

Rhiannon Invents 'Badger in a Bag'



Part I

Despite his title, and legendary status,
Despite a beautiful wife - generous and gifted -
There were times Pwyll's wits deserted him

On the eve of their betrothal he was fooled,
Tricked by Gwawl disguised as a suppliant
(Daddy's choice for a son in law). Rhiannon

Nuttled out a solution. Owning a magical bag -
Bounteous, fertile and infinite - she tricked
The trickster, 'Got'im! Badger in a bag!'

Part II

On their first meeting, Pwyll tranced and serious
(On an exhausted steed) - she forthright and amused
'Better for your pony had you called out sooner!'

'Why all the gloom and doom!' she liked to say,
Astride her white mare, in a gold-embroidered gown.
Always quick with encouragement and lavish with gifts.

Even her birds were not always serious,
Death can be absurd - and the otherworld
Is a barrel of laughs (after a barrel of Mead).

Part III

Rhiannon shape-shifted to Vivianne sometime in
The Middle Ages, and soon after she charmed Merlin -
Trapped him in a tower (with daily visits from her)

I like to imagine they shared magic tricks,
Jokes and herbal remedies. The goddess of
Horses and love always holds the reigns (refuses

The pedestal). Long centuries on the road - in
The company of Epona and Mercury - mixing with
soldiers and traders - kept her cheerful and pragmatic.

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