



The Raven Lodge **Issue 2 Feb 2006**

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The Raven Lodge is a free monthly Newsletter, emailed to you on request includes: the latest **News**, developments, projects, etc; excerpts from **Work in Progress**; **Weird News** – unusual news from various sources round the world of quirky metaphysical interest;

Witch-Wise Advice Column - essentially continuing the work I did with the now sadly closed WitchCraft Magazine, answering questions about spellcraft, witchcraft, magick, healing, paranormal and related subjects. I will endeavour to answer as many questions as I can per month and some will not be answered directly, but covered in another way, such as through an article or a suggested link or book. I ask that you include a phone contact number and suburb if possible and whether you give permission for the question to be answered in the Newsletter (anonymously, of course). If it is a request for private consultation, I do charge a fee for my services, but a limited number of free sessions are available per month (see Winged Circle Arts <http://www.ancientmysteriesnet.org/services.html>)

Contact Networking –those seeking contact with groups or “fellow Solitaries” who wish to post their contact emails, a suburb location or P.O. Box is optional and I suggest using a pseudonym, or first name only to protect your privacy. [The C.A.M.](#) accepts no responsibility for any interactions and experiences between private individuals that result from such posting.

Mailing List/Newsletter Requests: [The Church of the Ancient Mysteries](#) guarantees that your details will not made available to any other organisation without your express permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take a look at some of my new projects – well actually they are old projects for me, but I've been very quiet about them for many years, so sharing them is a new development! Nature Mystery Traditions are continually unfolding and growing... I've just done a big update on my website material, especially expanding and clarifying the **Services** I am offering.

“Faery Seduction and Otherworld Companions”

Sex on the Innerplanes – Faery Seduction – Recapitulating from January Raven Lodge:

It is quite likely that Luinil’s sexual interaction with her Otherworld Companion is an important mode of inter-communication of particular energies that are mutually needed for healing. Luinil has told me that she does not feel herself to be a particularly sexual person in her outer-world life. Intercourse on the innerplanes however, is more likely to have an initiatory or transformative significance for both parties. The traditional lore about the Underworld/Inner Earth/Faery Realm is that it is a mirror-image of the physical world. The undoubtedly powerful seduction of Faery is a result of the mutual need of Faery and humankind to find a healing balance in each other.Just as any relationship in the outer world will also benefit from openness and honesty, a robust and healthy innerplanes connection will withstand such questioning and clarification.

In one sense, a Faery Companion, especially an Otherworld lover, will embody an aspect of our own Being that we have “lost”. Because of Nature’s innate balance, we also will embody a balancing wholeness for the Companion.

Robert Kirk, in his "Secret Commonwealth" (1691), implies that the good or evil nature of an Otherworld or faery contact is defined by the positive or negative inner condition of the contactee.

... Now let us just hypothesise that Luinil’s experience of being drawn into sexual interaction with her Otherworld Companion could have been a subversion of her conscious will, a kind of borderline “date rape”... In Luinil’s case, it does sound a little blurry, but on feel (to my intuition) it doesn’t seem to be sinister, as there appears to be genuine mutual affection and rapport. *What is important in all cases like this, is a stringent self-honesty, and the magickal/spiritual discipline of staying awake inside the Dream, the unfolding Story, to the best of one’s ability.* This is the big one, because sleeping or waking, inner world or outer world, all of our experienced existence is Dream.

The degree to which we decide to consciously co-create with the Dreaming, or “go unconscious” into the Sleeping Dreaming (the illusion that it is all happening “out there”) – will determine the amount of personal freedom and creative sovereignty we have in our lives. “Going to sleep/going unconscious” is what happens when we block out things that we don’t want to deal with, when we unconsciously employ a coping mechanism, a way of dissociating from circumstances or memories that are too painful to deal with. We have all got them, these addictions to habits, stories, behaviours, substances - things that get us through difficult or traumatic experiences, but unfortunately become conditioned responses and keep us asleep, keep us unconscious.

When we are involved in unconscious Creation/Story/Dreaming we create our experiences without being aware of our participation in the divine Creation of Greater Nature. We become separated from divine Creation, asleep in the illusion that our circumstances are outside of our control. By interacting with the Story-Intelligences, whether they manifest as people in our outer reality or beings on the Innerplanes, we can change the Dream/Story from the inside.

