

On Pagan Solidarity

Full Comment

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"[O]ur religion" is not one religion. Hellenic polytheism is not the same as Wicca is not the same as Druidism. Most Pagan traditions also have some underlying "craft" element which is not religious, but is considered as important as the religious element, just to add to the confusion.

I think we should do our best to make a strength out of diversity. If you have twelve Pagans together, they normally represent at least thirteen religions. It is natural for people to seek agreement, and apparently it comes naturally to some people to try to enforce it, but that is not Paganism. I recommend we conform to one standard: mutual respect and intolerance only of intolerance.

To make this work, there should be more interfaith education available. I get the impression that some people believe that all Pagans really do the same things as Wiccans, under another name, or that all Pagans revere "a Goddess and a God," or we are all "Earth-based," or we all follow the Rede, or ... really, there is no one thing that "all Pagans" do or believe.

In some places, I see that people have successfully made community centers that serve more than one Pagan body. That proves we can work together without falling into one-wayism.

Birmingham's Magick City Pagans accomplished that, after some initial friction. The group, very loosely organized as it is, manages to "route around" the occasional negative influence and motor on. It's not a "church," just a rolling discussion group and breeding ground for various kinds of spiritual mischief.