

JAFIRA'S DRACONITY / OTHERKIN GUIDE

5th Edition 2018



I am Jafira Dragon, self perceived awakened dragonkin since the year 2000, one who has befriended a Cherokee shaman, danced with pagans, made mistakes, aged and grown. Within this text lay the lessons and observations I have made over eighteen years of spiritual growth.

I am neither an expert nor an elder, these are simply the things that I have observed.

All is subjective and perception, find your own path, this is simply a guide, may it help you grow.

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"May you fly on dragon wings and may spirit guide your path"

SECTION ONE

SPIRITUALITY OF DRACONITY / OTHERKIN

DISCLAIMER

I would like to quickly give a warning that I have a spiritual bias when it comes to identifying as otherkin. This bias is due to my own personal experiences prior to my discovery that otherkin existed online. As well as due to my first impressions and early observations within the dragonkin communities of the early to mid 2000's, wherein I had first learned that I was not alone in the journey of awakening to my internal identity and unique beliefs.

I am aware that over the years the general culture and meaning of the word otherkin has evolved and that identifying as otherkin has grown to encompass a much greater array of meanings and interpretations. Regardless, I hope that despite changes within the overall community that some of my writings herein may still be of use to some who may identify as Otherkin in their spirit, heart or mind.

This document has been designed to be a sort of beginners guide for otherkin. Although I am no expert, I chose to write this because I used to receive occasional questions from newly awakened otherkin who would look to me for advice. Eventually I decided that I would compile some of my answers into a brief compendium for the early awakened and attempt to share some of my opinions on select scenarios.

I am no expert on any of this, these are simply my personal opinions, my generalized advice.

I would advise checking the FAQ's below first, as I consider them more clear and professionally made than what I have written ahead.

Overall I hope the combined data of this guide can help others in their awakening process and aid growth along their spiritual paths.

Draconity and Otherkin FAQ's, A place to start:

[Otherkin FAQ 1](#)

[OtherkinFAQ 2](#)

[Baxil's Draconity Faq.](#)

What is otherkinism?:

Otherkinism is a somewhat obscure personal belief system in which a person perceives themselves to identify as or be otherwise connected spiritually or psychologically in one way or another with a nonhuman form, a good deal of in depth information and resources on otherkin can be found at the site: <http://www.dreamhart.org> or here at [Otherkin.net](#). Furthermore a brief historical timeline of otherkin activity may be perused here: [Otherkin Timeline](#).

For the purpose of these writings I may often write from the perspective of one who identifies as a dragon, as that is the context of many of my personal experiences and interactions. I may reference “draconity” a term used in reference to the belief or idea that one is dragonkin: Believing oneself to be connected spiritually with dragons in one form or another. Specific information on dragon otherkin can be found by reading [Baxil's Draconity Faq.](#) or by visiting the [Dragon Resource Project](#). online.

From my own personal experiences over the past decade I can state that otherkinism is a personal and individualized belief system in which an individual believes or identifies with the perception that their soul, spirit or consciousness is something other than human. Alternative experiences as individuals may on a deep spiritual or emotional level feel spiritually or internally connected in some way to a non human being or entity.

Those such as I, who claim to be otherkin may tend to believe that their soul or spirit is trans-species in the same sense that some may believe that they were born into the wrong gender or time period. There are many interpretations of what it means to be otherkin and the idea is most often personal to the perceptions of the individual making the claim of being one. It is different and subjectively experiential for everybody.

One thing that I must clarify is that the claim of being another species is often perceived in a strictly spiritual sense. Somebody like myself who may claim to be a dragon is obviously not claiming to literally be a dragon in the physical sense, but rather, spiritual, emotional or whatever the self perceived case may be. Most otherkin (*I hope...*) are not going to run around trying to jump off the tops of buildings or other nonsensical things like that, they simply identify on a spiritual, emotional or strong personal level with (or as) the said creature of their affinity.

To some an otherkin identity may be in the sense that they simply identify emotionally with said form or have a strong spiritual connection to such. Others perceptions of otherkinism may be based on reincarnation beliefs or a belief that their formerly nonhuman spirit is having a physical experience in the their present form by some choice or cosmic mishap.

I personally perceive that I am an otherkin through act of spiritual reincarnation. I personally believe that I exist as a reincarnated dragon spirit from another planet and am now presently experiencing life in a human incarnation. In as such, I believe my spirit to be temporary and alien to this world.

Regardless of my self perception, I must reiterate that the reasoning or context of how or in what sense you or an individual may be otherkin is to be determined by their own introspection and personal understandings of themselves. Each of us must understand ourselves and discover our own beliefs. There are of course general guidelines mentioned above in the aforementioned FAQ's I and others have provided. But above all else otherkinism must be a personal journey and an individual experience.

I have always been different:

Based off my decade of experience speaking with a variety of otherkin as well as from my personal anecdotal views formulated from past experiences I can write that a commonality of self identified otherkin have prior to exploring their connections to their kintype or experiencing their awakening, have self reported to me that they had suspected in the past that they were in some ways different or unique from their peers.

For example, some may have a sense of being more in tune with nature, more prone to spiritual or metaphysical experiences, claim to have immense amounts of physical energy, have a fear or feeling that ones mental rationalization or cognitive process may tend to be different from others. Alongside various other likely kintype specific differences such as sensations of phantom anatomy or strong attractions or associations with forms similar to an un-awakened individuals kintype and so on. A common example I have encountered in the dragon kin community is the claim “Even before I awakened as dragonkin, I was always infatuated with dragons and reptiles for as long as I can remember.”

Some otherkin, in rare cases may tend to awaken to the idea that they are non human spirits at a young age or are just somehow born knowing. From my personal experience most otherkin tend to awake in their mid to late teens or in their early twenties. These early awakened kin are often disadvantaged in that they have fewer resources to access and fewer allies to relate to, they may tend to be bullied or targeted in a negative fashion due to their younger age or inability to adequately explain in logical terms what they are experiencing. This social rejection and spiritual isolation has the potential to cause a younger kin to put up mental blocks to the idea or concept of connections to their kintype which may make potentially re-awakening or introspecting their connections to their kintype harder in the future.

In either case, for those who suspected for some time that they may have not originally been human or for those who, as discussed above may have been born knowing, or had “always known” but may be learning now for the first time that their beliefs have a name, that you are not alone and that others like you exist, I welcome you to the concept of otherkin.

I encourage you to keep an open mind and to always above all else, “Know Yourself” each on a spiritual, emotional and physical level. Strive carefully not to deceive yourself or to fall into falsehoods. Please be open to all possibilities, learn and study all angles and likelihoods, even those

which may attempt to discredit your present perceptions. Please never hesitate to read up on the experiences of others and with every new opportunity please continually question your own personal truths. Grow, know yourself and never cease to improve! Take time to befriend others and to network, share your experiences and know that you are never alone, there are others like us in this world and we will always look out for each other.

I have always been normal but feel different now, what is happening?:

I have known over the years a good deal of newly awakened otherkin whom were shocked to discover these new found beliefs within themselves. The best that I can imagine is that the knowledge on a spiritual or subconscious level had possibly been repressed and that at some time an object or event, such as seeing a dragon film, statue, picture, or perhaps experiencing an extremely vivid dream may suddenly “trigger” or spark a sudden awakening in an individual whom until recently had no interest in spirituality or in the kintype in question.

It happens a lot it seems and often times the individuals who experience this triggered awakening, be it late in life, or still in their youth, can often find clues that the kintype awakening had influenced them in the past outside their immediate notice at the time. Still, like all other times I remind the reader, always when dealing with an awakening or spiritual path regarding otherkin to always question yourself and your perceptions. In all things please base your beliefs off personal truths backed up by whatever evidence you may have discovered through introspection. Remember, emotions and feelings alone do not create truth.

Remember to be objective in your exploration. Do not lie to yourself, if you suddenly awaken and identify as a dragon, do not proclaim yourself something silly like for example “I am Arutama, the dragon prince of the underworld!” and then simply cease to explore or understand yourself and what lead to such claims. Instead, I encourage you rather to connect the dots, draw from clues found within dreams, visions, emotions, interpretations, possible memories and personal truths. Do not lie to yourself, rather learn your personal truth through introspection. If you learn and come to know in your heart, that you were a wild animal, a quadrupedal black dragon, who lived in a cave on a mountain and hunted at night, then admitting such is infinitesimally superior to believing the baseless lie that you walked upright and were some elite prince of dragons. Do not accept a falsehood simply because it seems more impressive or preferable.

Please, in all you do, be honest in your spiritual understandings and do not make your experiences up, it will only come back to bite you in the end. This goes for all otherkin, the newly awakened and those who have been active for years.

I have memories of being a dragon, or other non-human entity:

Very good, many kin often times have very limited evidence to base their beliefs on, brief memories are a rare and great gift to be awakened with. But remember always to question those supposed memories, what are their basis? Where did they come from? How much of them are true? How much may have been tainted by falsehood, media, social expectations and so on?

Be sure to write your possible memories down and to review and question them often, do not hesitate to create a timeline and to add changes freely if you discover or learn more. Please do not resist new understandings. As an anecdote, when I personally first awakened I originally believed that I could speak a verbal language in my prior dragon life, but that was a human centric assumption and upon closer meditation and introspection regarding my perceived memories I gradually noticed that I as a dragon had never spoke, rather I appeared simply to be an animal in my activities, similar to a large cat or a wolf in mannerism. Please note that your self understanding or internal perceptions may change as you learn more about yourself and as new memories or possibilities come to the surface or realization.

Please do not resist change for fear of criticism or for fear that you were wrong, personal honesty with yourself is quite possibly the most important thing when identifying as an otherkin, if you lie to yourself it will only come back to destroy you later. I humbly encourage you to take your time, to cherish your memories no matter how great or how few and to always strive to learn more with introspective purity, integrity and honesty in regards to your spiritual self perceptions.

I don't have memories of being a dragon or kin, but I "FEEL" like one:

I would recommend not jumping to immediate conclusions either in favor or against being otherkin. You may just like the kintype in question and think that they are awesome or impressive creatures. Perhaps you legitimately relate to the creature in question and are just uncertain as to your emotional longings, possible relationship or the general reasons as to why? Overall though I would strongly advise anyone who is exploring the idea of otherkin to take things very slowly and not to jump into any brash assumptions.

Please, take time out of your day to meditate and think deeply as to why you may feel like, or relate so closely to the kintype in question. Intimately examine and question if there are any external influences that may be influencing such a bond or interest, be thoroughly introspective, objective and honest.

But overall if you still feel a powerful affinity towards your kintype in question, then yes, please look into the spirituality and internal nature of your bond. I would encourage you to check out some otherkin communities and to test the waters, but remember, you either are, or you are not, I beseech you not to pretend just because it may feel good or be fun, there is a secular community of furies online who will gladly allow you to explore the fantastical or role of being another form in a fictional context, they will happily welcome you as you are. Otherkinism is a more personal struggle from both within oneself internally and from the unique tensions of the external world, proclaiming oneself to be otherkin is not mean to be a game or taken lightly, it can be, to put it frankly "a mess"

You will learn and grow immensely but adopting a journey of self discovery is a constant path of growth with many ups and downs, so be sure in your heart and mind that this is your spiritual truth, your calling and your path. Do not deceive yourself if your personal mytho's is just some silly roleplay reality that you wish to impose upon yourself. I cannot reiterate enough, please take the context of otherkin seriously and know all the introspective angles of your identity and beliefs, know yourself, know your own personal truths and perceptions, then go from there slowly and in a state of constant learning and growth.

I know I am a dragon, or whatever, but have no memories:

Relax, you are not alone, a lot of otherkin awaken to knowledge of their form, its possible gender, appearance or maybe a few other traits, but then often nothing more.. It's unfortunately common, thus the desire or liability for many to fall into assuming falsehoods or to make up memories that seem feasible but which may not necessarily be true.

First, for the most part, really, you might know your past form, maybe its sex, appearance, or possibly a few basic details, that in itself is amazing! You might know you existed as something else, take pride in that! Remember that the life or memories associated with that form have little to no bearing on this reality or world, that the life you experienced is long since gone, it has passed, but its legacy lives on in you now, live for today and take pride in the knowledge of what you once were!

I know that my advice may seem of little help to those who are struggling and I understand the frustration of wanting to know more but finding nothing. It is simply all that I can do to remind you to live for today and to take pride in that which you do know. Beyond that advice, if you truly wish to delve into possible memories, please try thinking back and examining your past for any vivid dreams or visions which may have had clues within them. There may also be some meditation techniques that might be available in certain otherkin communities if you search for them, please try those options.

Overall. memories may or may not come to you. They are a subjective and individualized phenomena, please do not dwell on the past needlessly, you are here now, an entity from another form world and life in a world unlike any other, take pride that you can experience creation in so many forms and ways, be strong, live, grow and enjoy life! The absence of memories does not disprove your kin beliefs so long as you know in your heart and soul the truth of what you were or are on the inside!

Spiritual names and personal identity in regards to otherkinsim:

If you happen to be otherkin, then in the process of awakening you may likely begin to learn about your perceived spiritual or prior form and likely tend to base an online or spiritual identity around it. As well you will likely seek a name to be associated with said identity.

How you choose to portray, or even if you choose to portray an otherkin identity for yourself should be your own personal decision. Simply understand that over the Internet, nothing is private, Ever, so please remember to be responsible and use whatever common sense you deem necessary so as not to bring negative attention to yourself or to others within the broader community.

As for how to learn your otherkin name, if such a thing exists? The process differs for everyone, it is individualistic, the name "Jafira" came to me while camping in the woods during my teenage years, it just whispered in my thoughts while I explored alone in the forest. Though Jafira is just an online name nowadays, the name Korageath was heard in a dream in which I experienced my death as a black dragon, and is now my primary dragon identity. The name Veltra came to me while a breeze brushed pass while I was enjoying the view atop a mountain, though is not used as much. For others, their names come to them in other ways, most everyone has their own unique story. Rest assured that a name will come to you in time.

Remember, that there is a possibility that you, in a prior life or form, had no name, or that it may simply be lost to your spirit and history. There is nothing preventing you from choosing or creating a name that has meaning to you. Just make something up that means something to you, then change it in the future should new self discoveries arise. Overall it is the personal meaning, context or general feeling that a name sparks within that matters. Find a name that relates with your kin identity on an emotional level, one that matters and brings strong emotion, the rest resolves itself in time!

Theory on commonalities of otherkin forms:

In the not too recent past I stumbled on a critical analysis of the topic of otherkin over on the skeptic site, "Rationalwiki" and I noted that the author's strongest critique in the end was that otherkin is best proven delusion due to the similar identified forms of those claiming to be kin. Specifically most claiming to be dragons, various mythological entities, vampires or fae in terms of otherkin and generally being wolves, cats or foxes in terms of therians.

The author made the point that if reincarnation were truly at play there would be a vast abundance of "fish'kin, bird'kin or insect'kin" alongside of any variety of "lesser" life forms far more abundant on this world and others, the lack thereof in the writer's view debunks the pseudo theology as pure delusion. I however would counter that the author of the critique fails to take into account the cognitive abilities or level of self-awareness of the lower life forms they list. A lot of the forms that otherkin and therians identify as potentially have a higher amount of cognition or self-awareness which would allow for more emotions or memories to potentially imprint to a soul for possible recollection in a later existence.

A fish would not be as instinctually self-aware or cognizant as a wolf, utahraptor, or hypothetical vampire, dragon or other off-world life form. I feel this argument is a viable rebuttal worthy to be touched upon or further explored while debating or discussing the merits of otherkin or therian beliefs. I however also reiterate as always that such beliefs are very individualistic and subjective, so please, know yourself, understand yourself and shape your spiritual or psychological defense in rational introspective ways most effective to your personal path or belief.

In all things be strong and honest and know always yourself and what you believe. Be prepared to defend yourself and be prepared to be honest that all we believe is simply perception and what works for us based on our emotions and experiences on this world we call Earth.

Controversial incarnations and belief, spirit is energy, infinite potentials:

Remember, otherkin by its very definition and existence is controversial. An individual may have more than one incarnation and one can likely awaken to forms or entities that are unknown to Earth. Because we live in a universe in which we as humans on a lonely rock are limited to our perceptions of our observable region of space. We cannot know what lies outside our sphere of observation. We are simply one star in one galaxy in one universe within an infinite expanse of possibilities. With that said, we cannot and should not eliminate the possibilities that there are concepts and forms out there that we simply do not and can not possibly know of or imagine.

In short, if you awaken to some crazy bizarre form that is unique or has never been heard of, but you

have some sincere form of rational basis behind your faith in identifying as this entity in question and the entity is not purposefully made up deception, then I would not be too fearful or concerned about it. I also personally feel the same openness to the possibility of awakening to multiple incarnations or having existed in various different forms. We cannot know the nature of spirit or of the universe that we exist in. Humans are limited to only that which we know and can observe. We do not know much at all.

I personally believe that all things exist of a conscious energy and that this includes yours and my spirit. I personally believe that our spirits are part of an interconnected energy that exists all throughout physical reality. That the inter-connective nature of our spirits and this underlying energy permeating existence can result in infinite possibilities. I can easily believe when two former beings from another world or another time claim to have met and reunited in this or in other lives.

When it comes to the unknown nature of spirit and consciousness anything has the potential to be true, spirits can likely transgress time and space with ease. Our physical reality in my view is just an MMO and in each life we choose a new avatar and story. Our spirits are the players and sometimes our friends will follow us between games, forms and worlds, sometimes they won't, the possibilities are endless.

Simply take caution not to make reckless assumptions from these concepts of spiritual inter-connectivity and always remember to attempt to introspect or back up any beliefs, conclusions, or views with possible evidence and honest truth in whatever you may come to believe.

Web Links and Online Resources for Dragonkin:

[Dragon Resource Project](#) <-- (Resources and Information)

[Tomorrow Lands](#) <-- (Resources and Information)

[Draconity.org](#) <-- (Message Board)

[Dragons Valley](#) <-- (Message Board)

[Draconic.com](#) <-- (Message Board)

[DragonRealms.net](#) <-- (Message Board)

[Dragon Twilight](#) <-- (Message Board)

[SilverDragonsBreath-Forum](#) <-- (Message Board)

[Jafira's Lair- Otherkin Resource and Journal](#) <-- (Resources and Information)

Web Links and Online Resources for General Otherkin:

[Otherkin.net](#) <-- (Resources and Information)

[Dreamhart.org](#) <-- (Resources and Information)

[Otherkin Timeline](#) <-- (Timeline of Otherkin Activity)

[Darkfang Archive](#) <-- (Resources and Information)

End Section I

SECTION II

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRACONITY / OTHERKIN

Should I tell my friends and family that I am a dragon or otherkin?

