

Pan Gala

A PAGAN JOURNAL FOR THINKING PEOPLE



BLESS THE BEASTS

Pagans & Animals

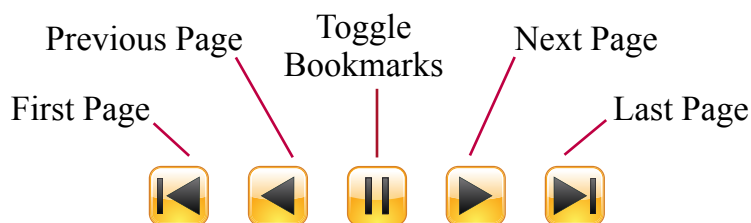


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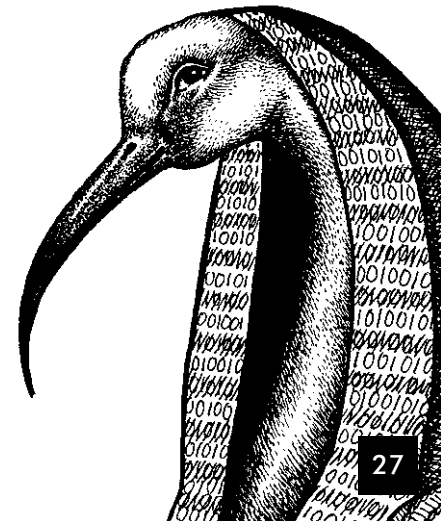
AMBASSADORS TO THE ANIMALS

The primal magical traditions all have methods for working with other orders of life, with spirit beings and living creatures. These traditions all share this perspective: Humans cannot survive alone, and must co-exist and co-operate with the other orders of life, rather than exploit them. *By R. J. Stewart... 18*

HOOF AND HORN: ANIMAL SACRIFICE IN MODERN HEATHEN PRACTICE

Sacrifice has always been an integral part of worship and devotion within Heathen religious traditions. Modern Heathens seek to draw upon the wisdom of the past to craft a strong, prosperous future and one of the practices slowly seeing resurgence is that of animal sacrifice.

By Galina Krasskova, artwork by Sophia Kelly Shultz... 22



MORE THAN HUMAN: ANIMALS, GODS & DIVINITY IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Bastet. Sekhmet. Horus. Thoth. They are perhaps the most compelling aspects of Egyptian myth: animal-headed deities whose stately and mysterious figures adorn the ancient temples and tombs clustered along the banks of the Nile.

By Michelle Belanger, artwork by Sophia Kelly Shultz... 27

TALK TO THE ANIMALS

Australian author Scott King gets his spiritual guidance from critters — and for that matter, he says, so can you. *Interview by Lucy Cavendish... 30*

FOR THE LOVE OF FERRETS

I was introduced to ferrets seven years ago when my relatives asked me to look after their pair. I went to their house and was greeted by a pair of excited intelligent little faces, their claws gripping the cage bars, greeting me with the exuberance of a two-year-old-child. It wasn't long until we were ferret people, too.

By Thora Wodenshield, artwork by Sophia Kelly Shultz... 33



WOLF: FROM MAMMAL TO METAPHOR

We fear, worship, exterminate and romanticize them. What's up between us and wolves? *By Cristina Eisenberg... 37*

BATS: THE CUTEST SUPERHEROES YOU NEVER MET

The mere thought of bats triggers spontaneous goose bumps in many folks. Contrary to this chilling stereotype, they are rather gentle fair-weather creatures who shun the cold winds of autumn.

By Michelle Brown, artwork by Sophia Kelly Shultz... 41

BEAR WHISPERER

I've always had a passion for black bears. As a child, I never doubted we would see them on our trips to the mountains. I simply prayed to see bears, and the bears came. But when I was grown, I got caught up in my life: education, work, marriage, children. I didn't go back to the mountains. I began to forget about the bears. *By Smoky Trudeau, artwork by Sophia Kelly Shultz... 46*



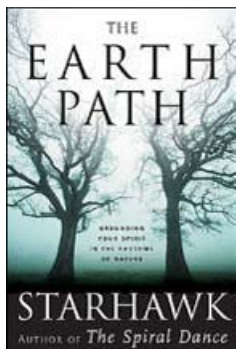
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FEATURE

NORTH POLE PAGANISM: REFLECTIONS ON LIFE IN THE FAR NORTH

Many popular Neo-Pagan traditions, like Celtic festivals, were created for temperate climates, and aren't always applicable elsewhere — especially in the Far North. Managing Editor Elizabeth Barrette and Alaskan Darla Kaye Wynne sat down recently and discussed these issues. *Interview by Elizabeth Barrette... 43*

PAGAN BOOKSHELF IV: PAGAN-FRIENDLY MOVIES ... 55

FICTION

MIST NETS

Hannah was leaving when she noticed fluttering down in the far corner of the net, not a place birds usually got caught. She looked, and looked again, blinking. This was not a moth, nor a bird. This was ... a tiny person with wings.

By Mary Pat Mann, artwork by Sophia Kelly Shultz ... 48

POETRY

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A Medicine Woman, Misunderstood *by Karen DeWitt ... 40*

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ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

Sophia Kelly Shultz lives in Pottsville, PA, and is well-known for her Pagan, Shamanistic and fantasy art. For prints of her cover image "Bless the Beasts" see her advertisement on the inside back cover of this issue.