

TO PAN: The Sum of All Things

Post by "Don" of March 10, 2020 at 10:41 PM

Good old Pan the goat-god! Now THERE was a pleasure seeker! The video did evoke ancient Greece. Thanks for sharing!

I was wondering whether Pan the god and pan "the whole" were cognate. It looks like they may not actually be connected surprisingly.

According to the Wikipedia article for **Pan (god)** (yeah, it is Wikipedia so follow up with its sources!):

Many modern scholars consider Pan to be derived from the reconstructed [Proto-Indo-European god](#) **Péh₂usōn*, whom these scholars believe to have been an important pastoral deity[5] (**Péh₂usōn* shares an origin with the modern English word "pasture").[6] The [Rigvedic](#) god [Pushan](#) is believed to be a cognate of Pan. The connection between Pan and Pushan was first identified in 1924 by the German scholar Hermann Collitz.[7][8] The familiar form of the name Pan is contracted from earlier *Παων*, derived from the root **peh₂* (guard, watch over).[9] According to Edwin L. Brown, the name *Pan* is probably a [cognate](#) with the [Greek](#) word *ὄπάων* "companion". [10]

And according to the [Online Etymology Dictionary](#):

pan-

word-forming element meaning "all, every, whole, all-inclusive," from Greek *pan-*, combining form of *pas* (neuter *pan*, masculine and neuter genitive *pantos*) "all," **from PIE **pant-* "all"** (with derivatives found only in Greek and Tocharian).

So two different Proto-Indo-European roots entirely: **peh₂* "guard, watch over" led to Pan the god and **pant-* "all" led to *το παν* "the universe"! That surprised me.