I would strongly advise against it, your spirituality and personal perceived beliefs are of your own business. Draconity and otherkinsim are extremely controversial and out of the mainstream social norms. Sadly not too many people in the public or within our personal day to day lives will truly be as open minded as they may seem or as much as we may personally feel.

In sharing such a controversial and radical belief with others you potentially risk alienating yourself from friends or family as well as possibly risk damaging your personal relationships or others perceptions of your mental or emotional stability. This does not necessarily mean that you are unwell, we are simply unique, rare and different. We are individuals with our own ideas of our own spirits.

Humanity unfortunately has a pack mentality, the society of this world is heavily prone to tribalism and hierarchy, everyone is in a perpetual state of judgment of those around them. If you go outside the social norms of those around you, you are subconsciously considered a threat to the “packs” social cohesion, norms and hierarchy, be these subtle perceived threats social, emotional, spiritual, political, economical, or any other alteration of the norm the fact remains that if you do not reflect to an extent the acceptable norms around you, you will be considered a threat or outcast.

Look no further than the context of political and religious disputes to see this animosity in action. Perceived differences destroy alliances, this claim does not imply that we are irredeemable or that our personal beliefs are unwelcome. But I simply wish to warn the obvious fact that differences create aversions and so any possible rejection or hostility is not your fault.

The prospect of struggling with the spiritual aspects of draconity or otherkin beliefs is difficult enough without the possibility of possibly imminent and unwarranted alienation or suspicion from our friends or family. Please understand that there is no need to share to those you trust prematurely. Test waters and know who you can truly trust. Know first and foremost that your spiritual path and beliefs are something personal to you, they are your business and of your needs above all else, let no one else dictate the inner truth of your own spirit, it is yours alone to explore, comprehend and discover.

Now in such a statement I do not mean that you should never tell anybody. If you truly trust your friends or a particular family member, then as I implied, please feel free to test the waters and examine how they may react. For example: “I found a website where some people believe they are trans-species, what do you think about that possibility?” or something similar to that. However.. in all honesty and based off my past experiences I have found that a lot of people will not, can not, or will choose not to understand or seek to learn more of such a concept of otherkin, it is more likely to be ridiculed as

abnormal or foolish.

On the topic of feeling ridiculed, feeling at social risk or feeling fearful of your spiritual or emotional health. I can not promise that you will not be victimized or possibly experience negative consequences if you are too open or public with otherkin related beliefs. Please, be wise, consider external perceptions and develop your public image appropriately. In today's society not that many people will be accepting of the idea that "I was a dragon in another life on another world, I still feel connected to that old life and that old form, in mind and spirit I still am a dragon!" unfortunately a negative response is the most likely result. Please consider it common sense to put your own personal needs first, keep quiet about your otherkin introspection and self discoveries, at least until you can rationally explain your perceived beliefs and feel secure in the possible reactions from those you share them with.

I can only give fair warning, from my own personal experience and from the anecdotes I have heard from many others. I urge serious caution, please be careful of who you choose to tell. Remember that what you choose to share on the Internet or social media is typically public and accessible to family, educators and potential employers. Anonymity is a wonderful tool whenever it is available, do not fail to embrace and pursue your rights to privacy.

Overall, just be cautious to differentiate between who you feel should know your personal faith and who may be hostile to your personal truth. It is always painful to hear when a potential employer or an overly religious parent discovers that we think about or identify with something other than human. Be safe, tell only those you can truly trust and always use discretion. We sadly do not live in a fair or open minded world. The idea of otherkinism is still too new and too obscure to be seen as a reasonable faith, it is just not socially acceptable at this time in history, please use common sense.

How can I reconcile this new aspect of myself with who I am?

I am certain the way in which I wrote the question or topic above was a grammatical catastrophe, nevertheless, what I meant to write was: "Well hell, all my life I believed that I was a perfectly normal person and now I have discovered that perhaps I once existed as a _____, what do I do from here?"

Short answer is simple! You do exactly what you have always done! It seems that a lot of newly awoken kin suddenly undergo this immense personality shift in an attempt to identify as much as possible with the form or entity in question. All the while they begin shirking the things which they enjoyed no less than a month or week before. You do not need to go crazy trying to identify with said form.

There is no need to change or do anything drastically different unless you truly want to. Exploring or embracing your new inner identity can of course make you feel better or to feel more emotionally or spiritually connected and in tune to your inner self, but please also understand that too much focus or attention to a single aspect of who you are can do more harm than good in the long run. In all you do find a balance and simply be yourself, happy proud and strong.

In short, just stay who you are and do the things you have always loved to do, whenever possible feel free to subtly integrate kin specific things of your choice, strive to relate always with that which you perceived you once were, while at the same time not forgetting who and what you are now. Your otherkin beliefs are just another aspect of who you are, it may perhaps be an awesome, complex and

possibly life changing aspect of who you are, but it is still just one of many countless incredible slices of the greater pie that is you!

I would advise you to strive to find a balance within yourself. Not delving so far into the spirituality as to damage your social life or responsibilities, but also, not delving so far into your present life and responsibilities that you fall into bland mendacity and neglect your spiritual or internal needs. Balance again is the key, too far to the left or to the right will bring only pain, remain always centered in your life and pursuits. Find a personal balance that allows for one half of your life to be in the spiritual and internal while the other half of your life is devoted to growth and responsibilities, in all things progress and move always forward.

Here is a bit of advice for dealing with the struggle of who and what you were, versus who you are now. A sampling of many paths in how you can live your life while not neglecting the truth of your past and spirit. Escape to the world within yourself, remember that while at rest in nature you are always free and that while you are within meditation and the silence or sanctity of your mind you are free to imagine experience and believe whatever you wish. Know also that in the imagery and artistic expression of your kintype you can always find relationship and comfort. Through video games, interactive role-play, creative writing and expressive drawing you can express and explore all that you feel within while also sharing with others the joys and expressions of that which you once were.

Through the use of the Internet we have several websites and large communities of otherkin who can relate and listen to your thoughts, you are never alone in your struggles and potential questions. There are many ways to identify or cope with your otherkinism and trials if you simply are confident enough to explore or search for them. The support, writings, and options we need to find answers and joy are all out there and accessible if we simply take a step forward and search thoroughly.

As for the differences between this present life compared to past perceived lifetimes, forms, personalities, possible genders and so forth, these unfortunately are emotions that can only be reconciled individually, they can only be resolved by you, it is your spirit, your perceived past and your present. But help and advice is again always available while you navigate your personal self discovery.

Just remember that whatever or whoever you perceive that you were in a different reality, no matter what you feel that you did, or whatever you possibly failed to do. You are human now, this is a new life, a new chance with new responsibilities. You have this life to live and to focus on. Remember that you can only dwell on a lost existence for so long. Please strive to live for today, life is short, it is meant to be lived to the fullest!

Above all else, remember that regardless of what or who you perceive you once were you are human now and will remain such for the foreseeable future. There is a time and a place for all things, remember at all times to remain in balance. Also, obviously do not fall into delusion or believe that since you have awakened as otherkin that you are somehow superior or different. Conversely, do not ignore that you are otherkin or unique by focusing so heavily on the tasks and distractions of this world that you perhaps lose respect for or hope of the emotional and spiritual connections that awakening as an otherkin can bring.

Remember, in all things find a personal balance. Find your inner happiness and embrace it. Live life!

I live in a religious family, or am a faithful person, how do I know I am not simply possessed?:

Firstly, if you live in a religious household and you are dabbling with otherkinism, for your own sake please do not get caught. Particularly in regards to the fact that your family or friends may freak out. That was just a personal warning as it seems to be a common problem for otherkin in religious households to have to suffer or hide their beliefs. Particular emphasis for the Abrahamic faiths.

Now as for whether or not you are possessed or are under some form of spiritual attack or test? Unfortunately only you can determine a resolution to that question. I have known others including myself who have had experiences and possibly even spiritual companions (head mates) throughout their awakenings which were deeply supportive and encouraging of this worlds faiths.

I would imagine a demonic entity would be quite the opposite and would strive to push us away from a belief in the divine or our prior faiths, but that is only my personal experiences. In all honesty only you and your interpretation of God can know what is within your heart, mind and soul. This is a deeply theological question beyond my ability to securely respond to, it can only be determined by you as an individual.

A prayer tip for reconciling your present existence with the possibility of otherkinism. For those who may actively participate in a strict religion or within a belief system that inherently disagrees with the idea of reincarnation, spirits or other worlds.

(Particularly Abrahamic Religions)

If you believe in your heart, mind and in your very soul that you are an otherkin but fear holy condemnation I encourage you to pray to your God or deity and let them know that you still follow them now just as you always have and that you are but a child in soul. That you feel a personal calling from your inner spirit to explore this concept, that you know your God can see into your mind and spirit and know that you mean no disrespect in such actions. That you know your God has created all things in this world and as creator of the universe he is sovereign over all other worlds and beings in creation as well. That if you have been granted the gift to sense or recall other possible lives that you will explore them in a way that glorifies your God and leads others to your God's truth.

Pray, that if you are in error, that you will be loved and forgiven, that you trust in a loving deity who can see into your heart, mind and spirit and who will know what you are going through and who will support you in love and forgiveness at all times.

If need be, for further spiritual closure, feel free to humbly ask your God in prayer for some form of confirmation that what you believe of yourself is true or of his/her will. You may be surprised!

I want to relate to my kintype more, have more dragon stuff, writings

art, etcetera, but my family and friends would never accept or allow such, what do I do?:

First, before I begin, a disclaimer: You know best how to go about this, yours and another's situations may vary, please do what you know is safest or best for you. As always my advice below is simply what worked most effectively for myself and my friends in the past.

As I firmly touched upon in earlier advice, most people will socially frown upon you getting too involved in what may be deemed as fantasy, childish, sinful or bizarre interests. But you are probably still going to emotionally long for and desire to have physical reminders around to help bring you closer to your kintype. It's reasonable and common to wish to better express and relate more with what you perceive you once were, or still feel you are on the inside. For this topic, I will use dragons, but please do not hesitate to insert your own personal kintype as need be.

Here is my advice to you. If you can not safely have a room or area to display a dragon collection or otherwise be constantly surrounded by dragon paraphernalia, either due to family or social expectations I would like to reassure you that there are still some options. First option: Digital mediums, perhaps create a secret folder on your computer, phone, media player or whatever digital option may be available. If available pay a visit to www.deviantart.com, Google images or any other art site and search for and save all the kintype art that may have personal meaning to you, clear your cache and keep the art in a secret location, view it commonly in private whenever you need a little emotional boost or reminder of who or what you are on the inside. Mixed with equally motivating or personalized music this trick can be quite emotionally rejuvenating!

If you are blocked from such sites, perhaps attempt to gain such artwork through other means, or visit a public library. If nothing else, do an art search through a VPN or from a third party and keep whatever meaningful pictures you can find on a flash drive. If this extent of secrecy is required, then of course it goes without saying, leave no evidence of your activities however benign they may be.

Alternatively, please consider finding a quiet place in nature that you can call your own, a lair or sorts, a personal private little paradise or natural spot where you can be alone and simply be yourself. A place where you can lay in the grass or the shade, sun, feel the breeze, read whatever books you wish, draw whatever your visions may inspire, play whatever games you want and generally be yourself at peace and free of the criticism and eyes of others. Find a place of privacy with no annoyances to laugh or complain about your love of fantasy. Find a small secret piece of Earth to call your own, a spot where it is just you and the nature around you, then relax, be free, and dream!

If that too is not possible, for example if you live in a city or urbanized area you may still always have the privacy of your room. At least I would hope. In which case, perhaps save up a small amount of funds and invest in the purchase of a storage chest with a lock. Then you will have a place to store small meaningful treasures, you could gradually purchase whatever dragon trinkets, literature, art, or small gifts you wish and keep them under hidden lock and key when they are not in use, nobody would need to know unless you wished it, just do not get caught or allow your activities to become obvious.

Be honest, you are probably younger than me if you are reading this, you are smart and clever, the world is yours, have fun, be dragon, own dragons, just be sneaky, it's never as hard as it seems, think outside the box! Lastly, never forget, the greatest treasure you own, the purest connection to your kintype that you can ever gain is that which you already have. Your mind, your inspiration, your

thoughts, vision and imagination. Creative writings, artistic works and the expression of your soul, these are things that cannot so easily be censored by disapproving forces, they exist within you and only you can access or close off those treasures, you are inherently amazing and everything that you need is within you!

Find your own path, your own truth, and make your own way:

Remember, you are a spiritual being within a physical machine. This world we live in is an adventure! Life is a learning experience and each new life and each new form is only experienced once. You will only get one opportunity at this life in this body and in this world. You could die today, you just do not know when it all may end, so why waste your life in mendacity? You will have your daily dramas and stresses, you will have problems and negatives in your life, we all will.

However, as we go about life in this world there is but one goal to remember, “Each new day could be your last.” Life on this world is simply too short to waste on petty or negative things, you are here to live, yesterday may have been difficult, but why should we let it ruin today? Today may be difficult as well, but we can not let it ruin tomorrow. Happiness is a choice, even in the worst of conditions we must believe that life can always improve. I encourage you to strive to let drama and negatives simply slide down your back and into the past. You must create your own reality, your own truth, your own path. Do not allow yourself to be confined to one road in life, we are souls on a journey, introspective and curious, we detour and explore the roads less traveled, you will never know what you will find until you leap into the fogs of the unknown and chart new paths.

If you are otherkin, you are to an extent an alien to this world, never forget that, take pride in such and seek to experience this reality through external eyes outside the perspective of humanity, strive to learn and grow with this alien perspective, we inherently see unique perspectives, so as you go about your life and grow and learn, seek to find what works for you in this world. Make your own way forward and understand and accept that the truths and beliefs of man may not always be true to your own, we are unique.

We are visitors to this world, man’s truth is subjective, know yourself and never forget who or what you are on the inside. Be strong and take pride in what you are, you will only live this particular life once, make this life count and do not waste time dwelling on the past, be it the past pains of this life, or the past pains of another, work proudly to live for today and press forward to create your own ideal future!

Responsibilities of being dragonkin or otherkin.

As an otherkin, you have some responsibilities, particularly a responsibility to yourself. You are encouraged to conduct yourself in a mature, introspective and honest fashion or you are going to risk alienating yourself from family, friends and personal support. This subject matter is obvious and has already been repeatedly discussed prior.

However, if you choose to openly portray yourself as otherkin, you are now not only representing yourself as an individual, but you are also representing the very concept of our collective belief system,

we are not and never will be an organized religion, our overall community represents a pseudo-religion at best. At our core, we as otherkin are simply a digital collective of individuals each with unique perceptions of our personal spiritualities, we have no spokesman or public propagandists, if one of us looks bad publicly it will reflect adversely upon the whole community and there is little that can be done to prevent or counteract any negative social assumptions that may occur in result.

Our solace and ability to evolve free of ridicule exists due to the fact that we are fairly obscure and unknown to the general public. We are generally separate and individualized. So if you as an individual should fall into delusion and decide to climb upon your rooftop with a sword to declare yourself the god of all dragons or act in some generally outlandish ways, and if the media should happen to arrive to investigate why you are acting strangely, please be silent and avoid any mention of otherkin in the course of your explanations.

If you somehow inadvertently create a scene or social incident please simply allow the public to assume that your delusion is due to a D&D game or LARP which has gone awry. Your actions as an otherkin reflect upon the community as a whole and not just yourself. Please try not to bring any unwanted attention to the larger community by being immature or acting upon unsubstantiated beliefs or claims, please behave yourselves, be at all times introspective, humble and mature, you represent a fledgling digital collective, many of which may wish that our beliefs not become too well known too quickly at this time in history.

However, take note, that when and if you first awaken you may likely awaken to many false assumptions and memories in your first year or two, not everything that your heart tells you may be true. Everything that you come to believe should be reaffirmed with knowledge and wisdom, drawn steadily from inner truth from the soul, deep meditation and of course from emotion and faith, you won't get the answers all at once, you will likely only begin with assumptions, but you have a responsibility to question yourself repeatedly and to evolve in your beliefs. What you believe today may not be what you believe a year from now, your self understanding may change and evolve as you discover more truths from within.

I would personally encourage you not to blindly follow others whom you may meet, their paths are not your own. However, do not shirk their advice either, in all things find a balance, learn from your elders and those who have come and experienced before you, but in the end, remember that your path is your own to walk. I would encourage you to compile advice you may encounter, but to always question the reasoning and rational behind what you were told or have read. What lessons exist within the advice? What mistakes or experiences were involved in the formation of that opinion? What mistakes can you avoid having read this advice and how can you better grow as an individual? Those were simply examples, the goal is to build upon the advice of others and in all things, chart your own path.

Lastly, a mistake I made a lot in my youth, please do not arrogantly ignore those whom you disagree with. Be open to question, discuss and to learn from them. We will all have different perspectives and experiences, what is right for one may not always be right for others. Take their advice and reflect upon it, always strive to be in a state of receptive learning and growth. Lastly, if somebody accuses you of delusion or ignorance do not immediately take it as an insult, they may have probably experienced a variant of the same assumptive beliefs or ideas that you have now, embraced them, failed and matured.

We all start off with some ignorance, so please do not hesitate to question why another may believe you are in error, please be willing to at least listen to their stories. Not all criticism is an immediate attack, many older voices may speak from experience and wish to teach those whom their words can possibly

help. If some of us older members of the community have appeared or seemed rude, please forgive us, it's not your fault or anything you did wrong, some of the older members may simply be jaded from sharing the same stories and lessons often. Always question your personal understandings, always remain in a state of personal growth! Remember that your maturity or lack thereof, reflects upon us all. Be your best for all of us and more importantly be always at your best so as to express your own priceless self worth!

Otherkinism is not a game:

Speaking personally, my self perceived draconity has been a psychologically detrimental, spiritually hectic and overall long and stressful journey, throughout most of my life, it has caused me far more pain than joy. But the personal faith that I was once a dragon is an inseparable part of who I am.

As a result I know myself better and have become a stronger person. I have also learned that draconity is not for everyone, it is not simply a game, a role-play or an imaginary mask that you wear, it is a state of inner being. One cannot simply choose to be otherkin, you either are or you are not and the experiences that one will face through their personal journey are a mixed blessing at best with both positives and negatives. However, in the end one's reward is the knowing of ones true inner spirit.

I personally can only be myself and I am a dragon in mind, emotion and spirit. It was only in the realization and acceptance of the fact that I was a dragon in spirit and in mind that I was able to achieve the peace and balance that I was missing from my life. In eventually accepting and embracing this risky and subjective truth I inevitably felt as if a missing piece to the puzzle of who I was had finally been found and that things finally begun to make sense.