If you think I am talking about mythology in terms of “psychological archetypes” by referring to “Story” and “Story-Intelligences” then you are profoundly mistaken. Much of modern psychology is a materialistic attempt to reduce magickal, metaphysical and mystical traditions and experiences into terms that can be intellectually and “logically” explained. While psychology can sometimes be useful, if

you are on the Path of the Nature Mysteries, in my opinion you will probably find psychology more of a hindrance than a help. However they manifest in your experience – whether they are physical outer-world people you have drawn to you for your “learning experiences” or other-dimensional orders of beings on the Innerplanes – the participants in the Story/Dream/Reality you are experiencing – the Story-Intelligences – are what they are; **they are real in their own right. Don't “head-space” them, work with them!**

If you want to work directly with the forces of Creation, those benevolent in-Forming Intelligences behind the Story, the Dream; if you want to go beyond your limiting story-cycles into blessing, clearing and initiatory healing – contact me (wolfkeepe@ancientmysteriesnet.org; (0414) 774 358) for a consultation/healing session or tuition (workshop or correspondence). I am also very interested in supporting those who want to form their own active small groups for study and practice.

Because they embody real energies and powers, these companions, guides or adversaries demand active and conscious engagement and as such, will create negative circumstances or symptoms in proportion to how much their reality is denied or distorted. Regardless of whatever cultural label we apply to them, “they” are here. For an exploration of how these Beings have imprinted themselves on the human consciousness throughout history, see my article “Ley Lines, Wild Sabbats & Little Green Men” originally printed in WitchCraft Magazine #13 http://www.ancientmysteriesnet.org/wild_sabbats.html

The Magick of Storytelling & Balladry – the Story Circle/Cycle/Spiral is linked to the ***Mysteries of Tarot, Nature Oracles & Divination*** explored in the ***TUESDAY NIGHT CONTINUUM evenings***



“The TUESDAY NIGHT CONTINUUM” - Ongoing fortnightly evenings at Ocean Shores, Byron Bay, N.S.W. Australia are available for *Tuition in the ***Mysteries of Tarot, Nature Oracles & Divination***; * Healing through the Light-flow tides of Nature; *exploring the ancient wisdom traditions (Natural Magick & Divinity) of the ***Circle/Cycle/Spiral of Light-flow, the Tides of Sun & Moon. For booking email wolfkeepe@AncientMysteriesNet.org***
Donation rates:

(If you book in advance you are not obliged to attend consecutively)

Casual: \$20 per evening;

Five Evenings: \$15 per evening (\$75)

Ten Evenings: \$10 per evening (\$100)

NB: Please confirm on the Monday, in case of cancellation – sometimes “Life” happens – or I’m away presenting workshops.

More on Healing through the Light-Flow Tides of Nature (See Healing through the Continuum, the Light-Flow Tides of Nature)

<http://www.ancientmysteriesnet.org/services.html>

* Regular participants of the **TUESDAY NIGHT CONTINUUM** may by arrangement also attend a **Circle Service, the Gate Ritual**, through which we open the Gate of Now into the Light-Flow of Nature, for blessing, clearing and healing.

* If you would like to institute a **CONTINUUM Evening** and/or **Circle Service** in your area, I am willing to facilitate a **Circle Workshop Weekend** if there is sufficient interest (10 to 20 people).

Book Review: "The Historian"

If you are a big fan of the Anne Rice Goth genre or of conventional gory horror fiction, then you are going to be very disappointed with Elizabeth Kostova's epic vampire novel, "The Historian". As much of this story is told through discovered letters and archaic histories, following the style of Bram Stoker, (but doing much better with it, I hasten to add) you have to pay attention carefully to follow this multi-layered narrative, shifting back and forth in time. "Three academics in three different generations go book-worming through libraries to learn more about Vlad the Impaler, history's "real" Dracula", as one reviewer puts it. You could call this book a historical thriller, though some want to pigeon-hole it into the popular alternative history genre along with Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code", but Kostova leaves Dan Brown behind in a cloud of authentic archival dust, in my humble opinion.



The historical Dracula was Vlad Tepes, also known as Vlad the Impaler for his favourite way of murdering people, a ruler of Wallachia (not Transylvania) in the 15th century. Vlad's father was leader of the Order of the Dragon, Dracul in the local language, and his son, "Drakulya", was given to the Ottoman Empire as a hostage. While he was a prisoner of the Ottomans, Vlad learned much about torture from the guards who were his friends. Once he had fought his way to the throne of Wallachia years later, he became the Ottomans' worst nightmare. Their attempts to conquer Wallachia were constantly thwarted by Vlad, finding their armies impaled on stakes in defeat. Vlad's tyrannical rule also had thousands of his own subjects tortured and killed this way, often whole families at a time. Hated by his own people, facing constant threats from his own boyars, and constant Ottoman campaigns, Vlad was killed in battle in 1477, decapitated, and his head was taken back to Istanbul as proof of the death of their nemesis.

