

The Unnamed Queen

Session 6

1. The broader myth.

	Branwen	Blodeuedd	Ceridwen
<i>Bird aspect</i>	x	x	x
<i>Wronged ></i>	x	x	x
<i>Cause of death ></i>	x	x	x
<i>Cause of transcendence ></i>	x	x	x
<i>Mother</i>	x		x
<i>Water</i>	x		x
<i>Cauldron</i>	x		x

	Bendigeidfran	Lleu	Gwion Bach
<i>Bird aspect</i>	x	x	x
<i>Plays a part in wronging</i>	x	x	x
<i>Death by poisoned spear</i>	x	x	(poison?)
<i>Death transcended</i>	x	x	x

- Bird-woman is wronged by Bird-man.
- Bird-woman is a direct or indirect cause of Bird-man's death.
- Bird-man is killed by a poisoned spear.
- Bird-man transcends death.
- Motherhood, water, cauldrons and special speech are possible elements.

2. Other elements.

SPEECH	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<i>Magical Speech</i>		Bendigeidfran's head		Gwydion calling the eagle
<i>Special Speech</i>	Pwyll's 'ystyr hud'	Branwen interprets the vision; starling's speech		

SPECIAL OBJECTS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<i>Spear</i>		Death by spear		Death by spear
<i>Vessel</i>		Cauldron	Golden Bowl	
<i>Bag</i>	Bottomless bag			
<i>Magic wand</i>				Math and Gwydion

'It is not easy to kill me with a blow. You would have to spend a year making the spear that would strike me, working on it only when people were at Mass on Sunday.'

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'And this is the least I will accept from him; he must come to where I was when he threw the spear at me, while I stand where he was. And he must let me throw a spear at him. And that is the very least I will accept from him.'

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Then they both came to the bank of the river Cynfael. Gronw Pebr stood where Llew Llaw Gyffes was when Gronw aimed at him, and Llew stood where Gronw was. Then Gronw Pebr said to Llew, 'Lord,' he said, 'since it was through the deceit of a woman that I did to you what I did, I beg of you, in God's name: a stone I see on the riverbank, let me put that between me and the blow.' 'God knows,' said Llew, 'I will not refuse you that.' 'Yes,' he said, 'may God repay you.' Gronw took the stone and put it between him and the blow. Then Llew threw the spear at him, and it pierced through

the stone and through him too, so that his back was broken and Gronw was killed. And the stone is still there on the bank of the river Cynfael in Ardudwy, with the hole through it. And because of that it is still called Llech Gronw.



Llech Ronw: “In 1934, Frank Ward discovered a stone in the bed of the river Cynfal, measuring some forty inches by thirty inches, with a hole straight through it, about an inch in diameter.

The stone had apparently been washed downstream by this time from its earlier position in the Ceunant Coch, where a woman who had lived in a farmhouse called ‘Llech Ronw’ nearby, recalled

having seen it. She added that a about 150 yards away was a fallen standing-stone which was believed to mark the site of the grave of Goronwy Pebyr (Bedd Goronwy). A later account confirmed the same story.

A few years ago it was claimed the rock was found again, not on the banks of the river Cynfael but on one of its tributaries. The rock is unusual; a man sized flat stone with a hole at about what would be heart-height.

The farm, on whose land the stone is found, is called "Bryn Saeth" (the hill of the arrow), a farm nearby is called Llech Goronwy (Goronwy's Stone), and, making a triangle with those two a third farm is called "Bryn Gyfergyd" (the hill of the blow).

The stone can still be seen today as shown in the pictures, however whether this is the original stone we will never know, apparently it was erected by the local Council a few years ago, and lies alongside the Afon Bryn Saeth, at SH714407, a tributary to the Afon Cynfal.”

https://clasmerdin.blogspot.com/2009_02_01_archive.html