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Letter to the Henge

August 1, 2022

Friends,

I think it’s time to accept reality. We aren’t functioning as a polytheist religious order and I don’t think any of us are up to trying to become one.

It’s not anybody’s fault. It’s just the state of the world since everything caught on fire in 2019 and has only gotten worse since.

We’re a good group of friends and I hope we remain a good group of friends. But that’s not enough to justify trying to be something more formal.

It’s not that we don’t care, it’s that we’ve all got things that are more urgent, whether work, school, health, other religious obligations, self-care, or just dealing with everything that’s going on individually and in our wider world. Speaking for myself, I’m overloaded. I need to clear as many loose ends from my life as possible right now.

Earlier this year I told myself to give the Henge till Lughnasadh and see how things went. We haven’t done anything as a group in almost four months, nothing is on the horizon, and I don’t have the bandwidth to try to drive something.

I don’t have the authority to close the Henge on my own, but I can point out that the consensus of our actions says it’s time.

I will still call on all of you when I’m doing deep spiritual / religious / magical work, and I hope you’ll do the same. You’re all welcome at my house any time. But I don’t think we're a polytheist religious order, and I think it’s time to accept reality.

Perhaps we could meet as a group one final time for a formal closing ritual. I’m willing to facilitate that if people want it. Honestly, though, if we’re going to get together I’d rather have dinner and drinks, or do a magical working to boost us all for the challenges that lie ahead.

Magically / spiritually, if the Henge of the Cobbled Path is no more, then our oaths to the Henge are dissolved. I consider our oaths of secrecy to be oaths to each other and ask that everyone respect them, but everyone always has and so I don’t expect any problems here.

I am terribly disappointed with this. I’ve wanted to be a part of an in-person Pagan religious order ever since a conversation Cyn and I had in the DUUF parking lot after a CUUPS ritual in 2013. Nine years ago.

We tried. We did some good work. We had some great experiences. Perhaps most importantly – and most permanently – we created some strong friendships. Perhaps if everything hadn’t caught on fire in 2019, perhaps if Covid hadn’t upended all our lives in 2020, things would have turned out differently. But they didn’t. Still, I will always look fondly on the Henge, its members, and its rituals.

I’m asking for a verbal consensus to match our consensus of actions. Let me know what you think. If you think I’m wrong, let’s talk about it. I’d love to be wrong.

But I think this grand experiment is over.

Sadly,

John