

Rhiannon Goddess of the Moon and Inspiration

© Amy

All original material in this site is under copyright protection and is the intellectual property of the author. This website created as a level three final project for Sisters In Celebration



Rhiannon by Artist- Briar

Rhiannon is a Welch Goddess known as the moon Goddess. The name Rhiannon means Divine Queen. In her myths, Rhiannon was promised in marriage to an older man she did not like. Defying her family's wishes, Rhiannon refused to marry one of her own kind.

Instead, Rhiannon chose the mortal Prince Pwyll (pronounced Poo-ul or translated as Paul). Rhiannon appeared to Pwyll one afternoon on a grass-covered mound (Tors – considered a magical place). She galloped by him on a white horse dressed in gold. The next day Pwyll returned alone to the mound and, once again, Rhiannon appeared. Pwyll pursued her but could not catch her. After his house was overcome with exhaustion, he stopped and called out for her to wait, and she did.

Rhiannon let him know that she had come seeking his love. Pwyll welcomed this for he fell in love at the first sight of the beautiful Celtic goddess. She told him she would come back in one year and a day to marry him. She returned and they were married in her land.

The next day Rhiannon left with Pwyll to go to Wales as his princess. Rhiannon was welcomed by her husband's people and admired for her great beauty and her lovely singing. They had a son 3 years later. One night the baby disappeared and the servants blamed this on Rhiannon. Pwyll did not come to her defense but only asked that her life be spared and he would not divorce her.

For the next seven years the goddess Rhiannon punishment was to sit by the castle gate, bent under the heavy weight of a horse collar, greeting guests with the story of her crime and offering to carry them on her back into the castle. Rhiannon bore her humiliating punishment without complaint. Her courage was such that few accepted her offer to transport them into the castle.

Word spread of Rhiannon's suffering and a stranger come to her one day telling the story of how he found a baby boy crying with no one to care for him (the servants had all fallen asleep). He took the boy to his wife. The boy then smiled at her, and she recognized that he had the eyes of his father, Pwyll.

Pwyll and his people quickly recognized the boy for Pwyll and Rhiannon's son. The goddess Rhiannon was restored to her honor and her place beside her husband. Although she had suffered immensely at their hands, Rhiannon, goddess of noble traits, saw that they were ashamed and was filled with forgiveness and understanding.

In some versions of the legend, Rhiannon was the Celtic goddess who later became Vivienne, best known as the Lady of the Lake. She was the Celtic goddess who gave Arthur the sword Excalibur, empowering him to become King in the legends of Camelot.

The story of the Celtic goddess Rhiannon reminds us of the healing power of humor, tears, and forgiveness. The goddess Rhiannon is a goddess of movement and change who remains steadfast, comforting us in times of crisis and of loss.

Rhiannon bore the burden of her punishment with grace and dignity. She brings us the horse energy of endurance and the empowering promise that truth and integrity will always prevail. The Goddess gives assurance that the natural state of the Universe is balanced, just and true. Therefore, any energy that is out of balance, any energy that is unjust and/or untrue will eventually realign with the natural balanced state of the Universe. Rhiannon guides us to be grounded within our truth, holding unwavering faith, knowing with all certainty that which is vibrating out of alignment with truth and integrity will find balance and the realignment will transpire within Divine and Perfect Timing.

Goddess Rhiannon comes with tremendous understanding of the trials we endure in order to learn, grow and ascend. Rhiannon exemplifies compassion while encouraging us to transcend the roles of victim, encouraging us to REMEMBER our Sovereign Self, to reclaim our divine birthright and to shine like we are truly Magnificent!

Ritual to Rhiannon

The purpose of this ritual is to heal grief, loss, or disappointment and to encourage moving forward. This ritual should be performed in the waning moon while wearing white, gold or going sky clad.

Need

Candles – white (purifying) or gold (enlightenment) candles

Incense – Cedar (purification, attract love), benzoin (purification, attract prosperity), sandalwood (used in healing rituals)

A bowl of water

White flower petals (white rose works well)

White sage, matches to light the candle and incense, feather, ritual wand (if you do not have a wand, a long-stemmed white flower or quartz crystal will work)

Outline

Light candles

Purify – light the white sage and use the feather to cleanse and purify each person. Light the incense

Cast the circle/invoke Goddesses for blessings.

Earth – Asherah for strength and acceptance

Air – Sarasvati for clarity of thought and wisdom

Fire – Kali for change and emotions

Water – Binah for healing, peace

Spirit – Tauropolos for turning away self-doubt, strength

Create the circle as usual. Light the candles of white for purifying and the gold for enlightenment and divination. Invite the goddesses to join the ceremony in thanksgiving of Rhiannon.

Charge of the Dark Goddess

(written by Tiger Eye)

Wisdom and empowerment are the gifts of the Dark Goddess of Transformation.

She is known to us as Kali, Hecate, Cerridwen, Lilith, Persephone, Fata, Morgana, Ereshkigal, Arianhrod, Durga, Inanna, Tiamat, and by a million, million other names.

