

FOREWORD

BY R.J. STEWART

At a time when most interest in faery magic is at the level of trite entertainment or escapist fantasy, there are very few people working seriously to demonstrate that communion with the faery races is a valid spiritual path. Orion Foxwood is one of those few. I am aware of Orion's struggle and dedication in bringing this book through to the reader . . . spiritual quests are always hard, but in the end are always worth the effort.

Basing his thesis on aspects of folkloric tradition, pioneering work by earlier authors and teachers (including my own), Orion develops new concepts and methods which are of practical value to the serious and dedicated student. The most significant of these are the glyphs or vision keys, which are unique to Orion's work and have no precedent in earlier sources. Thus they are a new development enabling the student to have a means of working with faery spiritual contacts and associated initiatory subtle energies. Such new developments are rare indeed, and are to be prized.

If you are looking for yet another "dictionary of faeries" or a rehashed collection of folklore, or some bundle of romantic whimsy, then this book is not for you. But if you are looking for the means to connect and then relate to the inhabitants of the spiritual realm of faery, and thus to transform your life, you will find ample resources here.

—R.J. Stewart
author of *The Well of Light* and other books on faery
and UnderWorld spiritual traditions

PROLOGUE

Welcome into the garden of the seeker wherein grows the mystical Tree of Enchantment. I greet you as a fellow seeker on the path of spiritual discovery and wisdom. The book you are about to read is the culmination of a lifetime of seeking, searching, sharing, and integrating the teachings I have compiled from a) my interpretation of academic research on Faery practices and lore throughout Northern Europe, b) elements of oral tradition passed on to me by healers, conjurers, “people of the sight,” neighbors, and family members (specifically, my blessed mother) in my home culture in Virginia and West Virginia, c) oral tradition often informed but always inspired by traditional and hereditary witches, cunning people, and Faery Seers in America and abroad, specifically in Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Cornwall, and the Isle of Man, and d) through direct contacts with the spirit world as one gifted by birth with, as we call it back home, “the veil” (also known as the caul or second sight).

This information comes together in *The Tree of Enchantment* in a way that it never has in print. This book can be considered an advanced level of the work presented in my first book, *The Faery Teachings*, for the book is a literary meeting place for multiple streams of practice and lore with a common core. It is not intended to be an academic document, though academic research is one of the streams that flows into the document. It is intended to be a practical one.

I hope the book reaches practitioners of folk magic and earth-based spirituality and traditions, and those persons who are curious about modern and old Faery lore. It is also aimed at anyone who cares about our beloved planet Earth and all of the beings who dwell on, in, and around her. A great

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deal of the material has never been in print before this book. Many of the teachers and elders who graced me with their time and granted me the privilege to share their teachings have passed into the river of blood and left us with invaluable sign-posts along the road to Faery. Through this book, their beloved wisdom will reach a new generation of truth seekers and blessed may they be for the giving!

There are a number of structural elements in the book that lend themselves to applying and integrating the information. For instance, I use the term “seeker” throughout to describe any human who seeks the ways of truth. I want to supply you with an entire system of inner contacts, lore, philosophy, and exercises to guide you in revealing the wisdoms inherent in life and its inner intelligences and powers. These elements include the following:

- All chapters dealing with the nine vision keys are headed with a symbol. These symbols were developed by Martin Bridge, the symbol artist for this book, and me.
- Each chapter covering a vision key (inner contact) or a major point of transition (a threshold) begins with a prayer. These prayers should be used by the seeker for the (a) content because this reveals insights into the implications of the key or threshold; and (b) application as a means of connection and supplication to the key or threshold.
- Each chapter builds on the preceding one as a continuous and well-integrated tradition and process for spiritual growth leading from the exploration of self within ancestral, natural, planetary, and universal contexts. The best way to read the book and use the material is in the sequence in which it is written.
- Most chapters contain visionary and/or practical work aimed at supporting the seeker in integrating the information. I advise the seeker to use this material but proceed at their own pace because the information and contacts are potent transformative forces.

