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paganism, touch, felt, feelings, learn, family, society, reborn, year, cycles, bisexuality, listened, part, pagan, madonna, light, reach, little bit, solitude, tonight

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Gigi, Michelle



00:04

Hi, this is Tombow debt from major six. We know you've been traveling a lot this holiday season and you've probably been told there's no room at the end. Well, that's just not the case here major six. Why for just 29 Drogba will put you up in a warm, comfortable stable with plenty of fresh milk for the newborn. There's even individual stalls for your mules, camels, or whatever you happen to be driving across the desert. And in case unexpected visitors decide to drop in on you shepherds wise man Holy Ghost, it's not a problem of manger six, there's plenty of frankincense and myrrh to go around. This is Tom bow dead from major sixth reminding you there's always room at this and we'll even leave a star out for you.



Jimmy Carper 00:47

Manger six Ah, yes. I thought that would be a good leader for Gigi and the gang here.



Gigi 01:00

Well, hello. This is TJ. And Michelle Shah



01:07

is Dennis.



Gigi 01:08

We're here tonight to talk about a little bit about paganism. And I think the lead in earlier on when you're talking a little bit about how transgendered have a pretty rough life of it. I think everybody in the queer community does. And I think paganism is a good way to return to roots.

To get in touch with some of the feelings of the more primitive side of us, the part of us that's helped to restore some of the balance that's taken from us. It's kind of a way to get in touch with those feelings. And, and to me, you know, I interpret paganism probably different from a lot of people. There's so many different types of paganism, everything from Wiccan, Nordic to Native American and American to you name it, there's, there's a lot of different branches. To me, I'm something of a philosopher and enjoy the study of symbols and what they mean. I mean, our whole language is built up of symbols and, and to me it's just fascinating that sometimes what we communicate isn't just words, but many other ways. And forms. And to me paganism, so a form of communication, a way to reach out to others. And a way to reach to Mother Earth.



03:02

And Mother Nature. Mother Earth does come with a lot of different forms, including spirit guides and Boas. She has always speaking is with us if we just stopped and listened.



Gigi 03:15

But anyway, some of the things that I wanted to kind of cover tonight. I know that for me, I've gone through some pretty difficult times the past few years. And I feel like paganism is you know, here we are at the just past the winter solstice. The you all we're going to celebrate that a little later in the show tonight. But I think what's really fascinating is that this time represents rebirth, the RE spark of the sea, the beginning and new and I feel like I'm reaching that point in my life right now. It's like I've been through a lot. And I've got a lot on the horizon, there's gonna be some big changes coming. And I think paganism is a way of symbolizing the cycle of life, we go through many cycles while we live.



Michelle 04:23

Yeah, I think that like in the society we live in today, it can sometimes be difficult to be in touch with, with the cycles of nature and of the, you know, the natural forces just because of all the modernization of our society and the the artificial pheus of like the buildings, the asphalt the



Gigi 04:46

and, and I think another thing too, is that, you know, I know being bisexual, much more sensitive than is a male than most men are supposed to be In our culture, paganism is another way of getting in touch with some of that sensitivity and getting in touch with the home, queer experience. Getting in touch with the feelings of, of sensuality and sexuality. It's it encompasses so many different things. I wanted to read a little bit about some books. One is the pagan book of days. It's a guide to the festivals, traditions and sacred days of the year. It's by Nigel pinic. And then that, you know, he kind of goes over some of the different times of the year. Tonight we're celebrating your which is, the event is for enlightenment. In the agricultural cycle, it's the rebirth of the spark of life and the seed. It's a time for for that the sun is starting to be reborn again. It's the shortest day of the year from that day on, the sun gets a little stronger and stronger.



06:15

Kind of like the Phoenix being reborn from its own ashes.



