



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2013-11-02
PRODUCENT: PAMELA TAIVASSALO WIKHOLM

ENGELSKA
PROGRAMMANUS

PROGRAMNR: 103173ra1

The Legends of King Arthur

The Birth

Script and Word list

Keith Foster:

Once upon a time an illegitimate son became the king of Britain.

illegitimate *oäkta*

Arthur was the secret son of the then king of Britain, Uther Pendragon. As agreed, Merlin took Arthur after his birth, away from Tintagel and placed him in foster care. It did not matter that at the time of Arthur's birth, Uther Pendragon had married Arthur's mother Igraine, the widow of Gorlois.

“Whoso pulleth out this sword of this stone is the rightwise born king of all England.”

Arthur's noble heritage remained a secret until he pulled the sword out of the stone.

noble *adlig*

heritage *arv*

It all began when King Uther Pendragon asked the magician Merlin for help, not in war but in love...

Cliff Eastabrook:

Uther Pendragon ruled the land, and he was a cruel and hard king.

cruel *grym*

And there was in the land another king, there were many kings. This particular king was the King of Cornwall, and his name was Gorlois.

One day he came to Uther's court, bringing with him his beautiful wife Igraine. And Uther fell in love with Igraine. He wanted her more than anything. And so he went to war with



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2013-11-02
PRODUCENT: PAMELA TAIVASSALO WIKHOLM

Gorlois.

Gorlois retreated to the castle of Tintagel, the most impregnable fortress in the lands.

impregnable- oitaglig

Pamela Taivassalo Wikholm:

Our storyteller Cliff Eastabrook has taken us to Tintagel in Cornwall. Tintagel is a very important place when it comes to the birth of King Arthur. Outside Merlin's Cave in Tintagel, we met with Matt Ward from the English Heritage.

Matt Ward:

Well, you're at Tintagel Castle. Now, the name Tintagel... "Tin" means "castle" and "tagel" means "narrow entrance". So the name Tintagel means "the fortress of a narrow entrance". What it is, the main castle site was a Dark Age or early Medieval trading port with the Mediterranean. So you're talking about the 4th or 5th century.

The link with King Arthur comes from... There was a man called Geoffrey of Monmouth. He was a Welsh monk and he wrote a book in 1136 called the *History of the Kings of Britain*.

And what he was trying to do was piece together early accounts of British monarchy that didn't exist and weren't written down. So he was trying to write a story of early accounts of British kings and queens.

accounts- berättelser,
återgivningar

There was always this talk of a guy called Arthur – King Arthur – who was around in the 5th and 6th century. And the first writings of this guy Arthur was by a monk called Nennius in about 900 AD.

Now, Nennius said that this guy Arthur was born on a fortress on a headland with a narrow entrance. So when Geoffrey did his tour of Britain in 1136 to write his book, he came to Tintagel and instantly thought: "Well, that must be the place where King Arthur was born." So that's where the King Arthur legend comes from.

headland- upphöjd udde



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2013-11-02
 PRODUCENT: PAMELA TAIVASSALO WIKHOLM

PTW:

Matt Ward from the English Heritage. He mentioned Geoffrey of Monmouth. Here's Geoffrey's version of what happened when King Uther Pendragon desperately wanted to get in touch with Arthur's mother-be-to – Igraine.

KF: (from History of the Kings of Britain by Geoffrey of Monmouth)

A whole week was now past, when, retaining in mind his love for Igraine, he said to one of his confidants, named Ulfin de Ricaradoch: "My passion for Igraine is such that I can neither have ease of mind, nor health of body, till I obtain her. And if you cannot assist me with your advice how to accomplish my desire, the inward torments I endure will kill me."

"Who can advise you in this matter," said Ulfin, "when no force will enable us to have access to her in the town of Tintagel? For it is situated upon the sea, and on every side surrounded by it. And there is but one entrance into it, and that through a straight rock, which three men shall be able to defend against the whole power of the kingdom. Notwithstanding, if the prophet Merlin would in earnest set about this attempt, I am of opinion, you might with his advice obtain your wishes."

CE:

And Uther went to his adviser Merlin and said: "Help me, I must have Igraine."

And so one day, when Gorlois sallied forth to fight with Uther's armies...

...Merlin took Uther away from the battle, brought him to the coast by Tintagel...

...and there he cast a spell on the king, giving him the semblance, the appearance of Gorlois.

And in this form Uther rode into Tintagel Castle. And the guards let him through the gate. He went to Igraine and he lay with her. And when he had finished, he rode away.

retain behålla, hålla fast, hålla kvar

confidants- förtrogna

accomplish- uppnå, åstadkomma, utföra, uppfylla

in earnest- enträget

obtain erövra, uppnå

semblance- skepnad



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2013-11-02
PRODUCENT: PAMELA TAIVASSALO WIKHOLM

But later that night, a messenger came to Igraine, saying that three hours before she had seen what she thought was her husband, Gorlois had in fact been killed at the battle.

Julie Hayes:

There are so many different writings about how King Arthur's story is told.

PTW:

Julie Hayes works at Glastonbury Abbey, the place where it is said that King Arthur and his wife Guinevere are buried.

JH:

Good storytellers of this time were probably more famous than the pop stars, etc. and the actors of our time. Everybody admired a good storyteller, and again, it got changed by the telling.

And people forget that when people started to read, reading was not the solitary activity it is now. If you were reading, you actually read out aloud to the people around you. And again, that depends on how well you could read, because a few different words here and there changes the whole meaning.

I think we lose a lot by not telling each other stories, by not making up our own stories to tell our own children. Everybody's read *Harry Potter*, but if somebody tells a story, it's very similar to their children. Change it a bit, that's what children will remember.

And I think sometimes now we've lost that. To tell a story or to sit and listen to somebody's story, if they're very good at storytelling, is a wonderful thing, a warm, cosy feeling.

solitary- *avskild, enslig, ensam, ödslig*



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2013-11-02
PRODUCENT: PAMELA TAIVASSALO WIKHOLM

JH:

People always need stories. People need legends, people need something that's more powerful than they are. You need something to believe in. You can't always explain everything that happens. I can't explain why there's such a special feeling here.

King Arthur also is a very special legend, myth, story – whatever you want him to be. And it's that taste of adventure. I think people want a taste of adventure. There's not a lot of opportunity for adventure at the moment. You know, there's too much health and safety.

JH:

We are never ever going to have 100 percent a true King Arthur story. We're not going to have the story of King Arthur's life. It's just never going to happen. We have to accept that and...I was going to say, believe what you believe.

CE:

After taking possession of the babe, Merlin then carried the young Arthur down from the castle, and through the magical Crystal Cave.

KF:

In this programme, you heard Cliff Eastabrook, Julie Hayes, Matt Ward and myself, Keith Foster. Pamela Taivassalo Wikholm produced the programme. Ingela Håkansson was the sound engineer. And if you wish to know more, please go to UR.se and look for *The Legends of King Arthur*.