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*The Culture of Druidism
In the Western Countries*

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First, I would like to dedicate this extended essay with my love and gratitude to the loveliest persons I have in this world: my dear parents for their sacrifices, support and patience, for their help, love and encouragement.

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ABSTRACT

This study is in the field of civilization .It is important in order to shed light on several definitions and various origins of the term ‘Druid’ and it’s different types with related concepts. Therefore, the roles and influences of the beliefs and practices of ‘Druids’ on people and the surroundings. The research approach adopted in this work is a historical one .It relies on the reading of documentations related to this subject. The findings from this research provide evidence that ‘Druids’ are not only a clergymen but they may occupy other functions and take many roles and manifestations in societies. Along centuries, records about them change the perceptions on them their representations are renowned in plays, songs, paintings, poems and garden ornaments. The main conclusions drawn from this work are: Druids’ origins spring from western societies and from various civilizations; their practices have changed over times from witchcraft to political achievements. Then, their beliefs moved between a strong belief in immortality and reincarnation to devil and supernatural forces. Finally, their occupations and roles influence people and this is shown through cartoons and cinematic productions.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Druids are a group of sects who demand to conserve natural life. They have existed in Britain over 2000 years ago and they try to find out how to use nature force for their own benefits and rituals. We have found that though there are a lot of writers and books written about them, not many in reality there no authentic references on Druids. Their practices were not done in public and their beliefs were exoteric and they were transmitted orally.

Moreover, Druids have been discussed for at least 2,400 years, first by Greek writers and later by the Romans. As stated by these sources, Druids were lettered rank and philosophers who officiated in religious ceremonies, educated wisdoms .However, little is known about real Druids through history that is why they remain odd and mysterious to today.

This research work aims at investigating the origins of ancient and modern Druids and their beliefs and practices across societies. To examine these elements, this research tries to answer the following questions:

1. When and where did Druids appear through history?
2. What are the influences of the old and modern 'Druids' on movies, cartoons and the peoples' thoughts?

Two hypotheses are formulated as presumptive answers to these thesis statements and guide to this research:

1. The majority of the origins of 'Druids' came from western countries and ancient civilizations.
2. The roles and practices of Druids may be positive or negative it depends on the culture, age, and religion of people.

This research work includes two chapters; chapter one is a historical review which deals with the definitions and origins of the ancient Druids, it gives details from various writers' accounts. In the same chapter, there is description of the various types of 'Druids in society and their roles in ancient time. Besides, the description of the creed of Druidism' and their thought is investigated.

The second chapter focuses on the movement of the modern 'Druids' and describes their practices and faiths which are illustrated in movies, stories and witchcraft activities. Finally, it contains a brief analysis of the Druids impact on society through famous movies.

Chapter One

Historical Background of the Druid

Chapter one: The Historical Background of Druids

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1.1 Introduction

The study of Druidism should initiate with a method of demystification. Druidism is founded in the civilization of Western Europe, in those cultures that are familiar as Celtic which extent from Ireland and parts of Portugal in the west to France, Switzerland and Austria in the East. Druidry's roots are really odd and strange and the historical grasp shows that Druidism had evolved in the British Isles around 2, 500 years ago. The interest on the Druids is more on the modern than on the ancient one. Therefore; the present chapter aims to provide information about the concept of Druidism culture and the various origins. Then, it tries to identify the types of Druids besides of their roles in societies. Finally, the creed of Druidism and the system of religious beliefs will be scrutinized.

1.2 Definitions of the Word 'Druid'

There is a great confusion in what Druid is because of the different ways in which the term is defined. According to the definition of American Heritage Dictionary "Druid is a member of an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Irish legend as a prophets and sorcerers"¹. This means that Druid was a member of a pre-Christian religious demand the ancient Celts of Gaul, Britain, and Ireland. According to the definition of Isaac Bonewits and Robert Larson; they say: "The reformed Druids are a group of people from many religions and philosophies who are attempting to find answers to spiritual and philosophical questions" (10). They mean that the Druid is a pagan priest in certain groups of Celts before the adoption of Christianity.

The word 'Druid' is an anglicized and probably latinized form of the Gaulish 'druvis'. Travers says that: "the word itself has been subject to intense speculation as to its origins, though most scholars associate it with the Greek 'drus' meaning 'oak'." (1); according to this passage Travers explains the English form of the word Druid as the Gaulish 'druvis' and many scholars agreed with the Greek historians that 'drus' means 'oak'.

The Celtic meaning of the word Druid is 'to enclose within a circle' and the word was used in the sense of 'prophet' or one admitted into the mysteries of the 'inner circle'. Other writers

¹<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/druid>(access on 28 April 2015)

give the derivation as from the Hebrew Hirussim, or Drussim, which mean 'Complementors'. Their is another explanation given is that it is an old Celtic word, 'druis', formed from 'trowis', or 'truwis', meaning 'a doctor of the faith'.

Trowis in German, means 'a revealer of truth'. The celebrated philologist 'Rudolf Thurneysen' derives Druid from 'dru', a prefix meaning 'though' and 'vid', meaning 'known', so that, from this etymological reading, a Druid was a man of great knowledge. The earliest mention of the name of Druid is found in Diogenes Laertius's¹ lives of the philosophers. The Persian 'duru' means 'a good and holy man'; the Arabic 'deri', 'an absolver or remitter of sins'. In Scotland, the Druids were called 'Ducergli', and in Spain 'Turduli' or 'Turдутan'. The oriental Dervishes² are thought by some to derive their name from the same source as the Druids.

We see that some writers have retained that it was an evolution of the Egyptian religion and with Freemasonry³ originated in the upmost teachings of Ptah⁴, which by some are believed to have been brought out of Egypt by Moses, besides of that, Philology does not recognize the help in deciding the real origin of Druidism. The dissimilar Druidical terms are very clashing though slight modern scholars possibly now preserve the point of view of the real meaning of such terms. According to Dudley Wright views he says: "We can highly regarded that the word derived from the Greek word 'Drus' meaning 'an Oak' on which was founded in part at any rate" (1) This quotation deals with the theory that the Druids had their original habitat among the oaks of Mamre⁵, to which reference is made in the book of Genesis⁶.

¹ Diogenes Laertius's: was a biographer of the Greek philosophers. Nothing is known about his life, but his surviving Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers is a principal source for the history of Greek philosophy.

² Dervishes: a member of a Muslim (specifically Sufi) religious order who has taken vows of poverty and austerity. Dervishes first appeared in the 12th century; they were noted for their wild or ecstatic rituals and were known as dancing, whirling, or howling dervishes according to the practice of their order.

³ Freemasonry is a fraternal organisation that traces its origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of masons and their interaction with authorities and clients.

⁴ Ptah: an ancient Egyptian deity believed to be a universal creator and sometimes identified with other gods: worshiped especially at Memphis when it was the royal residence.

⁵ The Oak of Mamre (also called the Oak of Sibta), at Hirbetes-Sibte, two kilometres (1.2 miles) southwest of Mamre near Hebron, Palestinian Territories. Also called The Oak of Abraham.

⁶ The Book of Genesis (from the Latin Vulgate, in turn borrowed or transliterated from Greek γένεσις, meaning "origin"; Hebrew:, is the first book of the Hebrew Bible (the Tanakh) and the Christian Old Testament.

Travers sheds light on the various forms and meaning of the word 'Druid': "The Indo-European roots *deru*, meaning 'steadfast' or 'strong', and *wid* connected with knowledge, and wisdom, presented by Edred Thorsson, Ph.D. Hence, the original word may have been something like 'deruwid', meaning 'one of steady knowledge'."¹(Travers 1); Travers shows the different forms of the word Druid. Thus the following table illustrates Druid in three languages:

Figure N°1: Druid in three languages

Old Irish	Druí
Middle Welsh	Derwydd
Gaulish	Druvis (from 'druvids')

Source : <http://www.accessnewage.com/articles/mystic/druids.htm>

According to this table we can see the different sounds of the word Druid which was changed in each of the languages, proposing the form done before was 'deruwid' but if we link 'druid' and 'drus' is not incorrect, only the link would be secondary.

According to Mr. Delta Evans a Celtic scholar the word 'derwydd' is derived from 'dar' meaning 'above' and 'gwydd' which means 'understanding', 'learning', and 'knowledge'. Also according to 'Richard Pococke'², he claims that the Druid in India and in Greece were of the 'Indu Vanes', and for 'Lunar Race', Druid were the symbol of the crescent worn by them. 'Wilson's Sanskrit Lescicon' describes the Druid as 'a holy sage' which means a 'pious' and 'learned person'³.

¹<http://www.accessnewage.com/articles/mystic/druids.htm> (access on 02 April 2015)

² Richard Pococke: was an English prelate and anthropologist. He was the Bishop of Ossory (1756–65) and Meath (1765), both dioceses of the Church of Ireland. However, he is best known for his travel writings and diaries.

³<http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/what-druidry/what-druidism/what-ovate/> (accessed on 28th April 2015)

1.3 Origins

The lineage of the Druid spiritual tradition can be traced across thousand of years. The question asked both in past and present is what period or moment in the history witnesses the foundation of Druidism? For eons, the Druids were cycle and collection of philosophies appeared from numerous religions as prophets and sorcerers who try to discover spiritual answers and philosophical questions . It is incontrovertible that a strongly-effective organisation such as Druidism comes into historical sight, in modern radix or establishment.