Gigi 06:18

Yeah. Want to read a little bit about winter solstice, you'll midwinter. It's the Fourth Station of the year. The dramatic Albin off Torian and Christian St. Thomas Day when the poor are traditionally given money or presence. And former times the needy kids ask for money at practice known as Thomas sing, or mum thing. The Fourth Station of the year signifies enlightenment, when the light is reborn within the womb of darkness. I also have another book it's called the Book of pagan rituals. And we'll be doing a ritual a little lighter. Just something that I may I'm not gonna follow the book, I'm gonna go a little bit on as I always do, when I do pagan rituals encompass what's going on with me and bring that into the bigger scheme of things and know that with paganism, there's a lot of similar symbology they look at the north, east, west and south, north symbolizing the wand. It's the earth symbol east, the earth symbol south the fire symbol and water west the water symbol I kind of go into this because it does get us back in touch with her back in touch with the natural harming in the rhythm. I know that I go through we all go through cycles. There's times when we're very potent, and alive and other days when you know, we're just passing the point where the sun died, you know, representing the growing of the darkness. And now we're coming into the time when the light is reborn, the sun is reborn to time for, you know growth and and just the it's like even when humans are born it's like you know The first stage is when the seed meets the egg and life begins you know it's very subtle it's not noticed at first, but then it comes on with the big lamb



09:25

and well as far as I can be



Gigi 09:35

we did a show a while back where we interviewed some people from the pagan belief and another's a lot of concepts misconceptions. You know a lot of people associated with witchcraft or or with



09:58

people Old people dancing naked and



Gigi 10:04

all that can go on



10:07

course I practice on some people's house parties as well though



Gigi 10:11

but in in paganism predates witchcraft it predates Satanism and ancient cultures they were were kind of people that were had visions and and were considered kind of the medicine man



10:37

Warlocks and also dramas and Merlin magician.



Gigi 10:45

There says they were the healers. paganism includes a lot of study of herbal ology, and,



10:55

you know, the alchemy also,



Gigi 10:58

excuse me. And, you know, we look at it. And it's like, to me, it's just amazing how much it has kind of fallen away, and our society, how much wisdom, you know, we look at modern medicine is the is the way to go. And we've lost touch with a lot of the things that can be really very powerful, and yet, not have near the side effects.



11:32

After all, mother nature would take care of us, we just listened to her every now and again.



Gigi 11:37

But to me, it's, it's getting in touch with that, that mystical side of our nature, getting in touch with the part of us that's, it's a little bit of loose, it's hard to



11:53

kind of like the inner child.

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Gigi 11:58

Partly that and I think partly even deeper sense. A sense of, of the dream world. The realm of seeing what the different I innocence, emotional world, we lose so much touch. And I think one thing that's been real healthy for me is to get back in touch with some of these things, to get a feeling of, you know, incorporating part of my bisexuality into understanding the feelings and the things that come at me from society. And getting a good feeling of knowing that I am in balance.

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12:57

Totally grumble personal vision quest on Yeah.

G

Gigi 13:03

Now that just about three years ago, that I had quite a while I came out to my family, and

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13:12

that's always a fun time.

G

Gigi 13:15

And pretty much became excommunicated. I mean, I still talk with my father from time to time, but for the most part, it's the rest of the family is separate from me. And you know, what's happened in this three years is the transitions occurred, and now entered into a family of choice. You know, I have a sister Her name is George. Well, that's my celebrity. And then I have another sister who's very special to me. And she says, David from time to time, very much to women very much in touch with their male side. And, you know, I have the BiNet family. Oh, yeah. It's like it's been some very special people coming through this group. That then we're all in touch. And, and I think that paganism as is in bisexuality, they, for me, they go hand in hand. It's a part of the struggle I've gone through to come to terms with who I am in this society and come to terms with you know, how do I regroup? Where do I go from here? You know, because for a while, I went through nights where I was real lonely and real. You know, I just felt like there's, you know, where do I go from here? Cut off in a sense. And since since I've been involved with BiNet and since I've been involved in kind of this quest of paganism, I've kind of learned that there is a deeper sense of family. I've got brothers and sisters that love me more than the real ones ever dreamed of coming close to

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15:39

shame since I joined the band. Now I felt like I found the place where I belong people who accept me for who I am, no matter how weird I sometimes might get.

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Gigi 15:51

And I definitely get weird. Thanks, excuse my boys have had a bit of a cold this past week, because

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Michelle 15:59

I know that that when I was growing up, I just, I couldn't imagine that there even like such a group could exist. I mean, that there would be like, I thought that the world that the world that I lived in was like, the only world there was that enough that there could be such a group that that had value similar to mine, that, you know, I felt like I could be a part of it was really, really a wonderful thing to know.