Vlad Dracula was apparently a believing Orthodox Christian. According to several different sources, it seems he did have some doubts about his fate after death. He

gave a great deal of money to several monasteries to rebuild them or to enrich them, including the monastery where he's buried. The idea that he had made an unholy pact to become one of the ancient Undead who have lived for centuries, a Master-Vampire who would spawn his kind into eternity, was not to formulate for many centuries after his lifetime. Indeed, nobody believed he was a vampire until Bram Stoker invented the connection in his 1897 novel "Dracula." But there was, and still is in places, a very strong Eastern European folk belief in vampires as an incarnation of evil that can be opposed only by a mixture of rituals, some Christian and some that obviously pre-date Christianity.

What Kostova does with that part of the legend in "The Historian" is a masterful piece of story-weaving. Knowing what I do about the nature of Stories, there are always truths lurking behind the narrative, between the lines, so stay tuned for more on the nature of pacts and vampirism in future newsletters, as I'm nowhere near finished with *that* subject – and there is much to relate without spoiling the Vampire Mythos I cover in my **Winged Circle Journal!**

The real historical figure of Vlad Tepes is even now more genuinely horrifying in real life than any gothic confection could ever be.

As Kostova's youthful narrator relates: "The thing that most haunted me that day, however, as I closed my notebook and put my coat on to go home, was not my ghostly image of Dracula, or the description of impalement, but the fact that these things had – apparently – actually occurred. If I listened too closely, I thought, I would hear the screams of the boys, of the 'large family' dying together. For all his attention to my historical education, my father had neglected to tell me this: history's terrible moments were real."

****I am also exploring the links between the Otherworld Companion topic and the many threads of the Vampire Mythos in my more heavy duty offering: "The Winged Circle Journal", available by subscription (see the "Newsletters & Journals" link on the Church of the Ancient Mysteries website) ****

WEIRD NEWS

2,300 year-old murders:

Two extraordinary Iron Age Irish Bog-Bodies – one the tallest ever found, the other sporting a Mohican hairstyle slicked up with expensive imported hair gel!

But wait, there's more... I couldn't resist including this sequel:

Clonycavan Man: The Iron Age 'David Beckham'



Scientists at Dundee University have helped to recreate the face of a man dubbed the “Iron Age David Beckham” because of evidence he gelled his hair. Clonycavan Man, named after the area he was found, was one of two bodies discovered in a peat bog in the Republic of Ireland in 2003.

The first body dropped off a peat cutting machine in February 2003 in Clonycavan, near Dublin. The forearms, hands and lower abdomen were missing, believed to have been hacked off by the machine. The second was found in May the same year in Croghan, about 25 miles from Clonycavan.

The bodies had been tied down, tortured and were probably slain in a ritual sacrifice. Research indicated they lived about 2,300 years ago.

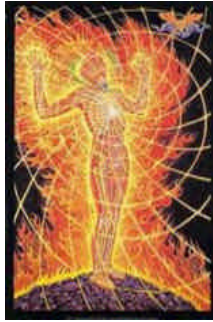
Clonycavan Man has been recreated with slicked back, gelled hair and striking good looks.



I dunno about David Beckham, he looks more like a startled David Duchovny of X-Files (Spooky Mulder) fame! (Ed)

The chemical composition of the peat bog mummifies bodies in such a way that the skeleton deteriorates but the skin is preserved. The head has been constructed from the crushed skull and soft tissue of the bog body. It appears the man used a type of Iron Age hair gel - vegetable oil mixed with resin - perhaps to give the impression of height as he was only 5ft 2in tall. Forensic anthropologists, scientists in Wales, Ireland and Denmark and forensic artists at Dundee University used a state of the art computer system to reconstruct the facial appearance of the Iron Age man and then added glass eyes, skin tone and hair.

(Source: BBC News Scotland)



A Girl with X-ray Vision

A very Russian story – my heart goes out to this girl. I'll see if I can chase up anything else about her. The wonderful Barbara Brennan (scientist, practising healer and psychotherapist) talks about this ability in her classic book, "Hands of Light". This opens up the whole notion, rather popular with the New Age set, of "Psychic/Indigo/Crystal" Children, which I will take up in future newsletters...

