

by ALEX SANDERS

**Atlantis and the legend of Merlin by Alex Sanders**

Everybody has heard of Merlin, the magician, the secret advisor to King Arthur. Everybody has heard of the wonders and miracles that he performed and the deeds of the Knights, aflame with the vision of the Holy Grail, the secret heart of the Christ. Yet who shall listen in the stillness and hear another tale, a story older by far, that tells of the first Merlin that came to these shores and of the first Arthur the King. It was not Mary the Mother of Jesus who was the Mother of their people but the ancient Morrigan, the Great White Mother, who was worshipped as the moon; neither was she distant from them, but forever with them for she dwelt within the secret heart of every woman.

In the legend both Arthur and Merlin, at the end of their labours, return to the Fairy-land from which they originally came. Where was this place? It was the Summerlands of Lyonesse, open only to those that had the keys that would unlock its secrets. This was the land we now call Atlantis, where the Great White Mother had her greatest power, the homeland of Arthur and of Merlin; the Garden of Eden where the Golden Apples grew.

The people of Atlantis had two main mysteries which were of the Sun and of the Moon. The Solar mysteries belonged to the men, while the Lunar, which made up the older cult, belonged to the darkness, the Moon, and to women. It was the Great Mother who was also the Earth beneath their feet that had given birth to the Sun to be a guiding light to mankind and a symbol to which they could aspire.

At the beginning they had risen up within their spirits and yearned to be like the Sun, they yearned that their souls should shine with the rays of the Lord of Light, but as their knowledge and power grew their ways became corrupt and they turned toward sorcery and power rather than Wisdom. They created monsters by the use of alchemy and enslaved the more primitive races by the power of their minds.

The Sun God saw this and determined to destroy the race that so defiled his lands, the Earth would open up and swallow them and the sea obliterate their memory forever.

One of the Great Wheels of Evolution was drawing to a close and with it a land and a people, yet the Mother would not let their memory die, how could it die, for was not she the eternal promise of Immortality? Out of the many, she chose the few that would transmit the Wisdom to the younger races, these she warned of the coming destruction that they might escape and take her arcane knowledge with them.

To Egypt they went, to Greece, America and Europe to found their Mystery schools. Wherever they went they built temples of worship according to the mind of the people they encountered, the pyramids of America and Egypt and the Stone circles of Britain were their handiwork; these were the Wicca, the wise ones. Well they knew of the coming disaster and of their divine mission to preserve the ancient lore.

The members of their missions were picked according to the symbolism of their craft; first, a King who was to be as the visible Sun, surrounded by his men at arms who were the days of the year. Secondly a magician who was to be the secret essence of the Sun, the Hidden One, versed in esoteric lore and sciences. It was he who would lead men through the labyrinthine ways of the Underworld to find the Holy Grail of Immortality that was the source of all life and from which issued the shining inner sun that was the true self of the initiate. Such a man was Merlin whose name means literally "Man of the Sea". Thirdly there was the priestess the incarnation of the Great White Mother to whom all power and all magic were attributed. The woman was the oracle and the medium by which the priests power took form. She was associated with the Moon and its triple aspect of Birth, Life and Death.

It was such as this when the first ships came to Britain bearing Arthur, Merlin and Morgan, (Woman of the Sea). They landed on the shores of Wales and started to establish the culture which we now know as Witchcraft.

Merlin's life shows as the pattern of the Wicca initiation his life on Atlantis governed by the Morrigan, the dying mother. His crossing of the water,





the first death, and his teaching of the mysteries with the chaste Morgan. His marriage to Ellen and subsequent disillusionment and finally his enchantment with the fairy Vivien, the Lady of the Lake who shows him that Atlantis is not dead but lives on in a body younger and more beautiful. His task is done, she tricks him out of the word of power that is life itself and his spirit returns once more to the lands of the West where souls find their resting place.

The land of Atlantis is no more, but man still go there in their dreams and on death their souls still tread the ancient pathways to the Goddess <sup>who they</sup> thought forgotten.

It is always Vivien who shall raise the sword of Endeavour above <sup>the waters</sup> that cover up the past and to her it is returned when all is done, <sup>for she is the</sup> spring of eternal youth that shall come again, again, and again. She it is <sup>who is</sup> the Secret Grail that is never empty.

It was the teaching of the Wicca that the pathway of the initiate was to descend into the darkness of Annwyn (Underworld) beneath the <sup>waves</sup> to search for the grail. The initiate may see many things there and learn many <sup>secrets</sup> but he must remain silent lest he be trapped forever unable to return to <sup>the world of men</sup>. If he follows the instructions he will find the grail which is the <sup>secret of life</sup>, the legacy of the amassed experience of the previous cycle. <sup>Having found the grail</sup> he must drink from it the waters of life and return from the <sup>Underworld to A bread</sup> (The world of Man) to do his will among the living. He <sup>emerges from the waters</sup> as does the Sun with all the glory of wisdom and knowledge upon <sup>his brow</sup>. <sup>If the</sup> initiate remains true to his acquired knowledge, at death he <sup>goes beyond the Sun</sup> into the future, he has escaped from the Glass Castle of the <sup>Season</sup> and is free to come and go as he desires. He need not incarnate for many cycles to come but remains as one of the Wise Ones for the benefit of humanity.

Merlin belongs to the Sea out of which he came yet his teachings <sup>have lived</sup> on, they are for us, the forms are different but the spirit is always <sup>the same</sup>.



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