



Pagan Portals - Gwyn ap Nudd: Wild God of Faery, Guardian of Annwn

Danu Forest

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Gwyn, the bright god of the Brythonic underworld Annwfn and Faery king of the wild Welsh spirits, the twlwyth teg, is an ancient and mysterious figure. His tales are scattered through oral folklore and across medieval Welsh literature, a depository of our ancient god-tales. Said to dwell within the legendary glass castle in Glastonbury Tor, as well as the black mountains of Wales, he is both a figure of romance and fear. A dark lover through the winter months, leader of the wild hunt, and guardian of the dead. He is the ancient companion of bards and visionaries through the initiatory journey to the depths of the Celtic Underworld, in search of the Goddess of the land herself. With a close look at traditional magic and lore as well as practical exercises, Gwyn ap Nudd is an essential guide for all those who seek wisdom from the darkness and wild communion with the sovereignty of the land.

Pagan Portals - Gwyn ap Nudd: Wild God of Faery, Guardian of Annwfn Details

Date : Published October 27th 2017 by Moon Books

ISBN :

Author : Danu Forest

Format : Kindle Edition 128 pages

Genre : Religion, Nonfiction, Wicca, Paganism

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From Reader Review Pagan Portals - Gwyn ap Nudd: Wild God of Faery, Guardian of Annwfn for online ebook

Liliyana Shadowlyn says

Another well-written, easy to read installment in the Pagan Portals series. Perfect for pagans and curious non-pagans alike.

received as a gift

ReaderNature says

I received a much appreciated copy through the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This addition to the Pagan Portals series of Pagan novels brings so much value to the table! Gwyn ap Nudd is a somewhat dark and intriguing God that isn't well-mentioned or researched in most books about Welsh mythology or magick. This brings together research, practice, and educated hypotheses to fill in the blank areas with precision and logic.

Structured beautifully, we hear history, thoughts, direct mentions of Gwyn, as well as practice points for meditation and spiritual connection. The author's voice is thorough and somewhat repetitive in points, but carefully formatted with well-chosen words and passages to supplement. This is a great introduction with detail-oriented information for those who are wanting to learn more about Gwyn, Welsh Gods and Mythology, or Meditation pertaining to this particular subject.

This was a fascinating, educational, and spiritual read that anyone can enjoy.

Cat says

I enjoyed this read as I am interested in the Wild Hunt legends. I had not been familiar with Gwyn Ap Nudd being part of the legend, but have read many other versions of the tale. This book was a fascinating read that I think anyone interested in Celtic folklore/mythology will enjoy.

I received a Kindle ARC in exchange for a fair review from Netgalley.

J Aislynn d'Merricksson says

Pagan Portals: Gwyn ap Nudd by Danu Forest takes an in-depth look at one of the more mysterious of the Welsh Celt deities. There are five chapters, focusing on different aspects to Gwyn, as a seasonal deity, a guardian of the land, and a psychopomp figure. Chapter One briefly introduces Gwyn ap Nudd and contains two guided meditation practises. Chapter Two discusses Annwfn, and elements of faery. There are three meditations in this section. Chapter Three connects legends of Gwyn with ancient star-lore and has a but a single meditation. Chapter Four looks at the stories of the Mabinogion, in regards to Gwyn, and has four

meditations, including one to meet Gwyn's seasonal counterpart of Gwythyr. The last chapter discusses Gwyn's role as a Lord of the Underworld, and master of the Wild Hunt. There are five exercises in this chapter.

I quite enjoyed this excursion into Welsh lore. Before this, Gwyn was not well-known to me. Arawn, yes, and I had long come to regard Arawn and Gwyn to be different, in terms of working with deity. I worked with Arawn extensively for some time, doing daily meditation/ shamanic journeywork. I did several of the exercises in the book, modifying them to fit my existing style. I hope to revisit them all during a time when I can invest my full attention and devotion. There seemed to be a good balance between the spiritual and historical threads. I particularly enjoyed the discussion of the Mabinogion stories. This is perfect for any looking to increase their repertoire of Welsh lore, or those specifically interested in building a relationship with this most enigmatic deity.

***Many thanks to Netgalley, and John Hunt Publishing for providing an e-galley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Laura Perry says

This book is really packed with information about a god I wasn't too familiar with before I started reading. It's a book you can really sink your teeth into.