1.3.1 Culture Origins

According to historians we could see that the first testimony of spiritual practice in Europe 25,000 years ago, when nominee for initiation would limp into caves like the Pinhole caves¹ in Derbyshire² which is situated in North Central England and the Lauscaux³ caves in France or Altamira in Spain. It is dramatically glazy with many figures odd savage or wild animals. They started in the abdomen of Mother Earth, they were brought back to life into the light of day.

In fact, after twenty years later, in around 3000 BCE the same habit or practice of looking revival within the earth was present. This quotation illustrates that: “great mounds were built, in which initiates would sit in darkness waiting the time of their rebirth. The best example of this is found at New Grange⁴ in Ireland, where a shaft is oriented to the Winter Solstice sunrise, so that the dawn rays can bathe the initiate in sunlight after his or her vigil through the night.”⁵. According to this small passage the Druids were built many great piles in which insitigates would sit in gloominess waiting the time of their rebirth.

Along time later, in the sixteenth century, Druid spirituality transcribed by Christian Clerics from spoken and verbal tradition which is debate about the mentel and wizzard exercises

¹Pinhole: This is one of pieces of British Upper Paleolithic portable art, which shows a figure.

²Derbyshire: is a county in the East Midlands of England. A substantial portion of the Peak District National Park lies within Derbyshire.

³Lauscaux: the site of a cave in the Dordogne, France, which is richly decorated with Paleolithic wall paintings of animals dated to the Magdalenian period.

⁴New Grange: is a prehistoric monument in County Meath, Ireland, located about one kilometre north of the River Boyne. It was built during the Neolithic period around 3200 BC, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids.

⁵<http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/what-druidry/brief-history-druidry>(access on 09 April 2015)

and training of a Druid; this quotation helps to clarify the meaning of the imagination of Druids; "...he is eaten by a Goddess enters her belly and is reborn as the greatest poet in the land"¹; this explains that there was a spiritual rebirth and awakening through artificial death-rebirth experiment.

In the early history of Britain Vallencey, whose precious and invaluable researches and its inhabitants have placed and located all group of students under an everlasting religion of thanks giving says that the existence of Druids is when Britain was peopled that means that they flourished and were imported in the east by that great body of Persian Scythians², well-known to the Greeks underneath the origin of Druidism name or denotation of Phoenicians.

1.3.2 Social Origins

We first sign-out in the writings of Julius Caesar³, who in about 50 BCE talks and wrote about the origins of Druidism in Britain. However, others said that the origin was in Egypt or India. While, 'Rudolf Steiner'⁴ and 'Dion Fortune'⁵ who were mystics believe to be clair seer rather than historical directory, to the land of Atlantis which was more fuzzy

The word Druid has different origins in societies which stays in the same meaning of Oak trees, doctors, sage man and sorcerer, this quotation illustrates this sense; "The word itself (Druid) comes through both Brythonic tongues (Cornish and Welsh) meaning either knowledge of the Oak or Wizard, or Wise man, in Gaelic 'Irish and Scots'"⁶.

¹<http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/what-druidry/brief-history-druidry>(access on 03 April 2015)

² The Scythians: were a large group of Iranian nomads who were mentioned by the literate peoples surrounding them as inhabiting large areas in the central Eurasian steppes from about the 9th century BC up until the 4th century AD.

³ Julius Caesar: July 100 BC – 15 March 44 BC was a Roman general, statesman, Consul, and notable author of Latin prose. He played a critical role in the events that led to the demise of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire.

⁴ Rudolf Joseph Lorenz Steiner: February 1861 – 30 March 1925) was an Austrian mystic, philosopher, social reformer, architect, and esotericist. Steiner gained initial recognition at the end of the nineteenth century as a literary critic and published philosophical works including *The Philosophy of Freedom*.

⁵ Dion Fortune: (6 December 1890 – 8 January 1946), she was a prominent British occultist, author, psychologist, teacher, artist, and mystic. Schooled in Western Esotericism, she was influential in the modern revival of the magical arts.

⁶http://www.cobdo.org.uk/html/the_druids.html (access on 15 May 2015)

Mr. Akerman, in Numismatic journal says that: “Beale¹ poste Druidical circles do come to light and appear in ancient British coins ‘the coins of Adminus and Togodumnus’.” (217). He means that Beale poste are not worthy from the appearance of different symbols upon them like skulls of oxen, circles of dots, cases of sacrificial knives, double circles, snakes and serpents, and loose horses.

In the early years, the Druid was a philosopher, teacher, adviser, Sorcerer and magician which means ‘A forest Sage’ or ‘Strong Seer’. The support of the Druidic religion of the nationality of Britons is assumed to be implicit in these emblems. Besides, Aristotle and Sotion were omitted because they knew of the Druids only through rumor and hearsay. In addition to this, Britain has been regarded as the main place and house of Druidism, and by others is alleged to have grasped the faith and true religion in paramount purity than any other country. The Gallic² Druids have been journeying to Britain for the aim of learning and studying the religion.

The Welsh professor Jhon Rhys³ thinks that the writers went more to Ireland than to Britain, as a result Druidism in Gaulish has become inclined and corrupted because of the contiguity to heathen forms of religion and worship then by the acceptance of bizarre and odd gods into the calendar, and images worshipping. According to the commentaries of Julius Caesar; the druidical doctrine was evolved in the Isle of Britain, it was passed to Gaul and he stated: “Those who wish to study it deeply usually go to the Island and stay there for a time”⁴ (Wright 20). This means that the Gallic Druids make an annually meeting informal and dignified association or convocation in the region or land which is called the Carnutes; characters which is situated in northern France and Orleans in central France, which was picked and considered to be the centre of Gaul.

¹ Beale Poste: (1793 – April 15, 1871) was an English antiquary and Anglican cleric.

² Gaul: from which the name derives, a region of Europe roughly corresponding to modern France and parts of the surrounding countries

³ Sir John Rhys (21 June 1840 – 17 December 1915) was a Welsh scholar, fellow of the British Academy, Celticist and the first Professor of Celtic at Oxford University.

The view of Pliny the Elder¹ about Druids states that a Gaulish magi stands for Gaulish, as Stated by Porphyry: “the name magi in the east was most august and venerable: they alone were skilled in divine matters and were the ministers of the deity” (Higgins 97)

This small passage shows that the magi in the east was very reverend, proficient in godly and spiritual matters, they were so strong and masters of the deity. Alexander Bertrand preserves that Druidism was not secluded or separated foundation without analogy but that its equivalent is to be well looked for in the Lamaseries².

1.4 Types of Druids

The pre-period of the early Celticism gives road to the history time of document. From the works of classical writers we can read and learn about the Celts and Druids such as; Julius Ceasar who is the fundamental source of information on the Druids. He was in the Gaule at war with Britain. He gave facts about the Druids that contain elements of exageration, truth and fantasy. The Druid class included law-speakers, poets and doctors, the best known among the Druids were the religious leaders. They did not left written accounts on themselves, only a few types and descriptions by Greek, Roman and various dispersed authors, artists and stories formed by later medieval Irish writers.

In fact, the Druids were divided into Different groups, similar to the caste system. It found out three types of Druids which had developed highly sophisticated religious order by the Celts.

1.4.1 OVATES

The Ovates were the healers, doctors and seers. Lucan.Pharsalia says: “...an Ovate is one who studies or practices herbalism, healing and divination within a Druidic context, or who has entered the ovate level of training within a Druid Order.”(Pharsalia 1). According to Pharsalia views, he studies the Ovates appoint them as heads of common Druids. They take charge of grasping mysterious of death and rebirth for knowing the future.

¹ Pliny the Elder: was a Roman author, naturalist, and natural philosopher, as well as naval and army commander of the early Roman Empire and personal friend of the emperor Vespasian.

²Lamaseries: a monastery of lamas. In Tibetan Buddhism, a monastery presided over by a lama.

1.4.2 BARDS

The Bards means the poets who knew the songs and tell stories of the tribe and were primarily singers and satirists. They participated in prophecy, divination, and teaching. Then it took twelve years to become proficient. During this period there were numerous cross-fertilizations between Celtic, Greece and Rome. According to Wright: “Vallancey is of opinion that the Bardswere the original Celtic priests, so called from their chanting to the deities in their sacred office.”(75): this quotation deals with the opinion of the division into Druids, Bards and Ovates, and each one had honours and duties.

1.4.3 DRUIDS

The Druids grasped the highest situation among the other types. They had more political effect and there were research and discussion by the politicians that there are intermediaries to the spiritual world. They could retain the kings in examination in order of their godly and divine injunctions which allowed them to make particular forbidence. It took twenty years of exercises and training to become a Druid.

Before, a priest could achieve to that lustrous and exalted degree and status, he had to pass through introductory and specific ranks of Bards, or Ovate. Many of young man of the land entered to employ the church or the temple; they do that just for one clear aim is to stay and remaining in the ranks of one or other of these two instructions.