14.01.2004 (Source PV Gazeta, from Pravda Online)

Moscow's medical workers have discovered the magnificent gift of a sixteen-year-old girl Natalya Demkina from Saransk. The girl possesses "dual vision". She is capable of discerning a person's internal organs without using X-ray or ultrasound. Natasha has already disproved several medical diagnoses and has not made any mistakes. A series of medical experiments conducted in one of the clinics provide substantial and undeniable proof of the girl's unique abilities.

"Growing up, my daughter was just an ordinary child," states Natasha's mother Tatyana Vladimirovna. "Perhaps, she just a bit more mature than other kids her age. Natasha started to talk when she was only 6 months old. At 1, she could already recite Pushkin and Nekrasov by heart. By 3, Natasha mastered the alphabet and learned to operate a snowmobile," continues her mother. "Since early childhood, Natasha has been resistant to cold temperatures. She practically walked around naked till winter. She once walked barefoot in the snow after sauna [Rus. banya] Overall, she was just a normal kid. Never was she able to see through humans!"

The Demkins family remains puzzled as to the origin of their daughter's gift. There is a possibility that a rather traumatic recent surgery was the trigger for the onset of her "vision improvement". After a routine appendix removal, she did not recover as expected. Ultrasound revealed that doctors had forgotten to remove sanitary cotton tampons from the girl's intestines, so she had to be operated on again. A month after this experience, the teenager startled her mother with her unique perception. "I see a crimped tube similar to our vacuum cleaner inside of you. I also see two beans and a tomato that resembles a bulls' heart," she reported. At that time, being unaware of medical terminology, she could not properly identify a heart, a liver, a kidney, or intestines, but simply compared what she saw to fruits and vegetables.

Medical workers of children's hospital No. 1 decided to conduct several experiments in order to gain some insight into the girl's gift. Natasha was shown a woman known to have a number of illnesses. The girl managed to list every single one of them. Further ultrasound examination simply proved her final diagnosis. Natasha is capable of distinguishing even the tiniest pathology on a molecular level in the deepest corners of a human body, which are usually left undetected by regular ultrasound. "It's like having double vision. I can switch from one to the other in no time if I need to know a person's health problem," says the teenager. "I see an entire human organism. It is difficult to explain how I determine specific illnesses. There are certain impulses that

I feel from the damaged organs. The secondary vision works only in daytime and is asleep at night.”

Natasha began studies at a multi-disciplined academy at the Moscow's State University of Ogarev in order to learn more about physiological phenomena, specialising in medicine. “Being able to use medical terminology, I will be able to state the final diagnosis more accurately. I have to know and understand what I see. This will definitely ease my work with people who come for consultations,” states Natasha.

In the meantime, the demand for her consultations increases daily, people lining up at the door. Today, the Demkins family accepts about twenty phone calls a day with cries for help. “I cannot turn them down. I do not accept any monetary rewards either. That is why I am often exhausted by the end of the day. Some people do not even thank me...” Doctors themselves often pay visits to the girl. Several times Natasha disproved their final diagnoses. “I would like to get into Moscow’s medical academy of Sechenov. However, I do not think that I will be able to pay for my studies- 70,000 roubles annually.

Despite a number of experiments and thorough medical examinations, the girl's gift still needs to be backed up by scientific evidence. She hopes that scientists will notice her and conduct all the necessary experiments. “I have nothing to hide,” says Natasha. “Let them experiment with me. Perhaps, they will be able to explain the nature of my secondary vision. Then I guess I will have a chance to study at the most prestigious medical school.”

*** For those interested in starting the Natural Magick & Divinity Training**

You have two options:

(1) Membership Fee of \$150 per year gives you workshop & services discounts, the Raven Oracle Newsletter, within the 12 months of membership, you get the first Module free, and each Module after that is \$50, and you order them in your own time (the training is self-paced). The Membership Fee is then due 12 months after you first sign on.

During that 12 months I am (within reason) on tap for questions and support regarding the student/member's magickal path, and I do a lot of fine-tuning and send additional supplementary material, designing remedial material in response to individual needs. This means that Students/Members get a very good deal for their \$150 per year. **(If you want to be a Member and not do the training, that is fine, however if you want to become a Student, Membership is required).**

(2) Available until 5th May, there is an Apprenticeship Divinity Training Concession for students registering with an **up-front full payment of \$750** (the full cost of the 21 module training is usually \$1050) which also includes one year's Membership and free attendance at the Natural Magick Weekend at Rainbows Reach Retreat, Fri 19 – Sun 21 May on the Central Coast (not including accommodation and catering). **Enquiries email: wolfkeepe@ancientmysteriesnet.org**

If you know of anybody interested in joining the Training, receiving the free Newsletter or subscription Journal, or accessing any of my services, please forward them this information. NB: remember, there are always GIFT VOUCHERS available...

