

Gifts

The season comes upon us when we are at our most vulnerable. The time of the long nights. When from the first we feared the sun's abundance would, this time, fail to return. So, to re-enforce the life force we celebrate life and abundance. We, to our credit, express this in gift giving. Giving to others in our time of fear is to say, "I am strong. I have the bounty of the earth and sun, and I will give them away, for I do not fear that the sun will come back. I trust, I have faith, I believe." This was pagan custom and later Christian teachings on how to make it through the winter. We recall that the People who lived here before we came had what they called Potlatch. The Potlatch was a ritual of sharing, and often became competitive. We are amused that in this corner of the earth the new inhabitants have been affected by the spirit that dwelled here previously. We see more than usual sharing and giving in this small village. It is good, and shows we are open to the spirits in the land. We also have a lot of folks who need the help and support of the Potlatch. Artists, writers, surfers. . . . But, remember, the Buddha teaches that the giver should be grateful, and it seems true. When one proclaims "I am strong, I can give", one tends to start believing it and as a result, might just be able to make it to Spring after all. So, unlike a lot of "alternative" voices, we at the Edge advise you to give for your own pleasure, let some one else suffer the guilt of receiving, and give good stuff, stuff you made or which is important to you. Don't spend money, give gifts that are priceless. Trust us, you will feel better. And no matter who you give to or in whose name you celebrate the giving time, around February, March at the latest, the strength of the sun will start to return, and the gifts will belong in the hearts of your friends and the guilt will be gone and the joy will flex its strength. And as you share yourself, you are shared and strength is renewed and redoubled. Can we get an Amen, somebody?



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Eat Money?

You can't eat money as the Cree say. Oh, of course money buys food, housing and pleasure. But make no mistake -- it has no real value. The real value is in the resources it buys, the work units it purchases from others. Money in this country used to be backed up by a Gold Reserve, and then Silver and other resources, until Nixon took us off that standard and based our currency on Gross National Product. So the only thing backing up the dollar are the minerals, real estate, fisheries, agriculture, timber, energy, and the work force. Which is why the buck don't buy much. All of those things are getting depleted by the rapidly growing population. So: grow your garden, gather the fruits of nature that are still free, and share your time and skills, 'cause a bank balance does no good if the store is closed.

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
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