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- Each of the vision keys and threshold chapters has a section entitled “Truths of the Key (or Threshold).” This component of the chapter gives you, the seeker, a summary of the implications of the teaching.
- Lastly, the lore, techniques, and exercises in this book, if applied, can produce profound changes in paradigm and perception. Only you, dear reader, can determine the appropriate pace for their application and your readiness for their effects. The most balanced effects are produced by following the instructions given and using them within the context of the book, while also employing sound moral and personal judgment. The full responsibility for the effects rest solely with you.

Now, let’s begin your journey upon the enchanted tree and let the magic begin . . .

CHAPTER 14

THE UTTERER—SHE WHO BREATHES FORTH THE STARS



*Oh Great Mother, you are the matriarch of matter and the empress of eternity.
I pray thee, look upon me, the face of your loving child, so small . . . so seeking . . .
so true.*

*Oh Great Mother, you speak forth the words of creation, and utter forth universes
in your time of brooding.*

*I pray that you might open your loving embrace to me, your seeker of the stars.
I am weary from climbing the holy tree in search of you.
Let my hunger be fed by the fruits of wisdom and my thirst be healed by the elixir
of light.*

*I pray that you might reveal the spirit tongue that only the seers know.
Reveal the healing tones that only the bards know.
And, reveal the words of power that only the anointed ones know.
I stand upon the sacred stone, washed in blood and stars; and,
I feel your presence above me, beneath me, before me, behind me, to my left and to
my right as I sit in the center of your Crossroads, speaking forth the name*

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*you gave to me when you lit the stars of the sky and set them on their holy
course.*

By the nine-fold tree and the threefold life,

By the throne of dominion and the stone of destiny,

I honor you, my Queen. All that is me is thee.

All that is me is but a dream within the dream within a dream.

And you are the great dreamer!

The Utterer, also known as the Star Mother, the White Goddess, or simply the Great Mother, is the eighth Vision Key on the Tree of Enchantment and the last one that can be discussed in any meaningful way. The Holy and Formless Fire is, well, formless and beyond human conception and barely describable in human or “other” language. The Mother (as I shall describe her) is almost indescribable herself. At best, we can describe her through metaphor and feeling, but her face is both hidden from all, and visible to all who have eyes to see.

As human beings and surface walkers, we are blessed with an oral tradition that refers to her as the mother of creation. All of us were born to a mother, and most likely have had some contact with a matriarchal power that (hopefully) was loving, giving, nurturing, and wise, yet powerful and sometimes frightening. This gives us some frame of reference to understand the Great Mother of life, space itself. She is the intelligence and power of space, out of which all life comes and into which all life returns. Just as no human knows the depth of space, no human knows the depth of the Mother. This is the ultimate realization of the Mother. She is vast, powerful, giving, and taking, and yet we, as seekers, still exist within her circle of creation. Why is this? Perhaps all of creation has some special meaning to this Goddess of Goddesses. Perhaps humanity has a part in her grand and mysterious plan, as it is written in the vastness of space. Perhaps the Mother has created other beings just like us and, therefore, knows our innermost nature on all levels and in all expressions, because we are but syllables in her universal language.

You can only directly and fully encounter the Mother when your essence is absorbed back into the source at the fulfillment of the threefold life. Until

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then, it is her hand, and the hand of her “lover-child” named the Star Father, and through your star walker and its attending beings, that you are anointed in the star-mist to walk into the hidden places of truth undiscovered and reveal the potential at the heart of creation and its pulsation through all things on all levels. This anointing is the elixir of awakening and it is the distillation of life experiences stripped of illusion and exposed in its grandeur that grants you the eyes to see into the “no-time” nothingness and the deepest, most profound secrets of the universe that reveal all wisdoms and truths. Anointed seekers may experience a sense of her awesome presence and power when they peer into the sky, across the oceans, or into the timeless immensity of space. She lives in and between the interconnected strands of the cosmos. To feel her is to be enraptured in the infinite. It is an overwhelmingly sacred presence that brings tears of joy and exaltation. Experiencing even the mere essence of her presence brings you feelings of being completely overcome, enfolded, and enraptured in beauty, power, magic, and majesty, and a love that only a mother, in the trust sense, can provide.

