

The Druids: Ancient Initiates of the Mysteries

By John Haberman

Possibly the most maligned religion in all history is the Druidic and likewise the civilisation of the ancient Celtic Britons who in modern literature, are constantly portrayed as abysmally ignorant, blue painted savages.

Their priests, the Druids are represented as superstitious pagans, little better than shamans or witch doctors. Human sacrifices and various orgiastic practices are attributed to the Druids and their followers. Such practices were found in Britain it is true but they originated not with the Druids, but with the worship of the satyr like horned god of nature – Faunus of the Romans, Pan of the Greeks and Baal of the Syrians, Canaanites and Phoenicians, the latter having voyaged to Britain for Tin in the days of King Solomon of Israel and Hiram of Tyre.

Stonehenge, the greatest existing monument of ancient Britain, contrary to so much of popular opinion, bears witness to an astronomical knowledge unsurpassed in the ancient world anywhere except in the Great Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt. Here it is true, animal sacrifices were made in common with all the other religions of the ancient world, including the Hebrew, but no human sacrifices were ever made. Stonehenge marvellously aligned to the rising sun at the summer solstice, the time of the great druidic festival, bears evidence to a high religion similar to the light worship of the Persian Aryans, to which indeed it was related.

Druidism was the accepted religion of the great race of the Celts, whose civilisation covered all Europe north of the Greek and Roman Empires for many centuries B.C. Of the Druidic priesthood H.P. Blavatsky writes:

“The mystery veiling the origin and the religion of the Druids is as great as that of their supposed fanes is to the modern symbolist, but not to the initiated Occultists. Their priests were the descendants of the last Atlanteans, and what is known of them is sufficient to allow the inference that they were eastern priests akin to the Chaldeans and Indians.”

Pliny called them the “*Magi of the Gauls and Britons*” but they were more than that. The author of Indian antiquities finds much affinity between the Druids and the Brahmins of India. Dr Borlase points to a close analogy between them and the Magi of Persia; others see an identity between them and the Orphic priesthood of Thrace; simply because they were connected in their esoteric teachings, with the Universal Wisdom Religion and thus presented affinities with the esoteric worship of all.

Like the Hindus, the Greeks and Romans (we speak of the initiates), the Chaldees and the Egyptians, the Druids believed in the doctrine of a succession of worlds, as also in that of seven creations (of new continents) and transformations of the face of the Earth and in a seven fold night and day for each Earth or globe.

Instead of ignorance and superstition, we find in the Druids, knowledge of chains and globes, rounds and races. They were also great and exacting students of Astronomy and its application to human life, astrology; and traditionally the Druidic priests are represented as having mystical and magical powers. The very name Druid implies priest, scholar or bard of high education.

The most familiar typification of the magical Druid is of course the legendary Merlin in the Aurtherian chronicles in which he is seen accompanied by the legendary Welsh bards at Arthur's court, Taliesin and Llywarch Hen, the three portraying the two main classes of Druids. These were the priests and bards with a third lower class of novitiates who through the years of orally given instruction aspired to the higher orders.

The real King Arthur it would seem discounting the many glamourised legends which have formed around his name, was a king of western England and Wales who held in check for a brief time the advance of the pagan Saxons. In his day Christianity and Druidism seem to have existed side by side and everywhere in Britain, because of the similarities of teaching, the early Christian missionaries, beginning with Joseph of Arimathea, found ready acceptance among the followers of the Druids.

Secret Teachings

Acceptance into the Druidic Order seems to have been largely a matter of initiation. It was a secret order and all teachings were passed on by word of mouth, although there was a written language of the Druids expressed by runes a mysterious alphabet shared by the British, Goths and Scandinavians.

The esoteric nature of Druidic teaching is expressed in the following:

The universe is infinite, being the body and the being who out of himself evolved or created it, and now pervades and rules it as the mind of man does his body. The essence of the being is pure mental light and therefore he is called Du-w, Duw (the one without darkness). His real name is an effable mystery and so also is his nature. To the human mind, though not in himself, he necessarily represents a triple aspect in relation to the past, the saviour or conservator of the present, the renovator or re-creator as to the future. In the re-creator the idea of the destroyer was also involved. This was the Druidic trinity, the three aspects which were known as Beli, Taran and Esu or Yesu.

The Druidic Trinity was represented by a symbol of three vertical rays of light – a marvellous analogy to the three primary rays of aspect of esoteric science as found various teachings. These are, of course, the first ray of will or power, the second ray of love-wisdom, and the third ray of active intelligence. The symbol of the cross was also familiar to the druids, since pre Christian crosses and their derivation, the swastika, have been found all over Britain as well in more Eastern lands.

The Druidic doctrine in regard to soul has been preserved in one of the Triads of Wales, which have survived the ages:

In every person there is a soul,

In every soul there is intelligence:

In every intelligence there is thought,

In every thought there is either good or evil:

In every evil there is death,

In every good there is life,

In every life there is God.

The Triads are traditionally said to have been originated by the great teacher, Hu Gadarn the Mighty, the first Cymric king of Britain and the British counterpart of Hercules. Of the Cymric record of the great flood of Atlantis and of the coming of the Cymry to Britain we read, from a very ancient Welsh manuscript the following;

“Long before the Kymry came into Britain the Lyn Llion, or Great Deep (literally the abyss of waters), broke up and inundated the whole Earth.”

“The island, afterwards known as Britain, shared the general catastrophe. One vessel floated over the waters, this was the ship of Nevydd Nav Neivion. In it were two individuals preserved – Dwy Van (the man of God) and Dwy Vach (the woman of God). By the posterity of these two the Earth gradually re-peopled”.

“For a long time after the subsiding of the deluge, the Kymry dwelt in the Summer Land between the Sea of Afex and Deffrobani. The land being exposed to sea floods, they resolved, under the guidance of Hu Gadarn to seek the White Island of the West, where their father, Dwy Van had built the ship of Nevydd Nav Neivon.”

“They journeyed westward towards the setting sun, being many in number and men of great heart and strength (Cedeirn, mighty ones, giants).”

The ancient account tells how the Cymry left their home, believed to have been in the province of Akkad in Babylonia, crossed the whole of Europe on foot and building ships, crossed over the “Hazy Ocean” and took possession of the White Island, which they found totally uninhabited, as it had ever since the great surge of waters from the sinking of Atlantis subsided.

These epic poems and Triads of Wales were handed down orally from generation to generation until the sixth century A.D. when they were set in writing, according to tradition by the scholarly bards Taliesin and Llywarch Hen.

Thus we learn that survivors of the Atlantean catastrophe journeyed to Central Asia where in the course of ages of time they evolved from the fourth to the fifth race, the Ayran, if we are to follow the Atlantean origin of the Druids as set forth in the Secret Doctrine. This would account also for the story of a great flood being transported to central Asia, although many consider that Noah’s flood was a distinct and separate occurrence.

The factual existence of a submerged Atlantis was proved in 1979 by the discovery of archaeological remains by Russian divers and announced on NBC television thus proving the truth of Plato’s account, the Welsh tradition, H.P. Blavatsky’s translations of the Book of Dzyan, the descriptions of the Atlantean race and the consciousness by the Tibetan and numerous other myths and legends from both sides of the Atlantic.