

**Eric Eldritch**  
**Response to Masterpiece Cake case**  
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This debate on the national stage, reminds me of two concepts used by activists in general and important to Pagans in specific: pluralism and intersectionality. We are the legacy of our ancestors who dreamt of many people of many cultures, beliefs, norms and identities living side by side purposefully and peacefully. As Pagans we understand the principles of respect shared resources, the elements teach us we are not only interdependent for breathe, heat, water and land, but also for health, safety and commerce.

As a Radical Faerie, my own community teaches me to be “subject-subject” and not “subject-object” in my relationships inside and outside my tribe: I dare not treat people as issues. This court case blurs those lines and makes it hard to think, discuss, and resolve the issues. It’s especially hard when the differences are introduced in court and escalated.

I hear these issues played out in my ministry across many Pagan communities, a different version at each hearth, bonfire and crossroad. I strive to ask all who get angry to remember that societies are built by tribal feuds. As Pagans, we have the potential to practice authenticity led by the highest voices of our guides. As I listen to my ancestors, I’m compelled to live out what I call "Radical Respect" for all we meet.

This “cake and commerce” debate has no real resolution between people clinging to their principles. Minority economics teaches us to turn to our communities first for goods and services, to bolster the livelihoods of our tribe (e.g. building Pagan Resources Guides). Social economics teaches us the value of mutuality and gives people who are Pagans and/or LGBT a chance to show a shared humanity. (Personally, I prefer homespun weddings, created internally by friends and family vs lavish commercial productions. ... but discussing that would distract from the issue at hand!) The layered indecencies of this exchange are reverberating throughout the world.

Let’s pray to our god/dess/es for Radical Respect and Positive Transformation. We are all in this together.