But like any mother, this Mother sets her children upon a journey to school (incarnation) with a boxed lunch (inner wisdom), but with specific instructions (vision) and a curfew (destiny). There is a point when all that she creates returns back into her. I liken this to returning home at the end of a school day to report your experiences, feast with the family, and sleep until a new day (another era of time and vision) dawns. Until then, she keeps her watchful eyes upon all of her children, loving, protecting, and guiding them until they return through the Gate of Stars to the home of eternal peace and oneness with her.

ONLY BY LOVE MAY SHE BE KNOWN

The Mother cannot be approached intellectually. She cannot be approached with command or arrogance. She can only be approached through an act of surrender and open-heartedness. Only through the gateway of the heart can the heart of creation be encountered. To get to that place within, where the

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heart of “me” may touch the heart of “She,” you *must* work with all of the forces, attributes, and keys provided as guide-posts to the center of creation (the Mother). Otherwise, her ocean of space will be so expansive and subtle that this awesome power will elude you altogether. Hers are the mysteries of the heart and the subjective world. They bring you to the brink of aliveness, not in the intellectual sense, but in the sense of connectedness to the pulsing sensuality and familiarity that flows through all things.

In the oral folk tradition, she is described as a vast, all-embracing Mother who stands at the very center of all things and speaks forth (utters) the holy names that roll out across the eternal nothingness like a blanket of stars. The night sky that twinkles with timeless lights is seen as her azure cloak. Her mouth opens and breathes forth the star mists (movement) from the void and the Star Father (light) is born. It is her hands that form the triangle of darkness guiding the out-flowing power to seek its destiny in the pattern of life. It is the Star Father, born of her passion and boundless love, who marshals the vast outpouring forces into the universal pattern of truth, the one we know as the Tree of Enchantment.

THE GOLDEN CORD

A central aspect of the Mother’s soul in all things is called the “golden cord”—a higher and universal embodiment of the Weaver’s threads. Where the Weaver’s power is about fate and planetary connectedness, the Mother’s cord is about the force that flows from the center. It can also be seen as the umbilical cord that connects all things. The golden cord also forms a pathway of light back to the Mother. In a sense, the trunk of the Tree of Enchantment can also be seen as an embodiment of the golden cord. Meditation and contemplation on the presence of the golden cord as it moves through you brings you back to your center and the center that is She.

THE UTTERER'S ATTENDING BEINGS

As with all of the Vision Keys, the Mother has attending beings. Her beings are so vast and unknowable that they are antecedent to the ordering forces of the Tree of Enchantment. In folk tradition, they are described as the Old Ones before Time. These forces can almost be seen as the beings-before-beings. They mediate the underlying universal law that instructs the Star Father and the whole Tree of Enchantment. They can only be called upon by the most anointed of seers. I know of a few seers that also describe them as the Stellar Aeons. Because this term lacks the feeling and texture of folk concepts, I suspect it is modern or originates in a temple-based tradition. However, it does give us insights into the Old Ones as unknowably vast and crossing what humanity would measure as the astoundingly vast stretches of time.

THE TRUTHS OF THE UTTERER

In reality, all of the truths in the Tree of Enchantment are the truths of the Mother. She gave life, truth, and power to all of the Vision Keys and the three-fold life inherent in everything. However, there are some specific truths that can be tied only to her as the center of creation:

- She is the primal movement that stirs forth all the life and the love (harmony) that moves through all things.
- The Mother is space itself and, as such, is the source and sum of creation. She is *primum mobile* (the first movement).
- Her presence is felt in the spaces between all things, including the breath between the stars.
- Her utterance is the spell that created the universe and, thus, all breathed or spoken spells form the art that is hers.
- She is the gateway of the galaxies and the star-gate behind the Star Father. The folkloric image is the mouth of the Utterer.

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- She is space itself, which is the mother of the ancient stars. Therefore, she is the Ancient of Ancients.
- She is *the* ocean goddess, for her soul is the ocean of space, wherein planets are but fleeting, disappearing islands.
- The Mother is the singer of the celestial song.
- All pulses and breaths throughout all levels of life mimic her power and reflect her influence.
- She can be found in the heartbeat of life.
- She sets forth the first star, which was the seedling child that became the holy Tree of Enchantment and the Star Father.