LINK EXCHANGE

I am adding more links to my **COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD** page, so if you would like to exchange links please send me your website URL or your email and contact details if you don't have one yet, and about **50 to 100 words description of what you do, products, services, events, courses, projects, etc.** I am assuming that you are Pagan-friendly even if not actively/overtly Pagan. I am especially interested in hearing from Pagan-friendly healing practitioners of any modality for the ***Pagan Practitioner Referral Directory***. This is mainly a Southern Hemisphere-based directory, but I don't mind opening up a section for similar Directory-Keepers in other parts of the world.

Witch-Wise Advice

(In the tradition of "Dear Zeena" - my column in Witchcraft Magazine from 99 to 2005)

Deanne (Dee) is one of my wonderful super-dedicated students, soon to become an Initiate, who has been very busy with her second child, who is now 6 months old, and is understandably frustrated with not having time for magickal work. Here's an excerpt from a recent email:

"My planned six weeks break from magickal work has turned into six months! My whole being is being called, a millions times over, my Self needs to do my work. I know what I need to do, I know very well.... I've had during this time an inundation, (is that what we call it?) of moths, to get my attention. What started as a moth here and there turned into moths in my clothes, in my face, everywhere.....Then came the ladybirds, everywhere, on me and in front of me and then a fly, it was the same fly cos' it had a broken wing, we had lots of flies this summer so I found it very hard to want to accept the fly and I didn't. I even saw it leave, it would come inside and go out with me and the last time I saw it, it was on the ground in an ant trail. To write that I feel quite horrible, but I did what I did...."

Dear Dee,

Yep, it is pretty wild when the Insect Allies/Messengers are trying to communicate – many otherwise compassionate practitioners would have the same problems with such things as flies, mozzies and cockroaches – I know I do... I find that sometimes it is the context of the "pestering visit" that is the clue to the communication. What was happening - what were you thinking or feeling when these "swarms" started happening? And you know of course that you can go directly into the innerplanes and talk to them, though I'd say your time is at a premium with a six-month old!

Don't beat yourself up about it – try to accept everything unconditionally, especially, very especially, your Self. Unconditional acceptance for all beings and all happenings, is a step or stage for working towards that Adept and Saintly condition of unconditional love. We are here to learn how to be human; being "imperfect" is part of the human condition, and the various conditions of negativity are here for our learning – it is all about learning. People behave as they do in order to learn from it; even if some of those ways are horrifying and traumatic, we cannot judge this from a human standpoint because we do not see the bigger picture. In fact, seeing the bigger picture is not necessarily what we are here to do anyway. From this perspective it follows that we are also not in a position to even judge ourselves. Discriminating what behaviour or standards you will accept from your Self and others in your sphere of influence is very necessary to your survival and well-being, but making a moralistic, judgemental criticism of your Self or others is a metaphysically destructive thing, and

does not honour the intention to bring Divine Unconditional Acceptance/Love into the world.

I consider Motherhood a phenomenally magickal and mystical role, disgustingly undervalued and only lip service-honoured in mainstream culture. You know that this great power and responsibility is your primary duty, so if I were you I would be noting down the series of Insect Allies, and saying to them and the **Buggers that Be: “ Okay, I hear you, but you will have to wait, or you can bloody well make it easier for me to understand what you are trying to tell me – like tell me in my dreamstate, or give me simple direct messages through dropping books open or magazine articles in my path or give me the middle sections of documentaries on the T.V. ...” You get the idea.

Remember to bargain with Greater Nature for what you need and want, because we are all equal partners, no matter how “small” or “exalted” the powers and intelligences seem to be. It is your responsibility to communicate your situation and needs truthfully at any given time, whether the communication is with humans or non-humans, whether they are on the physical or the metaphysical realities. Without all our individually empowered Natures, Greater Nature is incomplete. It is part of your learning to understand your own importance – to find balance between ego-inflation and ego-deflation – and to cease making a judgement on your Self that you are unimportant or not good enough to ask for what you want. You are no more and no less than who you are. It is not possible to know who you are, because each individual is ultimately a Mystery, therefore you cannot define or judge your Nature, you can only be it.

** “Buggers that Be”: my irreverent term for any and all divine beings – if they haven’t got a sense of humour (and I know for a fact that they have) then I wouldn’t want to know about them!