

anglo-saxon religion

The Anglo-Saxon homeland was Denmark and northern Germany. In this region our Anglo-Saxon ancestors spoke a language that was the ancestor of modern English, and is related to modern German, Dutch, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian. All these languages belong to a linguistic family called "Germanic". The ancestors of the people who speak these languages shared a common culture. Their culture included shared religious or spiritual beliefs. Most of these beliefs were also shared by all the other tribes and nations descended from European Cro-Magnons - including the ancient Greeks, Romans, Persians, and Aryan Indians.

In the middle of the fifth century many Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain. They brought with them their customs, language and religion. Today we still refer to their gods and goddesses on certain days and festivals. Tuesday is named after the god Tiw, Wednesday after Woden, Thursday after Thunor, and Friday after the goddess Friga. At Easter we still celebrate the festival devoted to Ostara, a fertility goddess whose symbols were eggs and hares. Yule is the ancient midwinter festival of all the Germanic peoples, including the Anglo-Saxons.

Anglo-Saxon spiritual beliefs didn't just involve their gods and goddesses. Many of their other beliefs are the basis of some of our finest civilised traditions. Today, when we speak of "Anglo-Saxon common law", we are using a modern form of the word our ancestors coined, *lagu*. When we say that something is a human "*right*", we are echoing the Anglo-Saxon term *riht*. The Romans observed that the ancient Germanic peoples felt there was a special holiness in their women. The Anglo-Saxons shared this spiritual respect for women, to the extent that heathen England was probably the best nation for females to live in at that time. Even today, women come closest to having equal rights in nations founded by Germanic (including Anglo-Saxon) peoples. The Anglo-Saxons approached the natural world through an Earth Mother goddess, and therefore had a sacred relationship with the land. This attitude also led them to embrace life, rather than turning their backs on the natural world as some other religions have caused their followers to do.

In the sixth century, Christianity was imposed on the Anglo-Saxons by missionaries from Europe. Despite centuries of suppression, the pre-Christian spirituality of the Anglo-Saxons lives on. We see this in poetry and art, music, folklore, a delight in nature (which led to both modern science and ecology, as well as a mystical love of the countryside), faith in justice, respect for women, and many other areas of modern, post-Christian life.

The religion of the Anglo-Saxons was revived during the nineteenth century. Today it is known as Odinism, and is practised widely across Australia. Some Odinists are affiliated with "temples" or groups, while others are sole practitioners. The quarterly newsletter *Renewal* aims to keep Australian and New Zealand Odinists in contact with each other, and informed about current issues. *Renewal* also publishes occasional books on Odinist topics.

You can learn more about the religion and spirituality of the historical Anglo-Saxons, and of modern Odinists, by sending a stamped, self addressed (long) envelope to:

Renewal
PO Box 4333
University of Melbourne
Vic 3052
AUSTRALIA

26 Jewlie 06. Hail Joseph! Many thanks for your letter of 23 Jewlie 06. Congratulations on your forthcoming 'graduation!' Thanks for the stamped envelope. I can always use postage. I appreciate your question about The Holy Swastika, for that is what it is.

The Swastika is also known as The Sunwheel, which represents the Four Seasons. It appears wherever Aryans &/or Aryan influence has been, such as ancient India, throughout Europe & North America, where The Swastika is used by American Indians as a symbol of good luck. In India, it represents good luck & honor. The Indian merchant ships have big Swastikas on their bows. Indian literature is much older than the jew-book, & The Swastika is older than Indian literature. As I understand from many sources which I can't name at this time, manlike creatures long lived as do other animals, by hunting & gathering. For some reason, some men developed agriculture, the raising of crops & livestock. We believe such men were Aryans (Whites) because the word "arable" relates to agriculture. The great advantage of agriculture is that men no longer had to roam around in search of game & edible plants, for he could grow his own in the same place. Not only that, but agriculture gave rise to food surpluses, which gave rise to civilizations. If we look at the hunter-gatherers of Africa (Bushmen) & the same of North America, such as the Plains Indians, we see no development of civilization, such as we saw of the Indians who had agriculture, like the Inca & Aztec Empires of the Western Hemisphere.

As they say, "one thing leads to another." When agriculture became important, the knowledge of the seasons became equally important. The seasons are also called sunsteads, which is more accurate, for "sunstead" represents the position of the earth, relative to the sun. Advanced civilizations, based on agriculture, developed observatories & astronomy to predict the proper times for planting & harvesting. In places with 4 seasons, it is a life or death matter: plant too late, & winter kills the crops before they can be harvested. Plant too early, & winter can kill the crops before they sprout. Farmers know how tricky weather can be, & how important it is for crops. Knowing the seasons is a good basis for predicting the weather throughout the year; not always, but usually. Nearer the Equator, this is not so important, for climate depends on altitude, rather than the change of season, but in the Northern Hemisphere, seasons are the ruling factor in agriculture, as well as human behavior. If we go far enough south, say to Australia or South Africa, the seasons are reversed. I had to take a plane from South Africa to Canada in February, so I went from summer in Africa to winter in North America within a few hours. I felt a bit foolish carrying winter clothing when I got on the plane in the hot African summer, but it sure came in handy when I was walking on the icy streets of Toronto!

More than the 4 seasons, The Swastika represents The Wheel of Time, which is of major importance in the Hindu & Buddhist religions. Buddha is usually depicted as displaying The Wheel of Time on one palm. The Hindu Time Cycles last for thousands of years. Since Buddhism is a heresy of Hinduism, Buddhist Time Cycles last as long! The Wheel of Time turns from The Golden Age, down to the 6 o'clock position of The Dark Age or Kali Yuga, which most people agree is the Age in which we now live. Hinduism began with Aryans, but it has been encrusted with superstitions of the mud-people or Dravidians, for thousands of years. Some researchers have written that the true Aryan Religion lies in The Rig Vedas, the most ancient of Indian writing. The Aryan Religion can be boiled down to (1) Observed truth, about The Universe & man's place therein. (2) Since The Universe is magnificent & beautiful, man's proper religion is made likewise. As one writer put it: "Aryans were too concerned with the beauty of the stars to be afraid of the dark." Science is one manifestation of The Aryan Religion, which seeks knowledge of The Universe & about ourselves, since we are part of The Universe. All varieties of Judaism oppose Man to Nature. Judaism would include Christianity, Islam, Capitalism & Communism, whose propaganda claims that "man conquers Nature." This is man's declaration of war against The Universe, like cancer cells attacking the human body. Even if jews & their dupes cannot understand, it is obvious that man cannot 'win' such a war, for it is not a war against Nature & The Universe, it is a war against man, himself. Those who hate man & Nature hate The Holy Swastika, the symbol of the sun & the life it gives, which is up to man to use wisely. I hope this brief description gives you food for thought, & I hope you will continue your learning after your 'graduation.'

All the best, as always, & ORION!

Eric