When I denied that I was a dragon inside, it would feel as though a piece of me died, I was without purpose and meaning, When I embraced that I was internally a dragon, I felt at constantly social and cognitive risk, but yet, I also finally felt free. I learned that I can only be true to myself and that truth was "I am a spirit not of man, yet living a life within the flesh of man."

To be otherkin is to claim to have a personal spiritual belief system with an immensely deep emotional and faithful meaning, it is to claim to have a near inseparable emotional and spiritual bond to one's kintype. An individual's claim to be otherkin should not simply be in the context of some fictional role-play, a means of escapism, a means to cope, or as an expression of a psychological malfunction, although I am sure there are rare and highly publicized cases in which these are the expressed examples of otherkin, the majority of otherkin are generally introverted but overall fun individuals, heavily involved in philosophical debates, metaphysical studies, tech and medical fields, creative activities and mature individuals who live typical social and economical lives while off the Internet.

We are just normal people with odd and somewhat different beliefs. We do not express them for attention or for superficial reasons, we do not wish to escape reality, otherkin is not some game like Second Life, our beliefs are personal, subjective and individualized, for some they are spiritual, for others they're internal or connected to our personal identities and self expression, but in every case our personal faith is simply one of many countless aspects of who we are, we embrace our experiences, we introspect, know ourselves and integrate our internal identity to grow for the betterment of this life!

SECTION III

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF DRACONITY / OTHERKIN

Being a dragon or otherkin:

Being a dragon or otherkin may mean a lot to the individual, but it means nothing to those outside the individual. By proclaiming yourself to be otherkin you risk opening yourself to all matter of accusation and social abandonment. It is not something that should be assumed or frivolously claimed due to some form of fad or game, it is definitely not something you should do to be popular or to fit in, as that path will lead to an obvious failure as far as social goals are concerned.

By identifying yourself as otherkin, you are open to societal assumptions of mental or emotional ineptness, spiritual confusion and any number of similar claims. If you are a member of a religious family you can likely expect tension and lots of personal ordeals. If you have popular friends, or are somewhat high within a social hierarchy it may be best to keep your mouth shut and your beliefs private.

To be frank, you better know what you are getting yourself into before you publicly express such a claim, because you may have quite a struggle ahead. It may be best that you keep quiet about your personal self-understandings and keep your views in the shadows until you know yourself well enough that you can handle the social, psychological or spiritual responsibility of putting up with all manner of outcomes associated with publicly coming out.

I cannot stress this enough, “Do not immediately assume that you are otherkin just because you got some warm fluffy feelings from a dragon movie, book, or played some game that snapped you into the idea.” If you think that you are otherkin, there will most likely be plenty of additional signs or evidence which would likely be far more personal or emotional than a single specific bond shared by one of the media examples listed above. Characters in media are designed to be relatable so any experience or bond triggered by media should deeply be introspected, there should be evidence that existed far before said media. Be cautious not to fall into delusion or assumption.

In examining an awakening strive to gather evidence outside of mere feelings alone, instead, try to work to be able to rationalize why you believe such theories about yourself. That way, when and if you do ever get confronted on your personal beliefs you may be in a better position to defend your spiritual opinions without coming off as unprepared, ignorant or presumptuous.

Know yourself, do not let others tell you what to believe, balance your spiritual or philosophical belief

that you are otherkin, with the possibility that you may not be. Remain open to both possibilities and keep in mind that no matter what the case, you are still human and have human responsibilities: “school, grades, work, college, relationships, employment, your future” if any of these responsibilities suffer adversely due to your personal beliefs, please take a step back and re-prioritize your goals and mindset. It does no service to the larger community if we have confused members claiming to be otherkin and recklessly bringing destructive behaviors into their lives due to their beliefs, it is not good for the individual, and it does not reflect well on our digital community as a whole.

So, with all that said, I encourage you to remember always to question all things. Strive to research both sides of every potential discovery, know yourself, base your beliefs on at least some form of evidence however remote it may be, even if it is just dreams, brief visions, phantom sensations, an attraction to the creature(s) in question, an association with said creature(s), emotional longings, spiritual companions, spiritual experiences, perceived memories of another world or life, whatever the potential evidence may be, embrace and introspect it! In all your discoveries work to question all of them and to have a timeline of evidence small or large for your beliefs. A firm path of self-understanding is clearly superior to recklessly accepting a belief simply because it may be a fad or feel right at the time.

As well, please be ready for the responsibilities that may accompany these beliefs, this should not be a game, you either are otherkin or you are not. If you are, the evidence will be clear and will make itself quite noticeable and undeniable with time. If you are not, that is fine, you are always welcome, or you can share in whatever discussions or passions you desire, but please, for your own sake do not try to be something that you are not, it will cause pain and hurt in the end. If you are otherkin and you know yourself and what you perceive to be true, then you will be fine, this speech is not for you, simply be mature about your perceived spirituality and you will be fine in this world.

Traits that I have noted regarding otherkin:

Over the years I have spoken with quite a few otherkin, I am no expert by any means, I am honestly a notoriously shy person and I am not publicly available to speak or interact a vast majority of the time. However, from the varied self-proclaimed otherkin who I have spoken to over the years, I have noticed most tended to have a few common traits.

Most of the otherkin who I have spoken with seemed to have awakened in their mid to late teens or early twenties. Most of them had some evidence or suspicions throughout their life but could not easily pin down the cause or reasoning of their suspicions until something external triggered them to introspect and to begin to connect the dots within their mind. Most otherkin who I have known in the past have generally been deeply philosophical, involved in metaphysics or were generally open minded or spiritual in nature. Although, as I continue to age I am meeting many more secular minded otherkin, so I can no longer generalize on what type of personalities may be prone to our beliefs. Anyone can be otherkin, it is a subjective and individualized experience.

I can also state anecdotally that many of the self-proclaimed otherkin who I have come to know or have spoken to over the years have expressed a longing for their prior forms or lives, most of them strive to identify with their kintype through creative works and artistic expressions, alongside collecting representations of their kintype. Most of them expressed a deep longing to return to their perceived homelands or prior identities.

From my experiences I have noted that some otherkin tend to have phantom limb syndrome during segments of their awakenings, be it a placebo, psychological, or truly a spiritual experience, the sensation appears to be normal and common. Accepting the sensation when it occurs tends to bring a greater emotional and spiritual connection to the subjects kintype.

As well, most otherkin I have known appear to dream of returning to their old lives or forms, but they know and accept that they are here as humans and they clearly differentiate between their beliefs and their real life responsibilities in a mature fashion allowing them to pursue typical and normal lifestyles when they are off the anonymity of the Internet.

However, from personal and anecdotal evidence I can warn that a select few otherkin, in their early awakenings may try to experiment or seek possible methods to somehow physically shift back to their old forms, or to somehow return to their old perceived lives. These naive efforts are always met with obvious and expected failure or embarrassment when their plans do not work, I have experienced it myself. These otherkin I would hope, will quickly mature past that phase when they realize the truth, that such ideas are illogical, impossible and a form of escapism. This is our world and these are our lives now, we should eagerly embrace such and live each day to the fullest.

I have also noted that some otherkin, after closer inspection of their beliefs or understandings of themselves may realize in the end that they had been lying to themselves. Whether it be in the context of their perceived memories, or in regards to their personal understandings of their perceived prior forms or their prior life, beliefs may evolve or change over time, this is natural. As well, sometimes one may renounce the entire concept of being otherkin in general, this too is fine. We must all follow our own paths with honesty, introspection and personal integrity.

As stated above, sometimes people may realize that they were wrong, had misunderstood their feelings or had accepted false assumptions. It is okay to be wrong and it is even better to learn of falsehoods earlier rather than later in life. This is why I share my constant and repetitive insistence to always question yourself and what you understand or believe to be your personal reality, I want everyone to always be honest with themselves and with those around them.

Other than these observations, I can simply state that most otherkin whom I have known simply enjoy hanging out with others of their kind or with friends of similar beliefs on the Internet, often they will go by a spiritual or false name which is typically related to their internal identity. Many otherkin that I have met in the past have been wise enough to avoid drama offline regarding their personal beliefs, generally relying on sharing their otherkin perceptions primarily with fellow believers or close personal friends. They typically do this not because of a cult mentality or to create a self-affirming echo chamber, but rather out of a need for social preservation due to the severe social, cultural or religious disdain for beliefs so obscure or controversial as being otherkin.

Lastly, as stated in other writings in these categories, many of the individuals I have met claiming to be otherkin at times may feel like they are wearing a mask or not being honest with themselves when they go about their mundane or typical daily routines. Some may wish or desire that they could relate more with their kintype at times. As stated earlier, they might tend to network with others of similar beliefs, seeking others with similar or open minded beliefs near their area or within their schools, they may desire to get out to nature often, to role-play, to write, to relax, to meditate or generally spend much more time within their imagination.

What are the warning signs that I may be taking this too far?

Anything that distracts from experiencing a mature or stable lifestyle, if it damages your education, relationships, employment, lands you in jail, or does anything to harm your ability to function normally in society, or overtly upsets your mental or emotional well-being. If you experience any of these signs, then you are probably taking this concept way too far.

If you use your otherkin faith or internal perceptions continuously as a form of escapism or as a means to avoid real life responsibilities, or if you truly do believe that you can physically become your kintype or teleport between worlds and dimensions (like me a decades ago during my spirit circle experiments) you are probably taking this a bit too far.

As well, if you are running around telling everyone you know that you are otherkin or are otherwise acting irrational while assuming delusions of grandeur because of your beliefs then you are probably taking this a bit too far.

Another issue is if you have made up every aspect of your otherkin beliefs or are declaring that you are otherkin without the slightest hint of personal exploration or self-honesty. In this case you are also probably taking this too far and should rewind and question your perceptions honestly.

Lastly, if believing yourself to be otherkin is in any way creating excessive amounts of emotional instability, outbursts of anger, sadness, bi-polar symptoms, or is generally causing an excessive amount of emotional disturbance or intense change in how you would otherwise generally react to given situations, then you should probably slow down and figure out why such is happening.

If being otherkin is in any way interfering with your schedules, interpersonal relationships, education or employment, then you need to calmly slow down, introspect the risks to your well-being, cease exploration of the matters and focus for a time on things which are more important to the here and now, please be rational and mature, above all else prioritize the needs of this present life in which you live.

Understanding of inherent humanity:

As otherkin or therians, it may be in our common nature to desire to dissociate from humanity in favor of our self-identified kintypes. For example, a dragon may hate humanity for the genocide of dragons in the past lost to myth and legend, or a wolf therian may be disgusted by the hunting to near extinction of wolves in various regions. So on and so forth, it is easy to assign benevolence to our identified forms and to scoff or dissociate from the crimes and flaws of humanity, to hate them, to despise them, to look down on them for all the ills they create throughout their world. This however is folly and a very negative mindset to maintain because it disregards our own present place and role in their world..

We must accept our own inherent humanity within this life and world, for the sake of our place and role in it and for the well-being of our own inner and outer growth and improvement. We may have once been something inhuman in the past, but we are humans now and are subject to the same flaws that you may presently highlight or despise. However we are also privvy to the same gifts which you may ignore. Reflect for example that it has been the gifts of these human forms that give us the sentience to understand, piece together and comprehend our former potential existences.

It is these forms that allow us the creativity to write, to draw worlds or to express and create life! It is these human forms that allow us to feel emotions, to learn, to hate and to love. These forms are full of potential and not just because we exist within them, but because these traits are inherent in all humans. I do not deny the crimes, corruption and pains caused by mankind are great, but I beseech you to gaze upon the bigger picture, those with power are the culprits and not all humans are evil.

Earth has 8 billion humans upon it, many simply live life and share our collective struggles in peace same as you and I, they tend to create all the art, joys and light we see in this world. The issue is not humanity, the issue is sentience mixed with power, sentience when mixed with free will and latent instincts are a wildcard, I dare you to find me a sentient race without flaws, even the angels of heaven rebelled against their god, the point is there is no life without flaws or pain and free will is a factor in this. We exist to experience life, both the pleasures and pains, the good and the bad in all things.

I am certain that somewhere in creation there are dragons and some within those worlds are benevolent and some would be cruel, this would likewise be true for any other form that you may acknowledge or perceive. Therefore I encourage you to embrace the good populace within humanity for they are the silent majority. Rather than hate humans, please first acknowledge that you yourself are one and then work always to portray yourself as in example in this world, a guide to how humans as individuals can through a bright heart and a shining soul change the lives, hearts and minds of those around them.

In all you do I'd encourage you to embrace both the memory and fire of what you may have been, but not to neglect what and who you are now, work to use your potential past as an impetus to strengthen your resolve and in all you do, work to seek the good in your fellow humans while on this world. Strengthen the weak, guide the lost, share wisdom with the young, stand against injustice in small and large ways and in all you do please work to better the world with the light of your spirit and heart.

Strive so that in each and every day you might draw out the good and potential of both yourself and your fellow humans, work to balance your identity so that you may never forget what you once were, nor who you are now. Be proud of the life you're leading, take pride in the potential you have and in each new day never cease to improve yourself and the world you live in!

A brief essay on otherkin memories:

Sometimes some otherkin will, through the course of their awakenings, be lucky enough to have flashes or evidence of possible past memories. These may be feelings which result in a belief or perception that some foreign memories from another life have been recalled or shown to be true to their spirit.

These possible memories may be as simple as a flash of a forest or river, some unknown landscape or of a location not seen before in this present life. It's also possible that the foreign memories may occur as more complex memories, such as interactions with unknown individuals and so forth, and on rare occasions, the memories can be so fluid as to form a nearly complete life story.

However, most possible memories of nonhuman existences occur in brief flashes, recurring dreams, visions, or are likely induced through meditation. Sometimes, these possible memories may be triggered by locations, landscapes or experiences encountered in this world. As well, sometimes they may simply exist as a strong emotional imprint or connection, an undeniable sense of knowing that one

has somehow existed in another form, life, or world. Sometimes no possible memories or evidence appears and an individual is left with only their personal faith or spiritual feeling that they are different in mind or soul.

For each individual the awakening process to past memories, families, incarnations or knowledge of nonhuman lives will be different. There are some common experiences, but overall like much of being otherkin, this is subjective to the individual and their personal experience. One's spiritual understanding of their self cannot be determined by the social expectations or experiences of another, nor will everyone's awakenings be the same.

Many otherkin may claim to be from other worlds, times, lifestyles, dimensions or realities. In an infinitely expanding universe with near infinite potential, anything can be true, there is no way to prove or disprove such claims, they can only be taken as personal faith subjective to the claimant. I personally as dragonkin perceive that I once existed on an Earth-like planet as a feral western dragon in an area inhabited by humanoid wolves. I could be crazy of course, but just as well, it could be true, anything is possible, but it remains a matter of faith, a personal mythos.

Others may claim to have existed in various separate forms or realities. We as humans only know of the Earth and that which we can perceive through it, we do not know what life and possibilities exist beyond this world. For both otherkin, and the average human, knowledge of what exists beyond this planet cannot be known, we can only rely on assumptions and limited perceptions of what lies beyond this blue marble in space.

In that regard, it is impossible to either prove or disprove the legitimacy of our memories or claims, for both a believer and a denier of one's subjective memories the truth can only ever be a matter of faith rather than of fact. Otherkin cannot prove their memories to be true, any more than a debunker can prove that their claims are fantasy, it is not possible for either to provide "proof," as both arguments rely on some bits of faith.

However, the fact that the claim of memories is a matter of faith to both the debunker as well as the participant does not prevent any outlandish, impossible, mindless, or outright ridiculous claims from being aggressively attacked and torn apart in the harshest and most hostile methods possible, common sense must and will always prevail. You cannot call yourself "The Cosmic Banana God" just because you have blind faith that it is true, you need to be introspective and have honesty and personal integrity in your self-perceptions. If you act immature or are ignorant you should expect extreme confrontation, confrontation of absurdities is generally unavoidable no matter how much faith you think you have.

When interpreting or laying claim to possible memories there is always the important need to be honest with yourself, just as there is in all things that may affect you on a spiritual or internal level. With that said, please always remember that the more controversial your perceived memories are, the less likely they are to be readily accepted, thus the importance to know yourself. There will come times when you may be expected to defend your perceived life or memories with the process you went through to come to those perceived conclusions.

Overall, remember that some otherkin may never awaken to any memories, they may simply maintain a deep emotional or spiritual connection or claim to their beliefs, this is fairly common, some people simply connect with their form or kintype and discover very little more. Some others may not necessarily believe they actually were the forms but rather are connected to their kintype in some other

way. Many otherkin may not believe in reincarnation or related spiritual beliefs and may have alternate understandings of how they are connected or associated with their kintype. In this world, there exists a variety of individual beliefs, perceptions, and paths. Not everyone will have the same experiences.

Do not forget that lost or the lack of memories does not necessarily equate to a lack of proof or legitimacy to being otherkin, it is fine and all is well. To all parties, both those with possible memories and to those without, I wish to give emphasis that your internal beliefs are only a single aspect of who you believe yourself to be, it is not something to spend all your time dwelling on. Above all, to those who have memories as well as to those who do not, please always remember that you are alive today as a human.

Remember, respect, and revere what you know of your perceived prior existences, learn from and grow from the experiences which you believed you had obtained from those incarnations, but in the end, remember to always live for today, as who and what you are now. Do not neglect to live this new life because you are too busy dwelling on what may or may not have happened in a past existence, that life is over, you are here now, live this one to its fullest as it can end at any time.

Homesick for old life:

Sometimes, those who are lucky enough to have obtained some memories of a past life may become homesick for their homeland or their prior perceived form. As well some otherkin may become homesick for other potential losses such as possible families, mates, friends and so forth.

With the awakening of these possible perceived memories there may come an accompanying onset of homesickness, either for the life itself, or for the form in question. For example, memories of flying may create a longing for the ability to do such again, followed by an accompanying depression that you are now earthbound. Another example being a life memory of one's mate, partner, or friends, which may bring up the realization of the loss of said relationships.

As well, knowledge or memories of unfinished business in a perceived prior life may create feelings of guilt or failure, for example leaving a pregnant partner to search for food and somehow dying before returning back to her, or needing to do some other example of relevance and being slain before its completion.

There are a variety of highly emotional events and realizations that may occur in the search for possible memories of a prior existence and many of these perceived realizations or feelings of loss can be quite painful and strenuous, as well as obviously difficult to handle. Even more so if an individual is not emotionally grounded.

In extreme cases, an individual influenced by their perceptions and emotions concerning past life memories might seek to find ways to physically return home, or to physically transform back to their prior form. I was such a person in the beginning, I was homesick and tried to return home through the use of a complex pattern of sticks and symbols placed around a circle of stones mixed with some foolish made-up rituals. In that regard, I can speak from experience, it is a desperation move and a form of escapism. We exist in these bodies and lives now and we are stuck here until our purpose, lives, and time here is fulfilled. It is a sad and difficult truth, but a silver lining exists in all things, sometimes you just need to look harder than you might expect.

