

Mog Roith Turns

Venice Beach -- Irish-American pagans are looking forward to an early Spring this year in California thanks to the groundhog's forecast, based on today's cold, cloudy and rainy weather. The season is about to turn.

From California the Sun, Moon, other planets, stars and such rise in the East, arc across the Southern Sky, and set in the West. But at the higher latitudes of Ireland the Night Sky turns, like a great wheel, around the North Star, "An Gaelin" in oldest Irish. The Sun and Moon are attached to the same great Sky wheel. On that wheel the seasons turn.

Mog Roith is a fascinating character from ancient Irish mythology. His name identifies him as the 'Master of the Wheel,' or maybe its servant. He is from a more antiquarian tradition, predating the arrival of Celtic culture in Ireland. In legend he is usually placed with the Fir Bolg people. Mog Roith makes the seasons turn.

Sometimes he is a Sun god, but more often a Sky god, driving a chariot. He can magically transform into a bird. In some legends he is a druid of extraordinary longevity, living through the reigns of 19 kings and countless seasons' turn.

The tales of Mog Roith and the Wheel of the Sky are not consistent. The beauty of AR*ID paganism is that folks can enjoy the myths for their beauty, poetic imagery, and timeless roots in their own ancestral tree. Unlike religions requiring followers to accept their myths as literal truth, AR*ID pagans get to enjoy "myth for myth's sake." Or, as they would say at MGM in Culver City, "Ars Gratia Artis." Like the reels of a movie, the seasons turn.

The Wheel

by William Butler Yeats

Through winter-time we call on spring,
And through the spring on summer call,
And when abounding hedges ring
Declare that winter's best of all;
And after that there's nothing good
Because the spring-time has not come --
Nor know what disturbs our blood
Is but its longing for the tomb.

Almanac

Twilight began at 6:25 this morning, with the Sun peeking over the Eastern horizon at 6:51. He will set at 5:24 this Evening with twilight fading to dark by 5:50. A nearly full Moon set at

4:33 this morning, and will rise again at 3:12 this afternoon.

Venus is the bright Evening Star. She is practically on top of a much fainter Saturn in Aquarius during twilight.

***No human sacrifices!**