After the split Druids, Bards, and Overtes arrive later when each rank had it's odd decission and duties and all were protected and equally trated by the state .The term Bard have been derived from one 'Bardus'. “The first Bards were called by the triad names of Plennyd,Alawn, Gwron.”(ibid 76) This name means the light and illumination, harmony and power.

Another quotation shows the truth of Druids :“The ancient Druids were once, Judges, Kingmakers, Scientists, Magicians and Priests and their modern counter parts may be viewed likewise”¹. This explains that Druidry have a philosophical viewpoint and a religious World

¹http://www.cobdo.org.uk/html/the_druids.html (accessed on the 30th May 2015)

view. Although it would be exhibition to declare that Druids consider themselves as Pagan Priests.

1.5 The Role of Ancient Druids

Druidry is based on Celtic culture, language, mythology and history. The role of an ancient Bard was to act as a historian and lore keeper, to tell stories, make music, recite poetry to remind people of their history and culture, to inspire and to entertain.

The following quotation shows the beliefs and way of thinking of Druids; “The Druid or Pagan Priest in this context may be seen as the Celebrant and the believers, not as a congregation as is the case in most Systems, but as equals” (Pendragon 1); through this passage the Pagans resort to assemble in circles and they have no head, no starting or ending like the circuit table.

Therefore, there were some Druids favour only to work within their own holy landscape and the others are evenly at home in many various places. Also the orders focus on the instruction part and aspect of druidry and concentrate on the wizard and intuitive. Also this quotation deals with the positive side and negative of Druid’s practices in nature; “There is a responsibility for the use of such knowledge by those of the Ovates grade and that such knowledge should be used for the benefit of the planet and our environs”¹(Idem). At this point, the responsibility to the public should talk out overtly versus injustices at minimum as extremely as they do in Ritual. They should be able to support their wizard and magical beliefs and ideas by the daily behavior in their existence.

Furthermore, this quotation defines the role of Druids in Celtic’s culture; “The Druids were the intelligentsia² of Celtic society and fulfilled many roles within it. They were also the spiritual specialists and the traditional leaders of the sacrifices among the Celts.”³:this means the role of Druids in Celtic society was replaced by the Christian priests, the brehons, the scientists, the poets, philosophers, The story tellers, and political mentors.

¹ http://www.cobdo.org.uk/html/the_druids.html(access on 3 May 2015)

²Intelligentsia: the stratum of intelligentsia arose first in Russian-controlled Poland during the age of Partitions.

³http://www.summerlands.com/crossroads/library/traditional_role_of_druids.htm(access on 13May 2015)

The fact that there was family of spiritual practices between the Celts as individuals, these individuals or personal practices carry on today within Celtic cultures and organized groups of Christian churches and priesthood midst. The aim of the role of Druids is not to replace personal or family spiritual and religious practices, but to increase and help the spirituality of the Celtic people and their families in Celtic societies. If we think carefully that this role of Druids and Brahmins¹ in their societies was so comparable, as supported in Myles Dillon's² book-Celts and Aryans who presents the following similarities between the groups of Druids;

1. Each represented the religious and learned classes of their societies.
2. The kings in both societies deferred to these groups.
3. They both shared the belief that truth was the life-giving and sustaining power of the universe.
4. Both groups relied heavily on oral memory and poetry to sustain sacred writings and histories even though they had the ability to write.³(Pendragon 1)

Through these similarities most of Druid groups learned religious and truth about the world and they are linked by literary works and histories writing. As an example, the case of Baptisms⁴ in the Christian church we can observe the existence of folk belief that Druids complete these baptisms in old Celtic society.

In the Irish tales, we find ceremonies and auguries which are considered by several scholars to be guide of an act of Druidic Baptism. Also another similarity between the priesthood of groups is the use of time, stars and Calendars to type auspicious occasions. Their important rituals lead the sacrifices and the fire rituals, which are another resemblance between the two

¹Brahmins: is a Varna in Vedic Hinduism and a caste of people who are members of it. Members are subdivided into numerous communities known as *gotras*.

² Myles Dillon: was born in Dublin; he was one of six children of John Dillon and his wife Elizabeth Mathew; James Matthew Dillon, the leader of Fine Gael, was his younger brother.

³ http://www.summerlands.com/crossroads/library/traditional_role_of_druids.htm (access on 13 May 2015)

⁴Baptisms: (in the Christian Church) the religious rite of sprinkling water onto a person's forehead or of immersion in water, symbolizing purification or regeneration and admission to the Christian Church. In many denominations, baptism is performed on young children and is accompanied by name-giving.

priesthoods, the Druids and Brahmins, exist to train future group or family members of their instructions and orders and other students we read:

It was the Druids who spoke first at gatherings and rituals. It was the Druids who lit the fires of rituals. It was the Druids who officiated at the sacrifices. It was the Druids who banished people from the sacrifices. It was the Druids who told the poetical epics and stories that were suited to each official occasion in Celtic society. It was the Druids who served as judges and witnessed the solemn oaths. It was the Druids who preserved the *coimgne*. It was the Druids who conducted the rites of kingship and determined the kings themselves. It was the Druids who dealt with the mysteries of the Otherworld when other techniques failed. It was the Druids who read the signs and foresaw the future.

(O'Dubhain 1)

Through this passage, we can see many roles of Druids in Irish society were supplanted by the continuing and increase the practices of Christian priesthood and certain groups. We may observe that the role of druids is satisfied a priestly task in Celtic society and it should be in fact.

The Druids do not appear as religious leaders of the Celts. Instead they appear as scholars, poets, and magicians. As masters of ceremonies, they administered animal, and even human, sacrifices. As workers of magic, they influenced battles, war, and politics. In addition, they functioned as teachers, philosophers, and diviners.

(Travers1)

At this point, 'Travers' supervises the roles of Druids which are documented and attested to in the mythology, classical sources and legends.

In addition, Chris Travers says: “In the Excellence of the Ancient Word, several Druids are mentioned with translations of battle spells. Such spells include Lug’s charm: "Crane Magic" cast before the Second Battle of Magh Tuiredh, Kenmare’s conjuration of the bog monster, and many others.”⁽²⁾; this is another interesting passage where we notice that different groups of Druids have periods of fighting.

In fact, we can consider the Druids as an isolate and sort of priest. However, the classical texts mention that they are more philosophers than priests. Above all, it’s known that Druids took the chair at ceremonies, but if we recognize that Druidry was natural earth religion in opposition to a revealed religion like Islam and Christianity. Perhaps Druids acted not as mediators of divinity but as guiding the rites and director so fritual.

According to Julius Caesar; he also talks about the role of Druids .This quotation shows that; “they have many discussions as touching the stars and their movement, the size of the universe and of the earth, the order of nature, the strength and the powers of the immortal gods, and hand down their lore to the young men.”¹(Caesar1); through this passage, we can see Druids as scientists, astronomers and mathematicians, also behave as doctors and sage philosophers who discuss the powers of gods, and as teachers crossing on their sagacity.

Besides, Druids decide in almost all disagreements and controversies, private and public. For example: if any offense occurred or any dispute about killing or boundaries, they decide it too by determining punishment and rewards. Thus, if any person refuse their decisions or does not abide by them, the Druids ban sacrifices and heaviest penalty.

In fact, from the Classical and the Irish sources, it is clear that one of the most important tasks of Druids was as a teacher; Caitlin Matthews² offers the image of the Jewish rabbi to help us picture how a Druid might have lived and worked, he asserts: “She or he was: a man or woman of wisdom whose advice was sought on all matters of daily life, one who perhaps also fulfilled a craft, and one who was married and had a family, one who brought the people

http://www.celtic-twilight.com/otherworld/druidism/caesar_druids.htm (accessed on 5th May 2015)

²Caitlin Matthews (born 1952) in an English writer.

together for common celebrations and whose word was law”¹. Therefore, from all the different Celtic accounts generally we explore that the Druid had one student or more linked and attached to his household. Once more, to turn to Jewish parallel, a rabbi; we mean here by rabbi a Jewish scholar or teacher, especially one who studies or teaches Jewish law. That rabbi would often carry and fill a Talmudic school.

In a similar way, the students of Druids lettered and educated from their masters and mistresses and those students one or two living with Druid for helping in return for training. Other Druids collected many students and disciples around them to shape a real education institution of druidry. This quotation illustrates this meaning; “In Ulster², for example, it is recorded that Cathbad³, one of King Conchobar's⁴ Druids, was surrounded by a hundred students.”⁵ It means merely as the monastic instructions, the Druidic colleagues were taught philosophy, law and magic of Cure skills to the doctrine of the right order of festive.

1.6 The Creed of Druidism

The culture of the Druids would be most like the Magi⁶. They are rationalists, but not materialists. They were philosophers, sage and theologians and involve in meditation of God in the metaphysical significance as a side of clarifying why the world conducts and concludes results about how to control human needs. There are rumours that Druids participated and involved in ‘evil practices’, however this rumour is not confirmed in archaeological proof. Also they were known in a concept ascetics where they live in nature and not selecting to conduct business and work like farming on a wide scale, or combat. The present quotation shows the real creed of Druids;

¹ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/what-druidry/what-druidism/what-druid> (access on 22 April 2015)

² Ulster: a former province of Ireland, in the north of the island. The nine counties of Ulster are now divided between Northern Ireland (Antrim, Down, Armagh, Londonderry, Tyrone, and Fermanagh) and the Republic of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan).