As well, if you believe that your prior form had been slain, or otherwise destroyed on a physical level, it is dead and gone now, there is nothing to return to. That life, that past, that reality is now over, you exist here, make of it the best that you can and do not waste this life pining for the last. It's not what your past self, or its loved ones would want for you today. Think of it through that perspective, live for the now, you have another chance in this world to experience what you could not in another.

At the same time, in dealing with homesickness for a lost reality or a lost life, I encourage you to reflect upon your past memories with a trick I call the three "R's". Revere, Respect, and Remember.

Revere the memories and knowledge of what you once were, you have experienced a life and existence outside of humanity, and that knowledge and perspective is unique.

Respect yourself in regards to both that life and who you are today, be strong for who you once were, or what you once existed as, be strong enough to imagine facing your past self in a mirror and not being ashamed of who you are today, live now, in honor of what and who you once were.

And lastly, Remember. Remember that the memories you believe you have are sacred reminders of who you are and who you have been, write them down and update them frequently, so as to never forget that which means so much to you on a spiritual and emotional level, that you are somebody unique and special and that which you feel you know of your spirit, your memories, are there to lead you and guide you anew in this life. So for that purpose, never forget them, they are forever a part of you.

Overall, if you have awakened to memories of a nonhuman existence, you will likely be homesick for such memories at one time or another, how you cope with such things is your responsibility. I just wanted to help by providing some advice from my own experiences. You as an individual must find your own path and method for dealing with and understanding such things. I wish you the best of luck, and remember that you are never alone, others online can likely relate, so never be afraid to confide in others who may be going through or have gone through similar experiences.

I have phantom limbs, is this good or bad, normal or off?

That is phantom limb syndrome, it is most often experienced by amputees such that they in some sense still feel their missing limb. Even though the limb is no longer existent it is believed by some that their aura or spirit is maintaining its natural or original form despite the limb's absence on a physical level.

Regarding phantom limbs for otherkin, it is assumed one's spirit or aura is taking on the shape or memory of a non-human form possibly of a past incarnation. It is usually a temporary sensation, relax and go with it should such occur. It can be quite common to my understanding, I have known others to take on phantom tails, wings, claws, as well as entire phantom forms.

Aside from being possibly spiritual, it can be rationally assumed that these sensations are also being triggered psychologically or emotionally, as there are exercises and meditations out there that can result or generate these sensations. Spiritual or not, enjoy the feeling, and do not be discouraged if these feelings have not come to you, everyone's experiences are unique. Unfortunately phantom limbs are never physical, they are just phantom changes or sensations. If anyone claims that they can pull off a physical change or alteration please demand evidence, as there will always be some people out there

who will claim such, but in all honesty nobody can, it is simply not possible.

Personally, I had experimented a lot in the past attempting through a variety of metaphysical means to somehow take on draconic traits, often through meditations with the purpose of alteration and extension of ones aura, or otherwise simply alternating through other assorted techniques regarding the manipulation and restructuring of supposed spiritual energy. Needless to say, I'm still human.

In the days of my youth I had commonly experienced phantom dragon wings, a tail, horns, spines, the whole works. Many discussions of phantom limbs could be found on multiple assorted otherkin communities in the past, so I generally accepted the experiences as further proof to my spiritual claims of draconity.

However, there exists an equally viable rational explanation for the sensations which I and others have felt in the past, and that is the term known as "placebo." The mind is a powerful tool and it can easily be tricked to produce some impressive sensations and results which are not always real or existent. In so believing or desiring to have these limbs or traits, be it conscious or subconsciously, we can with minimal effort trigger the false sensation or a tingling presence of a physically nonexistent form.

A popular quote once stated "Reality is what does not go away when you stop believing in it." More often than not phantom limbs can be a placebo, a result brought about by our desire or belief that we are meant to be a dragon or some other form, the mind may subconsciously attempt to produce the sensation of draconic or otherkin aspect to quell our emotional desires or longings.

Please note that I have observed through my own personal experimentation that even those who are not otherkin can be influenced to duplicate the sensations of phantom limbs with only a little work or guided visualization. So take note that there exists both a spiritual and psychological explanation for the sensations we may feel. What matters however, is how the sensations emotionally affect you, are they a recurring sensation that happens expectantly and without warning alongside other possible evidence for your kintype? Or is the sensation a one off experience that only appears when you actively think of a specific form? In all things be honest with yourself.

Overall, regardless of whether the sensation is the mind playing tricks on us or if it is an actual reshaping of our personal auras or spiritual forms, whichever theory is chosen to be true for you is up to your personal and subjective experience. As each individual's experiences will be different it would have to be considered a matter of individual faith. All things of a spiritual nature are a matter of faith, so the explanation or context of your phantom limbs is left to your own personal interpretation. Just note however that considering the rational psychology and possibilities of placebos involved in the possible sensations, that it is not entirely likely that everyone will always accept phantom limb sensations alone as a spiritual truth or as an evident claim to being otherkin.

Draconity, and the superiority complex, king of dragons, dragon god, etc... truth or ego?

It is a common trait of some newly awakened otherkin, that they will often portray great arrogance in their claim to being otherkin. In assuming that, as they were a dragon, or some other possibly non-human being, they are now somehow superior, conveniently forgetting that presently they exist in the form of a human and are no longer as epic or great as they claim they once were.

For example, someone may claim that since they are a dragon in human incarnation, they are superior with great magic and powers and that they should be treated as though they were still in that form or at whatever rank or position they had existed as in their prior incarnation. I can claim that I am a dragon, and that by creating these writings I have proven myself to be a spiritual leader who is here to lead my people as their “Dragon Pope” (my new official title!) but that does not make it true. I am neither a dragon lord in human form, nor the Dragon Pope, I am just some dude with a computer.

My past has no bearing on who I am today, it frankly cannot even be proven, as it relies on faith and my own perceptions. Otherkin or not, I am no different from others, it is my actions and choices that shape who and what I am. I have no right to a belief that I am important simply because I perceive I was once something special or unique.

As well, it is a common trait, that most newly awakened otherkin tend to make claims to having lived quite heroic or adventurous lives, being related to royalty or having saved their world, if not proclaiming themselves a god incarnate. I myself am not exempt, in my early stages of awakening, I initially had falsely assumed that I was the savior of a race of peoples and had died fending off an invading army, where in truth after an honest introspective look at what I believed to be the memories and remnants of that life, as best as could be perceived by my available evidence I discovered that I was actually just a feral dragon, a beast who happened to be murdered quite helplessly after being ambushed in my sleep.

In looking closely at what I truly knew versus what I felt and assumed to be true, I learned or admitted that I was not a sentient dragon capable of telepathy and fighting wars as I originally believed and portrayed myself as, but rather I learned that what I initially believed were egotistical falsehoods that I had added or assumed based off fantasy and stereotypes. As well as a biased belief that such a form would be sentient like a human rather than a mere animal, but in the end I learned that I was really a boring nomadic wild animal after all. It was quite a humbling fall from the epic expectations of my ego, but it was my personal truth nonetheless and I accepted that truth.

What I am getting at here is simple, do not accept your being otherkin in a way that sets you apart from others in an arrogant manner, you are unique in your beliefs and experiences and that makes you special, but still, it is your actions and choices in this life that matter now, not what happened in the past. In regards to your spirit and internal perception, just know that what you believe today may not be the same tomorrow and arrogance and assumptions may come back to bite you, please strive to move slowly in your beliefs and growth.

As for having been an important figure in a prior existence, perhaps you were, or perhaps it is simply your human ego telling you that you were. The only way to know for sure is to be honest with yourself, do not be afraid to introspect and dissect your beliefs regularly, and do not be afraid to accept the possibility that you were less than what you first came to believe. Either way, only you can discover the truth of your own soul. Always be honest with yourself and try not to be prideful or arrogant about your spirituality, you will not make friends that way, know yourself and your own truths always with honesty, humility and integrity.

Spiritual aspects of oneself manifesting through artistic expression prior to the manifesting in the heart and mind:

I believe this subject may have been lightly touched upon earlier in another section or on another page, but I will reiterate my statement before to be safe.

I believe it is possible for otherkin to foreshadow aspects of their spirituality artistically or emotionally in certain traits prior to awakening, in ways such as always drawing dragons, or having a preference towards fantasy books with a dragon hero, etcetera. In my understanding the spirit may seek familiarity, it likely inherently knows what it was or what it wants even before our human consciousness does.

In that regard, it should not be assumed that you have simply gone mad when one strays from seeking dragons through artistic expression, to eventually proclaiming yourself to have been one spiritually, rather you may have always been one and the interests you portrayed in the past were simply an extension of your inner spirit seeking to reach out to your conscious mind.

In short, perhaps you liked dragons, or related with your kintype so much, because you were one and the only difference between the time when you longed for dragons and with your present beliefs wherein you may now claim to have been your kintype, is that you now believe you understand the rationalization for those odd traits where in the past they were just odd habits or desires of yours.

The importance of nature and relaxation:

This world we live on easily has the potential to be a stressful and painful world of hurt and negativity, most of us are surrounded by needless and irrational drama, capable of putting any television soap opera to shame. Face it, this world of human social norms and conditioning is tedious, from school to employment, to marriage to retirement and so on, there is the potential for constant and needless drama and stress.

As well, problems in life don't tend to go away either, most of the time they just get worse, or are replaced by new concerns, it is the way of this world, you may have once existed as a dragon who slept, hunted, flew around, had a mate, and did not do much else while living in a carefree feral lifestyle, but in this reality things are different. Unless you are wealthy, there is not much you can do to change things, this life may be difficult and may consist of day to day struggles and pains.

So, how do we cope with this world of mendacity, needless negativity and distractions? The answer is simple, I suggest we escape from time to time, get outside for perhaps an hour or find a quiet place to listen to music, perhaps seek creative expression, games, friends and family. Pursue regularly whatever calming activity may best serve to rest your mind and help you to relax at the end of a long day. A good method to avoid being beaten and battered by the stresses of this world is to seek nature, or to find a personal refuge to get away from and to rest from time to time.

Do what you can to get out to nature more, go camping for a weekend, go hiking when possible or perhaps visit a beach or lake on occasion if you can, consider taking a quiet nap under the shade of a

tree even. You may be amazed how much relaxing in nature can help. Consider breaks to abstain from social media and the judgment of others, assign time to rest after school, work, or any other strenuous daily work and strive to find some time to just relax outdoors for a while, watch a sunset if you can and just lounge for a while. It is completely acceptable to take a break from life once in a while.

It simply helps to get outside, reside in the energies and feelings of being away from it all and just spend some time watching the clouds or the stars at night, listening to the waves lap the shore, the birds in the forest, the coyotes in the desert, or the pigeons on your lawn. Just get outside and rest from time to time, even if it is simply once a week, or month, please try it, it may truly help to calm your mind and spirit.

If you feel or believe you were not always human then of course it will be reinvigorating to take a vacation from the human lifestyle and to rest, however brief that rest may be. Find and discover what works best for your needs, what experiences and methods worked for me, may not always work for you.

The importance of art and creativity:

Depending on your perception of your beliefs and knowledge or your connection to your prior or perceived form, you may potentially miss that form a lot, who wouldn't miss flying around or causing havoc on another world or reality? Who wouldn't long for a lost relationship or for memories of a forgotten life? Unfortunately we are all eventually reminded of the harsh fact that those realities and forms are lost and long gone, there is no going back to them.

However, through artistic expression, drawing, writing, poetry, game design, role playing, creative video collages and so forth, we can at least in a sense seek to portray ourselves as we perceive we may have once been. Through art we can attempt to connect with what we have lost, through the creation or observation of artistic expression of that which we feel we once were or may still feel like on the inside we may feel a sense of inner peace.

I encourage that if you have the skill, please follow your inspirations and use them to draw, write, and read, create often and whenever you can and whenever your heart calls you to do so. If you lack the time or skills to create artistic works easily on your own, I would encourage you to seek the creativity of others. Art has the potential to strengthen our connection and give us a balance in the expression of what we feel like inside.

In summation, I encourage you to draw, write, and generally create! Failing that, please go search for an immense amount of art over the internet and see if or how it stimulates your beliefs!

I believe I may have incarnated into many forms and lives - dragons, dolphins, kitsunes, you name it. Am I different?

For this question, I will simply refer to my speculation of the nature of the spirit from my own antiquated website. Let us assume that all existence, spiritual or not, has resulted through the will of an

eternal omnipotent being. As well, let us consider that the energy of this being exists in all forms and mechanisms throughout existence, let us also speculate that through this eternal being, sentience was given to energy in the form of a conscious spirit or soul and that physical forms were created and evolved to house, teach, and grow these souls.

With each physical death the soul would return to the energy of its creator, compile and assess its wisdom from lessons learned in a life and then return to a new physical form to repeat a path of growth. If such an entity had designed said process, the purpose of life I would imagine is perhaps that each soul incarnate and transition between multiple forms throughout the physical universe so as to learn of what it means to live, to experience, to love, to die and to repeat in numerous successive journeys. In my spiritual understanding, physical reality is like an MMO video game, all life forms are like avatars or characters and our individual spirits are like an external consciousness repeatedly alternating between different bodies and different lives.

Perhaps to protect each new individual experience of existing in each new form, it would be considered proper for the soul to have a temporary or spiritual amnesia to separate its knowledge of other lives while existing in each new form. Through these means, the experiences and memories of the last life would not conflict with the experiences of the new one. A comparable example would be how in the classical Greco-Roman understanding of death, Romans and Greeks would drink from the River Styx and forget their lives. It could easily be considered or assumed that as each new form's brain would not have the memory or mechanics of the soul's prior form within it, each new brain or life would only have memories of the life currently in progress, the entire past or memories of a prior life cannot likely carry over to a new physical form.

But what if select souls that have progressed through many lives over time perhaps gain the power to carry over some of the knowledge of prior existences? What if the soul can, through successive existences, learn to somehow subtly reach out to teach its present body's mind about its own past? This possibility is one of the underlying concepts of an otherkin awakening, that the mind does not have the experiences of being another form, but that our soul perhaps retains some of those memories. Perhaps with spiritual exercise, our souls could over time remind the conscious mind of select or emotionally driven events.

If this theory is true, and if we can awaken to one form or life, let's say a dragon for example, why is it not equally possible to delve deeper into self-discovery and gradually awaken to evidence of an another even later life? Perhaps a different dragon, but one of the opposite gender? Or a dolphin? Or cat? A human in a different era of time and so on in an endless line? If the spirit can have the remnants and traits of one existence, then it is equally possible that it can retain the remnants and traits of multiple others experienced throughout its spiritual evolution.

So, yes, it is feasible to have multiple awakenings and not to be insane, your first awakening was perhaps simply the most dominant or noticeable one, as it was possibly the most recent shape that your spirit had formerly adapted or resided in prior to the body and life you have now.

The spirit in my speculation is in nature formless, androgynous, and capable of boundless potential. With existing in a form of conscious energy, it could feasibly retain knowledge of all identities and memories from every physical life or form it has experienced. However, to learn of other incarnations while in a physical form, there is a need to find a method of spiritual experimentation or meditation in order to access such aspects or traits. In that sense, it can become difficult and a struggle to access the knowledge of your higher or inner self.

At this time, I would like to pause to write an important disclaimer. I feel like I am presenting myself too spiritually, and would like to remind that these are simply my views and personal opinions. Always remember to use your own common sense and to maintain a rational inquisitive mindset in dealing with such things. Question everything, be introspective and thoroughly consider psychological alternatives, please try to balance subjective reality with what is in your heart and what you feel in your mind and spirit. In all that you do, use wisdom and strive to always back up your claims and feelings, never give in to direct assumptions and try always to avoid delusions or falling for falsehoods.

Music and Otherkin:

I have found over the years that one way in which I can feel more spiritually attuned to my kintype is to listen to music that reflects my mood or emotions at a particular moment, or to listen to music that reminds me of my perceived incarnation's prior life. I have also noticed an even deeper emotional connection towards my spirituality while listening to music with a personal meaning, while also drawing, searching for artwork, or searching for themed music videos featuring my kintype.

I believe listening to music can allow us to express and connect better to our emotions and feelings, it gets us wired and active, or can help us to relax and unwind, depending on the music. In any case, please consider striving to integrate music with your spirituality, especially if you are down, you may be surprised how much it might help.

On a personal level, nothing makes me feel better more than simply going on a walk into the wilderness with some epic music to listen to. Doing such generally helps me to rest my mind, so to speak. But then, remember, what is right for me may not necessarily be right for you, so as always please simply explore for yourself. Remember that growth in one's spiritual path is always a personal experience, do what is right for your own needs and desires.

Otherkin Psychology, relating to the familiar, a calling for your kind:

It seems perfectly reasonable and rational, that as individuals who identify as something other than human, we may tend to relate more with creatures and forms which are more attuned to our kintype. For example, a dragonkin would likely relate with reptile pets such as snakes and monitor lizards, more than they would with the typical dog or cat. For another example, such an individual may possibly be more enthused or impressed by reptile characters or reptilian representations in the media than they would be by none reptile or the standard human characters.

Likewise, an otherkin who identifies as a unicorn, pegasus or some other equine form would likely be drawn to horses. It would be natural for otherkin to relate with what is familiar to them on a spiritual or self-identifying level. It seems only logical that if otherkin once existed in different lives or as more instinctual creatures we would be drawn more to that which they identify with.

In that regard, it might not be surprising for dragonkin to purchase a large snake or reptile as a pet, or an equine-kin to purchase, rent or care for horses of some sort and so forth, depending on kintypes and how they identify with associated creatures. However, like in all things, there is a need for balance and moderation with how much we may associate with subjects that remind us of our kintypes. There are

obvious limits, common sense is important and discretion should be obvious. In defense of us kin who are fans of or interested in interacting different or more exotic pets, it may simply be nature for us, to each their own.

Channeling the draconic mind and body, a mental exercise for self-affirmation and spiritual growth:

One thing that seems very liberating to do as otherkin is to visualize the form of your inner identity overlapping your physical form, similar to the phantom limb phenomena discussed before, but purposeful and self-induced.

As a mental or spiritual exercise, clear your mind and visualize the form of your kintype overlapping your human form, with all its minute details, the limbs, the traits, a tail if one exists, horns, fur or feathers or scales, what have you. If it is a different gender then of course visualize the obvious, but overall take on the form imaginary or spiritually and see how it feels.

It can be an interesting and fun exercise to visualize shifting between your physical and spiritual identities. As well, try to get into the mind or instincts of the form, the actions and mannerisms, have fun with it!

But just like in all things, this is just a little toy, a meditation or spiritual exercise with little to no physical basis, obviously moderation and balance is key, please don't go off the deep end or do something stupid in result, stay well and have fun!

