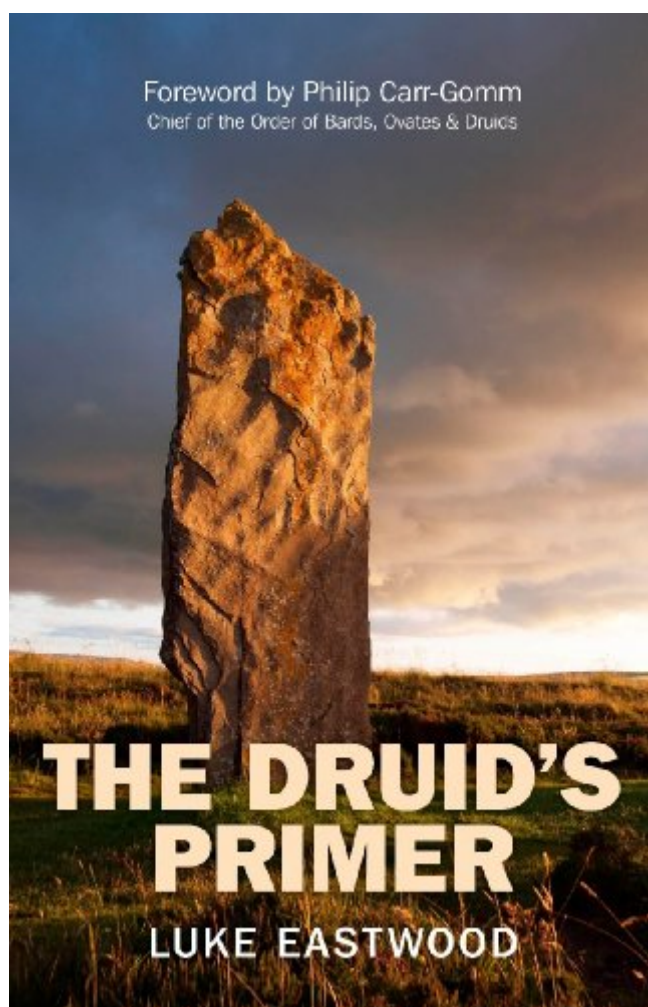


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The Druid's Primer



Synopsis

Perhaps the first serious attempt to collate the vast body of druidic knowledge from verifiable ancient sources and Celtic survivals into one usable and practical volume as a handy reference for druids and a learning tool for the would be druid. Inspired by the medieval Irish 'Scholar's Primer'; this work is the culmination of 15 years' research and practical exploration of what it means to be a druid in a modern context.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are many books on the market that aim to introduce the seeker to the basics of Druidism, but The Druid's Primer is perhaps the single best introduction book I have read. It's greatest strength is that it manages to present a great deal of modern Druidic material fairly and with clear references to the sources. The author has done a lot of research into the historic material, which is also presented well and in an easily accessible manner. The book begins with a chapter that summarizes the historic material. This was very well done, with the material being covered thoroughly but concisely. This section touches on everything from the early Celtic period and what we have from secondary sources such as Pliny and Caesar up to the modern era revival. Although not gone into as deeply

as in other books the single chapter effectively summarizes the highlights and is more than enough to get a beginner started or serve as a basic refresher for a more experienced person. The next chapter tackles possibly the most complex subject in modern Druidism, defining what a Druid is. The book does an excellent job of presenting the different current theories fairly, including the possible etymologies of the word "druid" itself. The different historical sources are once again drawn upon including Irish mythology and the later Barddas, which the text acknowledges as a well known forgery but also influential on the revivalist period. The author also discusses his own view of what a Druid does and who a Druid is, creating a fascinating and complex picture of the modern Druid. From here the next 7 chapters discuss: Gods & Goddesses, Myth & Legend, Elemental Forces, Cosmology, Inspiration, Imramma, and Animism & Animal Worship.

I think an alternative title to this book would be "Everything you ever wanted to know about Druidry but were afraid to ask". This is very much a Druid 101 book. Many people use that term to describe a book lacking in substance, but that is not the case here. It's full of substance and depth, but very much geared to the beginner on the path. Mr. Eastwood describes almost every aspect of modern day Druidry from a culturally Celtic perspective. He is definitely in the Druidry equals Celtic camp and goes to great lengths to allow the beauty and history of cultural Druidry to shine through. His book delves into the history of Druids both ancient and modern, Druid cosmology, Druid holidays, the Celtic gods, animal spirits, and the Ogham, and tools of the trade amongst many other things. One thing I particularly liked was his tackling of the subject of Imramma which is all but lacking in most books on the subject! One thing that I liked about this is that most intro books on Druidry give a brief one or two paragraph summary on each of these things such as the Celtic gods or Ogham and leave it at that. Each item in this book is often a page or two in length and he really spends time fleshing out the various subjects in an easy to understand manner. It is not hurried in any fashion, and each subject is presented clearly and thoroughly. His section on the Celtic gods was one of my favorite aspects of this book. He described them as someone who is intimately familiar with them and obviously has love for his deities. It's always a pleasure to read a book like that. That being said it is mostly informative and an introduction to modern Druidry. There is little in the way of actual praxis, though I get the feeling that is not the aim of this book so it does not feel lacking.

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