PRACTICAL WORK

In the course of life, you often find yourself feeling disconnected or mired by the challenging forces of life in the surface world. One way to re-connect and draw yourself out of this heaviness is the Golden Cord exercise.

Exercise 30

THE GOLDEN CORD

1. Simply go to a quiet place and use the anchoring stage of the visionary process. Then envision a cord woven of golden light that extends down to you from the distant heavens.
2. Depending on the need (connectedness, rising out of darkness, or both), either receive the cord into yourself and feel it pass into and out of you, connecting you into the forces of life; or take hold of the cord and envision pulling yourself out of the muck, mire, and darkness into the constant, loving, healing, and embracing closeness

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of She who is the center. This technique can also be used to draw you into alignment with the Tree of Enchantment and the threefold life by envisioning that, as you pull upon the cord, the frayed threads reweave and draw your spine into alignment with the trunk of the Sacred Tree.

3. As with all visions, I recommend that you use the anchoring and fusion stage of the visionary process for closure and integration.

The void or creative utterance is the living power of the Mother. This dynamic of creation is imprinted on all levels of life, seen and unseen. It is experienced through the beating of your heart that draws blood inward and outward, and it is experienced in your breath as it moves into and out of your lungs. Both of these actions mimic the stars flowing in and out of the void, or Mouth of the Utterer. The following exercise can help you tap into that power.

Exercise 31

THE VOID BREATH

1. Use the anchoring phase of the visionary process.
2. After embracing the seven directions, envision the stars flowing into and out of your lungs each time you breathe. This mimics the great void, aligns you, and reminds you that, ultimately, all of life breathes for the Mother.
3. You can use the star breath any time you use the visionary processes, or when using the Threefold Flame and Doves of the Heart technique taught in chapter four. In this case, when you release the doves, the stars come rushing into your heart. Use of the void breath strengthens your alignment to the star walker.

CHAPTER 15

THE HOLY FLAME—ENCOUNTERING THE PEACE ETERNAL



How is the unknown perceived by the known?

How does a minute, finite speck of dust embrace the vast and infinite stars?

Answer, I pray, oh timeless keys of vision, what is the language of the eternal?

*Where is it that man and God meet as companions on a shared journey, as a
meeting of cell and body?*

How does a single teardrop commune with the ocean, and a planet with a star?

Is there a common tongue spoken by all things great and small, finite and infinite?

*In my time of prayer and silence an answer comes to me on winds of wisdom that
stream from the source.*

It speaks to me of silence, presence, surrender, contentment, and essence.

For these are the secret codes in the spirit tongue, hidden at the heart of all things,

Shared through the longing of seekers,

*Breathed through the hidden space that divides and unites in a pool of life with
many ripples.*

Oh Holy Fire that is my essence!

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Oh burning bush that speaks for God!

Oh voice on the sacred mountain that bears my plea!

Your embrace is always giving.

Your love is the crystal stream that connects all of the islands of creation.

Your voice reaches out to me in times of seeking and says "I am in your breath, your blood, your body and the source of your seeking. I am a waterfall of light from the ocean of heaven. I am the ever-present, never-absent home you seek. All is well. You are well. Where you are, I am there. Know this, and your pain is healed. Know this, and joy and peace and love profound are the reward of your seeking, for this is holy fire that anoints lives within your hands. Become!"

Heavenward I look into the eye that never blinks and, in exaltation,

I exclaim . . . I am!

As you have journeyed into an understanding of and attunement to the Tree of Enchantment, it should have become abundantly clear that Faery Seership is a practice of communion, alignment, encounter, exchange, healing, expansion, love, wisdom, and power. It is truly a journey of the single wave back to the infinity of the ocean through a remembrance of its truest selfhood within the threefold life and the Tree of Enchantment. You quest for reconnection was driven by the sacred questions presented at the beginning of this book. Seeking the answers to these questions is a life-long pursuit. The reading of this book, practice of its techniques, and integration of its concepts is a map to the state the seers know as living in blessedness.

