

Notes from the Underground

It may be true, as one of our New Age acquaintances recently advised us, that 1999 is the first year of the rest of the Millennium, but it is certainly the last year we'll ever see with quite so many 9s in it. In any case, we minions of Persephone have chosen to celebrate this event by gracing *The Pomegranate* with a new format. By using a more delicate typeface we've been able to increase our content by 15% without adding extra pages. We all hope that our readers will find this new look easier to read and more esthetically pleasing.

Never being the sort to flinch from controversy, we begin this issue with an article by Jeffrey Kaplan, whose recent writings on the Neonazi influences within today's Odinist communities have caused such a stir. This article takes the form of a biographic sketch of Savitri Devi, a National Socialist theoretician who has been called 'Hitler's Priestess,' and explores her concept of Nazism as a 'Nature Religion.'

For those of you who sometimes wonder if we Neopagans are reclaiming anything from pagan antiquity other than the names of some deities, we present an article by Michael McNierney on the philosophical principles of Roman Stoicism and how these might prove useful to those of us who wish to broaden the spiritual aspects of our lives. This article was originally written for *Gnosis* magazine, which we enthusiastically recommend to our readers. How many noticed that the most recent issue of *Gnosis* (#50, Winter 1999)

included an expanded version of Jenny Gibbons' "The Great Burning Times Quiz" which first appeared in our 5th issue?

Readers will find our third article quite a bit more philosophical and theological than anything we've offered so far. Gus diZerega is currently writing a book entitled *Pagans and Christians in the New Millennium* as his contribution to an intelligent and respectful interfaith dialogue, and this article is condensed from his chapter on Good and Evil. We're very impressed with what we've seen of this book so far, and encourage our readers to share their impressions with us.

Our first Book Review looks at an interesting new work about Hekate and the intercessional role she played in Late Antiquity among the ceremonialists of the day. The second is part of an ongoing debate among legal experts in the UK about protection of the rights of Neopagans. Although some may find this review a bit technical, most of our readers will hopefully be interested to know that our legal interests are being championed on a level other than the militant and confrontational.

To the delight of those of us who enjoy (at least observing) a good fight, we continue to be blessed with more dialogue about the theories of M Gimbutas and her followers. This issue's offerings also include several interesting suggestions about how these arguments might proceed. Once again, let us encourage our readers to contribute their own observations on this and (hopefully) other subjects.

Persephone's hard-working minions.