³ Cathbad or Cathbhadh (modern spelling) is the chief druid in the court of King ConchobarmacNessa in the Ulster Cycle of Irish Mythology.

⁴ Conchobar: is an Irish male name meaning "lover of hounds". It is the source of the Irish names Conor, Connor, Connors, Conner, O'Connor, etc. It is a name borne by several figures from Irish history and legend, including:

⁵ <http://www.druidry.org/druid-way/what-druidry/what-druidism/what-druid> (access on 16 May 2015)

⁶ Magi: the “wise men” from the East who brought gifts to the infant Jesus (Matt. 2:1), said in later tradition to be kings named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Druids professed a creed which appears to have been as inspiring as that of any ancient or modern system of religion or theology, and the fact that sectarianism was unknown to them, all believers of the faith professing the same creed without any variation, had a cohesive and unifying effect upon the various nations among whom it prevailed.

(Wright 22)

Through this passage Druidism known and engrave the belief in the unity of the top being to that only the prayers of the world and commune, over the priests. The governor of the world was helped by vassal divinities who were assumed to work rather as angels or prophets than as touched of any authority of their own. 'Origen'; was a Christian scholar theologian who is opposed to the thought of druidism being polytheistic¹. Origen confirms that the Druid believed in one god only, he looks and contributory in driving the people to Christianity, in spite of that, it may be highly regarded that the normal doctrine of early Druidism became reduced in value by the acceptance of the Polytheism of the East.

According to 'Bertrand' he supposition that the Druids introduced to the Celts, whatever a strange divinities or new rites where they were stabilized to the countries. Wright says that: "the Druids had the primitive intuition and the good sense to teach a uniform and just doctrine and that far from seeking to personify the eternal they devoted themselves to shewing him in his manifestation through his works." (Idem)

In this passage the Druids literate and educate the adoration of spiritual and invisible divinities, also they had an enormous veneration for the elements and for the various parts of the hidden world for earth, wind, trees, fire, water....etc. In primitive state, Druidism may be considered as a castle put forward upon the same basis as the patriarchal religion. It is an apparent planning that aim to illuminate the comprehension to raise regularity and to support moral.

¹Polytheism: who belief in more than one god or in many gods.

1.7 Conclusion

This chapter has shown the origin of the spirituality and nature of Druidry that is thriving through the universe. Therefore, it looks for the various roles and types of Druids in religion as clergymen, doctor and in society as a poet, sorcerers and prophet and so many domains. In addition, the creed of Druidism helps the reader to understand the truth and the system of their religious beliefs and the essence of worshiping. The next chapter deals with the culture of Druidism and the link between the ancient Druidism and modern one. It also tends to explore the different beliefs and several practices that focus on the way of thinking of Druids and their influences on society.

Chapter Two

The Modern Druid and their Influence

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2.1 Introduction

After a brief analysis of the ground about the Druids beliefs we can move to the modern Druids and Celtic root. It aims to supply the learners and the readers cross the cultural of Druids and their activities. Therefore, the data collection will be analyzed with some features from modernistic faiths of Druids .Within this chapter; the research will be discussed and described clearly the Druidical practices, festivals and costumes. At the end, we focus on the main influences of Druids cultural impact on people, mass media, games and cartoons.

2.2 Druids Today's

In the first half of the twentieth century, modern Druids developed fraternal organizations modeled on Freemasonry that employed the romantic figure of the British Druids and Bards as symbols of indigenous British spirituality. Since the 1980's several epochal Druid groups have adopted comparable methodologies to those of Celtic Reconstructionist Paganism¹, they attempt to inspire widely careful practice, but, there are still disputes and debates about modern Druidism which may or may not include to the Iron Age Druids .This quotation shows the strong link between the ancient and modern Druids.

Being a Druid today does not mean trying to live in the same manner as our Celtic ancestors did in this land. We simply couldn't – with our technology and changed world, our religion or spirituality must change. We can still follow the intention of our ancestors of blood, of the land or of tradition.²

(Hoeven.p.1)

Through this passage J. Van Der Hoeven means that Druidism still exist until now, despite the development and technology. The changes of the land where we live deed to existent tune and melody with the natural rotation cycles of life which is full of honors, safety, fact and reality.

¹Celtic Reconstructionist Paganism's a polytheistic reconstructionist approach to Celtic Neopaganism, emphasizing historical accuracy over eclecticism such as is found in many forms of Neo-druidism. It is an effort to reconstruct and revive, in a modern Celtic cultural context, pre-Christian Celtic religions.

²<http://www.druidry.org/library/modern-druidry/druidry-today>(access on 04May 2015)

Whether ancient or modern, Druidry is all about relationship. Whereas, we can say that the ancient Druids may have tried to conciliate the gods with offerings or victimization. The modern Druids do the same thing, but not for the same reasons. The present quotation sheds light on Druid characters: “when most people hear the word Druid, they think of old men with long beards, wearing robes and frolicking around Stonehenge. However, the modern Druid movement is a bit different from that one of the biggest Neopagan Druid group.”³

According to this speech we can say that Neopagan Druidry is a cycle of philosophies, religions, faith and various ways of life founded in ancient earth post reaching for the stars. In fact, the word Druid appears to show up visions of Celtic Reconstructionism; this means hundreds of different traditions and groups within the pagan community.

In fact, Druidry is a religion which is the road of spirituality. However the most important in Druidry is the link with the nature and existence. Therefore, there are differences and similarities between the ancient and recent Druids. Today, modern Druids can survey and research Celtic culture to tell their beliefs and actions as Druids. For example, Bards become modern annalist, historians and genealogists, reminding every person of the epic of cosmic growth, this support and help people to inspire their life in better ways.

From a naturalistic point of view, the recent Druid has the choice of believing or not in the existence of the otherworld if there is no scientific proof, but informing about the universe and the environment around is certainly a modern Ovate role and function. This quotation reinforced this idea

Ovate would study Astronomy to know about the universe, as well as becoming scientists and naturalists to know about the world around them, giving them a deep sense of awe and wonder at the universe and a closer relationship with the natural world.⁴

Through this passage, ovate strand is Metaphysics; also they could study skills at living in the bush, to inform and to understand how to keep and continue to live in the wild, to know

³<http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/pagantraditions/p/Druidism.htm>(access on 18 May 2015)

⁴<https://naturalpantheist.wordpress.com/2012/12/15/the-role-of-the-modern-druid/>(access on 12 May 2015)

more about nature and to awaken their primitive instinct. Another martyrdom illustrates the function of recent Druids

Modern Druids can do the same – through a variety of means. We can learn, and then teach others what we have learned so that we can all live better lives in relationship with the natural world.⁵

According to this excerpt we take an example of view how Gaia⁶ theory informs and teaches? that we all have a combined and joint ancestor, and they are all one's family and relations, unified and then constructing our lives, joined morals and manners.

2.3 Role of Modern Druids

According to 'Kanaan Ministers' idea that shows the important roles of Druids in magic and their practices influence on people positively to protect them from evil. He says: "Druids practiced magic and witchcraft but also healing and divination acting as Shamans and medicine men, making Talismans and spells to ward off evil" (12)

In the time of Rome, the priests of the Celtic tribes of Western Europe called themselves 'Druids'. Alongside, we found also a game of Druids which called 'Advanced Dungeons and Dragons'; this is more closely look like creatures of Victorian romance and modern fiction ;"....the Druids of the AD&D game are not Celtic priests , nor do they practice the bloody rites that made the ancient Druids in famous in the eyes of Rome .'" (Pulver 03)

Merlin figures a magician who helped and supported King Arthur, who consider and venerate nature control force through plants , climate , animals ...etc ;" ...Druids can best adventure with a party of predominantly good characters and what does Druid can become the center of a new and exciting campaign.'"(Idem)

In fact , we have druidic characters that we consider as a players and you could select your druidic section just after playing and adapt a Druid character ;"Several distinct branches of druid

⁵<https://naturalpantheist.wordpress.com/2012/12/15/the-role-of-the-modern-druid/>(access on 12 May 2015)

⁶Gaia: the Earth personified as a goddess, daughter of Chaos. She was the mother and wife of Uranus (Heaven); their offspring included the Titans and the Cyclopes.

are presented here , each essentially a new subclass built around the basic concept of the Druid class''(Pulver 04)

This explains that the traditional Druid is a keeper and guardian of the wood lands and nature. So the Druids might live vivid and exist in this life to protect forests and jungle rain, arctic tundra, and subterranean under dark. Forest druid is referred to the basic Druidic organization; ‘‘the names of the other branches reflect their geographic speciality: arctic Druids, desert druids, and so on’ ibid. Through this small passage we can observe that all the branches of the Druidic structure have the same bias in worshipping nature and true neutral.

They share one ethos and owe at least nominal allegiance to the world’s Grand Druid. But, as befits the infinite diversity of Nature, every branch differs in details and approach to its mission. The granted powers and spells that Nature finds appropriate druids in one region are often inappropriate for a druid from a very different climate and terrain.