Hear me child, and know Me for who I am.

I have been with you since you were born, and I will

stay with you until you return to Me at the final dusk.

I am the passionate and seductive lover who inspires the poet to dream.

I am the One who calls to you at the end of your journey.

After the day is done, My children find their blessed rest in my embrace.

I am the womb from which all things are born.

I am the shadowy, still tomb; all things must come to Me

and bare their breasts to die and be reborn to the Whole.

I am the Sorceress that will not be ruled, the Weaver of Time, the Teacher of Mysteries.

I snip the threads that bring my children home to me.



Art drawn by Amy

I slit the throats of the cruel and drink the
blood
of the heartless. Swallow your fear and come
to me,
and you will discover true beauty, strength,
and courage.
I am the fury which rips the flesh from
injustice.
I am the glowing forge that transforms your
inner demons
into tools of power. Open yourself to my
embrace and overcome.
I am the glinting sword that protects you from
harm.
I am the crucible in which all the aspects of
yourself
merge together in a rainbow of union.
I am the velvet depths of the night sky,
the swirling mists of midnight, shrouded in
mystery.
I am the chrysalis in which you will face that
which terrifies you
and from which you will blossom forth, vibrant
and renewed.
Seek me at the crossroads, and you shall be
transformed,
for once you look upon my face, there is no
return.
I am the fire that kisses the shackles away.
I am the cauldron in which all opposites grow
to know each other in Truth.
I am the web which connects all things.
I am the Healer of all wounds,
the Warrior who rights all wrongs in their
Time.
I make the weak strong.
I make the arrogant humble.
I raise up the oppressed and empower the
disenfranchised.
I am Justice tempered with Mercy.
Most importantly, child, I am you. I am part of
you,
and I am within you.
Seek me within and without, and you will be
strong.
Know me.
Venture into the dark so that you may awaken
to Balance, Illumination, and Wholeness.

Take my Love with you everywhere and
find the Power within to be who you wish.

Invoke – “We honor Rhiannon who comforts those in crisis and in times of grief and loss. Her sweet song eases us and gives us the closure we need to move on in our lives.” [1a] Through her endurance of grief, pain and humility, we can accept her suffering as ours and move forward, letting go of our pain and suffering.

Meditation – Imagine yourself on the Tors (Mound). Look back westward. You see a rider on a white horse; Rhiannon. Call to her asking her to wait and she does. What does she say to you? Think of the grief, loss, disappointment, or illness you carry with you. Give them to Rhiannon. Rhiannon graciously accepts your sufferings and rides back towards the west. Let go of any negative energy. Feel yourself lightened and surrounded by Rhiannon’s protective white light.

Body of the Ritual

Fill the bowl with water. Take a few white petals. As you drop the petals into the water, think about the issues (loss, grief, disappointment, illness) that you wish to let go. Focus all negative energy on the white petals. You can have one petal for each issue if you wish or one petal for all will do. Place the petals in the bowl of water and chant:

“Rhiannon comforts me in my time of _____ (use the emotions you are feeling) and gives me the strength to let go and move on. I now let go of _____.” [1b]

Meditate on letting go of the negative energy. Imagine white light surrounding and filling you; protecting and comforting you in your time of need. Chant:

“Rhiannon, give me the wisdom to let go of the past, strengthen the present and illuminate the future.” [2]

Once you have given homage, thank each Goddess for joining the ritual and open the circle.

After the ritual is complete, the water from the bowl should be poured into the ground (a stream to take the petals away would be best if that is accessible) to be accepted and converted into growth and new life as all life returns and is reborn.



Handmade soap created by Amy

Ride A Cockhorse

Ride a cockhorse to Banbury Cross
to see a fine lady upon a white horse,
With rings on her fingers and bells on her toes
she shall have music wherever she goes.

~ Anglo-Celtic Nursery Rhyme

Symbols/Aspects of Rhiannon

Colors: white, silver, gold

Moon phase: waning

Animals: horse, bird

Herbs/Flowers: Jasmine, evergreens, any white flower

Stones: moonstone, quartz crystal

Aspects: leadership, movement, change, death, fertility, crisis, magic for women,
protection, strength and truth in adversity, dreams

Sources:

http://www.goddessgift.com/goddess-myths/celtic_goddess_rhiannon.htm

http://www.goddessgift.com/goddess-myths/goddess_rhiannon.htm

http://www.pyramidcompany.com/CJT/index_Page6391.htm

<http://www.orderwhitemoon.org/goddess/Rhiannon.html> [1a, b]

<http://www.suite101.com/content/ride-a-cock-horse-a23542> [2]

Jennings, Sue, Ph.D. Goddesses. Hay House, Inc California, 2004.

Telesco, Patricia. 365 Goddesses: A daily Guide to the Magic and Inspiration of the Goddess. Harper Collins Publication, San Francisco, 1998.