Psychological alternatives to being otherkin:

To create all of these writings, it would be biased and dangerous not to at least keep an open mind to the obvious psychological alternatives. As far as society is concerned we are all confused or unstable in some form, spiritually or otherwise and as hard as it may be to think such, we must at least to some extent keep an open mind to the idea that we may be wrong.

(Escapism) - It could be possible, that for some of us, our claim to being otherkin is the result of a subconscious or conscious need to escape from the pains or responsibilities of this life, that for some of us who have lived harsh existences, or have low faith in humanity, we may simply desire to relate to something other than human.

In the end, we may have created a false reality or belief system to elevate us to a different level. While justifying such actions in spiritual terms, we subconsciously may be striving to relate to another form other than human simply to escape the pains that we experience as humans ourselves.

(Ego) - As well, either consciously or subconsciously, it may simply be our egos. Some of us may have formulated our beliefs as a means to combat low self-esteem or poor self-image, feeling that if we could identify as something more powerful or magical, we could fill a personal void or strengthen our

personal self-image.

For some it may very well just be a power trip, that as we are otherkin, perhaps it gives us a false sense of pride in the idea that we are different and special, we are something magical in a world of mendacity. That we are superior because we are not like the others who exist in mendacity around us.

(Desire) - For some, perhaps it is just a desire to be something that they relate to. Somebody may reflect upon Draco from *Dragonheart*, or Saphira from *Eragon*, Toothless from *How to Train your Dragon*, or perhaps read the books from *Wings of Fire* or the *Age of Fire* series or some other popular dragon centric media, and then thought to themselves “I wish I could be a dragon” and then through a strong desire to be like that creature, formulated a character or persona of similar design then created a back story and laid claim to the idea that he or she was actually that self-created character or persona.

For some, being otherkin could just be a complex role play identity that has gotten completely out of hand, the claimants, falling into illusions and separating fact from reality while having such ideas negatively reinforced by groupthink, enabled and spread by others on the internet who are following obscure and foolhardy beliefs based on irrational and improbable claims with pseudo spiritual and philosophical underpinnings.

(Delusion) - As well, for some, being otherkin could always be the result of emotional and mental misinformation and false assumptions brought about by their own personal delusions and falsehoods in association to neural, hormonal or chemical imbalances in their brains. Overall, there are countless ways for society and psychologists to call our beliefs in being otherkin or a broader claim of being trans-species as a mental disorder, it's really quite easy and rational to judge us when considered from an external perspective.

The only thing that we can truly do to avoid hostile or negative social assumptions about our collective, is to individually strive to personally rule out escapism, ego, and desire as factors in our personal beliefs while focusing on the spiritual, logical or philosophical aspects. We must always strive to be honest and rational in our personal interpretations of our individual paths.

As well, we as otherkin should strive to live and socially express ourselves in a way in which our beliefs do not negatively affect who we are on a social level, we should always be striving for maturity and forward progression while continuing to seek to know ourselves in honesty to our perceptions and inner spirits.

We must always be opened minded to the fact that we could in the end be wrong or deluded, the possibility exists, but we cannot dwell solely on the negatives, fears, or self-doubts, all we can truly do is trust in our spirits, do our best to introspect, maintain integrity and follow our hearts!

Identifying as Otherkin, a Healthy Skepticism:

Let me be honest, over the years I have been a very questionable influence on others, I had advised from the worldview of a pantheist, a free-spirited “flowers and sunshine” hippy with a very liberal view of spirituality and self-perception. I did not really call for much logic or rationality from others and

before the creation of the social media platform Tumblr and the arrival of “Tumblr'kin.” I was, in the past, somewhat of a spiritual enabler. “Find your own path, do whatever feels right, just don't be a fictionkin!” I was a king of fluff, the self-proclaimed dragon pope and until fairly recently I more or less blindly encouraged any pursuit of spirituality and magick whether it was real or simply self-generated perceptions. In an infinite multiverse comprised of energy and spirit, who was I to disagree with anyone's claims? That “anything goes” enabling attitude created a lot of trouble for me and others over the years.

I wrote the above self-reflection mostly to remind or alert you, the reader, that I have always leaned more towards a pantheist or multiverse spirituality coupled with the concept that anything is possible. Therefore, I wish to warn of my tendency to be sort of an enabler of others' perceptions, be they real or false. I share this confession so that you can be aware of my own preconceived biases and to reiterate that there are definite rational alternatives to being otherkin, that it is safe and very important to be skeptical at times.

For the most part, you know what is best and true for you and your life. I do not wish to get too heavily involved, to each their own. However, if you as otherkin never did seem to have any memories or strong associations, such as for example, you just had a few subjective experiences but never came to anything conclusive, or if you consider yourself overburdened and stressed by possible perceived or subjective experiences while lacking any rational evidence, then identifying as otherkin can tend to become quite an emotional obstruction.

As well, a concern for all of us is that from an outside perspective a lot of being otherkin can and will be considered questionable at best and to any outside observer who may hear of the concept of “otherkin” they would obviously be skeptical, so it is only natural that you would and should at times in life be skeptical yourself.

But, it is these times of questioning that separate otherkin from those who simply had a failed understanding in their personal self-awareness. There is nothing wrong with a healthy skepticism or a questioning of one's understanding of self. It's what prevents delusion and it is better to have lived a fantasy and discovered truth than to have remained in a deluded fantasy and never lived the present life.

In as such, for this segment, things will hopefully be different than my usual idealistic “flowers and sunshine” writings. Typically, I mentor newly awakened kin who have stumbled upon my works, often they are teens and young adults trying to figure themselves out and typically, I tend to say to otherkin who are questioning, “Stay the course, the truth will make itself known in time!” But lately, I have come to learn that many I meet may need to hear otherwise at times.

So for yourself, listen. You may have had a long run with your beliefs, or perhaps you just encountered them, you may have experienced friendships inside and outside of those beliefs that others in society could never know of, you may have encountered unique and exciting philosophies and the friends and experiences you have made may last a lifetime.

But in the end, being otherkin is an unsubstantiated subjective perception based on personal sensations and emotion, it creates a unique and enticing reality, but in the long run, it can be a distraction from this life, a life that we all share in a rough and unstable world that must be lived to the fullest.

That said, if being otherkin is stressing you out or harming things in your daily life, perhaps lay it to rest for a time, stay the course of humanity, focus on the life that you are in, relieve yourself of the

burdens, trials, and dramas of spirituality and simply relish in the sensations and memories of the past when or if the desires demand. Carry on the associations and friendships made, but move on with life as it is and see where it goes. If things are meant to be otherwise and you are undeniably otherkin, then your spirit, the higher self, whatever, by its very nature will most definitely make it known to you one way or the other in the future. The truest evidence for being otherkin are the assumptions or sensations that do not end when you cease believing in them.

As well, there may be times in life when it is simply for the best to distance yourself from spirituality and look at things from an external lens for a while. Countless older otherkin have left their spirituality at one point or another, for some the path was real and undeniable and the identity came back to them in later years. Many would agree that a skeptical break is healthy, it sets your life in perspective. If you are truly otherkin or therian or what have you, then taking a break will not change that, but sometimes life needs your attention in the present rather than in the past. Reality needs your focus in the now, sometimes it can be too distracting to focus on what may have once been.

To conclude, it is healthy to doubt and it is healthy to take a break sometimes. Just remember to always remain true to yourself and know in your heart that everything will be as it is meant to be. If you should find in time that you were wrong about being otherkin, it is not the end, you can at least say that you have been through a lot and experienced a different take on things that most others would never have known. If nothing else, it is a unique knowledge and worldview to have even been involved in such a diverse and wondrous community. Regardless of outcome, always be true to your spirit, honor yourself and be free to create your future with magick and pride!

Good luck to you and may your path lead to greatness
regardless of where the road of time may lead.

SUB SECTION

HEAD MATES / SPIRIT GUIDES

So I happen to have some spirit guides or head mates:

Sometimes some otherkin may be visited by sentient consciousnesses during the course of their early awakenings, not always, but it happens for some. Either through personal effort to call such entities forth, or by random chance. I had also noted that a few tend to have spiritual companions or guides throughout their early awakenings, be they truly spiritual entities or multiple dissociative personalities, they commonly tend to help immensely in a variety of ways and provide deep and compassionate companionship to the individuals in question.

Often times, these guides or head mates will communicate as separate sentient minds within ones conscious thoughts, as well as through imaginary images of them which may be accompanied outside one's body. Overall these entities exist very similar to imaginary friends, only they are vastly more useful and seem to exist typically for support and companionship.

Although I had a couple myself in my youth, (Jafira / Veltra) I inevitably discovered that they were imaginary projections or aspects of my own personality. I loved them at the time of their existence so I am somewhat protective of the concept, but I must stress that personal and introspective honesty must be kept a priority in one's personal path. In all things we need to seek balance and truth. If you have head mates, question them often.

The source of head mates or guides is subjective and open to speculation, perhaps they are external spirits called to you through a personal effort, perhaps they are self created sentient entities of your own spirit such as servitors or tulpas created of your own will for support or companionship. Perhaps, worse case scenario they are our own inane imagination and delusions, though I assure you, ask your guides and they will deny up and down they are delusions, fun how that works.

Regardless of their origins, be they temporary external manifestations of your own spirit, or be they free roaming entities come to assist you, it does not matter. Source and origin are less relevant than rather their purpose. Try to acknowledge their purpose and adapt your understandings around that, if they are negative entities get rid of them promptly, If they are helpful, accept them as cherished friends and work and learn from them as long as they choose to remain.

From what I have observed and experienced with so called head mates, regardless of whether they originated from your own spirit and energies or as outside entities, inevitably in time they will move on. Those who originated from your own personality or spirit will, in time, after their purpose is fulfilled, return to your spirit and merge as one whole again. Those entities called to assist you from external origin, likewise will eventually move on as well.

So if you are lucky enough to obtain some friendly head mates or unseen allies in your early awakenings, cherish them and treat them well so long as they remain, question them often and question yourself as necessary, but never forget what they have to teach you.

For the record, there is obviously a very important need to introspect the possibility of the psychological

alternatives to the spirit/servitor/tulpa explanations, in the form of dissociative disorders. I advise you to thoroughly look into this alongside the obvious possibility of an overactive imagination while in your quest to maintain an open mind and to see all angles. Remember, in all things, always question and know yourself.

Head Mates / Spirit Guides / Tulpamancing :

In brief summation, these are some possible spiritual and occult explanations.

Back when I was experiencing the above referenced phenomena back in the late 90's early 2000's there was to the best of my knowledge no agreed upon term. As the digital otherkin culture was generally more spiritually oriented "spirit guides" or "guardian dragons" were the terminology that I chose to use for my own possible head mates. To the outside observer they would best be described as, or considered to be, imaginary friends.

I had two in my late teens and early twenties, my guardian dragons "Jafira" and "Veltra." In retrospective hindsight they honestly seemed to have been partitioned aspects of my consciousness. For example, I am very shy, so I perhaps subconsciously gathered up the most extroverted aspects of my personality and projected them into a unique identity called Jafira, a playful green dragon who I could tap into for advice when socializing. I likewise feared that I was ignorant, so I think I may have subconsciously gathered many of my wise and introspective traits and projected them into an elderly yellow dragon called Veltra, whom I could then tap into during exams or when presenting to others.

I created these two headmates without cognitively trying. They simply "appeared" one day in my teens and I did not question it. Whenever I got a new dragon pendant I had a tendency to subconsciously personalize it, to give the object a spirit or identity and then whenever I would wear the piece of jewelry I would often have those dragons with me, so for me the phenomena happened naturally and I did not honestly question or introspect too deeply upon how or why.

In hindsight, these two dragons or headmates from my past coincide with an occult working called Tulpa's, or Servitors. These are spiritual entities created of one's own spiritual energy, sometimes shaped from their personality or formed by their intentions and will. These entities can supposedly be created on purpose or by accidental means. They are also not self sustaining entities. In time, if you do not spend time with them, empower them, interact with them, or acknowledge them, they will eventually absorb into you, fade or vanish. This need for long-term interaction is also generally true for head mates, so there is a lot of crossover happening.

To understand a head mate, please imagine a sentient free roaming imaginary friend, it can project invisibly outside you and you can see it with your mind's eye, but it is connected to you and exists as a separate mind within your own, sharing your body and taking turns at the wheel perhaps like a willing spiritual possession. The bond and friendship is symbiotic in nature it exists within your mind. That is why the phenomena are called "head mates", it is a play on room mates, you have another entity living in your head with you. Although this entity in the end is most commonly your own spirit or mind. From personal experiences I like to think of them as a sort of partition of ones consciousness, a partition running another operating system to switch or link to interactively.

For those involved in occult practices, head mates may also be considered summoned spiritual guides

who exist externally and who are meant to assist an individual in their path. However, as with the tulpa, servitor and alternative variants, if you ignore or do not feed them with faith and attention, they will typically leave you.

Head mates are in my opinion very difficult to speculate upon, they are subjective and based on faith. Because on one angle, "Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away." But on the other side of the coin, if you were a spirit and your friend ignored you and insisted you did not exist, would you not gradually over time give up in defeat and sadly move on? Head mates, their presence and their eventual absence is therefore all subjective and based on faith. They have so much in common with imaginary friends, but they seem so self aware, so they can be quite complicated.

I have shared the possible spiritual and occult explanations. However, I sincerely wish to encourage deep speculation and heavy introspection into the possible psychological alternatives. In all you do, question everything, know yourself and never cease to learn and grow.

Psychological alternative to guides or head mates:

Before I continue with this subject I must add an obvious disclaimer that I am just some guy with a computer. I am not a professional in mental health nor am I in any conceivable way an authority on these matters. I do not know everything about what the heck I am talking about or what I am doing, I will just be pointing out what seems like common sense explanations as best as I can personally determine. So again, I am not an expert, theologian or a psychiatrist, this is all just personal opinion.

As I had stated in earlier writings, sometimes otherkin may be visited by what can best be described as sentient external or internal consciousness during the course of their awakenings. Not always, but it happens for some, and occurs either through personal effort to call such entities forth, or by random chance. Having these experiences does not make anyone "more otherkin" than anyone else.

For the purpose of disclosure, I may write with a slight bias, as again, I was once such an individual and have had experience with these types of entities. (or cognitive dissociations, depending.) My head mates consisted of a green dragon called "Jafira" and a yellow dragon I called "Veltra." I, perceiving myself to have been the reincarnation of a black dragon known as Korageth, had simply assumed that Jafira and Veltra were the spirits of two other dragons which whom I as Korageth had once encountered in my prior life. My own experience with these possible spirit guides is a complicated fluff story best saved for another time, the two dragons eventually moved on, and became a part of me as I matured.

Often times, these supposed head mates or spiritual companions will communicate as separate sentient minds, personalities, or thought processes within, but separate from, the individual's own conscious thoughts. Overall, these additional consciousness are similar in nature to what are often assumed to be imaginary friends, only these entities are often more useful, tending to be self aware and portraying a more mature demeanor. From my own experience they provide a powerful source of assistance, support and companionship to the individual experiencing the phenomena.

In regards to the possibility of spiritual guides or companions, the two most obvious alternatives to the spiritual explanation are both quite simple. I would assume that the primary school of thought regarding those of us otherkin who claim to have contact with spiritual companions is that we are in fact falling prey to delusion and simply do indeed have some mid-adolescent or adult form of

imaginary friends that we have never grown out of.

Perhaps as well head mates could exist as a form of coping, to assist an individual during trying or difficult times in their life. Their presence would allow the experiencer to assess difficulties from varied internal and external perspectives and then to calculate the most rational actions based on a dissociative internal democracy.

It is very easy to pass spiritual guides off as a variant of imaginary friends and this may in fact be true, as much like I stated above, they tend to serve all the same purposes and meet the same needs that imaginary friends would traditionally be known for, such as companionship, assistance, moral support, and so forth.

Another explanation may be the possibility of a dissociative identity, where someone may have created alternate sentient personalities which they can alternate between or communicate and associate with. Both the explanations of psychological dissociation or the imaginary friend theory can potentially be associated with other aspects of otherkinism and the possibility of escapism, be it consciously or subconsciously.

This has just been a very brief and rudimentary look at the two most likely alternatives to the spiritual explanation. As stated earlier, I am no expert on this, I am not a psychologist. I just used what seemed like the most common sense explanations, I am sure that there are many more alternatives as well which I have missed. As well I likely have a butchered or unenlightened understanding of dissociative disorders, perhaps you should check into further personal research to be sure that I was not being ignorant in my writings.

Overall though, I am not here to debunk anything, I just wished to briefly give equal time and balance to both the alternatives as well as to the spiritual explanation. We can not be honest with ourselves unless we have first at least looked at or considered both sides of an equation and then determined for ourselves what is right for us on a personal or individual level. We are all entitled to our paths and beliefs. It is up to you, the individual, to consider both sides and choose what is right to your perceptions and beliefs. Be wise, honest, introspective and seek always to find your own truth.

Summary:

In my past when I was experiencing those imaginary companions I could never deny that they were real and as free willed as any other physical friend, they were simply trapped in my mind. Since having lost them, I can clearly see the psychological crutch that they may have been and how they were likely self created manifestations.

I would betray my youth to say that they were not insanely important to me in my past and that they were spiritual to my self perception at the time. But as an adult I am also equally skeptical and fear that they were frankly imaginary friends, characters given false life drawn from my own attributes.

I will remain 50/50 to their validity and helpfulness, but I wished to do my best to warn others to differentiate between "head mates" and possible personality disorders or schizophrenia. Frankly, head mates are like imaginary friends, they are helpful and generally harmless. Whereas the voices experienced in true personality disorders or schizophrenia are much more uncontrollable, chaotic,

hostile and sporadic in nature. Please seek to differentiate and do seek professional counseling if experiences or sensations become violent, hostile or out of hand.

SECTION IV

USEFUL ADVICE FOR DRAGONKIN / OTHERKIN

(These are snippets and comments I had saved from past discussions with others)

Regarding the Pursuit of Draconity and Otherkin Beliefs:

"In regards to your newfound spirituality, take it slow, relax and don't dive in too quickly. Meditate and relax on the matter, let the feelings, memories, sensations, whatever need happen, happen slowly. That way you can gain from and acknowledge each new experience individually rather than in a rush, you will learn more and grow better that way. Remember, the spirit knows what it is, even if the mind does not. Learn a bit at a time, with each day a new journey."

"Draconity is about faith and spiritual growth, therein like any other belief, all we can do is learn as we go and make the necessary corrections as needed."

"It seems that a fictional character may manifest as a spiritual aspect down the line, and have the same name, but not personality or appearance, it just seems feasible that an inner part of one's spirit or subconscious memory may attempt to manifest part of itself through our creative works."