(ibid 07)

In this respect of this quotation Druids have one soul between them in this world and to connect with nature it’s divided in various ramifications. ‘In public health the forest Druids have main arrival to the Plant sphere of priestperiods. The desert Druids reflect on the less numerous life in the desert.’(Idem)

Alongside, in Celtic society Druids make another ruling class of people and they are equal to the Brahmins in India. In fact, they are a priestly class which occur in a big part of Western Europe north of the Alps and in the British Isles .The present quotation illustrates the real practice and role of various Druids;‘‘Druidic practices were part of the culture of all the tribal people called the ‘Keltoi’ (Celts) or GALATAI by the Greeks and CELTAE and GALLI by the Romans which evolved into the Celtic and Gaulish names.’’(ibid.P.04)

Also, Druids were the intellectual guardians of the oral law. The Celtic knowing which contains information collected from different cultures and civilizations like; Greeks, Sumerians, Akkadians, and Phoenicians. The role of Druids here is to guide and control the Celtic education and

effect on the Celtic peoples. One Druid could move among battling armies and at once he stops the fight and solves problems; Ministers said: 'They were leaders, philosophers, seers , diviners, historians, administrators, chieftains, officials, doctors, healers, herbalists, magicians, scientists, astrologers, story tellers, musicians, law makers and judges...' (05); at this point, strength of the Druids accomplish controls, amongst other. There is another interesting passage where we found the Druids obliged to recollection and learn oralities .They worked out and practiced the magic in caves , forests and in holy groves ; 'Druids were of the 'noble' class, taking over twenty years to learn the philosophy, divination, poetry, healing, religious rites and magic etc.' (ibid 06)

Kanaan Ministries also tackles in his book 'The Druidism Root and its Fruits' the various roles of Druids which are wide and excessive;

Druids were responsible for the religious teaching and practices of the Celts preserving the knowledge of the gods and were responsible for the sacrifices of animals and humans the mediators between man and god standing between the worlds, between the mortal and the otherworld planes their magic powers and divination coming from the otherworld.

(ibid 09)

According to this excerpt, we may confirm the role of Druids in teaching and protect the religion by victimization and offering human being and animals for god. They believe in the invisible world by practicing magic , and think that the spirit of the human can move and pass from one body to another , those beliefs formed the Celtic fighters very brave . They did not fear death because they believe in the other new life that they would go to another body and get rebirth.

2.4 PRACTICES OF DRUIDS

The practices of the ancient Celts are being collected and transmitted with each other by modern Druids because the most facts have been lost. Predominantly, we found Druids do everything and use all techniques to predict the future; like observing and thinking, survey and divine from the birds flying in the air and singing, explaining dreams and the style of batons thrown to the land .There is a benefits and positive side of the practices of Druids in nature and

societies; ‘Druids practiced magic and witchcraft but also healing and divination acting as Shaman⁷ and medicine men, making talismans⁸ and spells to ward off evil.’ (Ministers.12)

Besides, Druids are physician, man of religion, doctor; they collect herbs to fabricate poultices and prescribing drugs. Here, we could take the example of ‘The lightning of ODIN’; this group believed in giving birth to the ‘mistletoe’ which is means a leathery-leaved parasitic plant and when split the oak was struck to death . They believe that anything rising or growing on the oak trees is a message from paradise and heaven also from goddesses themselves, they consider this sent as a sign and mark of them selecting a special tree.

Furthermore, there is always a male druid but there is also a female Druid; it means witches and sorcerers women, they were called ‘BANTUATHAIG’, utilizing magic and charm. The aim of this wizardry is to conjure up animals and even convert people into animals or transform themselves into pretty women or very old unattractive beldame by using a great magic. The famous example of this practice is the cartoon story of ‘Snow White’.

In addition to that, they utilize herbs as a medicine to hallucinate and loss cognition in order to help the soul to travel and have the ability of producing madness and bewitchment between people and get victims to control the environment and world. We read; ‘In Welsh, divination was known as: AWENYDDION or AWENITHIO which was the power of inspiration’ (ibid 16); this force of AWENYDD clarifies ‘inspired one’ from the person who have the ability to see what the future holds. It is called ‘Seer’ or the magical doctor who have the influence on the world of good and evil spirit which is called Shaman. This prudence and insight comes out of rapture through dreaming and sleeping and at that moment the personage speaks over this practice.

There are also some Druidic practices from a record by an early Christian clergyman. They notice and look on precursor or fierce sneezing. Also they revise magician’s threads and wizards. While , they entreat for the god of water and sea which is called ‘NEPTUNE’ and pray for the god of the underworld ‘ORCUS’ , and so many gods like ‘DIANA’ , ‘MINERVA’ , or ‘GENISCUS’ .

⁷Shaman: person regarded as having access to, and influence in, the world of good and evil spirits, especially among some peoples of northern Asia and North America.

⁸Talisman: an object, typically an inscribed ring or stone that is thought to have magic powers and to bring good luck.

Besides, they light fireplaces ‘on June 24 for the Summer Solstice’⁹ by invoking malignant spirits, souls of death and appeal ‘LARVAE’; which means caterpillar. ‘‘offer honor to dead trees, and so the list goes on’’ (Ministers .27)

This small passage refers to the worshiping of trees by Druids it is assimilated and look like the habit knocking the wood. For them the trees are so sacred, they represent the feminine power or masculine of goddess and god. The great model which illustrate this practices ‘‘The OAK, ASH and THORN being called the FAIRY TRIAD’’ (Ibid 28)

Druids also had a ‘starry wisdom’ contained within the oral traditions this means Astrology and Occultism. Druids were guards of wisdom of all parts of the earth by using their knowledge of poetry and songs ‘the song of the stars’ for teaching pupils. ‘‘ASTROLOGY or STAR KNOWLEDGE is a representation of the spirits of the circle’’ (Ibid 32); this explains that the Druids were born with the songs of the stars. So we can say that the persons who know-how to do Druidry, they make a profound mental and spiritual link and experienced it in the land and on its culture. We read; ‘when they first find Druidry, describe the feeling as ‘coming home’; they have rediscovered a connection with the land, its people, history, heritage and culture’’¹⁰.

From this quotation we may observe the strong attention and attachment of Druids with nature and entourage through plenty of thankfulness, respect and the feeling of eternal time. It is filled with devotional binding within the stream of nature.

2.5 DRUIDICAL FESTIVALS AND CUSTOMES

Many persons come to Druidry and want to be a Druid for the reason to express liberty, diversity and the individual link to goddess or deity¹¹. These reasons are very fundamental significance. Over the Druidic practices and experiences they made a connection to the divine world through worshiping and making festivals, wearing special style and customs.

⁹Solstice: either of the two times in the year, the summer solstice and the winter solstice, when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon, marked by the longest and shortest days.

¹⁰<http://druidnetwork.org/what-is-druidry/beliefs-and-definitions/articles/common-practice-and-beliefs-within-druidry/> (access on 17 May 2015)

¹¹Deity: a god or goddess (in a polytheistic religion)

2.5.1 HALLOWEEN

The famous festival of fear the 'Halloween'; the meaning of Halloween is in the ancient religion of the Druids i.e. it has a big relation with Earth worship or Paganism and this small quotation shows that: "Today, pagans called themselves wiccans .Wiccans are witches who worship nature plain and simply stated-this is idol worship" (Ministries 60)

Other religious sects have also celebrations relating to Halloween "the Druidic and Shamanic roots are seen today in pagans, wiccans¹², Satanists¹³ and New Age believers.' (Idem) from this quotation we have the strong relationship between the Druidic, Shamanic and the other various religions. Shamanic belief shaves a great interest of scholars including anthropologists, archaeologists, historians, religious studies scholars and psychologists.¹⁴

"Halloween is the last of the three pagan harvest Sabbaths¹⁵ marking the end of the growing seasons." (Ibid 61) ; according to this quotation the pagan means the site of an ancient city that was the capital of a powerful Buddhist¹⁶ dynasty from the 11th to the 13th centuries and Sabbath is the seventh day of the Hebrew calendar week . The growth rate was lower and rising of coldness, thus they create a magical fire place to support the sun.

Also, the symbols used in Halloween traditions come to light in the United State over the late 1800's .They wear clothes of witches, masks, and death's head cut from a pumpkin, candles and black cats. Therefore,Halloween is a night of magic attractions and divinations,perusal the future sorceress' mirrors and nutshell ashes, ducking for apples in tubs of water; this operation is adapting spirit symbols and signs in the cauldron of renewal and the other odious rites.

2.5.2 FEAST OF THE DEAD

The celebration of the dead feast begins on the night of October 31, in the early it was from evening to evening but nowadays it counts from midnight till midnight like Christmas , New

¹²Wicca: is a modern pagan, witchcraft religion. It was developed in England during the first half of the 20th century and was introduced to the public in 1954 by Gerald Gardner, a retired British civil servant

¹³Satanism: is a broad term referring to a group of social movements with diverse ideological and philosophical beliefs. Satanism includes symbolic association with, or admiration for, Satan, whom Satanists see as an inspiring and liberating figure.

¹⁴http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_paganism (access on 13 May 2015)

¹⁵Sabbath: is the seventh day of the Hebrew calendar week. According to Exodus 20:8 it is commanded by God to be kept as a holy day of rest, as God rested from creation.

