the next deadline on the front page.

If you would like an extra copy of this calendar to post on a public bulletin board, please feel free to photocopy it freely. If you know a business in your area which would like to post one, please send the information to the above e-mail address and we'll add it to the mailing list.

As a service to the Pagan community, we seek to list as many events as possible that would be of interest to Maine Pagans. You need not be a member of EPN, or even a subscriber to this newsletter, to list an event here. All we ask is that events be non-profit -- that is, that any fees for participating not exceed the reasonable cost of putting on the event -- and submitted to us by e-mail or post by the publication deadline. (Those planning for-profit events are welcome to avail themselves of our very affordable advertising opportunities.)

We make no claim as to the value or safety of any of these events, and caution our readers to rely on their own best judgment when assessing any situation, particularly those involving strangers. That said, we also encourage you to participate in as wide a spectrum of the Pagan community as you can, both for your own enjoyment and because our community needs your positive energy and good fellowship.

APRIL

30 Wednesday to May 6 Tuesday
Mid-Spring/May Day/Walpurgis. Celebrates sacred love and the flowering vegetation by gathering flowers and dancing around a May-pole.

MAY

1 Thursday
New Moon, 7:15 a.m.

2 Friday
May Day Craze, Pagan Students' Association of USM, Woodbury Campus Center (Portland), 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. This party, featuring DJ Mickel, DJ David, DJ LS, and DJ Mindwrecker will be accessible at a cost of \$3 to non-university students. A cash bar and oxygen bar will be available for consumption. All ages are welcome.

3 Saturday
Pagan Crafting Fair, Acadia Zoo (Trenton Road, Ellsworth). For more information, please e-mail lore_lamia@yahoo.com

15 Thursday
Full Moon, 10:36 p.m.

24 Saturday
Mt. Katahdin Hike, Roaring Brook parking lot. We'll need to be in line early enough (pre-dawn) to get a parking spot once the gate opens. This is a strenuous hike up the Cathedral trail, across Knife Edge, and back down either Dudley or the Helon Taylor trail to the parking lot. Car pooling recommended. For further information, eric@applevalleybooks.com.

31 Saturday
New Moon, 12:20 a.m.

JUNE

14 Saturday
Full Moon, 7:16 a.m.

21 Saturday
Open Litha Ritual, Immanent Grove, Sidney 4:15. This is Grove's traditional Summer King

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circle, which honors the spirit of the season with music, flowers and ribbons. Please bring some sort of music noisemaker, and flowers and ribbons. Pot luck to follow (please bring your own plates, cups, and utensils as we like to avoid using disposables). Under 18 participants welcome if they are accompanied by a custodial parent. For directions or more information, contact us a grove@ctel.net or 377-3967.

29 Sunday

New Moon, 2:39 p.m.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Mid-Coast Coffee Chat will be held on the second Sunday of each month at noon. Right now, Mid-Coast covers Belfast to Brunswick which makes Waldoboro the center point. Folks who live in Waldoboro area are taking turns hosting. E-mail mbird@acadia.net for directions or more information.

Calendar compiled by Aruen Ewenstar. Additional calendar information from The Mystic's Wheel of the Year 2003, A Multifaith Calendar © 2002 Page Two, Inc.

I am the Young God in spring,
My passion knows no bounds.
Maidens tremble in their dreams.
Crones sigh, left to reverie.
The Mother, knowing,
Dances out into the field
Hips turned out, breasts swaying, belly free.

by Quester

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* *Rune Lore* * by Mark Kunz *

24 runes, 8 sabbats, left over stuff...could be a long article. Let's move real fast.

Many basic rune books exist; most cover this in chapters 1-4. Rune means "mystery." Odin was tree-crucified nine days to "get" them; Odin became a rune caster, which became a respected practice of generations. There are 24 runes in 3 sets of 8. Later additions were wyrd (use it or not) and the querent stone, not counted, not always used. Possible simple layouts: single stone answer, three-, five-, or seven-stone draws (I use three in the morning after meditation), the larger Celtic Cross (a common Tarot layout), and the complete forecast – all of them, face down, mixed in a spiral hand stirring motion – used for long term queries.

Though asking questions of runes is sort of two-edged, and I quote the wise fellow: "unless culturally drawn...the Teutonic/Celtic deities can be downright dangerous." Full of fire, passion, drives, and humor, much as the folks they impressed enough to make their names into the elder edda and such... Runes are thus culturally based and have a sense of profound, but sometimes dark, humor. Play with them, note the patterns (I note my three-rune readings; I'll show how later), and about two years in, give or take, you'll giggle, I swear.