Gwynn ap Nudd is a Welsh deity whose story threads through not just Celtic mythology but also Arthurian legend and the lore of Nature in the British Isles. He has a bunch of connections with Irish mythology as well (not surprising, I suppose - Celtic mythology as a whole looks an awful lot like Celtic knotwork!).

Danu Forest presents the information about Gwyn in a very readable way but she never talks down to the reader, which I appreciate. It's all there: Gwyn's appearances in Welsh literature, his connections with Avalon/Glastonbury, the folklore that has built up over the centuries regarding the Wild Hunt and other interesting bits. And all that information is complemented by a series of activities the reader can use to connect to Gwyn and his world. So this isn't just a treatise about the god, but a method for letting him into your life. Dan Goodfellow's inspiring and haunting illustrations round out the experience and add to the overall feel of the book.

So if you have an interest in Celtic mythology (or even Arthurian legend) I recommend this book. It's fascinating reading, well worth your while.

Andrew McAuliffe-Shave says

The "Pagan Portals" series are just what you want in an introduction to a specific topic - clear, concise and chock full of useful information and exercises to put to good use. This book is no exception. The exercises are well-written and the information presented leaves the reader wanting to find out more about this rather dark deity,

Kevin Pilsbury says

Well written and enlightening

I have been fascinated with the archetype of the horned God for some time now and this book has added to my understanding of the subject.

Before I have often only thought of Cernnunos or Herne, but the introduction of Gwyn ap Nudd into this grouping has expanded my thought boundaries on this subject, and the addition of the meditations within the text was most welcome.

This is not an academic treatise on the character of Gwyn within the auspices of Welsh mythology, but I would highly recommend it if like me you have an interest in the horned God.

Annie says

Originally published on my blog: Nonstop Reader.

Gwyn ap Nudd by Danu Forest from John Hunt publishing is part of the Pagan Portals series. It's a practical well researched history and magical meditation guide. It's written in a clear and understandable manner, well laid out in an easy to follow, logical format.

Each of the chapters conclude with two or more practical exercises to increase the reader's awareness and spiritual growth. These are short practical guides which the reader can apply to his/her own life.

The book begins with an introduction and background. The second - fifth chapters retell and expand on Gwyn ap Nudd in story and song down through the ages, including the Mabinogion and the wild hunt. Each of the chapters includes exercises for further exploration.

The author's voice is soothing and easy to follow.

A quote:

Seek him in the reflections of starlight upon deep still water, and when you hear an owl screech in the night, or see the geese fly overhead on winter evenings ... know that he is close. Close your eyes and feel the air on your skin, the promise of things unseen just a breath away.

The author is also a poetess and it shows in her careful gentle use of language. The book is very soothing and enjoyable to read, whatever the reader's belief system and motivation in choosing to read it.

The book is well researched enough to be appropriate support material for readers interested in the early pagan beliefs and oral traditions of the early British Isles as well as those interested in meditation and self exploration and internal spiritual growth.

An interesting and unusual read.

Four stars for the moving and lovely prose.

Disclosure: I received an ARC at no cost from the author/publisher.

Heidi says

The book is a short look into the deity Gwyn ap Nudd but I have a few remarks.

I know the book is supposed to be more of like a "starter manual" but I still believe it is too short. That, however, would not have been a problem if the book didn't contain TOO MUCH "practice" chapters. If the goal of the author was to help readers get into the world of Gwyn with the help of this book, the logical thing to do would be to focus on the lore around him, supposed rituals of ancestors, historical context and to give examples of others' experiences with him (including the author's) but this is not the case. The author does go through all those things but very briefly. On the other hand, every other chapter or so is a "practice" chapter where the author literally tells the reader exactly what to visualise in meditations which is a terrible no-no - especially from someone who is a supposed druid witch and priestess and she should know that. There are too many of those chapters for a book that is 100 pages that could have been spent on more lore and instead of those silly "practices" give readers a sense of what they can expect from Gwyn ap Nudd who is, I tell you, beautiful.

Annarella says

I knew very little about Gwyn ap Nudd. This book is a good introduction to this specific gods and the lore, mythology and what is to be known about him. A very well researched starting point with interesting exercises.
