

The Unnamed Queen

Session 7

1. Woven strands.

SPEECH	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<i>Special Speech</i>	Pwyll's 'ystyr hud'	Branwen interprets the vision; starling's speech		
<i>Restricted Speech</i>	Pwyll's silence in bed for a year	Cauldron-born	Pryderi / Rhiannon at the bowl	Math can hear all words spoken in the wind
				Gwydion to Pryderi, 'I can free you from those words.'
<i>Unnamed</i>	Annwfn's Queen; Teyrnon's wife		Mouse Mother	Young Lleu
<i>Naming</i>	Gwri / Pryderi			Gwydion / Gilfaethwy's sons; Lleu
<i>Magical Speech</i>		Bendigeidfran's head		Gwydion calling the eagle

IDENTITY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<i>Changed Appearance</i>	Pwyll > Arawn Pwyll > Beggar	Brân > Land Efnysien > Dead Caswallon > Invsbl	Mana.dan > Artisan Man.dan > Lab.rer Llwyd > Clergy	Gwydion > Bard Gwydion > Artisan
<i>Animal Transformation</i>			Mouse Queen	Gwydion and Gilfaethwy; Lleu > Eagle
<i>Animal Identity / Totem</i>	Gwawl > Badger; Pryderi > May Foal; Rhiannon > Horse	Brân + Branwen > 'Blessed Crow'	Rhiannon > Ass	Dylan > Fish

BIRD-WOMAN	Blodeuedd	Branwen	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

BIRD-MAN	Lleu	Bendigeidfran	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

2. The Lleu Node.

UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN	Lleu	Pryderi
<i>Separated from mother at birth</i>	x	x
<i>Suffering connected to mother</i>	x	x
<i>Animal Identity</i>	x	x
<i>Super human growth</i>	x	x
<i>Significantly named by mother</i>	x	x
<i>Cheated in some way</i>	x	x
<i>Heir to the throne</i>	x	x
<i>Rule undermined</i>	x	x
<i>Dies in the 4th Branch</i>	x	x

3. The Fate of Children.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<i>Child suffering as a result of mother's nature / condition / treatment</i>	A monstrous claw has a delicacy for May foals, Pryderi is taken because he is the child of Rhiannon the horse goddess	Gwern killed by Efnysien because of a war that arises from the mistreatment of his mother, Branwen	Llwyd's unborn child almost killed because his mother is caught as a mouse and sentenced to hanging	Lleu suffers his own mother's curse

4. The Captive Youth.

- W.J. Gruffydd, *Rhiannon* (UWP 1953), 91.

- Rachel Bromwich, *Trioedd Ynys Prydein* (UWP 1992), 146:

52. Three Exalted (Supreme) Prisoners of the Island of Britain:

Llŷr Half-Speech, who was imprisoned by Euroswydd,
and the second, Mabon son of Modron,
and third, Gwair son of Gweirioedd.

And one (Prisoner) was more exalted than the three of them, he was three nights in prison in Caer Oeth and Anoeth, and three nights imprisoned by Gwen Pendragon, and three nights in an enchanted prison under the Rock of Echeifyeint. This Exalted Prisoner was Arthur. And the same lad released him from each of these three prisons: (that lad was) Goreu, son of Custennin, his cousin.

- *Culhwch and Olwen*:

There is no huntsman in the world who can hunt with that dog, except Mabon son of Modron, who was taken when three nights old from his mother. No one knows where he is, nor what state he's in, whether dead or alive.'

The ones who went on the Salmon's shoulders were Cai and Gwrhyr Gwalstawd Ieithoedd. And they travelled until they came to the other side of the wall from the prisoner, and they could hear lamenting and moaning on the other side of the wall from them. Gwrhyr said, 'Who is lamenting in this house of stone?' 'Alas sir, he who is here has reason to lament. It is Mabon son of Modron who is imprisoned here, and no one has been so painfully incarcerated in a prison as I, neither the prison of Lludd Llaw Eirant nor the prison of Graid son of Eri.' 'Do you have any hope of being released for gold or silver or worldly wealth, or through battle and fighting?' 'What you get of me, will be got by fighting.'

- A hypothetical triad:

The three painful incarcerations of the Island of Britain:

Mabon son of Modron, who lamented in Caerloyw,
and the second, Lludd Llaw Eirant,
and the third, Graid son of Eri who was held captive by Gwyn ap Nudd.

- 'Preiddeu Annwn', *The Book of Taliesin*, (ed. Marged Haycock LPBT, 2007):

Golychaf Wledic, Pendeuic gwlat ri,
I praise the Lord, the Ruler of the kingly realm,
ry¹ ledas y pennaeth dros traeth Mundi.
who has extended his sway over the extent of the world.

Bu kyweir karchar Gweir yg Kaer Sidi,
Maintained was Gwair's prison in Caer Siddi
trwy ebostol Pwyll a Phryderi.
throughout Pwyll and Pryderi's story.

5 **Neb kyn noc ef nyt aeth idi —**
No-one went there before he did —
y'r gadwyn tromlas kywirwas <² ketwi.
into the heavy grey chain guarding the loyal lad.

A rac preideu Annwfn tost yt geni,
And before the spoils/herds of Annwfn he was singing sadly,
ac yt Urawt, parahawt yn bardwedi.
and until Doom shall our poetic prayer continue.

Tri lloneit Prytwen yd aetham-ni idi:
Three full loads of Prydwen we went into it:
10 **nam[yn] seith ny dyrreith o Gaer Sidi.**
save seven, none came back from Caer Siddi.