



Celtic Gods and Heroes

Marie-Louise Sjoestedt

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Noted French scholar and linguist discusses the gods of the continental Celts, the beginnings of mythology in Ireland, heroes, and the two main categories of Irish deities: mother-goddesses OCo local, rural spirits of fertility or of war OCo and chieftain-gods: national deities who are magicians, nurturers, craftsmen, and protectors of the people.

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Celtic Gods and Heroes Details

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From Reader Review Celtic Gods and Heroes for online ebook

Scott Pomfret says

Some good points but cloyingly academic

Despite its relative brevity, this was a bit of a chore to muddle through. While it referenced certain familiar Celtic tales, there was perhaps not enough analysis of the texts themselves. Still, the author makes clear points: that the Gods of the Celtic world are not relegated to heavens but dwell on this earth; that The Greek pantheon shares certain like characters but there is far from a one-to-one correspondence; that "outsiders" (whether foreigners or odd folks within the tribe) could find a place through initiation that was both a service to the tribe but also outside its most rigid constrictions.

Marko Vasi? says

For a long time have I sought for the literature such as this book is, because books about Celts usually enclose descriptions about their way of life and social interactions, but not mythology and mythological legends. Also, a plenty of books that contain legends from Celtic mythology are deprived of explanations about Celtic deities, thus I always felt if some kind of gap lies between the tale and its characters, being uninformed of which precise deity is certain story about. This book widened my sight. Very concise, didactic and comprehensive content that explains exactly as much as I fancy: clear explanations, divided into sections i.e. chapters, where each chapter reveals another part of this specific mythology. Thus this matter is settled on its proper way FROM THE BEGINNING – from the coming of the Tuatha de Danann, through brief description of male and female deities and their main characteristics, and finally – about tribal and non tribal heroes, by whom main division into two cycles of Celtic legends was made. Very valuable are references at the end of the book that suggest further reading hints.

Frankie says

Recensione sul blog : <https://thereadingpal.blogspot.com/20...>

Non ho nessun tipo di esperienza con gli dèi celtici: non ricordo di aver mai letto romanzi con questi dèi, né non-fiction. Però volevo farlo, e così ho letto *Celtic Gods and Heroes*. La Sjoestedt esplora la religione celtica, non raccontando ogni singolo mito ma esaminando le caratteristiche generali degli dèi, che sono diverse a seconda del fatto che siano divinità femminili o maschili, e degli eroi, fornendo degli esempi provenienti dai miti quando necessario.

Ora, come vedete è molto breve, quindi non si è andati molto nel dettaglio, ma personalmente l'ho trovato conciso e facile da seguire.

È un testo piuttosto accademico, sia nel linguaggio che nella suddivisione degli argomenti. Sono fornite delle note per esplorare di più alcune questioni ed è presente una bibliografia che provvederò, prima o poi, a recuperare.

Per quanto mi riguarda non ho affatto trovato noioso il tipo di linguaggio che comunque necessita di una buona conoscenza dell'inglese (e del linguaggio accademico), ma so che non è una cosa per tutti. Non

conoscendo l'argomento, ho trovato comunque sorprendentemente facile seguire il discorso dell'autrice mentre si addentrava nei vari discorsi. La parte che ho trovato più interessante in assoluto è stata *The Feast of the First of November*, ma anche le due parti riguardanti gli eroi mi hanno attratta. La religione celtica è completamente diversa da quella greco-romana, sia nella visione degli dèi, sia nelle caratteristiche che distinguono un eroe dalle persone comuni. È una cosa che mi è risultata davvero strana, ma che ha un senso se lo si inserisce nella cultura dei popoli celtici. Per non parlare poi degli dèi: cercare di paragonarli e dei greci o romani è rischioso e neanche tanto sensato, per quanto mi riguarda. Sono troppo distanti. Ho trovato sicuramente un po' difficile leggere i nomi degli eroi e degli dèi, a me così poco familiari, ma l'autrice a volte fornisce la radice da cui provengono e quindi parole latine e greche simili che secondo me possono aiutare. Essendo così corto (95 pagine, più la bibliografia e gli indici, non so bene cos'altro dire. È una specie di mini recensione, ecco. Però mi sento di consigliarvelo, in quanto è una lettura interessante e ben scritta che mi ha portato a conoscere un po' meglio un ambito sconosciuto.

Georgia Butler says

Before discovering *Celtic Gods and Heroes* by Marie-Louise Sjoestedt, I read book after book on the subject, never satisfied with the "angle" or "peek" provided by other authors on the subject. Yet this book, despite its slim size, opened wide the subject for me and now I've the context necessary to read the others with better appreciation.

Maya says

Please see my review here: [Celtic Gods and Heroes](#)

Bad Tim says

a nice introduction to celtic mythologies with an emphasis on how it differs from classical, but not a good source for hard information on any specific gods and heroes.

Bex says

It's the classic, but it's a bit tough to read, and I love dense, academic, tough to read stuff. There is more up to date scholarship, but I think this is still the succinct summary to start with.

Charlotte says

Really short, and I'm a bit bummed all the references are in French (this is a translation), but there was a ton of really cool information, a lot of which I had heard snippets of before, and I'll probably have to buy it because I'm silly and didn't take notes.

Sandy says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/14418200>

Jc says

My first real introduction to the Celtic gods and goddess. Very informative and interesting.

Dylan Rock says

A excellent well written introduction to Celtic mythology

Erica Hasselbach says

I read this book without any previous knowledge of Celtic Mythology. This book helped to highlight the important aspects to Celtic mythology and even compared it to Greek and Roman mythology to help illustrate how different this culture was from others of the same time.

The only thing I wish this book had was a glossary to help with pronunciations of names and places. Other than that, it's a very handy little resource.

Catrina says

The description of the book says that it is concise and erudite. The concise description does not seem to be accurate, at least not to me. I felt the author was all over the place with her topics of discussion and her transition between points was lacking which made reading this book even more difficult. Also, not much was explained when it came to some people and most places. Now I know some previous knowledge is expected from the reader but that is not a guarantee so some explanation would have been helpful.

The erudite part, on the other hand, was quite accurate.

Christina says

The translation was so awful, I had a really hard time understanding what the author was trying to say.

Gavin says

Despite being an older work, this was an accessible and still scholarly introduction to the major themes of Irish mythology. Definitely recommended as an introductory text.