"But! In regards to having a fictional character being a part of who you really are, one important thing to remember is that there is a fine line between fantasy and reality, it is possible, theoretical, and may happen on rare occasion, but such beliefs require immense amounts of personal honesty and soul searching in order to be certain that it is truly the case, most often it is not."

"Whether being otherkin is possible or not is yet to be determined, it could be simple self-delusion, or real, it is the same with magick, religious faith and any other variety of metaphysics or philosophy, it is all relative to one's individual perceptions."

“As said, it is simply perception, I cannot state anything metaphysical as fact, it is all relative, just what I as an individual have perceived and experienced.”

“In regards to guides and spiritual companions, the important thing is, regardless of origin, be it from within or not, they are here to help us and guide us through this life and that is what matters most, though we may not always have all the answers, they are here with us on this journey.”

“My awakening(s) were sporadic and often times tense, there were many bouts were I would shift between acceptance and denial. There were many occasions in my past when my spiritual beliefs gave me pride and strength, others when they brought me down and to the brink of insanity, there were times in which they helped and times in which they were my greatest threat.”

“But as a result of my draconity and unique spirituality in general, I have had and witnessed experiences that most in the mundane side of life would never have experienced or known. Despite the heartaches and mistakes of my past and present, through all the fluff and spiritual self-exploration, pain and lessons, I would gladly do such again at a moment’s notice. I shudder to think of what and who I would be if I had not awakened as I had, if I was not at least in mind or spirit, a dragon.”

“If you should find yourself in falsehood, hit the reset button, start over from scratch to your earliest evidence of draconity and build upon it slowly, reforming your own personal truths on perceived fact, and do not fear the results no matter how uncomfortable it may be, remember it is important above all else, to seek truth over delusion, and approach with patience and confidence in what you are in your heart and soul.”

“When my original draconic beliefs collapsed from advert falsehood, I was devastated, but I slowly rebuilt my belief on a strong basis of what I knew in my heart to be true, it was not as epic or fantastical as my original beliefs, but it was based on the perceived truth in my heart, and I could be confident that no matter what, I knew who and what I was, and that I was a black western dragon, if nothing else, then in spirit.”

"I have observed that someone who may meditate or search within themselves often, would be more likely to connect with a possible spiritual experience, whereas someone who is not spiritually introspective may never awaken to any spiritual influence, or may awaken much later in life after triggering a spiritual connection by chance or external influence."

“Through my awakenings and spiritual growth I have met people and learned things I could never possibly have imagined, far from the benign expectations of life in modern society, I have danced with witches, studied under shamans, learned of deity and our creator through unique perspectives, I have had unique pains and trials that most average individuals could not comprehend or would seldom consider, and these have made my life, though tumultuous, incredibly and uniquely awesome.”

"I started working to separate fact from fiction, learned not to make up my draconity as I went, but to rather search myself deeply to best understand my beliefs. Lastly I learned that draconity requires a lot of faith, as unlike other beliefs it is not well accepted by most individuals, it is best to be discerning who you tell. But it is also, as I learned, something that you cannot run away from without causing a good extent of pain in the process. The most important thing I learned is that it is a never ending journey of self-discovery"

“It is important to visit nature, not for fallacious experiments to return home for our lost loved ones and families, nor to return to our perceived true forms, but rather, to simply remember who and what we are, that we are different, and to know we have a place where we can be different, nature becomes a portal to our homelands not in the physical sense, but rather an emotional and spiritual sense, there, at those locations we are safe from the pains and judgments of this world, if only for a little while, we can be free to be that which we truly are.”

"Remember, not everyone will accept everything, do not cause yourself undue harm needlessly, recall that what is rational to some, will be irrational to others, we each exist in our own reality, study how others may interact and if it will be right for you, speak only that which they should know or will understand, your spirituality is most relevant to yourself, others need not know your deepest truths unless the others are trustworthy or you wish them known."

Your spiritual identity is not your world, it is only a single aspect of the greater picture of who you are, do not cling to a life now perished, so much so that you miss out on the experiences, joys and lessons of this present life.

Regarding Metaphysics:

(In my youth I used to dabble in the occult)

“Once during a ritual at 11pm Nov 11th 2003, there was a deafening explosion in the sky above me, I

was so shocked it snapped the reality back into me. That is the point, that I humbled myself and matured to respect that I was but a child, we cannot know all that there is to know, we exist to learn, to live, to experience our individual realities, unfettered arrogance and pride will only bring only negative results.”

“Rituals in my perception are unnecessary, they are simply a method of focusing intent is all, when working with energy or magick, the importance is to focus on your intention, you need to focus solely on your will for a desired result to occur, rituals are just one of many methods of focusing your intention or will to manifest.”

“I have a staff with a crystal on it, the staff is a focus point for my energy, if I focus my thoughts into it, I can then focus my intention through the staff to obtain a desired effect. The staff itself is just wood and a stone, but it is used as a tool to focus my will through, hand gestures can work just as easily, so too, a pendant or a ring, an athame, or anything else so long as you can focus your will and intent to obtain the desired effect.”

“Remember: real or not, tulpa's: “self-created or external spiritual beings” will only remain so long as they are needed, it is the intention for the companionship that keeps their presence strong, with strong doubts they will leave or be drawn back to your spirit, with intent they are strong, but inevitably in all things you must eventually grow into self-reliance, cherish them while there are present, but know that one day they must set you free.”

“Spells, are simply a poetic tool to manifest intent, in the case of spells you are just focusing your intention through words and rhythm.”

“Once the door to spirituality and ethereal energy has been opened, it is fairly hard to turn a blind eye and go back to the way things once were, all things exist of an energy, once one becomes aware of such, one is driven to learn more of it. That's all I can say really.”

“All I can give as advice to you or any others, is to always be honest with your spirituality, question that which you know, have the experience or evidence to back up the basis of your perceptions, never stop exploring your inner self, seek the questions to who and what you are, always seek to know your place, and never cease to learn.”

Regarding Life In General:

“Through constructive criticism is how we grow, it is just a matter of keeping the trolls out of the mix.”

“Remember that we will likely awaken to that which will benefit us most when we need it the most, one thing at a time, a little bit at a time, always be patient as what you believe this year may not be what you believe a year from now, don't fear to change your perceptions or admit that you were wrong, but do insure that it is what is true for you, and not what others would want to be true for you. Remember always, meditate, explore, know yourself, and never cease to learn.”

"Though the use of all of your available resources you can become the person you wish to be, through your will and determination you can make all things possible, you can shape your world as you see fit, you can aid others, you can teach others, and you can learn from others. While external forces will work to bring you down, you can always draw strength from inside and that makes you infinitely strong against the woes of life. Remember that no matter what may happen, or what had occurred in the past, your spirit will always love you and will always be there to give you strength from within."

"Cheer up, and realize that pain only exists if you allow it to, by dwelling on the past and the negatives of the present you deny yourself foresight to the positives ahead."

"Instead of dwelling on what could have been, or what should be, instead focus on what can be, remember that your destiny is not predetermined, but only placed on a path, if you choose to follow that path then you allow for mendacity to rule you, but if you stray off that path and create your own, you then can control your own destiny. Thereby live each day as if it were your last, create your own path in life, seek adventure, ignore pain and find laughter in all things."

"Nobody simply wakes up with all the answers about themselves and the world around them, by this I mean we have all been confused at one point or another, it's only natural."

"In a church, one has the benefit that everyone has the same core principles and perceptions of reality and belief, but in regards to individual spirituality, it is different, each individual has their own personal perception of what is right for them, sometimes it may conflict with what is right for others, that doesn't mean that either party is wrong, it just means that they are on different spiritual paths, separate journeys."

"I have learned that, when I'm placed in a situation where my spiritual perceptions are challenged, the best that I can do is state sincerely what I believe and the basis behind it, that every spirit exists on its own journey, and that this is my own, it may not be the same as yours, but we can strive to avoid that which divides us, and embrace that which we have in common."

"Most problems are temporary, they only remain because you dwell on them. Live each day anew and leave the past where it belongs, try to always focus on the present and the future, because they are what matter most in the long run. Don't ever be afraid to vent, it doesn't make you weak, only giving up will do that. Through support you will find you are not alone and that others can relate, through example you can learn that there is hope for a better tomorrow."

"Do not take my words as gospel, people are too quick to seek truth in others, do not believe others so readily, but rather, rely on your heart and own critical thinking to determine what is true or false. First listen to others, then decide for yourself, be both skeptic and open minded, self-reliant and true to what you may choose to believe."

Respect your elders, and avoid fluff, if you don't know ask around, stay true to your perceptions, but do not cling to falsehoods, always be in search of the truth in all things, most adamantly, the truth of your inner being.

"As a dragon you are unique in mind and spirit, you are special in your beliefs and experience an enhanced view on life, stretch your wings and fly with pride."

"Dragons, masters of the past flying through dreams that will always last, I await that day when they'll return as I awaken to the knowledge which I still must learn."

"May the spirit of the dragon live on in all who believe."

SECTION FIVE

ADDENDUEMS- Jafira's Otherkin Advice Letters

Letter Topic: Am I Otherkin?:

An approximate Question that I once received consisted of: “My friend thinks I may be dragonkin and I have felt some phantom wings on occasion do you think I might be otherkin?”

Well, the thing with being otherkin is unlike being a furry or assuming a fictional identity it is kind of something you grow into, you typically either are or are not (at varying degrees of course, subject to the personal experiences discovered during awakening or realization) but the point is, that being otherkin is not something that can be externally declared by a friend or a psychic or whatever. It is something that you tend to discover on your own over the years and as you grow and mature. What the questioner experienced where phantom wings, which although experienced commonly by some otherkin can easily be manifested at will by anyone through concentration or imagination. Unfortunately phantom limbs can easily be attributed to placebo and when experienced alone are not necessarily a definite sign or proof of a spiritual shift of sorts.

Bottom line, if you are indeed some form of otherkin you would probably have already suspect it in one way or another. Albeit I cannot speak for everyone and I do not know the questioners individual age or circumstance. Personally I had suspicions of my own draconity or being otherkin beginning around the age of eight or nine, (partly triggered by receiving a dragon claw pendant). Early in my youth, roughly around the age of ten I had a pretty clear understanding that I wasn't normal, spiritually/mentally/emotionally and by my mid-teens I feel I pretty much knew for sure or at least in my heart that I was not the same spiritually/consciously as some of my peers. If say for example the questioner were in their mid-twenties or so and just now questioning, it is possible they may be caught up in the moment and I would advise them to be cautious or to approach the concept with personal introspection and patience. (Although I advise that for pursuing the concept of being otherkin in general honestly.)

If however the questioner is younger, then hey, who am I to say one way or the other? However please do not give into to impulse or fantasy, as mentioned above, do research, be introspective and most of all know yourself. The main thing is that you need to really look into your personal past and into your heart, if you were a dragon or an otherkin of some sort the signs would likely be there in segments throughout your life. For myself, I had a few recurring dreams or memories of possibly having been a dragon, I had an unnatural attraction to anything reptilian, and I was a bit animalistic in private when nobody was around to catch me or judge. I always had a natural affinity to metaphysics and the spiritual which was socially frowned upon, but was still an interest of mine which I attributed to having knowledge in my heart that this world and life was but one of many. Strange personal traits occurring like that early in youth are uncommon and abnormal, but are a good sign that there is more to your spirit or life than your present mind may know. (Though please be aware of possible psychological explanations or alternatives, be always honest with yourself and seek the truth in all things)

My primary advice would be to explore the matter. If you think you may be an otherkin, what evidence do you have? What type of dragon or kintype were you? What did you look like? What were you like? Why do you believe these things? Meditate on your self-understandings and question everything, don't rely solely on emotion or assumption and while exploring yourself, do not claim with certainty that you were one thing or another, remember that these beliefs are by their nature subjective and a matter of faith.

One's spirituality is subjective and individualistic and it is always changing as new facts are discovered, for example don't say for absolute certainty that you were one form of dragon or critter without first determining some kind of personal evidence to back it up, otherwise you might later discover that you were really some other type, form, spirit, gender or possibly not even an otherkin at all. Always be introspective and patient on this type of subject and matters of internal being.

To be safe, I always say that I “perceive” that I “may” have been a black dragon for the very fact that in the end, I cannot know for sure, otherkin is an unproven personal faith based belief. Everything is subjective and subject to later discoveries or knowledge as we all mature. I might find out later that I wasn't what I claimed to be in the past, so I try never to speak in absolutes. I sincerely believe that I might be otherkin, I feel strongly that I was, based on my subjective experiences and I will personally identify as a dragon or otherkin, but in the end, who knows? It's always best to be rational and to play it safe.

In all things, keep an open mind and have balance in your opinions. In the yin-yang of whether you were or were not an otherkin you have the black side of the yin which says you were once a dragon and you have the white side of the yang which says you were not a dragon. I would try to stay always adrift in that grey dividing line in the center until you have determined an answer with some certainty. Remember to have patience and balance in all things. Explore some of the communities online, be objective and rational, read what others experienced, see what your own heart and experiences say and then decide rationally for yourself whether or not you feel that you were perhaps truly a dragon or otherkin.

Can I be Otherkin if I have no memories?

Approximate Question: I strongly believe that I may be otherkin but I lack any awakening memories or flashbacks. I feel really strongly I am and it would explain a lot, but can I be otherkin without memories?

Regarding your concerns of a lack of possible memories, contrary to what some may say, it isn't the end of the world or a lack of proof if flashbacks or memories haven't popped up. Being otherkin in my personal view is an unprovable faith based concept, a spiritual or psychological perception of one's inner self. Not all otherkin are of the “reincarnated” variety and there are different interpretations as to what is going on spiritually or psychologically internally and there are different degrees or spectrums of otherkin.

I simply tend to focus on the reincarnation aspect due to my own personal experiences and bias' it is the possibility that I relate with personally. Another reason you may not have any memories is that they seem to be, subjectively, a sort of highlight reel of important emotional moments that may have

imprinted on the spirit like a recording. I perceive that I was mostly a wild animal, so I mostly just had memories of my death and one or two brief moments of interest. The most vivid possible memory I have was a dream in which I got ambushed as a dragon and killed in my sleep. In the third and last repeat of said dream a humanoid wolf shouted “Koragus” or “Korageth” which I assume was my name (By that time I had already adopted the name Jafira both on the internet and in personal friendships offline so I chose to maintain it) If your possible past life was peaceful or mundane then it may be possible that nothing intense or emotional was imprinted on your spirit like that, or perhaps it may take longer for something to come up. *shrugs* possibly nothing may come up, but just know that memories are not the end all be all of evidence.

To be honest, at least in regards to my own opinion, I worry that some may be over imagining the impact of memories. As said above I only had a few brief nightmares of getting killed and a quick flashback of flying over grass and a lake. I also had a few separate dreams in which I was an entirely different dragon of the opposite gender nesting with a family, so go figure on that one. (She eventually became my “Rashau” secondary awakening)

Although the majority of my potential memories are based on dreams, I would advise against relying solely on dreams like that, some can be just that, dreams, so introspect possible factors that may have influenced said dreams before assuming them possible memories, be rational, perhaps keep a dream journal and scan for patterns, have you had the same dream multiple times? Or just once? Was it vivid or was it a normal dream? In the end my major past life memory tally for Kora was three nightmares and a flashback of flying. Any of which could easily be whittled away rationally. For my possible secondary awakening Rashau, I just had a dream or two of myself as her, one was me of watching eggs hatch as another dragon nuzzled me, the other dream was meeting that same dragon by a lake. None of the dreams referenced constitute any “proof”. The vast majority of my personal faith or perceptions that I was once a dragon tend to come from a sort of inner knowing, or to get metaphysical, a spiritual instinct? I do not want to say it’s entirely emotion based as that could be perceived as escapism or fantasy, but in many ways for myself at least, a lot of my otherkin faith has been built upon emotion “inner knowing” and subjective personal experiences, which again, is why I refer to it as faith.

For example of this “inner knowing” beginning around the age of ten or so I had a sort of “dragon side” or imaginary other half of my mind that would kind of give me support. When I turned thirteen one of my friends accused me of being possessed and others said that I wasn’t normal, so I tried to kill that dragon side alongside all interest in dragons. This led to a strange long depression in which I just drifted through life kind of dead inside. So a year or two later I went back to liking dragons. At the age of sixteen a friend and family member destroyed what few dragon things I owned (mostly just a sentimental dragon claw pendant and a journal full of thoughts and doodles) so I acted normal again to appease him, doing so caused me to become depressed and drift indifferently through life like before.

Around the age of seventeen/eighteen I discovered otherkin and found out for the first time that I was not alone, this life changing event pretty much rebooted my love of dragons and put it into overdrive, but since I had no real memories other than a vague recurring dream of my death, I fell into a delusion and made large assumptions about my past. I made everything about myself up because it felt right. A few years later when an older otherkin critiqued my beliefs my false reality imploded and I abandoned dragons and otherkin yet again. That also led to another year long depression until I started over introspecting from scratch, which pretty much led me to my present beliefs at time of writing. I constantly struggled with the subject of “am I a dragon?” all throughout my life.

As you may have noticed, every time in my past that I would try to ignore my odd connection to

dragons I would go into a sort of depression as if an important part of my self was dead or being locked away. Whenever I would accept or “go with” the idea that I was a dragon or somehow connected to them, my mentality would seem to shift back to a positive or normal state. This sense of being whole when I accepted that I may have been a dragon felt to me personally to be equal or even better evidence for my claim to being otherkin than the few possible past life memories that I may have had or dreamt.

There is still a 50/50 chance that I am not dragonkin, because in the end, it is impossible to know for sure. I try to keep to an agnostic mindset, I believe in all my heart that I was a dragon, based on the questions it answers and how it affects me negatively when I deny or ignore the idea, but since it's impossible to prove, I could be wrong. Thus I say “I may have been” or “I perceive that I was” so as to avoid any absolutes or potential hostility. I tread a middle ground leaning towards “Yes”. Despite my agnosticism or mild uncertainty I still choose to identify myself as otherkin because personally it does not feel right or natural for me not to. Even if I wasn't dragonkin, this discovery would probably only cause me to downgrade myself to a member of the furry fandom or a dragon enthusiast of some sort, dragons are simply too much a part of my inner being for me to ever truly abandon.

That middle ground is something that most of the younger kin seem not to consider much anymore, it feels to me in this polarized point in history that one's interpretation is always either “yes or no”. I tend to worry that this absolutism can inevitably lead to a polarization of extremes such as either being so skeptical as to abandon the belief outright or so open minded as to become delusional.