I draw my three after noting the date, leaving space for the three to be, and then noting my day's apparent agenda and expectations. I then draw the runes – hold until it feels right and pull, one by one, three runes out of a leather bag I made epochs ago. And then I write down each one and some quick notes. I may ponder the interpretation more now than I first did. Avoid hassles paying attention – I'll pay attention.

About wyrd, a blank stone sometimes thought of as female in aspect: it originated in the last century to stress a cultural relationship thought missing by some guy. I made one, not knowing the lack of antiquity at the time, and it was very specially initiated to service in representative to the set. It does have a positive function: wyrd begets orlog. Orlog is inescapable fate. Before

anyone blows the free will whistle: precognition is not pre-destination, and before orlog, there is wyrd. In English: action equals reaction. So, as you go about the day, and in mind of the other two runes you drew, you made what you're getting, as you are making what you're also going to get later. In conjunction with some runes, that's proven painful at many levels.

About the three aetts: futhark comes from the first eight runes of the first aett (group of 8), named for deities/powers, as are some of the runes themselves. Interestingly, the rest generally deal with the necessities of ancient life. And thanks to some fifth century saga making it to print, much is actually known about them via the skalding poems about each, some 48 stanzas or so long. What a memory.

Given the nature of runes, it's easier to deal with them in small groups (they affect each other a tad more than in Tarot) at first. Remember that there are no "good" or "bad" reads or draws, use intuition and application of your ritual (subconscious/hyperconsciousness into consciousness), and the more positive outcomes can be manifested in your day.

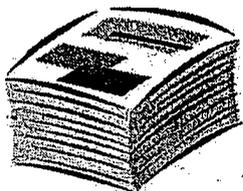
Look around for a used book or quick mnemonic card listing the runes, though creating one yourself via the internet and library can suffice. Collect data on the meaning of the runes, note it and keep it, preferably in a short form, which can be shortened further for the sake of daily space and time. If you haven't guessed, this requires a journal, and should be used nearly daily, as it can take months before "the spirit of your ancients warm your runes to life." Actually, once you know the runes on sight, the mind begins to sense patterns of interplay and, suddenly one morning you "get it." The next day you might not...it varies day-to-day for a bit. Again, a friendly warning: runes do have a sense of humor, and some days that can be less than humorous "in the moment," as opposed to on reflection.

And in reflection: I start my draw by entering my prior day's events, by ending that entry with any dream remembrances, and by allowing the separating breaths of meditative-centering thought to the Great Source before I draw.

For material for making homemade stones, I recommend real rock, real carving, but don't use granite. Soapstone scrap from any fireplace installation business or supply place, can provide great material, often in colors. Worked by hacksaw, file, sandpaper, and nail of choice in handle or Exacto; avoid slipping, though blood offering, even a drop, was/is significant to the powers behind the runes.

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Drop Us a Line Anytime! Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor of EarthTides are welcome and encouraged. Whether providing feedback on something you've read here, bringing up issues affecting paganism that might be of interest, sharing ideas for rituals, or whatever else might come to mind, please share! Write to us by e-mail at nikmat@psouth.net, or by U.S. mail at EPN, P.O. Box 161, E. Winthrop, ME 04343. To get us started, here is a request for input from EarthTides President Fred Griffith, shared recently on the EarthTides mailing list:

"Due to time constraints at the annual meeting, there were a few items on the agenda

that got postponed. These include questions regarding:

- Finding a replacement venue for the Maine Arts Festival
- Do we want to print up new EPN T-Shirts this year?
- Where do we want to go/what do we want to do as an organization this year?
- How do we want to get there?

Regarding goals for this year, I would really like to see EarthTides grow, both by letting known Pagans know that we are being more inclusive by not requiring signing of the Stan-

About this newsletter

This newsletter comes out eight times a year, around the Sabbats. Literary, poetic and artistic contributions are welcome, as are opinion pieces. Please keep submissions to no more than two pages, double-spaced. Submissions on disk or e-mailed to nikmat@psouth.net are preferred.

Subscribers' names, addresses and other personal information are kept confidential except to other network members. EPN will aid in establishing contact between individuals, but accepts no legal responsibility for the results.

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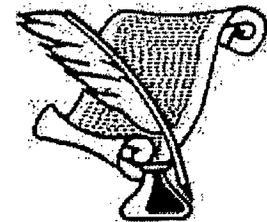
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dards, AND by increasing our outreach. Not only are there parts of the state where nobody knows about us, there are many environmentalists who might be interested in learning that there are spiritual paths which respect the environment. I also like the idea that was floated at the meeting regarding setting up a Pagan Student Scholarship fund. It would take some work, but I believe it would be beneficial."

Please share your thoughts on these or other topics. Send your letters in time for the Litha newsletter. Thanks!



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