¹⁶Buddhism is a nontheistic religion that encompasses a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices largely based on teachings attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, commonly known as the Buddha.

Year's, Halloween ...etc. This festival is considered as a moment where the cover between the living and the defunct is super fine. Hence, these dead people and other kind souls are claimed to enter and join in Sabbath festivities and be collected together with one of the families' dead. "All saints day (November1) and all souls day (november2) is a Christianized version of the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, the feast of the dead." (Ministers 62)

Furthermore, the wiccans present and prepare a feast for the dead person on Samhain¹⁷ night which means the first day of November for the beginning of winter. Therefore, they make food, drinks and they put candles in the windows for the visiting souls. They left the fires and candles burning till the morning to enoble and greeting the dead.

Druids participate in celebrations to express love of nature and her variable faces as the seasons turn. These seasonal festivals can be major public with hundreds of children and adults collecting at holy sites like; Avebury¹⁸, Stonehenge¹⁹, or Glastonbury²⁰ in England. These events can be privately renowned by a single Druid or small group of Druids and friends in their houses and groves in Wellington²¹, New Zealand.

2.6 The influence of Druids on Mass Media

In many books, witches and sorcerers are trying to get retaliation on an enemy or to play a ploy or a trick on someone. In fact, students molding periods upon other students have gotten so invalidated that issued an advertising preventing such corrupt practices.

2.6.1 Harry Potter and Control of Children's Minds

To understand the important meaning of the story 'Harry Potter', 'as a part of government plan to brainwash children'; this story is a mysterious branch of magic dealing with the narration, actions of wands and abilities. This magical tool is used by wizards and sorceress to cast periods. This special section of magic is considered as an accurately studied by wand makers such as 'Garrick

¹⁷Samhain: the first day of November, celebrated by the ancient Celts as a festival marking the beginning of winter.

¹⁸Avebury: a village in Wiltshire, site of one of Britain's major henge monuments of the late Neolithic period.

¹⁹Stonehenge: (see appendix B) a megalithic monument on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England. Completed in several constructional phases from circa 2950 bc, it was probably used for ritual purposes.

²⁰Glastonbury: a town in southwestern England; population 9,000 (est. 2009). It is the legendary burial place of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere and the site of a ruined abbey held by legend to have been founded by Joseph of Arimathea.

²¹Wellington: the capital of New Zealand, at the southern tip of North Island; population 179,463 (2006). It became the capital in 1865, when the seat of government was moved from Auckland.

Ollivander'²² and 'Gregorovitch'²³. After much research, the writer of the Harry Potter story 'j.k.Rowling'²⁴ is into the mysterious setting which lots of kids have been drowning towards it. Thus children are drowning towards the occults after reading Potter. In fact, Harry and his colleagues in the story routinely practice sorcery, and speak with souls of the defunct. This quotation illustrates that : "The federation says the Potter's book and TV shows such as 'Sabrina' the teenage witch and Buffy the Vampire slayer , had probably sparked the new flood of interest'²⁵.

This quotation shows that there is a strong influence of Potter Books on kids and in reality it is negative. The writer Rowling get a letter from a child , he says; "Headmaster at Hogwarts School , and it's not a joke , begging to be let into Hogwarts , and some of them are really sad , because they want it to be true so badly they've convinced themselves it's true"(Ministers.P.79). According to this speech , Potter is playing the portion of Pied Piper²⁶ , that lead the children to the eternal doom .Also , according to the writer BeritKjos²⁷ , who argued : "Our children are surrounded by peers who are fascinated by the dark art and would love to share their discoveries". (ibid80); this means that the kids believe in this witchcraft,devil, magic and try to practice them.

Thus, we may say that the symbols used in the story of Harry Potter are objects, characters figures or colors used to depict the abstract ideas or concepts. First, the Harry's Scar (see appendix C) that receives from Voldemort²⁸ symbolizes like the famous Scar of Odysseus²⁹ in Homer's³⁰ Epic poem the Odyssey³¹. Also, Quidditch³²(see appendix C)which is a sport and pastime of the wizard

²²Garrick Ollivander (b. 25 September in or prior to 1919) was the proprietor of Ollivanders Wand Shop in Diagon Alley during most of the 20th century. Ollivander was widely considered the best wandmaker in the world, and many wizards and witches buy their wands from him.

²³MykewGregorovitch: (d. 2 September, 1997) was a famous wandmaker and proprietor of GregorovitchZauberstäbe in Europe. His wands were also sold at Wands by Gregorovitch at Carkitt Market in London, in competition with Ollivanders.

²⁴ J. K. Rowling:is a British novelist best known as the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series.

²⁵<http://www.crossroad.to/text/articles/Harry&Witchcraft.htm> (access on 28 May 2015)

²⁶Pied Piper: the hero of The Pied Piper of Hamelin, a poem by Robert Browning (1842), based on an old German legend. The piper, dressed in parti-colored costume, rid the town of Hamelin (Hameln) in Brunswick of rats by enticing them away with his music, and when refused the promised payment he lured away the children of the citizens.

²⁷BeritKjos is a fundamentalist Christian author who has written several books

²⁸Voldemort: is a fictional character in J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.

²⁹ Odysseus: were a legendary Greek king of Ithaca and a hero of Homer's epic poem the Odyssey. Odysseus also plays a key role in Homer's Iliad and other works in that same epic cycle.

³⁰ Homer's: is best known as the author of the Iliad and the Odyssey. He was believed by the ancient Greeks to have been the first and greatest of the epic poets. Author of the first known literature of Europe, he had a lasting effect on the Western canon.

³¹ The Odyssey: is one of two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It is, in part, a sequel to the Iliad, the other work ascribed to Homer.

³²Quidditch: is a competitive sport in the Wizarding World of the Harry Potter universe, featured in the series of novels and movies. Matches are played between two teams of seven players riding flying broomsticks, using four balls: a Quaffle, two Bludgers, and a Golden Snitch. Six ring-shaped goals are situated atop poles of different heights, three on each side of the pitch.

world. In fact, the game is also a thing that represents or stands of the deeper virtues culture at Hogwarts³³. It shows that magic is not just a devotion of reading books, but has a big application mentally and physically on humans. Besides of that, the Mirror of Erised (see appendix C) match with Harry's symbolizes his increasing self-conscience as the magic glass powers, this power gives to him the courage and force to face question of the things he wants. This mirror shows our strong feelings and desires inside our heart.

2.6.2 Game of Thrones

The story of 'Game of Thrones' provides a great pleasure when watched just as the epic fighting of 'Lannister'³⁴ and 'the Seven Kingdoms'³⁵. 'Echo Lancaster'³⁶ and 'York'³⁷ in the combat of the roses have a severe observation. The various Catholics, Druids, and Zoroastrians³⁸ stroll out of Westeros³⁹, place their religion in a new frame for a modern world of imagination and fiction. This movie is out of prophecies, dreams and allegory which are portrayed in the mystery of the series.

In addition, the symbols imagery and allegory used in the film of 'Game of Thrones' stands for the strength of people which can't turn into lazy persons and the enemies of the past still damage. Also, The Seasons summer and winter which means a portion of the fictional regularity of Westeros⁴⁰, hence, summer and winter also occur to be symbols; for example: Bran⁴¹ is called a sweet summer child signaling that he lived a free and wonderful life. Moreover, Dragons are probably the most magical symbol, reminder of more magical past and power by fire breathing. Also, Crows and Ravens have a much symbolic value in 'Game of Throne'. They are connected with unusual things; Bran's mystical abilities, communication and the night's watch. In his dream,

³³ Hogwarts: is a fictional British school of magic for students aged eleven to eighteen, and is the primary setting for the first six books in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.

³⁴ Lannister: is one of the Great Houses of Westeros, one of its richest and most powerful families and oldest dynasties.

³⁵ The Seven Kingdoms is the name given to the realm that controls most of the continent of Westeros and numerous offshore islands, ruled by the King of the Andals and the First Men from the Red Keep in the city of King's Landing.

³⁶ Lancaster: is the county town of Lancashire, England It is situated on the River Lune and has a population of 45,952. Lancaster is a constituent settlement of the wider City of Lancaster.

³⁷ York: is a historic walled city at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss in North Yorkshire, England, and is the traditional county town of Yorkshire to which it gives its name.

³⁸ Zoroastrians: is an ancient semi-dualistic monotheist religion of Greater Iran.

³⁹ Westeros: is a continent located in the far west of the known world. It is separated from the continent of Essos by a strip of water known as the Narrow Sea.

⁴⁰ Westeros: is a continent located in the far west of the known world. It is separated from the continent of Essos by a strip of water known as the Narrow Sea. Most of the action in Game of Thrones takes place in Westeros.

⁴¹ Brandon Stark: commonly called Bran, is a major character in the series of 'Game of Throne'.

Bran has a crow driving him into the cellar to reach his dead father. This is concluded and shows the significance of communicating with supernatural things and the pursuit of dead people's souls.

