

Dear Friends,

With the many events of the last month centered around Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Institute for Hermetic Studies has been inundated with emails asking about the esoteric implications of such catastrophes. While change is an ever-present aspect of life, it is amazing how few of us actually accept it, let alone prepare for it. In a previous message it was stated that it is the responsibility of each of us to be prepared for even the most basic of emergency – as well as for the unforeseen disasters that will inevitably roll through life on planet earth. As a result of our last post we received the following from our good friend Orion Foxwood and have decided to share it with you. Orion is well known to many of you, and is a solid teacher, a clear and direct writer, and deeply committed to assisting others in getting into contact with the various energies that course unseen through our material lives, yet have definite and profound material effects. His studies of the Underworld traditions have made him well versed in many native European, as well as American systems – including practices from the Deep South, that are themselves rooted in Medieval and Renaissance magical philosophy. Some of his research was presented in the Institute's Special Report, *Bridging the Worlds: Modern Shamanic and Hermetic Practices*.

His essay also reflects upon an important aspect of life that is virtually ignored in contemporary esoteric teachings – the role of death, how to prepare for it, and assist others in their passing. Here again, the Institute for Hermetic Studies has attempted to make available practical teachings that are clearly needed now, more than ever before. See: *Death, Dying and Immortality in Qabala and Alchemy*. Both Special Reports can be found at: <http://www.hermeticinstitute.org/html/products.html>.

Orion is also the founder of the Foxwood Temple of the Old Religion in Maryland. He received a Master of Human Services Degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and is a licensed professional counselor. He is an Elder in Celtic Traditional Witchcraft, High Priest in Alexandrian Wicca and a Witch in the Welsh Cymry Tradition and has taught folkloric and contemporary Faery Seership, Traditional Witchcraft, Southern American Folk Magic and other magical arts around the country and in the United Kingdom for 20 years. He is the author of the book entitled **The Faery Teachings** published by Muse Press (2003) was reviewed in VOXHERMES, and a forthcoming book entitled **The Tree of Enchantment: Wisdom of Faery Seership**. Additional information can be found at his website: www.Foxwood-temple.net.

The Winds of Change: Insights of a Faery Seer

by Orion Foxwood

A World in Change

Our world is currently being pummeled by devastating climate changes that are exacting high fees in human life, reconstruction efforts and in all that is familiar to us. We see this pattern in the macrocosm in the form of major destructive weather occurrences and in the microcosm as major shifts in our personal lives. “For the mill of

the Gods grinds slow, but exceedingly fine,” quoted one of my Elders many years ago. All levels of our world, inner and outer, are being affected by the apparent changes. We can see it. We can feel it. And often, we are dreaming about it. No doubt, the whirlwind of changes is picking apart the old pattern and rearranging them into new forms that are congruent with new states of consciousness. Now, more than ever, we must look to our wisdom traditions to help us understand what is happening and what, if anything, we should do about it. For those of us in Faery Traditions (and one could say the Hermetic Traditions as well), who revere the potent powers of the primal underworld, we see through our second-sightedness that the inner temples are opening and ancient regenerative power (creation through destruction) is surfacing from the core of our world. This power arrives in waves of change that “cleans the house” and makes ready for the new. In this core is the heart of our planet, which beats forth pulses of life and inner spirit. It is the star beneath our feet...the molten earth’s core and it reflects its nature in our hearts. However, its heartbeat rattles, and even decomposes, the foundations of apathy, stagnation and worn out paradigms. This is good, but not comfortable...initially.

A Challenge to Faith and a Call to Action

As we witness these changes, the graphic destruction we see may cause us to question our faith in spiritual purpose and the will of the Gods (however we understand them) leading to feelings of hopelessness or fear. The fact is, humanity stands at a major “crossroads” and the purifying powers of the Underworld are rising and bringing forth new waves of change...new patterns of being. Nature and the spirit world are not shocked by such changes. But, humanity fears the titanic powers, which it cannot control. This a time when magical and esoteric people are called to task to support the unfolding balance and help those around us to translate the meaning out of what appears to be meaningless chaos. In short, these are the times we have been trained for. The hurricanes, tidal waves and other major elemental forces that are rearranging our lives are but outer reflections of inner dynamics surfacing through imbalanced patterns anchored in the surface world by humanity. Sadly, many of these patterns must be blown apart. As we have already seen, these arising forces may take away much of what is familiar to us. These forces are a call to action for people who consider themselves to be wisdom keepers, magic workers, Priest(esse)s, witches, alchemists, magicians, shaman and the host of other titles used to describe threshold guardians and mediators of spiritual truth.

The Dreamer Awakens

Deep in the inner soul of our planet is the core spiritual being of our natural world. In Faery Seership , we call this being “the Dreamer in the Land” – it is the Anima Mundi, or Soul of the World, of the Renaissance alchemists and magi. This being embodies the collective intelligence and sprit of our planet and its nature lives in everything in the surface world (and this includes all of humanity too). It is, in folkloric tradition, envisioned as an ever young, androgynous child that lays sleeping and dreaming on a bed of blue flame. It is also what tradition calls “the star within the stone”, which is the true stone of destiny. Between aeons of time that marks major ages or chapters in the unfolding vision of our planet, this Dreamer opens one eye and realizes

one of its visions. Otherwise, it dreams and these dreams are carried into our world through visions, inspirations, epiphany and invention Each of us is a part of this vision and thus, why currently so many of our fellow humans are being driven by a sort of “divine restlessness” to quest for truth and meaning and put action behind its realization. They are shaking free from outworn patterns to make rooms for new ones...or old one revealed again.

We are living in a time when one era is opening and one era is closing to open to another. The blue flame of the underworld is rising through this awakening and bringing forth major regenerative change in the primary forms of wind and water. Another way of looking at it is that the inner sea temples are opening and the “aeonic” waters of the underworld are rising in the form of climate changes. Sadly, this means major change that also requires sacrifice in human and other lives. These dear ones who transition from this world to the inner worlds through the gates of death during this transition become a part of a greater, more powerful inner tide than we can imagine. May the Ancient One bless them as they walk the secret roads between the worlds and open the way for wisdom to come forth and balance to be realized. We must hold their sacrifices as holy.

Spiritual Work Actualized

So, what should we, the magical folk do? I recommend the following:

- Remain calm and do not become intoxicated by fear of impermanence.
- Send your spirits deep through the substance of the plant and touch the unfolding vision of our world through prayer, mediation, ritual and visionary processes.
- Commit your spiritual and magical workings to a balanced fulfillment of the surfacing changes to help reduce and buffer the harm.
- Remain steadfast in your commitment to maintain this time as a holy time of change... by not fearing it.
- Light the flames of your altars and send forth prayers and magic for inner stillness and clarity, so that your inner contacts can reveal your individual role in the unfolding changes.
- Eat, sleep, exercise, pray and meditate to keep your tools sharp so that you can mediate the balanced forces into imbalanced chaos fueled by human fear.

Good luck to you all, May the Dreamer reveal your place in the sacred circle the unfolding patterns of change. Keep it sacred.

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