

The Story of Merlin



As a boy, Merlin was hunted by the King, who had been foretold by the druids that Merlin would bring his demise. In reality, it was the druids who were afraid of Merlin. As the King's men tried to capture Merlin, he escaped into the forest of mist. This forest was feared by all, so the men did not pursue him. They assumed his mere entrance into the forest would ensure his death.

The forest of mist welcomed Merlin. It provided him a home and taught him the old ways of natural magic. He grew strong while living in the forest. He could speak with animals and perform elemental magic.

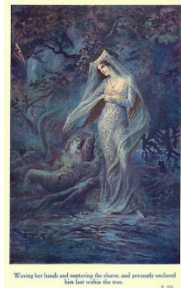
There came a time when Merlin left the forest of the mist. While traveling he met the King's brother, Uther. Merlin and Uther became friends. When Uther was on a conquest for the King, Merlin went with him. Uther saw the enemy's wife, Igraine, and immediately fell in love with her. He begged Merlin to help him woo her. Merlin transformed him to look like the enemy and he spent the night with Igraine while his enemy was out fighting. During the night, his enemy was killed. Merlin also informed him that his brother, the King, had been killed as well. Uther was now King, and he immediately married the widow Igraine. Igraine became pregnant and bore Uther a son, Arthur. Merlin told Uther a prophecy about Arthur—that he would one day become King and would spawn six more generations of Kings. However, this would only occur if Merlin took Arthur away to be raised where he was not known by anyone for his protection. Uther agreed, and Merlin took Arthur to an unknown destination.

Upon Uther's death, no one in the kingdom knew who the next King would be. Arthur happened to be back in the country, although he was not aware of his heritage. He heard of a contest to pull a sword from a stone—whoever could accomplish the task would become King. Arthur scoffed

at this, until Merlin whispered an idea into Arthur's mind, "*Only the chosen one can pull the sword from the stone. That person is you. Try it*". Thinking the idea was his own, Arthur stood in line to try his hand at pulling the sword from the stone. Many men, much stronger than Arthur, had tried and failed. He was about to walk away again when it became his turn. Arthur walked up to the sword, grabbed the hilt, the sword started to glow and out it slid from its trap in the stone. Arthur was King.

Merlin met with Arthur and explained his heritage to him. They became fast friends. Arthur had a lair in the castle set up for Merlin. They were very happy in Camelot for many years.

It came to pass that Merlin, feeling the need to wander, left Camelot for a time. He told Arthur he would not be gone long, but alas, the Lady of the Lake had other plans for him.



The Lady of the Lake desired to have a child of her own. She knew of Merlin and his magic. It occurred to her that a child between them would become very powerful, and someone she could control. She knew Merlin would never agree to this, so she caused him to fall into a deep sleep during his journey. Once she was done with him, she had a tree engulf him while he slept. She knew he would not allow her to pursue her plan.

Merlin awoke many years later, in Camelot Court's current time, to find himself under the tree. The spell had faded, and the tree released its hold on him.



Merlin returned to Camelot, surprised at how much time had passed. He has not seen Arthur yet, but has been told the King is still here. After finding the magic door to his lair in the castle's kitchen, he retrieved it and returned to his lair. During his long slumber, Merlin devised a way to turn rocks into gold. Camelot would never have to worry about money again. As we can see in the picture,

he has put a spell on his staff. Whenever it touches a rock, the rock instantly turns to gold. Look at the base of his staff, you can see a rock changing before your very eyes.

Will Merlin learn about his child with the Lady of the Lake? Only time will tell....