

The Chase Across Time (Part 2)

I

The old books depict her as predatory
(the awful mother Freudian) - greyhound>hare,
otter>fish, hawk>wren - precise zoomorphic
transformations (fang and claw). But not hard
to see the sequence as mental incubation.
To learn is to joust, to thrust and test,
To bend and feign, to parry and resist.
*Could she trust him with the well-being
of the grove?* Knowledge as expansion -
destruction of all he thought he knew.

II

The day he surrendered was the day she
swallowed him whole - ego-shattered, a
grain of wheat (seed of a destiny) - some
say 'imprisoned', others: 'liberated'.
Either way, the Great Hen devoured him
(though the death was metaphoric). After a
visit to Gwynedd, he returned as Taliesin
(‘radiant forehead’) to the circle of Abred.
Twice born, but without forgetting. *Cruel*
Ceridwen (so said the ignorant) relented

kissed the cheek of her fledgling (graduand)
and released him into the world, alone ...

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