

At last, a book devoted to Glastonbury's longest known resident, Gwyn ap Nudd; and what a pleasure it is to read as we travel in search of this ancient British deity, whose association with the underworld is belied by the translation of his name as 'White' and 'Blessed'.

The search for Gwyn is full of paradox as Yuri explores the complexities of the Welsh family of deities, focussing especially on Gwyn's father Nudd and the realm of Annwn - the Celtic Otherworld - which he suggests Geoffrey of Monmouth anglicised into the more familiar Avalon.

Gwyn is identified as the seasonal Winter King, defeating the Summer King Gwythyr in single combat each year. Gwyn raises in the night sky at Samhain as Orion, tracked by his great hound, Dormath, who is also present in the Somerset landscape as the Girt Dog of Langport.

Dormath's red nose forms the red hill of Burrowbridge Mount, laying on the Michael/Beltane ley line, guarding the entrance to Annwn, Avalon, Ynys Wytrin, the Isle of Glass - Glastonbury.

Yuri lays paper trails for us to follow in all sorts of directions and my suspicion is that the appearance of this book may well lead to visions of Gwyn ap Nudd that detail his nature further. Not least rolling up the Tor at Winter Solstice sunrise.

"Polished is my ring, golden my saddle and bright."

This book is highly recommended and surely a compulsory purchase for all Avalonians.

Reviewed by Mike Jones for The Oracle www.glastonburyoracle.co.uk