G

Gigi 16:28

The other thing that, you know, because I've been with Christmas coming on, I've felt a lot of these feelings resurge with the loss of the old family and the rebirth of the new family. And, you know, Christmas kind of always brings his on another's, a lot of people that struggle with this same issue. Being different in our society, especially, you know, being bisexual, where do you fit in? Where's their community? You know, where do you go? And it's like, you know, for me, I went through a lot of pains to find a direction and find a place. You know, in a sense, I had to kind of make my space. And, you know, I had to learn the difference between being alone and being in solitude for a long time as alone and felt very lonely. And then I learned how to love myself. And I found that I wasn't alone. And that's when I could move into the area of solitude, where I had myself to go with. And, you know, it's like, I learned a valuable lesson. And that is that, before you can really love anyone else, you have to first learn down to love yourself, is the most important thing. And it was like, I think that to me is the root of all paganism is this sense of being in balance with yourself, being imbalanced with nature? And learning how to love yourself? It's like, another, you know, there's times when I'm alone and and I think, you know, gosh, I wish I had somebody you know, this night to lay with to be with cuddle with Yeah. And I learned that, hey, wait a minute, I can still draw a nice hot bubble bath, light some candles, and kind of treat myself. And it's, you know, it's not to say that that's a a substitute for lover. But it's a time of that you can make for yourself, that can be just as special.

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19:07

And just assure yourself that you're truly all are worth everything you do and deserving of everything you can grasp hold of and hold on too tightly.

G

Gigi 19:18

Yeah. And it's like, you know, and then that there's times when I felt suicidal. You know, this was long, long ago, when I was first struggling with bisexuality is a teenager and didn't even know anybody else had these kinds of feelings. And, you know, it was during one of those moments where I've just reached my end and and something deep inside me said, you know,

it's gonna get better. And you've got something. Yeah, you're different but that there's something special in that difference. And it was like, all of a sudden I came alive and you know, that spark. And that's, I think that's what really kind of led me towards the semi spiritual path, you know, trying to, to learn more about this thing we call the spirit of since then learn that after reaching within, even though there's a lot of pain, there's also others around, that are experiencing the same thing somewhere, somewhere, somehow I could reach out to them. And I have, and in many of those have reached out to me. And there's kind of a magic, there's something that happens when two people come together and can reach out a hand to each other, and Bond and relate to each other and then just become very special friends. I think that's a big part of the magic of binary. We reach out to each other we tell our stories, we talk about some of the things and and all of a sudden, when we find that we're not alone,



21:34

it just won't be happy families. Most buyers, you know, if you ever need a hug, you just walk up and pull out your arms and someone's there.



Gigi 21:45

But I'd like to take a music break for a few minutes, we can do them. We'll come back to pagan ritual, kind of



Jimmy Carper 21:58

JG style. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station, Bryan. And we're going to Jimmy Somerville with the title cut from the wonderfully wonderful movie called Orlando. And the name of the song is coming. Jimmy Somerville, with the title cut from Orlando, called coming, you're listening to after hours on Jimmy Carper. And I'm going to take a little timeout. When we do a show like this, we're able to do a lot of different things. And I get some very interesting mail and I want to share some of it with you tonight. And it's about a subject that we've talked about a little bit, but we've never really gone in depth about it. And so this is kind of going to be food for thought for the coming year. And maybe maybe we'll do something more dear after hours, people. I'm enclosing a copy of Madonna's take a bow and you'll see an a copy of the best of the Village People. I called you about a month ago when requested the songs be dedicated to my ex husband. You informed me that you didn't have them. So here they are. It is very important to me that my message gets out. Let me fill you in. I went through eight years of being mistreated and being used as a sex object. All the man wanted was sex and no companionship, which is the opposite of what I want. I left him many times and he'd always tell me how He's changed and how he'll never treat me like that again. You guessed it, he always reverted back to his normal rotten cell. Not only was he unfaithful to me, but he continuously told me how I'm nothing without him. Well, it's been six long years since I left him but he keeps calling me about every other week. It's over. He just won't get the message. He came over about two months ago I told him I will never have sex with him anymore. Upon hearing that he vanished unfortunately, he'll be around again I just can't get rid of him. Now you know the reason for the songs by Madonna they tell my whole story please hang on to them until I call to get dedicate them. And he did. Gary wants to dedicate this song to Anthony and Anthony. Listen to this very, very closely

Okay, that was Two songs by Madonna. To Anthony, from Gary. And let me tell you, Anthony, if you don't think Gary has matured without you then let me tell you, this is where this is where Gary is right now.