

Introduction and Meditation - Gwyn and the Warriors of Britain

After He has spoken of His presence at the deaths of a number of northern British warriors Gwyn speaks the following two verses:

I was there when the warriors of Britain were slain
From the east to the north;
I live on; they are in the grave.

I was there when the warriors of Britain were slain
From the east to the south;
I live on; they are dead.

For me these are some of the most powerful lines in Western European literature. Here Gwyn laments His living on as a gatherer of souls whilst the warriors of Britain are dead and in their graves.

It is impossible for us as humans to conceive how it must be feel to witness the birth and death of generations human and non-human and live on through it as a guide and a psychompomp.

One might imagine becoming accustomed or numb but I feel there is a certain amount of care in these lines. Some people claim the Gods don't care because they are not human and thus do not feel emotions. But to me this view is based on the anthropocentric assumption that only humans feel. From an animistic standpoint the entirety of the universe including stones and air and plants and animals and Gods and spirits is sentient and feels. So I believe there is a strong argument that Gods have feelings too even if they are not the quite same as those of humans.

It is my personal intuition that these lines relate not only to the past but to battles Gwyn continues to attend as a psychopomp in the present-day.

In this meditation we are going to meditating on these lines and seeing what gnosis comes through from Gwyn about his role of living on as a gatherer of souls through the deaths of the warriors of Britain.

I invite you to close your eyes and bring your attention to your breath - the breath which connects us to all beings, to the Gods, and to the Deep.

Now in your mind's eye picture Gwyn speaking the verses:

I was there when the warriors of Britain were slain
From the east to the north;
I live on; they are in the grave.

I was there when the warriors of Britain were slain
From the east to the south;
I live on; they are dead.

It is now time to meditate upon their meaning.

(10 - 15 minutes)

Our meditation is now drawing to a close. From whatever images, from whatever insights you have been gifted with it is time to give your thanks and come back. Return your focus to your breath, to your body, grounding yourself back into the place where you sit, ready to open your eyes and rejoin our gathering.