The journey has led you from bondage to freedom, from division to unity, from chaos to silence, from shadow to light, from fear to hope, from abandonment to at-one-ment and much, much more. This ninth and final key, called the Holy and Formless Fire, is the last guidepost I can provide to you on this Holy Tree. This is the bonfire of the Gods and we are the sparks seeking to be at one with it. Metaphors are only feeble but devoted attempts and expressions of the beauty of this flame. It is the source of all things, mortal and imperishable. And one day, all of creation (including you) will awaken to

its holy presence and, with the bugle call of the angels, attend the final convocation of light and truth. In this journey home, no seeker is alone—for all of creation is seeking. Our companions, the Faery People of Peace, walk with us as they have since we descended from the vault of stars and emerged from the River of Blood.

You, as a seeker, are blessed, because your star walker remembers this oneness and makes a sense of it available to you as you seek the threefold life. Your star walker waits to offer you the blessings of the stars-before-the-stars, passed hand-to-hand in a communion of living light and eternal wisdom. Just like the Star within the Stone that you sought to know and free, the Holy Flame is the Star within the Star, and all is complete.

THE TRIANGLE OF LIGHT

There are only vague concepts shared in the oral tradition to describe the Holy Fire because it is beyond full comprehension. The lore says that beyond the stars there is a great opening in the sky, through which two great hands pour forth a waterfall of living light that flows into all. This flame is the *toradh*. The Holy Fire is the joining of the sacred mountain and this triangle of light. If you attain a sense of this eternal light, all darkness is dispelled and all light is revealed. But this light is a force beyond light as we know it. It is a state of being revealed when the triangles of darkness and light are united and the unity hidden under the veil of diversity is revealed. It is the face of the Ancient One, that divine providence that is before, after, and beyond all things, yet ever-present within them. The Ancient One is the great spirit of all things. It is the source and sum of all gods and goddesses. It is the whole known through its parts, but felt as a divine presence in all.

THE NATURE OF THE ANCIENT ONE

Tradition instructs us that the Ancient One has three major attributes or natures: love, wisdom, and power. It is through prayer and meditation, as

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well as the previous insights in the Tree of Enchantment teachings, that these natures are revealed, even in part. They are the final three essences of creation and the power that flows into the becoming of the three worlds and the three walkers of the threefold life. When you perceive them, the face of the Ancient One is apparent and blessings profound are present to you. Table 8 illustrates these natures, their manifestations, the walker that carries that nature into and out of form, and the worlds where they are planted to grow into and out of the Tree of Enchantment.

TABLE 8
Aspects of the Ancient One

Natures	Manifestations	Walker	World
Love	Omniscience	Dream	Ocean/Under
Wisdom	Omnipresence	Star	Sky/Upper
Power	Omnipotence	Surface	Earth/Surface

Your attunement and alignment to the threefold life allows the full presence of the Ancient One and its Holy Fire to flow into your life. When this happens, the three manifestations are mediated through the three walkers, which is the original intention of the Ancient One. For clarity, Faery Seership defines these manifestations as follows:

- **Omniscience:** The Holy Fire is the source and sum of all things. There is nothing before it but the void. The void is a state beyond space and the intelligence (the Ancient One) that caused the spread of consciousness (space) across all levels to create it. Space is the liquid life that flows from the prodding nature of the Holy Fire. As such, it is a consciousness so vast that it experiences through everything created simultaneously. It has the full comprehension of absolute and perfect love and harmony.

- **Omnipresence:** The Holy Fire is always present in all things at all times and thus is omni- (all) present. In fact, even the advanced seer can coax it out from its form and review its *fay-ness*, or wild force. It is impossible to be absent from it and be in existence. The Holy Fire is existence itself.
- **Omnipotence:** The Holy Fire is all powerful and without bounds. There is no potency or power imaginable by its creations (including humanity) that it has not achieved or cannot implement. No mind is beyond it because the Holy Fire is what gives the gift of consciousness (mind) and will (volition).

