



ASATRU

The Natural Religion of The
European People

What is ASATRU ?

Asatru is the natural and native religion of the Northern European people and their descendants. Those Europeans in Europe, Canada, the United States and Australia have the right to claim the ways of their people and forefathers. Long before Christianity made its way to Europe from the Middle East and religious ideas from southern desert lands converted our people, (often unwillingly and with deceit of their true message) *Asatru* was the spiritual path of our people. It is one of the European pre-Christian heathen religions that once again is being reclaimed by the sons and daughters of Europe, at home and abroad. Asatru is a religion of family values and kinship, it is deeply connected to nature, and teaches our folk to lead an honorable life. It is a religion of self sufficiency and strength, one that respects life and strong will. It is a spiritual path which places great importance on our elders and ancestors. Asatru has greatly affected our culture and many of the customs and aspects of our culture today are remnants of our original ways.

What we believe

The Gods

Asatru recognizes many different Gods that are deeply connected with the forces of Nature and also with the basic forces which rule over our society. In Asatru, the Gods are both our fathers and mothers as well as our brothers and sisters. Asatru teaches to build a relationship with the Gods rather than to grovel in fear of them. Our ancestors knew of many Gods, and below are listed some of the most important.

The Vanir

The Gods are divided into two tribes. The Aesir and the Vanir. The Vanir Gods are the Gods of the Earth and Nature.

Frey - The Lord of Nature , wild animals, the forest and all that grows. Twin Brother of Freya.

Freya - Lady of Nature , patron of strong women, Goddess of womanhood. Twin Sister of Frey.

Ullr - God of winter, archery and hunting. Travels on snowshoes. The God of the Northern Lights and evergreen forests.

Skadi - Goddess of ice, skiing and hunting. Faithful to her followers and brings justice to those harmed.

Njord - God of the sea, calms storms and saves those on the ocean. Father of Frey and Freya

Erda - The Earth, and Goddess of nature.

The Aesir

The Aesir Gods are the Gods of Order and Justice, military necessity and Agriculture.

Odin - The All Father. Loving creator of humanity, he gifted man with a spirit and a fiery will. Master shaman and wizard and the lord of battle. Odin is the teacher of man, in all things hidden.

Frigg - Wife of Odin, All Mother, protector of children, marriage and fidelity. Frigg unites husbands and wives after death who wish to remain together forever in the afterlife.

Baldur - Son of Odin and Frigg. God of light and holiness, the slain God who is resurrected.

Thor - God of agriculture and farmers, of the working man labouring in the fields and forges. Protector of our folk and the warder of Earth. The God of thunder and lightning and the slayer of demons and giants. He wields a mighty hammer and his chariot is pulled by two goats. He is know as Thor the red.

Tyr - God of the sky, justice and truth. Tyr is the God who deals judgment and settles disputes. The keeper of order in society.

Heimdall - The watchman of the Gods. Heimdall guards the gate and bridge into the Gods heaven. He came to Earth long ago and taught man how to organize society. A teacher and a father, he is said to have sired three sons of human mothers and their blood is taught in legend to run through our veins.

Folkism

Asatru is an ethnic, or folkish religion. What this means is that there is a strong emphasis placed on ones blood and ancestral heritage. This also means that Asatru is not for everyone, just as the ways of the Native American Indian, or the Japanese ethnic religion of Shinto are not for everyone, but for those who come from that blood line. Our holy books, the Havamal and the Eddas, along with the many European Sagas teach us that we are created from our Gods, and we are thus in the image of the Gods and their Kin. This belief is widely held by all folkish religions of the world, Shinto for example teaches that the Japanese race was descended from the Sun Goddess. It is the same in Asatru, as the Northern European folk are said to be descended from Odin, chief of the Gods. Therefore we believe our genetics to be very important and continuing the family line and honoring our ancestors plays a significant role in Asatru.

Nature Worship and Shamanism

In the past before Christianity was implemented in Europe, the white man shared much in common with the Native American Indian and other indigenous tribes. Nature was revered and balance with the Earth, who was seen as a living entity was very important. Nature spirits lived in woods, rocks and enchanted groves. The universe was seen as the nourishing World Tree. Wise men and women practiced the shamanic art known as Seid (Seid-ith) which relied heavily on ones connection with nature and the Goddess Freya.

Womans Place

In Asatru the women of our folk are equals in all ways. Spiritually, politically and domestically the women of pre-Christian Europe enjoyed more freedoms than they did under

Christianity. In Asatru women are not barred from the important roles in society or taught they are a weaker sex, rather they are encouraged to use the great strength inside them. In times past a Women had many rights and privileges, something that is now just starting to come back, a natural and subconscious return to our heathen ways. In Asatru women are our Sisters and Mothers, our Wives and Daughters they can be spiritual leaders and have much wisdom. Women carry the next generation of our folk and are treated to reflect this paramount task.

Our Holidays

Many of us in the West grew up with favorite Holidays such as Easter and Christmas. For many Europeans, even though their connection to Christianity has waned, their fondness of these times and memories of family remain important. In fact most of our current holidays are derived heavily from our old Heathen celebrations. The word Holiday itself is derived from the word Holy, which is in turn derived from the word Holly, a sacred northern tree in Asatru.

Ostara known as Easter – The word Easter is derived from the old English word Ostara, a great goddess of spring time and nature. The crucifixion of Jesus has little to do with much of the symbolism of Easter, being eggs, baby animals and the rabbit. In truth these things are the symbols used by our ancestors to celebrate the new life and fertility of spring.

Winternights known as Christ-mas – Eggnog, the yule log, mistletoe, Holly and Mistletoe, decorated evergreen trees, as well as a magical man who lives in an icy forest riding a chariot pulled by mighty reindeer again have little to do with the birth of Jesus, or anything remotely Middle Eastern. All of these things are deep spiritual symbols to our religion.

There are many other Holidays and other rich, cultural

traditions handed down to us from our ancestors, and as your knowledge of Asatru grows you will realize just how much of this ancient religion you are already practicing.

The Afterlife

For our ancestors in Europe, life did not end when the body died, but everyone had an enduring soul. The destination of the soul was important to our folk and was determined by ones strengths, connections and actions in this world. There is no book of rules in Asatru which dictates all offenses which can cause ones entrance into the realms of the afterlife. Entrance in to the realm of the Gods comes from an inflamed spirit and following the *nine noble virtues*, being Courage, Truth, Honour, Fidelity, Discipline, Hospitality, Industriousness, Self-reliance and Perseverance.

Why ASATRU ?

Our European genetics were forged in Northern lands of Oak and Pine forests and icy winters. Our religion and culture reflects the Northern lifestyle. We believe that the people of Europe should follow their ways and are perhaps not suited to the desert religions from the Middle East. In this age of continued secularization, cold technology and increasing bureaucracy, the soul has a great yearning for a spiritual connection. Many of our folk, however, have found that the foreign religions imposed on us do not fulfill their moral or spiritual longing. Simply put, if you are of European background then there is a spiritual path inside of you, followed for thousands of years by our ancestors. When our folk take that path, our people will become whole and spiritual once more.

For more information visit the following sites

www.odinsvolk.ca

www.runestone.org