

Santa Necklas and The Christmas Holidays

What we today perceive as Christmas is the modern (Christian) adaptation of the old and worldwide tradition - of celebrating midwinter solstice.

It should not be a great surprise to most that we actually find monuments all around the world that bears witness of higher cultures - that closely followed the cycles of the sun, moon and the other heavenly bodies. It is also well covered on other threads that we find some of the most central monumental buildings - from ancient Asia, Europe and Meso-America that mark their respective (local) summer and winter solstice, as well as the equinoxes and the moon-cycles (18,7 years) - with nothing less than exact accuracy. Over the last decades modern archaeology have measured the old, restored foundations of enormous - yet perfectly shaped - monuments of stone, where square-angled stone-slabs of more than 1000 tons (sic!) have been shaped, transported and fitted into perfect geometrical structures - building central parts of the capital monuments of antiquity. The astronomical significance of these temples, pyramids, dolmens, and plazas is no longer a matter of controversy. Today we KNOW that the ALL major cultures of the ancient world executed their basic social life in close relationship with the astronomical cycles, from which the Sun's circulation is by far the most vital, central and significant. The nature and behaviour of the Sun - as the origin of life itself - was given the main focus of scientific attention and cultural gratification. Thus the entire ancient cultures correctly - but with a stigmatizing understatement - have been referred to as "sun-worshippers".



Ancient Roots

Today we consider all these cultures as "pagan" or "heathen" - since they opposed the new religions that appeared in the old world - as a tool of war and conquest. Gradually all these old cultures have been destroyed, their rites forbidden, their knowledge lost and their monuments abandoned. Not before last century did we see a reawakening of the old scientific spirit in the western world - and gradually have the pioneers of modern history been able to find and uncover these sites, as well as investigating them systematically.

The old cultures of the Mediterranean and Eurasia were all part of this tradition as well. In northern Europe they called it "Yule-tide", referring to the old root-word "Jul", meaning "Wheel". Thus the present Christmas-celebration is a modern form of celebrating the old "Wheel of Life", reflecting on the "Great Wheel Of The Universe", as it is marked when the Sun reaches his lowest point on the horizon, also seen as the "point 0" of the Great Circle and labelled as "The Birth of The (New) Sun", as it marked the start of the New Year.



A Genuine Eurasian Myth

In the northern part of Eurasia, where this old culture survived the best, we still use the old (pagan) name of these Holy-days. In olde English it was called “Yule” and in Scandinavia it is still called “Jul”. Since the Scandinavian languages still exist unchanged we find that all Danes, Swedes, Norwegians and Finns still celebrate the old “Life-Wheel” and “Sun-Wheel” as they make their “Jule-presents”, dress their “Jule-threes” - with “Jule-figures”, “Jule-crystals”, “Jule-stars”, “Jule-men” and “Jule-women”. As they consume their “Jule-snacks”, “Jule-cookies” and “Jule-sweets”. Not to mention “Jule-dinners”, “Jule-smörgardsbords”, with “Jule-herring”, “Jule-ham”, “Jule-porridge”, “Jule-beer”, “Jule-bitters” and all the other “Jule-drinks”. In other words, there is hardly any item existing within the normal household that doesn't have a special edition that is made before the great evening of the year, called “Yule-evening” - that's celebrated long into the most silent day in all Europe, in Scandinavia called “Yule-day”.

Thus, - from ancient monuments of celestial proportions to the only modern folklore of global proportions - we may understand that the celebration of “midwinter” and the birth of a new sun-cycle have far longer traditions than any of the religious movements can account for. But, since the religious monocultures have stamped the historical aspect of Christmas as definite taboo, we still haven't seen a broader scientific work published on this topic. Not before 1996 did we get the first book that started to deal with the historical roots of our most important cultural marker. As far as I know it's still the only book that really takes a deeper look on the historical roots of the European Santa-figure, the Christmas-tree and the tradition of celebrating the midwinter solstice. The book is called “When Santa Was a Shaman” and is written by the US Dutchman Tony van Rentergem (Bantam Books 1996)

In all the “pagan” cultures of the globe we find that 24/12 used to be the “last day of the last month” - representing this turning point of the Sun. Thus the pagan people obviously kept the Sun as a central and essential basis for their lives as well as to their “philosophies, traditions and cultures”. We often hear that these pagans were “sun-worshippers” - AND that none of these cultures did survived the conquests of medieval and modern times...

To all arctic people the significance of the seasons is especially important, - since winters gets harsher and summers shorter - the further north one resides. Thus we find SOME of the clearest reminiscences of our old, original culture in the arctic cultures.

The Creation of The New Child



One of them is The Old Man, - the one all Russian children know as “Fader Frost” or “King Winter”. In Scandinavia he is called “Necklas”/”Nisse”, Germany “Weinachtsman”, Dutch “Sinter Clas” as well as the Latin “Baba Natale”. Not to forget the synonyms “Father Christmas”, and “Santa Claus”. He even has a name-day, that used to be the start of the very “Yule-month”, as 6 in 12 (Dec. 6th), which still is celebrated as “The Day of The True Necklas”. Six days later, 12/12, the female Earth-Mother, as all coming

mothers, was celebrated on St. Lucia Night. The day after, 13th in 12th, 7 days after Necklas Day is still known as The Lucia Day. It was normally marked by the elective choice of the women that wanted to bear children during the coming year - which entitled the qualified women to wear a burning candle during the morning of the 13th. Ten days after, the men and women would meet for the festivities of "Yule", - celebrating the persons that were to bring the life of the family-line further. By 24 in 12 the mutual choice was to be confirmed by the entire families - initiating seven days of "Dionysian Celebration" as their choices ("val") became confirmed and celebrated ("festive"). Thus the Fest-i-val.

Celebrating Civilisation

The explanation of the historical circumstances behind the myth of the Christmas-man is not very well known yet. It still is a wide opinion that points to the "World Santa Claus Centre" - in the city of Rovaniemi, in Northern Finland - as closest to the ancient roots of this world-wide tradition that still exists.

The Finnish Allfather, "Väinämöinen" in the middle of the ancient Eurasian Royals, called The Family of The Aser. (Painting by Ekman)

According to old and genuine Finnish folklore the only remains of the REAL Santa Necklas is to be found in the small village of Korvatunturi in Northern Finland, - where once the real Santa Neck-Klas actually existed (sic!) - as the Pater Familias in the old King-family of Finland. According to the Nordic Mythology -it is the oldest and therefore the original home



The Finnish Allfather, "Väinämöinen" in the middle of the ancient Eurasian Royals, called The Family of The Aser. (Painting by Ekman)



to ALL arctic people. So, - that OLD original family had to produce all the royal lines that (after ice-time) spread to ALL of arctic Europe and Asia from where they reproduced to populate all these lands in the different kingdoms, populations and/or nations. Thus the head of this "First family" was duly celebrated at each solstice, as they were marked as the