If you are having emotions and feelings on the matter strong enough to cause you emotional pain or conflict, then in my honest opinion and from personal experiences you probably are an otherkin, in which case I would say go with it. You only live once and it is best not to be miserable or questioning the whole time. If in the future you eventually determine that you were not kin, then no harm was caused by pursuing the faith or idea that you were. But if it feels natural and answers so much, then why resist it? Memories and awakenings are not the same for everyone, some come in spurts at different times in life, and some don't come at all. It is safe to believe that you are otherkin if it makes sense to your individual experiences, particularly if the emotions or instinct that you are is that strong.

I would say accept the possibility and see what may come or open up to you in time, but definitely maintain a sense of skepticism. The kin community is full of a variety of personalities and beliefs, many will say you need a certain experience or a certain sensation to be legitimate, but in the end, its personal and subjective, be prepared to defend your feelings of course, but in all things be true to yourself. Likewise, be wise not to fall into assumptions, if you wrote a story in which a character was a dragon banished by the gods to earth, be cautious not to fall into the idea of assuming that you might have been that dragon. Try not to force or simply assume memories. If you want to look for them then I would advise, go lay under a tree and relax in some grass, close your eyes and meditate to see if something might pop up! Please be sure to keep a balance of introspection, be open minded, but not so much that your brains fall out. Lastly, I would say, be in tune with your kintype or be dragon'y when it feels right to do so, allow your kintype identity to be just another part of your life, but do not allow it to control the entirety of your life.

Of course, as a disclaimer I write only from my own experiences and being an otherkin is a subject that is personal to the individual and to one's own understandings, it is something that only you can decide, good luck on your journey, take it slow with patience and balance in all things.

Being Otherkin, it's okay to doubt:

It is not uncommon for some otherkin to have moments of questioning or to have a weakness of faith, the most important thing to know is that it is okay. Being otherkin is not like a dogmatic belief that will punish you for questioning it, rather it requires you to embrace a high degree of such in order to be personally honest with oneself. It is no surprise that many otherkin will be challenged, modern society and common beliefs will typically look down or frown upon the concept of otherkin and that knowledge of being potentially outcast leads to questioning.

Many times within my life I have abandoned the belief that I am a dragon. - "It's foolish", "It's imaginary", "It's wish fulfillment", "It's psychological projection" those are all things that I would tell myself. As well many times during my life my belief was shaken to its core and I was often forced to re-examine over and over again throughout the years what I believed, gradually trimming away what was ego or desire and leaving only what faith, experience and emotion would not allow my cold logic to remove.

For many years it was a struggle to express to myself or believe that I was once possibly a dragon without feeling insecure or insane. I learned that if I bluntly said "I am a dragon" the burden of proof was upon me and I would often be torn down. But that if I said "I perceive that I was once a dragon" it became more a matter of faith, spirituality and belief, the simple re-wording helped to relieve confrontations and doubt. I had learned to say to myself, "I may have been a dragon in a prior life, I cannot prove it, but it is what my heart tells me, it is what I perceive my spirit to be. I am human today and can live this life, but I feel I may have once been something else and that is what my spirit tells me."

But enough rambling, in short, life is hard and stressful, it brings us down and our obscure otherkin beliefs can become an emotional liability which can cause us to doubt and avoid it or to simply push it in to the background. But when you see that perfect image of your kintype somewhere or when you visualize just the right scene and those old emotions all come rushing back, it becomes kind of hard to deny that there is something there and something to it.

It's okay to doubt and there will be times in life in which that doubt may last for quite a long time. But when there is that little spiritual/emotional/special connection to your kintype beneath the surface, then faith always tends to find its way back in time. It's just something that doesn't go away. During those phases of distance from your inner self, it never hurts to remind yourself of your connection to your kintype, through music, videos, stories, or art.

Personally I collect art of my kintype and of associated characters or creations of mine to help pick me up when I feel down, I combine viewing them with music that is personally emotional to me. Sometimes, like this past summer I may just need to distance myself from the belief and focus on the present life and of course, getting out to nature also tends to help.

Never be afraid to doubt, because what is true, if it is true, shall not vanish, it will only be suppressed and rekindled later anew like a fiery phoenix, live your life in peace and balance, all will be as it is meant to be.

On Memories, past mates and mainstream disclosure:

Letter to Jafira:

"You mentioned the importance of examining the awakening memories in your otherkin guide, but I'm not sure how to do that because spiritual things are difficult to be proven by science after all. So how exactly do you examine them?"

In answer to your question I must admit that there is no real way to go about examining awakening memories, it is all very subjective, it is a matter of personal faith,

For myself, when I was a teenager I had only a few flashes, dreams and some extremely strong emotions to interpret from. I believed that I was a black dragon and that I likely existed on another world. Being young at the time I ended up writing a short fictional story based on what I wanted thought my life was like and then convinced myself that it was really my history or past life memories. A couple of years later when I was challenged to substantiate the evidence for the story I made for myself all I honestly had to fall back on was the aforementioned dreams and emotions. So, I had to be honest with myself and just state simplistically that I had few memories, but felt in my heart as a matter of faith that I may have been a black dragon. I then abandoned the false history, fake memories and narrative behind them.

The point I am hoping to convey is to be honest with oneself and try not to trick yourself into believing a memory or scenario just because it may have made sense or been what you would like to have happened. I personally only have a few possible memories, one of flying over a valley, one of possibly being with my mate and the event of my supposed death. Each is a strong emotional scene, but they're also subjective and unprovable, they are each a matter of faith based on the emotion involved.

In writing that others should examine their possible memories I just meant that I did not want newly awakened or those possibly curious to fall into a trap of filling in gaps in their self-understanding by making up a fake reality like I did. That it is better to have a few very personal and emotional memories or experiences as a foundation rather than a false narrative that you may have convinced yourself is true. I wanted to convey the importance of meditating on why the reader believes the possible memories related to their kintype and to determine if they are based on fantasy and egotism towards a desired reality or if they are based off of a more personal source. I just wanted the readers to do their best to be honest with themselves was all.

You would be surprised how many kids have come up to me in the past saying they were otherkin when all they had done was apparently taken a favorite role play character and decided that they were the entity or persona just because they thought that it made sense at the time. Once they were challenged to actually look into their beliefs on a deeper level they would often realize this and tend to move on. Others have had evidence or the feeling most of their lives and have other experiences/emotions to anchor them in faith outside of a possibly fictional history. Questioning the source of ones memories just helps to separate the two possible inner truths from self-created delusions.

"I love my mate very much, but I'm afraid that if I fall in love with a human one day it may be a disloyalty to my mate. What do you think about it"

One of my fondest possible memories was a dream of being intimate with my perceived mate from my last life. For many years I was convinced that if I had ended up on this world, maybe she had been born here too and that perhaps we were still connected and would meet someday. It was honestly one of the motivations for making my dragonkin web sites, I thought that if I put my existence out on the web she might find me. In that sense my website was partly created as a beacon to lead her to me. In the past I had turned down many relationships in my youth and although I was emotionally close to many friends I never truly dated anyone until my early twenties because I was still holding out hope for finding "Her".

In time though I started to philosophize about the possible nature of one's soul and on the topic of reincarnation. I came to the personal conclusion that if reincarnated spirits truly exist, then physical existence was possibly meant for our spirits to learn and experience new things. (I was raised to be agnostic so I had no spiritual upbringing of any sort to draw from, these were simply my own personal views) I wondered, as a thought exercise I considered that if I had once existed as a squirrel and had a mate, but then fell from a tree and died would I still have a sense of loyalty to that last mate if I reincarnated as a dragon next?

I concluded that each existence most likely has a unique new mate to diversify the growth of the spirit. I also felt that although I loved my old mate, if she were unable to be on this world with me I felt she'd want me to move on and try to be happy without her. It took me many years to break away from the loyalty and searching for my old mate but I chose to move on and prayed she'd forgive me and live a new life without me. Since then I have been happily partnered for several years, I still miss my old mate at times but I felt in my heart that she wouldn't want me to let her hold me back in this life.

"In your consideration, should otherkin stuff be known and understood (if they can) by the public like homosexuality? Or would it be better to keep it as a secret? I would like to know your opinion on this."

In my consideration, otherkin topics and discussion should be kept out of the public eye for the time being. I say this as it is honestly a very controversial belief and impossible to be substantiated outside of personal faith. Although that statement is true for a variety of religions and beliefs I personally feel that we would be unfairly targeted for ridicule due to the low numbers of experiencers and the relative newness of our existence to the social mainstream.

Although there may be some evidence of possible dragonkin and therians throughout select pantheist or animist mythologies in human history that we could try to point to, the topic in a modern context would likely be interpreted as an internet phenomena or fad and may not be taken entirely seriously. I do believe that in the coming years there may be a time when the topic could be more openly discussed in the mainstream without ridicule, but at present I feel that the global kin community needs some more time in the shadows to settle, mature and to find its cultural voice.

Frankly we're just too new, prior to the internet anyone with otherkin beliefs would likely had been isolated and alone, there were few ways for possible otherkin to know that they were not insane or that they were not the only ones with their beliefs. Suddenly over the past thirty years we are beginning to find each other around the globe. So it does make sense that we are a newer pseudo religion existing primarily on the web. It is rational to believe that we will have to exist long enough to show that we are not a passing fad. The otherkin/therian community as a whole will likely need more time to evolve and grow before we can begin to seek such acceptance from the public. Personally, I do not predict large

scale openness, social acceptance or understanding of otherkin within my lifetime.

Remember that a lot of what I write is my own speculation based on personal experiences. Remember the obvious - that spirit and understanding of one's self is unique to the individual and that only you can determine what is true for your personal reality. I'm just sharing my thoughts, remember in all things know yourself and who you are.

Methods to Connect To Spirit:

Regarding how to become more spiritual, I am no guru or professional so I cannot speak authoritatively on the matter, I can only speak from my own experiences. I will give what advice that I can. There is no one way to become spiritual, it's subjective to an individual's needs and tastes. There are a variety of methods that you can try and what helps some people may not help others. I would recommend trying out different paths until you find the one that helps you connect best on an emotional or spiritual level.

Nature:

For a few years in my early twenties I associated myself with a spiritual traveler claiming to be a Cherokee medicine man, during the time that I spent with him we would often go to local mountains or wilderness, sometimes we would simply go to a nearby park or field. Sometimes he would play soothingly on a spirit flute, but mostly we would just sit under trees or on some rocks and simply listen in silence to the world around us, we would enjoy the clouds, sounds and scenery.

It brought about a sense of awareness that the trappings of modern life and the mendacity of daily responsibilities distanced us from the spiritual. I learned that returning to nature once or twice a week and appreciating its beauty and essence would draw us closer to the earth, our personal and external energies, and to the creator. I was often warned to always have a balance in all things, that to lean too far into the spiritual would be detrimental to my daily life, but to lean too deeply into daily life would be detrimental to my spirit or soul. I was taught to always find some time for nature and to keep a balance between the two worlds.

As a dragonkin I found the time that I spent in nature to be personally uplifting. It felt natural and while lounging in the wilderness or staring at the clouds or mountains I would often find myself visualize myself as a dragon, flying or lounging as I once had in prior lives. It always helped me to feel more connected to my perceived past and would be emotionally invigorating. In short, just getting outside and exploring, resting and connecting with nature can bring us closer to spirit. Many Native American and old European mythologies were nature based, another famous example is Buddha who discovered enlightenment while mediating under a Bodhi tree. The energies of spirit always flow through nature, all one needs to do is seek to connect with it.

Music:

I have personal a love for music and when I listen to songs of any genre I tend to sense or visualize an energy within them, some are positive, some neutral, some negative. It is my opinion that the music that is emotionally uplifting or connective to you on a personal level can give a good spark to your spirit! The right song can ignite the imagination and emotions and when combined with visualizations or interactions with subjects that are spiritually important to you a good song can lead to a highly connective or invigorating experience!

Meditation:

(I always fall asleep, meditation does not work well for me outside of lounging in nature.) I personally have had focus meditating unless I am outside listening to nature or focusing on calming myself from a stress or problem. I have difficulty clearing my mind or keeping focused, either my mind drifts to random thoughts, I'll day dream about flying, or I will fall asleep, so I cannot speak very well on this. But meditation is obviously a quick and helpful path to become more spiritual, it focuses the mind and spirit and disconnects us from reality allowing for calm and clear thought. Guides and lessons can be found online, but meditation is always an option or something to try. On a related matter, guided meditations also exist within the otherkin community which may be of use in connecting deeper to your kintype or spiritual identity.

Reiki and Chakras:

This subject is also not one of my fortes, though my mate is quite versed in the study of such and I can always ask her if any questions should arise. Reiki teaches that the physical body has seven spiritual energy pools through which your spiritual energies flow back and forth through. These seven energy pools are called Chakra, each Chakra is effected by different emotions or pains that we experience in life. If we accumulate too much of a particular negative emotion or trait it can clog one or more chakra and prevent the free flow of spiritual energy throughout the body. It's the spiritual dimension or spiritual side effects of psychological pains and emotions within our bodies. Usually the only way to cleanse a chakra is to find the emotions that are clogging it and work through them. If you find yourself continually depressed or lacking spiritual motivation or connectivity with no obvious underlying reason, it may be an unseen chakra issue. As a disclaimer though, please consider psychological and physiological self-understandings in balance with issues of chakra. The flesh and spirit are two parts to a whole, care for both.

Prayer:

If you have grown up in a religious family then this one may be quite obvious, as all entities physical and non must come from a source, all things are interconnected, call it God, the creator, great spirit, divine consciousness or what have you, there must be a source to all spirit. Man, dragon or spirit, we that exist must somehow be interconnected and of the same energy as that which created us. To pray to that source is likely to connect to that source and ask of it. In so doing, all things within spirit or within reason can be possible.

The Arts and Creativity:

Art, Music, Writing, and all other creative expressions are the emotions of the mind and spirit put to paper, vision or sound. Creativity through whatever your talent may be is the expression of the spirit and is a great way to feel connected! In my personal opinion there are fewer better paths to connectivity as a dragon then to be reminded of your inner spirit through a form of creative expression.

Just Sense:

The world is comprised of energy in all life and in all things! The connection to such is simply a matter of opening one's mind to the possibilities and understanding. In all things please try to sense or visualize the energies within, start small with plants, the energies that flow through the wind and in the streams, then move up to that of pets and friends, from there to the unseen and beyond. As well, feel and sense yourself, both as you exist now and as you feel you once were, shape the energies around you by visualizing with your mind, sense and feel, visualize the unseen and let it be felt.

Otherkin Moderation - Personal Introspection:

The Importance of self-moderation for Otherkin

A faith or belief such as being otherkin needs to be brought in at times. Being otherkin by its nature is a belief that has few doctrinal borders so it is up to the collective community as individuals to agree upon and set some form of guidelines to keep things from getting out of control and being flooded with incoherence, delusions or purely emotional rationalizations. The otherkin community is also prime bait for people just seeking attention alongside of the truly confused or delusional who may be seeking an escape from this life or may be seeking special treatment and attention.

Most of society's traditional beliefs tend to have internal doctrinal boundaries or a general understanding of their tenants and beliefs to ensure that their adherents do not commonly need as much oversight or policing by the overall community. Considering however the individualistic nature of otherkin it is unlikely that some great otherkin equivalent of the Council of Nicaea will ever agree to banish fictionkin as heretics or gather to determine that someone cannot be a "galaxy'kin," therefore we will never really have a bible or book of law due to the fact that our beliefs are by nature subjective faith.

However, I can propose one true mandate or commandment: Introspect yourself and encourage such of others. Individual otherkin must be prudent to always, in all circumstances question the understandings and perceptions of both themselves and others. The fluid and liberal understanding of personal and spiritual identity allowed by the concept of being otherkin must always be approached and handled responsibly and introspectively with adherents commonly questioning, searching and meditating on their own personal beliefs and understandings.

On a personal level, Otherkin to me is the belief in reincarnation and perhaps in a multiverse, I am a pantheist/animist and so for me, the possibility of otherkin fits easily into my own personal worldview. However, for others it may be a more psychological or inner knowing. I understand that being otherkin as a general philosophy is very fluid and flexible, but it is also easily susceptible to delusional ideas and prior to the arrival of social media most otherkin kept to various closed digital communities for that very reason. In the past we as otherkin were generally careful about who we would come out to, the topic was at times a "need to know basis" being kept secret helped us to moderate and keep out a lot of the attention seekers, escapists, trolls or special snowflakes who would later come to taint our beliefs on site's like Tumblr today.

We still had a large degree of fluff in the kin communities back then (I mean come on, I still somehow weaseled in *wink*) but the examples of delusion were not as out of control as they are today. One reason for the communities greater stability in years passed was because of the guidelines we had set forth as a community. Common sense tenets like "This belief is personal or spiritual to our members and important." "That it takes meditation and personal growth," "That it is not something that is just decided or a game." "That we are always learning and seeking" "That we are not trying to override this life, but rather understand that knowing more about ourselves is meant to teach us lessons, that inner understanding may make us better stronger people and help us work towards our personal or spiritual growth."

Unfortunately with the rise of social media we lost a lot of homogeneity, walls and security, we must now as a greater community learn to police ourselves individually. So again, please be introspective,

work to be self-aware and stay always in a state of learning. Be rational, seek understanding and never give allow your intellect to be swayed by simple assumptions, above all else and at all times, know yourself and be wise.

Otherkin Moderation#2 - Maintaining a Balanced View:

Otherkin Moderation, A Balanced View

The concept of being otherkin is a very questionable and subjective belief which although potentially having parallels with some forms of shamanism or animism throughout diverse cultures of the past is still a relatively new term or belief system in its modern form, having only begun (or been revived?) in the last forty years or so of modern history. The overall community is still finding its culture and due to its subjective, emotional and spiritual nature must be treated both respectfully and rationally by the individual. We live in a world wherein high fantasy is only a click away and psychological and emotional wish fulfillment can easily intermix with fictional narratives to create false assumptions and realities.

It is in this regard that I advocate having a strong personal balance between the rational and spiritual in ones perceived kin beliefs. By all means accept being otherkin and don't allow yourself to be forced to deny it if you have passion or an inner knowing, but likewise be humble enough to accept or reflect upon new evidence or criticisms as they occur. In matters of personal psychology try to maintain a centrist view where for example if one were to wake up with a phantom limb, they could peacefully accept it as either a psychological placebo or a spiritual aura while still having the experience be meaningful and bonding to their perceived belief.

Personally I am somewhat of a pantheist and animist, I believe that spirits are formless and can incarnate as any existing/living body as well as in any place which can sustain life. I also believe that time and space are irrelevant to a spirit. However I still try my best to approach things rationally and as a human I know that my opinion is subjective and that while I am alive I can only assume or speculate upon the nature of spirits. I also do my best not to underestimate the vulnerabilities of the human brain, how chemicals, hormones and experiences throughout development can and will affect ones psychology. So I personally feel it rational and required of me to walk somewhat of a middle path in life. I feel with all my heart that my experiences are spiritual, but I can accept and do not begrudge that I cannot prove them or that others may view me as psychologically flawed or confused.

