

Know Your Roots

It is inherent in all of us to want to know where we come from.

Why is it important to know your roots?

Our heritage can say a lot about us whether we like it or not, even through our DNA. Did you know that we carry/is passed down, at least 7 generations of our ancestors DNA in each of us?

Memory...

What I mean by roots: before the settlements outside of Europe, Asia and Africa. Basically from 500/1000 ad to 1600's ad.; probably could just as easily say everything before the colonization of America and Australia. The beliefs and traditions before Christianity and then the blending of them afterwards.

Looking back and over the last 75 years it seems that, speaking of Christian protestants at least in America [and remembering why I am writing this blog in the first place], the easiest way for me to say it is we have been 'doing it wrong'. We should be teaching history of peoples and traditions along with their beliefs, as far back as we can, first and foremost in our church groups, not only to our children and families in our own little family units.

Instead of evangelizing to "get everyone saved" right away, providing rules and guidelines to live by, because "it says" this or "it says" that and to get to "heaven", we should be teaching people and children *why* we think the things we do. This goes for most all denominations. We are so far away from anything having meaning anymore it's no wonder people and children are out of touch and have no idea what to believe in. Confusion is rampant in all aspects in most parts of the world.

If we encourage to teach roots and then going backwards to where those roots intertwined with the migrations of peoples after the last "flood", we can see such amazing likeness of all races and spiritual belief systems. this provides for a more solid case for a one true god. What a coincidence that so many people who aren't connected, had so many similarities.

I don't believe in coincidence.

I am reminded of Snorri Sturluson's prologue to the *Prose Edda* (using the Jesse L. Byock translation) when he talks about how the people [all over the world] neglected god abandoning his good and right ways, they stopped even saying his name and then forgot him. Here I will just quote the rest as he just puts it so beautifully:

"Nevertheless, god granted men the happiness to enable them to enjoy the world. He also gave them the wisdom to understand all earthly things and all the separate parts that could be seen of the sky and the earth. People thought about these things, wondering what it could mean that the earth and animals and birds were in some ways similar, even though their natures were not alike...

...people supposed that perhaps a controlling being was guiding the heavenly bodies, deciding their paths according to his wishes, and that this being would be very powerful and mighty. They surmised that, if he ruled over the main elements of nature, he existed before the heavenly bodies...

...people did not know where his kingdom was...

...in order to recount their beliefs and to fix them to memory, they gave them their own names to all things and the nature of their beliefs changed in many ways as different nations were established and languages branched out..."

Aren't we still there?!?! Writing and re-writing history, science, etc., to try and make sense of or find god, and/or who we are and where we came from - again a story for another time - but just for the record Snorri lived from 1179 - 1241 ad. Its been almost 1000 years - let's give humans credit for having a brain, and at least not be afraid to TALK about "what we can't talk about" - the *taboo*... I have heard all of my life about "we just don't talk about those things" or "we don't do this just in case", for fear of leading people "astray" or to "hell". Isn't that the same as well, like, communism??? Controlling what people believe??? I am remembering C.S. Lewis talking about how the devil uses ourselves against us/each other and he was including "the church"...

I can get off on tangents so back to the main idea - lets also understand what happened in the Old Testament that lead to Christ Yeshua (Yeshua is his real name and Joshua for English). I mean, to an average person who really has no teaching of who "Jesus" was aside from he is part of the trinity of the Christian god and "Jesus saves", what does this really mean? I've asked myself that to try and understand what it looks and feels like to be someone who didn't have the "born-and-raised-in-the-church" life I had. It's difficult to imagine and even connect linguistically with even our neighbors anymore!

We see how the Celts accepted and dealt with the introduction to Christianity. For me it seems like a dream come true! Their roots were intertwined with the stories of the Bible as they just moulded right together and we see these same similarities with Scandinavia - a close relative to Celtic heritage, ALONG with Hindu religions, if not the beginning. Their love of the earth and everything in it seemed to make their spiritual connection, mysticism and faiths even stronger. God gave us the earth to use by all means in good ways, yet today we are still so plastic - there are still people who think using food, herbs, spices and elemental items from our earth as an alternative means of not only healing but just taking basic care of our bodies, is witchcraft, among SO many other things... it absolutely blows my mind and in fact if I wasn't so lucky to have the open-minded parents I have, I may very well be in that same group still to this day.

My goal is to open a dialogue that yes we are all connected and yes the physical world including science [that creator-god made as well] is *ALL* connected. I'm sure its been said and written about before but I can't find much of it out there. Seems like anything similar to these ideas gets grouped into witchcraft again, and again along with pagan or new ages 'studies'. Not that we can't talk about all that as well, but what about people like me who are "Christian" but see a huge problem in the way we've gone about the most important thing in life - our spiritual being (noun and verb). That's why I tag chrisitianpagan, paganchristian, christianwitch or christianmystic in some of my writings and posts elsewhere. I don't fit in anywhere anymore..