

The Legend of King Arthur

The legend of King Arthur is a tale of intrigue, drama and romance. Although scholars debate the existence of Arthur, in popular culture through the ages stories abound of the great King who was first made popular in Geoffrey of Monmouth's History of the Kings of Britain. This brief expose outlines some of the major themes of the legend of the son of Uther Pendragon, know as King Arthur.

Arthur was conceived when Uther convinced Merlin to cast a spell to convince Igera (the wife of his enemy) that he was her husband. Born

at Tintagel, Arthur according to later versions of the story was raised and tutored by Merlin to prepare him for becoming King of a united Britain.

The legend continues with the Sword in the Stone. As the legend says, only the rightful heir to Uther Pendragon, would be able to remove Excalibur from the stone and be declared King. While a young man Arthur successfully removed the sword from the stone and was recognized as King.

Although not originally forming the earliest Arthurian legend, Camelot, through the romanticised French version of the legend of King Arthur became known as the location of King Arthur's court. It was at Camelot that the Grail first reveals itself to the Knights of the Round Table.

As with the Sword in the Stone, some Arthurian Legends lay claim to the Lady of the Lake giving Excalibur to King Arthur. Predominantly referenced in the Lancelot-Grail legends of Arthur, the Lady of the Lake has been referenced by many authors.

The round table is where the knights of King Arthur's court sat. Designed round so no one person would be located at the head of the table, it symbolized the equality of all the Knights.

The cup which was used by Jesus at the Last Supper, the Holy Grail appears in Arthurian legend as the quest for the Holy Grail. According to legend it is Sir Galahad that finds the Holy Grail, although some believe it could have been Lancelot or Percival.

Sir Lancelot is seen as one of the greatest of the Knights of the Round Table. He was the father of Sir Galahad. Through Arthurian legend, Lancelot sleeps with King Arthur's wife, Guinevere. This eventually causes Arthur's brother to kill the King. After hearing of the King's death, Lancelot moves to a hermitage to live a life of penance for betraying King Arthur.