2.7 The Druid and King Arthur

Many books have been written about the Druids, and King Arthur. During the end of Roman rule, Druids and Arthur create a new order. If we want to understand the beliefs of the Druids we should look first at the religion of Romans Britain. The book of 'The Druids and King Arthur' by 'Robin Melrose' sheds light on the exploration into the beliefs and origins of the Druids. This book looks and discusses the role of Druids in the story of King Arthur and the foundation of Britain. This story narrates the origins of Druids in eastern Europe around 850 B.C, which come from the early Britain a cult of an underworld deity, a bright attention in astronomy and a faith in reincarnation. In fact, Arthur was originally a worshiped personage. Also the foundation of Druids may have origin in the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex⁴². The story have many sources, containing Medieval Welsh tales, the archaeology of Stonehenge Salisbury Plain⁴³, the legends surrounding the founding of Britain, the oracle⁴⁴ of Dodona⁴⁵, the staple principles of prehistoric astronomy, popular Arthurian mythology and the cult of the Thracian Horseman⁴⁶.

The story of the 'King Arthur' describes Arthur's characters including Sir Thomas Malory's⁴⁷ resort to praise highly and glorify Arthur as an enormous hero in traditional glory of military and brave works. One of the White's departures from preceding texts of the King Arthur story presents Arthur as a political creature and reveals that 'Arthur' is a major king; it is not for his power on the battle ground, but for his prosperity at translating Merlyn's manners into a complete system of governance. So, the symbols used in the story of 'King Arthur' related to Druids are:

⁴²Wessex is the kingdom of the West Saxons, established in Hampshire in the early 6th century and gradually extended by conquest to include much of southern England.

⁴³Salisbury Plain is a Chalk Plateau in central southern England covering 300 square miles (780 km²). It is part of a system of chalk downlands throughout eastern and southern England formed by the rocks of the Chalk Group and largely lies within the county of Wiltshire with a little in Hampshire.

⁴⁴Oracle: was a person or agency considered to provide wise counsel or prophetic prediction or precognition of the future, inspired by the gods.

⁴⁵Dodona: is the shrine of Dodona was regarded as the oldest Hellenic oracle, possibly dating to the second millennium BCE according to Herodotus. Situated in a remote region away from the main Greek poleis, it was considered second only to the oracle of Delphi in prestige.

⁴⁶Thracian Horseman: is the name given to a recurring motif of a deity in the form of a horseman, in Paleo-Balkan mythology.

⁴⁷Thomas Malory's: was an English writer who published a translation of romances about King Arthur taken from French and other sources (died in 1471)

2.7.1 The Round Table (see appendix D)

‘The Round Table’ is a material that displays Arthur’s sense of justice and rightness. The table is prepared for the King’s Knights in order to show a broad assortment, mood and much rummage across the country and contract them jointly and award them the name for their request. Therefore, the Round Table comes to symbolize the quiet concepts and it’s formed to protect.

2.7.2 Questing Beast (see appendix D)

Moreover, the ‘Questing Beast’ is a monster from Arthurian legend and odd creature who has the head and neck of a snake, the body of a leopard, the haunches of a lion and the feet of a hart⁴⁸. It is a symbol which represents silliness of Knightly research and serves as white’s road to deflate the concept of the discuss as the way to knightly glory. ‘Pellinore’ was the king of ‘Listenoise’⁴⁹ according to the Arthurian Legend, he has no real cause for wanting to take over the Questing Beast⁵⁰, he finds real purpose in his love for his beloved wife, but he leaves the Beast and supports that the Questing Beast is not significant in itself but it is just a matter to keep ‘Pellinore’⁵¹ busy.

2.7.3 The Holy Grail (see appendix D)

It is a copper cup or platter used by Jesus at the last supper. It represents the relation to an imaginary or spiritual world force that Arthur Knights are unable of realizing to find the Grail. The Knightly bravery is a tidiness of spirit and mind that appear roughly contradictory to the ideals of Knighthood. Therefore, the Holy Grail symbolizes all that Arthur has not completed. This inspiration that Arthur’s England is away from a case of boon, and signs the starting of the terminus of this possesses and reigns. These objects are deeply related to the Druids deeds and symbolize their beliefs through assumed to be Christian but they sprung from a pagan creed.

⁴⁸Hart: an adult male deer, especially a red deer over five years old.

⁴⁹Listenoise or Listenoise: is the name of the land of the Holy Grail in some Arthurian works, and the location of the Grail Castle

⁵⁰The Questing Beast, or the Beast Glatisant (Barking Beast), is a monster from Arthurian legend.

⁵¹Pellinore is the king of Listenoise or of "the Isles" (possibly Anglesey, or perhaps the medieval kingdom of the same name), according to the Arthurian legend.

2.8 Conclusion

After a detailed analysis and introduction of the ancient Druids, their origin practices and symbols. This chapter seeks to shed light on the modern Druids their roles, beliefs and relation. Besides, it gives a brief account on the different rituals and feast the Druids invested to continue their page practices. These feasts are widely practices and celebrated each year in different countries in the world. In addition to that, this chapter attempts to shed light on the impact of the Druids beliefs and practices on the broadcasted movies and written stories which read and watch by our children all over the world and which influence is quiet negative.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

This work has attempted to unveil some realities about the Druids; their origin, practices, symbols, beliefs and of course they settlements over the western countries such as: Welsh, Britain and along the history. The research on this subject was very difficult for documentation is scarce and when found, they are written in very high and elaborated English which difficult to be understood. Besides, it is full of new and difficult concepts and terms related to Druidism.

After all, we have provided a set of simplified definitions and quotations displaying various origins and events connected to social, cultural and historical events in which Druids occurred. Moreover, and after a brief examination of the Druids and demystification of their enigmatic spiritual rites and traditions and explaining the term Druids from different languages, context and by various theorists. Finally, we have forwarded their main manifestations and deeds.

Furthermore, Druidism is as ancient as history, the concept and the creed existed in ancient civilization beginning by the Greek, Romans, India, Celtic societies, Welsh and Britain and until the time being.

To sum up this research we can say that Druids are people of high religious, intellectual, social rank. Second being Druids is not related to religious people only but also to medicine men and women, wise people, and skillful warriors. Third the ancient Druids practice witchcraft and believed in metaphysical world. However, the modern one practices their rituals and beliefs through political institutions and decision making. They pass their beliefs through modern tools such as cinema, cartoon, which demonstrate a great influence on people and specially children not only in western countries but even third world countries.

In a nutshell, Druidism is deeply rooted in Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and other religion all over the world in which we find Druids who practice and strongly belief in Pagan thoughts. Thus Druidism is purely paganism. Our final recommendations suggest that there are other Druids in the Arab world especially in Middle East mainly in Lebanon, Syria and

many other countries and they remain mysterious and should be discovered through academic studies.

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- <https://apps.carleton.edu/student/orgs/druids/ARDA/>
- <http://www.druidry.org/library/members-articles/foundations-modern-druid-spirituality>
- <http://www.paganfederation.org/what-is-paganism/>

GLOSSARY

- **Dervishes:** a member of a Muslim (specifically Sufi) religious order who has taken vows of poverty and austerity. Dervishes first appeared in the 12th century; they were noted for their wild or ecstatic rituals and were known as dancing, whirling, or howling dervishes according to the practice of their order.
- **Diogenes Laertius:** was a biographer of the Greek philosophers. Nothing is known about his life, but his surviving *Lives and Opinions of Eminent Philosophers* is a principal source for the history of Greek philosophy.
- **Freemasonry:** is a fraternal organization that traces its origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of masons and their interaction with authorities and clients.
- **Ptah:** an ancient Egyptian deity believed to be a universal creator and sometimes identified with other gods: worshiped especially at Memphis when it was the royal residence.
- **The Oak of Mamre:** (also called the Oak of Sibta), at Hirbet es-Sibte, two kilometres (1.2 miles) southwest of Mamre near Hebron, Palestinian Territories. Also called The Oak of Abraham.
- **The Book of Genesis:** (from the Latin Vulgate, in turn borrowed or transliterated from Greek γένεσις, meaning "origin"; Hebrew), is the first book of the Hebrew Bible (the Tanakh) and the Christian Old Testament.
- **Pinhole:** This is one of pieces of British Upper Paleolithic portable art, which shows a figure.
- **Derbyshire:** is a county in the East Midlands of England. A substantial portion of the Peak District National Park lies within Derbyshire.
- **Lauscaux:** the site of a cave in the Dordogne, France, which is richly decorated with Paleolithic wall paintings of animals dated to the Magdalenian period.
- **New Grange:** is a prehistoric monument in County Meath, Ireland, located about one kilometre north of the River Boyne. It was built during the Neolithic period around 3200 BC, making it older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids.
- **The Schythians:** were a large group of Iranian nomads who were mentioned by the literate peoples surrounding them as inhabiting large areas in the central Eurasian steppes from about the 9th century BC up until the 4th century AD.