As a result of my own past experiences I somewhat require myself to be agnostic, as I noticed in my past that every time I would let the pendulum of my beliefs swing too far in one direction or in another that I would either become miserable that I wasn't being true to myself or alternatively I would cease to be self-critical and would fall into false assumptions. When I settled on a balanced or centrist view of "I will not deny being otherkin but I will also critique my beliefs and be open to criticism because in the end, how can I really know?" that stance kind of helped me to become more secure, I had juggled extremes and personally needed a middle ground.

Though in the end the only real difference between me as I write this and the me of five years ago is just that I say "I perceive that I was a dragon" rather than say outright that "I was a dragon" It is a little less assertive but it does not change who I am or what I personally believe. I realize that I may have

said in the past that being agnostic on the matter was a desirable mannerism for otherkin, but it is by no means a mandate or a tenant. It is just what worked for me. Being otherkin is individualized and everyone should find their own path. If you the reader are self-critical and can explain how you came to your conclusions, then that is all I am really writing for. I just want others to be more aware of the origins of their conclusions so that they do not just make up a persona and go with it.

Regarding if I would require the same introspection or agnosticism of other faiths? First, agnosticism is really a flawed word, my context was seeking a balanced rational for ones beliefs, just an ability to explain how you came to your conclusions and to accept criticism if necessary. A typical mainstream faith has certain borders and boundaries built into their system, whereas identifying as otherkin is not like a mainstream religion. Otherkin by its nature has few real barriers, anyone can just claim any identity and if done right everyone will go along with it. Because of this openness our community is particularly susceptible to delusional or escapist members which is why there is a need for more assertive self-reflection from individual members within the community, we need to self-police.

Sometimes members with obvious psychological issues may take claim to being otherkin while other times younger kin may jump into fantasy mindsets and assume them to be real. As I mentioned in the beginning of this text we are a fairly new (or revived) belief system that has only existed for a few decades, with any luck it is likely that we will continue to grow and mature in the years to come but, if so, then it is likely that our community will increasingly become more noticed as our culture continues to change and evolve.

Considering the free for all nature of otherkin as opposed to more ordered mainstream beliefs I personally feel that a high degree of individual introspection, self-awareness and moderation are particularly needed now at this point in history due to personal identity politics increasingly becoming an issue in the mainstream and the otherkin of select social media groups often creating a poor misconception of our overall community. From my interpretation of present cultural trends I fear that as the years go on it is possible that more antagonistic forces may gradually turn their attention to our community's activities, general culture and beliefs.

Case in point, the amazing atheist on YouTube critiqued our beliefs in 2015, his was just a YouTube channel, but if our representatives over on Tumblr could not socially handle that minuscule criticism maturely then what will happen when or if a mainstream personality were to report negatively on our community? For the sake of our overall cultural image we cannot allow the idea of otherkin to be treated as a game or as some deluded cult populated by triggered imbeciles using our belief as a coping method to avoid societal hardships. We must work to take personal responsibility, to better know ourselves and to be able to defend coherently and intellectually what we believe both to ourselves and to others in a way that does not reflect poorly on us as individuals or on our community as a whole.

We are slowly becoming more noticed and because of this exposure we will be increasingly susceptible to a higher risk of social criticism and will be judged by our worse actors. Therefore I feel it is the ultimate responsibility of each individual kin to determine their own personal spirituality as clearly and rationally as possible in case the day may come that they are ever confronted or called by society to defend their view of being otherkin or to explain the origin of their conclusions. I hope that I didn't come off as too hostile, I am just worried that trans-speciesism will become a large issue after gender identity politics have ran their natural course and if so, then we as a collective had best be ready. Besides, even if it cultural hostility does not happen, we are all still better knowing ourselves and having a clear personal understanding of our beliefs regardless.

Regarding Otherkin Shifting:

This letter was written in response to an individual asking about otherkin “shifting”.

Shifting in the cognitive context of “sometimes feeling more like my kintype rather than human”, this phenomena is generally common during ones awakening. I personally remember that during the peak of my own perceived awakening during some of my late teens that I would often times feel the entire dragon body of my kinform Korageth overlapping my human body, often for days or weeks at a time.

Even though I would walk upright and do everything normally, I would somehow feel or sense the invisible footsteps of Kora's quad legs in addition to my human form and would feel the presence of my wings alongside my long tail dragging behind me as I walked around, it was simply indescribable having such a phantom form and feeling the odd sensations of it overlapping my physical form while sensing the simultaneous feeling of both bodies at once. (Sadly I guess I lost or aged out of that connection/ability over time, I cannot seem to experience a shift like that as often anymore.)

I had for many years in my past, growled and murred and would playfully shift my speech into a raspy draconic voice as well. Several times a day I would commonly on occasion have the need to stretch phantom wings which would randomly appear from my back shoulders. There have also been times in the past wherein I would have the irrational and insane desire to briefly walk on all fours, seldom pursued such desires, but yes, I was a weird kid. At other times I had slept curled upon my sheets or in similar fashions mimicking how I had probably slept in my past kin form.

I am assuming that most or all otherkin have periods in their awakenings in which the influence of their spiritual identity in some subtle form or sense consumes their mind or spiritual body, at which times they may be more in-tune with their kintype in mind or spirit. Myself, I used to believe that I had the ability to call up my full phantom form alongside an imaginary pool of immense energy at will, I often would use that belief to do shifts while exploring nearby wilderness so as to truly be free experiencing the surrounding nature.

The only downfall to those random shifts or types of spiritual perceptions is that at the end of the day we are still stuck in a human forms. No otherkin anywhere in modern time has ever successfully pulled off a physical transformation, so what I have just described or what you may presently be experiencing are the known peaks and limits of otherkin spiritual influence over the physical form and reality. No matter what you try, in the end the body you are in is what you have to live with, we are all still confined to what we exist as today, so it remains necessary to work with a clear focus to better this life as a priority. Work to utilize your kintype as a point of pride, you have a unique understanding of spirit so use that knowledge with the goal that you will never stop improving the present and perfecting who you are today.

Keep working on improving your otherkin shifts or states of mind, embrace them, and accept them if you wish, its normal for most kin and frankly feels awesome most of the time. The key is just remembering not to get too caught up in it as some can tend to do, including myself. I guess shift in moderation, as good as it may hypothetically feel to be close to your kintype and flow with these sensations you will still need to remember to balance your human and otherkin identities. Balance is always important, I see myself separate from most of my peers and spend a lot of time in nature and

pursuing spiritual introspection but I still also acknowledge that I presently exist in a meritocracy and that I must work and coexist with said peers in day to day life if I want to succeed in this world or bring honor to my spirit.

When you are at home, in nature, or with close friends, I invite you to feel free to embrace your kintype and shift freely, but when you are in daily life and within a world of non-believers or around those you will meet day to day then please remember that you are also part of that crowd and are responsible to do your best to live and succeed among them. We are here first and foremost as humans and we exist here for a reason, please do not avoid finding or pursuing your higher purpose or potential by dwelling too deeply on spiritual escapes or distractions, have a balance and moderation in all things spiritual.

My personal meditation method:

(In response to a letter sent regarding achieving a spiritual state of mind)

I have felt deeply connected or one with my higher self a few times in the past, but as I have aged and as life has progressed it has become harder for me personally. I cherish every opportunity that I have to reach what I feel may be a higher state of attunement as it truly is a form of bliss to be aware of all that is and can be.

In regards to how to obtain such, I am afraid that it is impossible for me to give an exact method to become closer to your spiritual self. It is really impossible for me to answer accurately because for every person it is different. I can only speak from my own experience, due to the nature of spirit and self I cannot state with any certainty an absolute answer to your question.

In my own experiences I always connected to my inner spirit through a form of visual meditation or trance which I had devised. It was what worked for me. It was my own personal tool. I knew that I was a dragon and I wanted to try to learn more so I created a meditation that would allow me to speak to my own spirit.

I created for myself a personal symbol or a sigil to represent my inner self. I would go in to a silent room, (sometimes I had meditative or instrumental music) and I would close my eyes and visualize on an endless void of darkness, I would imagine my sigil glowing in the darkness, the symbol would slowly and gently pull my spirit from my body into that space, I would be out of my body, outside of physical reality, detached from physical self. I would imagine appearing as a dragon in this void, I would feel my tail, claws, wings, horns, I was a dragon.

I would open my eyes as this dragon within the vision and the darkness would fade into various auras and clouds consisting of endless strands of energy. I would perceive that I was existing simultaneously as my spirit and within my own spirit simultaneously. I would be speaking to my spirit as a part of it and that in this state all of my spirits forms memories, secrets and knowledge would be more accessible to me in that state of being.

In this space I was free from my body and from my mortal consciousness with its fears, insecurities, inequities and trivial or egotistical pursuits. Visualizing myself as this spirit within itself in this detached reality, I could ask myself questions and get an honest answer from the energies around me. I

was disassociated from external judgment and as a spirit was connected with the universality of all things.

It was in these unique trance states that I felt I could ascend to an unbiased external perspective of self. That I could speak directly to my higher self or to my spirit. I could ask in my mind any question, if my spirit was able it would draw the answer from its bountiful knowledge and would answer my query in kind. However it would also be unbiased and brutally honest. After these meditations and visualizations I would often find myself in a sort of trance where I would often type on my computer letters full of spiritual information or advice intended for myself but written from an outside perspective, my spirit expressing its views or lecturing my ego and body of its flaws, mistakes and assumptions.

This visual meditation was only my personal method. Remember that for everyone there exists a different or unique path, what had worked for me in the past may not work for you. I would recommend trying out different paths until you find the one that helps you connect best on an emotional or spiritual level.

Some alternative methods to getting closer to your spiritual self may be found in spending time in nature, relaxing or questioning yourself while listening to emotionally powerful music that may appeal to you, searching through meditation, possibly exploring reiki or chakra work, through prayer, through expressing yourself with art and creativity or simply by continually sensing and seeking to know that part of your spirit. I hope some of this may have been of help.

Essay on why I am skeptical of Fictionkin:

As a few of my recent writings on the social media site Tumblr have been written with the ulterior motive of attacking or discouraging fictionkin. I figured that I would just come right out and say how I felt instead. Yes, I consider myself to be hostile towards the concept of fictionkin for a variety of personal and subjective reasons, the main ones being a familiarity bias and an experiential bias.

I consider myself to be dragonkin through reincarnation, I had experienced most of my initial awakening periodically while still quite young in the early 90's and while without the aid of the internet. Left to my own introspection I had come to the conclusion that reincarnation was the most rational explanation as to how I could perceive myself to be a dragon in all but a physical form. Later in my late teens when I discovered the otherkin community around the early 2000's I had found that my own conclusions seemed to have had a valid consensus among my peers in the online community, in a sense back then my beliefs were the norm and consensus. That is not to say that psychological variants of otherkin did not exist, they did and were common, but their beliefs generally consisted of well thought out self-understandings and typically had an archetypal basis of sorts rather than a coping explanation.

During the time that I discovered and came to know the general otherkin community it was common that any fictionkin which existed were often relegated to the realm of fluff and were typically challenged and questioned into exile. I personally begun to drift away from the community around 2008 but at the time that I had left, cultural views on what it meant to be otherkin still seemed generally unchanged, although opinions were straying more towards an agnostic understanding and in a less spiritual direction as my peers aged and matured. Still, as if I was frozen in a time capsule for eight

years I left and did not choose to evolve, grow or mature with the overall community. So, now, as I am returning from a nearly eight year hiatus in the year 2016, I have found that a lot of what I see on Tumblr appears extremely foreign and unorthodox to me, behaviors which were frowned upon in the past were now commonly being encouraged and promoted.

The second source of my hostility, is because my girlfriend was formally what is now known as a fictionkin or soulbond, when I had first met her she proudly had the anime character Inuyasha as an alter ego and she would typically front him on a daily basis. However, never once did she consider herself to be “otherkin” because of his presence within her. Rather, it was more like some form of LARP'ing for her. To her it was also an emotional connection of being able to connect to a character and universe that she identified with. Even still, for her there remained a basic understanding that she was not this character at heart and eventually she matured and moved on from her ability to channel and to front Inuyasha.

On the other hand, otherkin identities as I grew to know them in the past were something that you were typically born with or incrementally discovered throughout your life, an aspect or inner sense that you had suspected on an inherent personal level or of which you had some form of inner knowing of. Being an otherkin or therian was not something that could simply be triggered by an anime or a cartoon, it was inherently known or suspected long before such a trigger occurred. Typically once one's kintype was sensed or discovered their otherkin identity could have the potential to last as a part of their personality through the course of their lifetime. That is why I do not consider most fictionkin to be legitimate as it were, I have no problem with their existence, I just prefer they use a different terminology or sub community. I am more comfortable with fictionkin identifying with a form of coping link or psychological personal terminology instead, but I cannot personally view them as “Kin” or at least not by the traditional understanding of the term.

Lastly and probably the biggest reason that I get infuriated by the idea of Fictionkin is due to subjective personal reasons attributable only to myself. I personally awakened as a dragon at roughly the age of ten, perhaps a little younger even, I am presently thirty two years of age as I write this, that means that I have had to deal with the emotional consequences of my draconic awakening well over the course of twenty two long years, the first six of those years I had no access to the internet and so I had no way of knowing that I wasn't the only person on Earth going through an internal species identity crisis, I was convinced that I was insane but there was nothing that I could do, I had to act normal, but I could not resist my inner knowing and therefore there was no way for me to fight my insanity without being miserable..

You cannot possibly know how terrifying that was!! To be a kid in the 90's and knowing in your heart and soul that you felt and saw yourself as something impossible to be, believing yourself a dragon suddenly awake on a strange new world with absolutely no way of knowing that you were not alone in that struggle? I would question and challenge myself every day and I would cry myself to sleep every night because it was all so impossible. For me it was never some stupid internet identity or some group association game, when I was a kid I would have traded the world if turning off my fears and sensations were possible, but being a dragonkin wasn't something that I could just simply turn off or forget. How and what I was in spirit was an undeniable aspect of my mind and inner self which I could not escape from no matter how much I would try to run or hide from it. The sensations and inner knowing that I was different and unnatural would not cease no matter how much I would cry out for them to stop. No matter what I tried to do growing up, my tears would never make me “normal” and attempts to ignore the truth would always just bring more pain then if I accepted it. I was trapped by being otherkin, it was never a choice I made, it was an undeniable yet irrational sense of my true self.

I spent my high school and college years suffering from phantom pains and species dysphoria so powerful and heart breaking that on every full moon I would travel out to the wilderness armed with every prayer and occult knowledge imaginable in endless attempts to offer up my very soul to whichever gods or devil could possibly somehow release me from the torment of my human flesh and return me home to the life or body that I so desperately missed. Being Otherkin was never fun or a game for me, it was a constant fight, an unending emotional nightmare and a psychological struggle between heart and reality from which I could never seem to escape. How can a fictionkin, “copingkin,” soulbond or other cognitive based variant truly understand fully that struggle? A struggle of walking a balance between denying reality and denying one’s self, or enduring the longings and pains for a body that is dead or possibly never existed. How can a soulbond understand this pain when by admission of their own self-understanding they are only experiencing a temporary psychological association to a fictional creation?

In short, I do not like them using the suffix “kin”, I want the suffix back, it may not mean the same for others anymore, but otherkin was the closest thing to a faith that I ever had and I do not want to see the terminology watered down without a fight. To see the inner torment of my past being associated with somebody's temporary fictional identity, their coping mechanism or some other psychological fling enrages me and crushes my heart and soul. Being otherkin used to be something more permanent it was inherent and emotionally consequential. Identifying as otherkin once brought internal hardships of identity, pain and longings that for example, my mate who was fronting and channeling Inuyasha in the past simply would have never understood, because when she was fronting Inuyasha she was not magically and suddenly “otherkin”, rather she was something else, you name that something else if you wish, but she was not otherkin.

When I left the overall otherkin community around 2008 there was still an understanding that someone could not just watch the movie “How To Train Your Dragon” and declare themselves to be a Nightfury, I could not watch a popular fiction and suddenly declare myself to be a citizen of that reality without a fight. The type of uncritical thinking demonstrated by most fictionkin was beaten back and challenged vehemently in the past. I am now returning from a hiatus of several years away from the community to find a new digital culture that is foreign and in some respects absolutely disgusting. It offends the memory of my past experiences, the memories of my past friendships and it offends my past understandings. As a result of these varied points, I consider myself to be hostile to fictionkin because prior to the rise of social media, my hostility was common consensus. There is a reason why most otherkin refer to the community on Tumblr as “Tumblr’kin” the overall culture and general self-understandings are foreign, lacking of self-introspection and are generally unorthodox to the way things were once understood within the broader community.

Again, I approach the entire otherkin concept primarily from a biased spiritual worldview as that was the overall understanding of me and the majority of my peers when I had initially discovered the otherkin community. These are the views of the digital culture which I came of age in. As said, there was room for archetypal concepts on the psychological side of being otherkin, but that was about as broad an alternative definition that I had witnessed in the past. With that context shared, I have very little understanding beyond those too definitions of otherkin, so please feel free to educate me if you wish to try.

I honestly do not know what a psychological otherkin even is, it does not register or make sense to me, beyond an archetypal connection with ones kintype, so when I hear the words psychological otherkin all I hear is archetypal identity and when I hear the word fictionkin I tend to look back at my

girlfriend's past and assume the writer is just some confused role-player who is channeling a self-manifested head mate or at best spiritually tulpamancing a favorite character, neither of which would be acceptable for use with the traditional suffix of "Kin". When I think back to my girlfriends actions, or when I envision fictionkin the sense I typically imagine reminds me of the false realities portrayed in the anime "Love, Chunibyo & Other Delusions" the whole idea just comes off as an escapist game, just an internal game and not a truly understood or well challenged sense of self.

To conclude my "Back in my day" rant, - Back in my day identifying as an otherkin was never truly about choosing a personal identity, it was something deeper than that and I do not feel or trust that most "fictionkin" around today have any real understanding of what otherkin once meant ten, twenty or thirty years ago. Perhaps in many ways I am just an old bitter anachronism and things have simply changed while I was off living life, but I simply wanted to share what otherkin once meant to me and others in the not so distant past.

→ Text continues below.

CONCLUSION

I hope this guide may have been of some use, it is a work in progress and is subjective, please take everything with a grain of salt and in all things work to find your own path and be true to yourself.

I am always happy to meet new people so if you have something to ask, or just want to chat, please do not be afraid to contact me.

~ Jafira Dragon

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If you would like to talk to me about anything, feel free to contact me.

“May spirit guide you and may your works be remembered”
~Jafira Dragon