These definitions are intentionally broad. I have provided them to prod you into searching for their meanings for yourself. After all, as seekers, we are simply the Ancient One remembering and fulfilling itself. Each of the walkers and the worlds reveal aspects of the Ancient One's nature. This is the primary reason that the attainment of the threefold life is central to Faery Seership practices.

THE ATTENDING BEINGS OF THE HOLY FIRE

The Holy Fire of the Ancient One is the fuel that feeds all things. The entire Tree of Enchantment, the Vision Keys, and the attending beings are manifestations of this fire. The Utterer and the Star Father are the greater mediators, holders, and shapers of the Holy Flame that form the triangle of light with the Ancient One. The rest of the Tree of Enchantment attends to the triangle of light. All you need to do is integrate the concepts of the Tree of Enchantment and work with the material, visions, and techniques provided, and the Holy Fire is aroused and remembered by your sleeping and dreaming walkers (the threefold life). When you make contact with the Fountain of Flame in the underworld, you are working with the upward-rising powers of the Holy Fire as it seeks to reunite with the down-flowing waterfall of light. I advise

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you to think closely about this teaching, for it reveals much about the nature of and relationship between the underworld and upper world.

THE TRUTHS OF THE HOLY FIRE

There is one force that is the alpha and omega of the Tree of Enchantment called the Holy and Formless Fire, or the Ancient One. Every being and every thing is made of this force.

Here are some of the truths of the Holy Fire:

- The final mystery of the journey through the Tree is that you are, in the truest sense, that which you seek. As you seek, you are sought from the out-flowing spirit (the Holy Fire within).
- You were never abandoned. For to abandon you, the universe must abandon itself, which is impossible. Therefore, the great exile from the heart of the Creator for the cost of free will is an untruth. You are only as exiled as you fear yourself to be. The Holy Fire (the Creator) is ever-present and ever-loving.
- There is no truth that divides. The nature of the Holy Fire is unity and resolution of paradox. The nature of fear is distraction, disconnection, and untruth.

PRACTICAL WORK

All of the work and wisdom in Faery Seership and the Tree of Enchantment is aimed at approaching and embracing the healing unity of the Holy Fire or, as I say, “tapping the essence.” Therefore, all of the visions and techniques serve to bring you back to your truest nature, which is in the light of the Holy Fire. But there is one simple act you can do daily to maintain a conscious and humble awareness of this profound presence. Before you begin, you can per-

form any of the visionary stages for Faery Seership work or simply go directly to the exercise.

Exercise 32

THE GRAIL OF HUMANITY— TAPPING THE ESSENCE

1. Stand with your head bowed and your arms to your side.
2. Breathe deeply and evenly while sensing the presence of life all around and within you.
3. Raise your arms and head slowly toward the heavens in an attitude of reverence.
4. Lower your arms so that your elbows are at hip level and your palms are facing up as if you were waiting for someone to pass you a box to carry.
5. Now simply pray thus: “I pray thee oh Holy and Formless Fire that abides in the depths of the universe. Fill me with thy living light and awaken me unto love, wisdom, and power that I may serve and be blessed.”
6. Give gratitude and feel yourself filled up with the Holy Fire.
7. Relax your arms and hands. Then bow your head and be silent for a moment. This brings closure to the technique.

EPILOGUE

**A BLESSING
TO THE SEEKER**

As you come to the end of this book, you mark the beginning of your true seeking and un-fold-ment. I bid you blessings as the Tree of Enchantment blossoms to reveal the true face of the Ancient One concealed in your form. I leave you with this final blessing until your seeking and my seeking meet again:

May you know and remember the truth and beauty that is your
essence . . . and your birthright.

May you receive and claim it when it is revealed.

May the forces of fear and atrophy tremble before your power.

May the Vision Keys open the doors most profound.

May the Holy Fire sear the shadows and light your way.

May you find joy and contentment in knowing that you are a
member of the family of creation, bound in spirit and in truth
and thus. . . .

You are always loved and you never walk alone.

Blessed be the seeker and the Holy Tree.

For all are as one, so shall it be!