- **Gaul:** from which the name derives, a region of Europe roughly corresponding to modern France and parts of the surrounding countries.
- **Lamaseries:** a monastery of lamas. In Tibetan Buddhism, a monastery presided over by a lama.
- **Intelligentsia:** the stratum of intelligentsia arose first in Russian-controlled Poland during the age of Partitions.
- **Brahmins:** is a Varna in Vedic Hinduism and a caste of people who are members of it. Members are subdivided into numerous communities known as gotras.
- **Baptisms:** (in the Christian Church) the religious rite of sprinkling water onto a person's forehead or of immersion in water, symbolizing purification or regeneration and admission to the Christian Church. In many denominations, baptism is performed on young children and is accompanied by name-giving.
- **Ulster:** a former province of Ireland, in the north of the island. The nine counties of Ulster are now divided between Northern Ireland (Antrim, Down, Armagh, Londonderry, Tyrone, and Fermanagh) and the Republic of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan).
- **Cathbad or Cathbhadh:** (modern spelling) is the chief druid in the court of King Conchobarmac Nessa in the Ulster Cycle of Irish Mythology.
- **Conchobar:** is an Irish male name meaning "lover of hounds". It is the source of the Irish names Conor, Connor, Connors, Conner, O'Connor, etc. It is a name borne by several figures from Irish history and legend, including
- **Magi :** the "wise men" from the East who brought gifts to the infant Jesus (Matt. 2:1), said in later tradition to be kings named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- **Polytheism:** who belief in more than one god or in many gods.
- **Freemasonry:** is a fraternal organization that traces its origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of masons and their interaction with authorities and clients.
- **Celtic Reconstructionist Paganism:** a polytheistic reconstructionist approach to Celtic Neopaganism, emphasising historical accuracy over eclecticism such as is found in many forms of Neo-druidism. It is an effort to reconstruct and revive, in a modern Celtic cultural context, pre-Christian Celtic religions.
- **Gaia:** the Earth personified as a goddess, daughter of Chaos. She was the mother and wife of Uranus (Heaven); their offspring included the Titans and the Cyclopes.

- **Shaman:** person regarded as having access to, and influence in, the world of good and evil spirits, especially among some peoples of northern Asia and North America(Google Traduction)
- **Talisman:** an object, typically an inscribed ring or stone that is thought to have magic powers and to bring good luck. (Google Traduction)
- **Solstice:** either of the two times in the year, the summer solstice and the winter solstice , when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon, marked by the longest and shortest days.
- **Deity:** a god or goddess (in a polytheistic religion). (GoogleTraduction)
- **Wicca:** is a modern pagan, witchcraft religion. It was developed in England during the first half of the 20th century and was introduced to the public in 1954 by Gerald Gardner, a retired British civil servant.
- **Satanism:** is a broad term referring to a group of social movements with diverse ideological and philosophical beliefs. Satanism includes symbolic association with, or admiration for, Satan, whom Satanists see as an inspiring and liberating figure.
- **Sabbath:** is the seventh day of the Hebrew calendar week. According to Exodus 20:8 it is commanded by God to be kept as a holy day of rest, as God rested from creation.
- **Buddhism:** is a nontheistic religionthat encompasses a variety of traditions, beliefs and practices largely based on teachings attributed to Siddhartha Gautama, commonly known as the Buddha.
- **Samhain:** the first day of November, celebrated by the ancient Celts as a festival marking the beginning of winter.
- **Avebury:** a village in Wiltshire, site of one of Britain's major henge monuments of the late Neolithic period.
- **Stonehenge:** a megalithic monument on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England. Completed in several constructional phases from circa 2950 bc, it was probably used for ritual purposes.
- **Glastonbury:** a town in southwestern England; population 9,000 (est. 2009). It is the legendary burial place of King Arthur andQueen Guinevere and the site of a ruined abbey held by legend to have been founded by Joseph of Arimathea.
- **Wellington:** the capital of New Zealand, at the southern tip of North Island; population 179,463 (2006). It became the capitalin 1865, when the seat of government was moved from Auckland.

- **Garrick Ollivander:** (b. 25 September in or prior to 1919) was the proprietor of Ollivanders Wand Shop in Diagon Alley during most of the 20th century. Ollivander was widely considered the best wandmaker in the world, and many wizards and witches buy their wands from him.
- **Mykew Gregorovitch:** (d. 2 September, 1997) was a famous wandmaker and proprietor of Gregorovitch Zauberstäbe in Europe. His wands were also sold at Wands by Gregorovitch at Carkitt Market in London, in competition with Ollivanders.
- **J. K. Rowling:** is a British novelist best known as the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series.
- **Pied Piper:** the hero of The Pied Piper of Hamelin, a poem by Robert Browning (1842), based on an old German legend. The piper, dressed in parti-colored costume, rid the town of Hamelin (Hameln) in Brunswick of rats by enticing them away with his music, and when refused the promised payment he lured away the children of the citizens.
- **Berit Kjos:** is a fundamentalist Christian author who has written several books.
- **Voldemort:** is a fictional character in J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.
- **Odysseus:** were a legendary Greek king of Ithaca and a hero of Homer's epic poem the Odyssey. Odysseus also plays a key role in Homer's Iliad and other works in that same epic cycle.
- **Homer's:** is best known as the author of the Iliad and the Odyssey. He was believed by the ancient Greeks to have been the first and greatest of the epic poets. Author of the first known literature of Europe, he had a lasting effect on the Western canon.
- **The Odyssey:** is one of two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It is, in part, a sequel to the Iliad, the other work ascribed to Homer.
- **Quidditch:** is a competitive sport in the Wizarding World of the Harry Potter universe, featured in the series of novels and movies. Matches are played between two teams of seven players riding flying broomsticks, using four balls: a Quaffle, two Bludgers, and a Golden Snitch. Six ring-shaped goals are situated atop poles of different heights, three on each side of the pitch.
- **Hogwarts:** is a fictional British school of magic for students aged eleven to eighteen, and is the primary setting for the first six books in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.

- **Lannister:** is one of the Great Houses of Westeros, one of its richest and most powerful families and oldest dynasties.
- **The Seven Kingdoms:** is the name given to the realm that controls most of the continent of Westeros and numerous offshore islands, ruled by the King of the Andals and the First Men from the Red Keep in the city of King's Landing.
- **Lancaster:** is the county town of Lancashire, England It is situated on the River Lune and has a population of 45,952. Lancaster is a constituent settlement of the wider City of Lancaster.
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- **Zoroastrians:** is an ancient semi-dualistic monotheist religion of Greater Iran.
- **Westeros:** is a continent located in the far west of the known world. It is separated from the continent of Essos by a strip of water known as the Narrow Sea.
- **Westeros:** is a continent located in the far west of the known world. It is separated from the continent of Essos by a strip of water known as the Narrow Sea. Most of the action in Game of Thrones takes place in Westeros.
- **Brandon Stark:** commonly called 'Bran' is a major character in the series of 'Game of Throne'.
- **Wessex:** is the kingdom of the West Saxons, established in Hampshire in the early 6th century and gradually extended by conquest to include much of southern England.
- **Salisbury Plain:** is a Chalk Plateau in central southern England covering 300 square miles (780 km²). It is part of a system of chalk downlands throughout eastern and southern England formed by the rocks of the Chalk Group and largely lies within the county of Wiltshire with a little in Hampshire .
- **Oracle:** was a person or agency considered to provide wise counsel or prophetic prediction or precognition of the future, inspired by the gods.
- **Dodona:** is the shrine of Dodona was regarded as the oldest Hellenic oracle, possibly dating to the second millennium BCE according to Herodotus. Situated in a remote region away from the main Greek poleis, it was considered second only to the oracle of Delphi in prestige.

- **Thracian Horseman:** is the name given to a recurring motif of a deity in the form of a horseman, in Paleo-Balkanic mythology.
- **Thomas Malory's:** was an English writer who published a translation of romances about King Arthur taken from French and other sources (died in 1471).
- **Listeneise or Listenoise:** is the name of the land of the Holy Grail in some Arthurian works, and the location of the Grail Castle.
- **The Questing Beast:** or the Beast Glatisant (Barking Beast) is a monster from Arthurian legend.
- **Pellinore:** is the king of Listenoise or of "the Isles" (possibly Anglesey, or perhaps the medieval kingdom of the same name), according to the Arthurian legend.
- **Hart:** an adult male deer, especially a red deer over five years old.

Appendix

Appendix A : Ancient Druids



Source : <https://www.google.dz/search?q=the+ancient+Druids&biw=1366&bih=650&source>

Appendix B: Stonehenge Ritual in England



Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Druidism>

Appendix C: Druidic Symbols in *Harry Potter* Movie

Harry's Scar



Source: <https://www.google.dz/search?q=the+mirror+of+erised&biw=1366&bih=650&tbm=iscgil>

Quidditch



Source:

<https://www.google.dz/search?q=quidditch&biw=1366&bih=650&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=jVFwVdboLuqt7Aas5IHobW&sqi=2&ved=0CDgQsAQ&dpr=1#imgrc=>

The Mirror of Erised



Source: <https://www.google.dz/search?q=the+mirror+of+erised&biw=1366&bih>

Appendix D: Druids' Symbols in *The Druid and King Arthur*

The Round Table



Source:

https://www.google.dz/search?q=the+round+table&biw=1366&bih=650&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=_ltwVc7HGqj8ywOX2oJY&ved=0CCwQsAQ

Questing Beast



Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Questing_Beast#/media/File:Arthur_and_the_Questing_Beast_\(full\).jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Questing_Beast#/media/File:Arthur_and_the_Questing_Beast_(full).jpg)

The Holy Grail



Source : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Grail#/media/File:Sangreal.jpg