



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2013-11-09
PRODUCENT: PAMELA TAIVASSALO WIKHOLM

ENGELSKA
PROGRAMMANUS

PROGRAMNR: 103173ra2

The Legends of King Arthur

Merlin the Magician

Script and Word list

Keith Foster:

Once upon a time one of the greatest wizards of all time lived in England. His name was Merlin.

He was King Arthur's advisor, prophet and court magician.

Did Merlin use his magic to live forever? Or did he fall victim to his own spells?

Matt Ward:

You're at Tintagel Castle. The name Tintagel means "the fortress of a narrow entrance".

Pamela Taivassalo Wikholm:

Tintagel is believed to have been King Arthur's castle, and under the castle by the sea there is a big magical cave – Merlin's Cave.

I met Matt Ward from the English Heritage outside the cave.

MW:

Yeah, I mean, it was Tennyson who, he embellished the stories of Geoffrey of Monmouth and Malory. And when he came down here and there was this great cave on the beach, he was looking at the cave and he thought "How can I make this more magical?"

wizard *trollkarl*

advisor *rådgivare*

fall victim to *falla offer för*



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So he wrote in his poem that Merlin lived in the cave and when the baby Arthur was born in the castle, Merlin took him away through this cave and whisked him away to Sir Kay and that's where he grew up.

And so it is, and when you go in the cave it's a really magical place.

MW:

This is really cool, isn't it?

PTW:

Yeah. So this is the cave?

MW:

Yeah, this is Merlin's Cave and you can see... When you walk through it, you can really see that it's a magical and mystical place. And this is the place where Merlin lived. Now, there are some high ledges in here that are above the high-water mark, but I think when you see the view through the end, the idea that Merlin took Arthur in here and whisked him away out the other side, I think it adds to the whole Victorian romanticism of it, doesn't it?

KF:

O Young Mariner
You from the haven
Under the sea-cliff
You that are watching
The gray Magician
With eyes of wonder
I am Merlin
And *I* am dying
I am Merlin
Who follow The Gleam

PTW:

We heard *Merlin and the Gleam*, a poem by Lord Alfred Tennyson, from 1889.

whisk away svepa iväg

mariner sjöman



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The legend says that it was Merlin who brought the stones of Stonehenge to England, with a little help from a giant, Uther Pendragon and 15,000 knights.

Quite close to Stonehenge, you can find the little town of Glastonbury, known these days for its music festival as well as the ancient Glastonbury Abbey, and for the legend of being the mystical place called Avalon.

I walk into a shop called Witchcraft Ltd and I talk to Trevor Jones and Dr. Liz Williams. She's a science-fiction author and a witch.

I ask her if Glastonbury is Avalon.

Dr Liz Williams:

Yes, its old name is Avalon and it's, basically it is a watery island. Glastonbury means "the glass town" in Saxon.

Trevor Jones:

I make most of our wands myself. We make our own candles, we make our own incenses. And we practise magic. And we allow, we sell materials that allow other people to practise their own magic. That's what we do, that's what we believe in. So yes, they work.

PTW:

What kind of magic would that be?

TJ:

Uh... Transformational magic, so we are talking about...either improving yourself or changing your surroundings, changing your life, you know. If your boyfriend has left you, well, so ask for a new boyfriend. It's that kind of magic. It's either responding to changes that you wish to bring about, or it is a long-term thing of self-development. Both.

knight *knekt*

wand *trollstav*

incense *rökelse*



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PTW:

The legacy of all the magic tales, including King Arthur, in today's fantasy literature?

legacy *arv*

LT:

I think fantasy writers are constantly drawing on the folklore tradition, constantly drawing on the fairy tradition. And it is proving popular, it is getting... Particularly *Harry Potter* is getting children back into reading.

PTW:

Do you get inspired by old tales as well when you're writing?

inspired by *inspirerad av*

LT:

When I'm writing, yes, folklore. I write science-fiction primarily, so some of my stuff is fantasy, so it is coming out of the folklore. Other stuff is more futuristic. But certainly I look to folktales. I'm a member of the Folklore Society, for example. I think it's fascinating. It's a genuinely interesting heritage that we have.

primarily *i första hand*

genuinely *genuint, här: riktigt*

heritage *arv*

PTW:

In old Celtic folklore, you can find Merlin as a bard, a magician and a wizard. And it is said that the stories of Merlin and King Arthur were inspired by Celtic mythology.

You can also find Merlin-like characters in literature and in films. For example, Gandalf in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and Dumbledore in *Harry Potter*.

According to the stories of J.K. Rowling, Merlin was born sometime during the Medieval era and when he was young, he attended Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Medieval era *medeltiden*

In Cornwall, I met Jo Coffey, a druid, and we started to talk about modern druids.



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Jo Coffey:

A druid can be many things in the modern day. You get Christian druids. You have humanist druids. Within some groups, you'll have people who will work with different spiritualities, and a lot of the time, we look on druidry as a philosophy and a way of life rather than a religion, so it doesn't conflict with any other practises, necessarily.

necessarily *nödvändigtvis*

PTW:

Merlin, would you say that he was a druid?

JC:

I... He's not typical of what you'd find in a druid now, but as with many stories, his is one of the tales which druids now will try to learn from. They'll find patterns and lessons in his story. The same as with many other mythological druid-type characters.

pattern *mönster*

PTW:

You're studying to become a druid yourself, aren't you?

JC:

I am, yes. I've been studying for about fourteen years now and it's a fascinating journey. One of the key things for me, and I say for me because druidry is different for everyone who studies it, but for me one of the key things is constantly learning and growing. That it's important that you never stop, that to be fully alive you need to be learning.

constantly *ständigt*

PTW:

Do you believe yourself in witches and witchcraft and such?

JC:

Oh, I think the power of the will to influence the world around you is definitely there. A lot of witchcraft is based around rituals which make your will stronger, which make you believe more strongly in things.



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Umm... There are various definitions of witches and I have a number of friends who are witches and would proudly say they are. So absolutely, I have to believe in them in some degrees.

PTW:

How do they define themselves as witches?

JC:

Uh... They practise spell work. A lot of them talk of working with the Goddess, as in a generic goddess. It's a path that seems to make a lot of people, especially women, happy. They find that they're not belittled within that path.

PTW:

Are you afraid of black magic?

JC:

Uh, I'm no more afraid of black magic than I would be of someone badmouthing me or saying nasty things, or someone attacking me. I think people who practise hostile stuff against other people probably do more harm to themselves by filling themselves with bitterness and hatred than they would ever do to their target.

KF:

A storm was coming, but the winds were still,
 And in the wild woods of Brocéliande,
 Before an oak, so hollow, huge and old
 It looked a tower of ivied mason work,
 At Merlin's feet the wily Vivien lay.

Merlin falls in love with Vivien, and she demands that he teaches her all about magic. And then Merlin falls victim to the spells of his own apprentice – Vivien – who may have been The Lady of the Lake.

belittle *förminska*

badmouthing *baktala, förtala*

hostile *fientlig*

ivied *övervuxen av murgröna*

wily *listig, slug*

apprentice *lärling*



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Cliff Eastabrook:

And once she had learned all of his magic, she turned it upon him and entrapped him...here within the Crystal Cave.

And who knows, perhaps he is still here.

KF:

In this programme, you heard Cliff Eastabrook, Jo Coffey, Matt Ward and myself, Keith Foster. Pamela Taivassalo Wikhholm 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*.