

The Legend:

Who does not know the legend of King Arthur who reigned over Britannia with his sword Excalibur, which he had pulled from the stone with the help of Merlin (the Magician). Together with his Knights of the Round Table, he united the country against the enemies. But not only his knights stood by his side – first and foremost Lancelot – but also Ginevra (Gwenhwyfar), his beautiful wife. At Camelot Castle, the centre of the empire at that time, there was the legendary Round Table, where the liegemen gathered. Here all decisions were made commonly and in this place the knights made up their minds to seek for the Holy Grail. But the priestess Morgaine (Morgan le Fay), once Merlin's disciple, thwarted a successful search at that time.

Preface:

Since the beginning of time, Excalibur has stood for one of mankind's foremost purposes, namely power. The one who has got this power in his hands is able to use it in any way he pleases. That really means that power is something absolutely neutral, gaining significance only by its possessor. Inquiring as to what is right or wrong and deciding to display power for good or evil solely depends on the one holding and being capable to employ it – perhaps merely for a short time.

The songs:

The King Of Swords (*LEGEND*) / Excalibur (*POWER*)

The sword Excalibur, initially moulded by the tears and hopes of cultures long gone, has been preserved to this day by the Lady Of The Lake. It is moulded for the one worth possessing it. Once it was given to Merlin, the Magician, for a short time. He bestowed it on King Utha believing he was the right one. However, Utha failed and sank the sword into a stone, which merged with it. There it was waiting patiently for the right one to come. But aren't we all to a certain degree the right one? Being able purely and simply to make up his mind for himself whether he is employing the power he possesses properly? And is it not true that an individual's potential of power is decreasing or increasing in proportion to his ability to distinguish between good and evil? Thus the one who employs his power for impure purposes quite automatically decreases his sphere of action. Then, very soon - and seemingly by chance - the power will be violently seized by another person. Now this one may prove whether he is worth it or not. From the wise use of Excalibur something of which people have been dreaming of can develop: a legend like the one of King Arthur and his Round Table standing for justice, pride and hope. Arthur embodies the one who knew

how to use Excalibur properly. To this day he is an ideal with regards to virtues such as honour, faithfulness and magnanimity.

Magic (*MAGIC*)

It was Merlin who stood by the young kings side whenever his advice was needed. But also Merlin was vulnerable and Morgaine, the black priestess, was finally able to banish him into the underworld. Merlin stood for magic, something almost forgotten in our days. He was one of the last Druids who were experts at handling the energies of the universe. He was only attacked by those who were not able to understand him or who considered him a danger to themselves. Until today, people who do not fit into social norms are excluded and fought against by those with limited imagination. Merlin did not know he was vulnerable to Morgaine's intrigues and evil purposes. She and the likes of her stirred up animosity within others against people like Merlin who had a far superior spiritual potential than most people. This was strategically done in order to have people disown them. Being scaremongers and appealing to the imaginary fears of small-minded people accomplished this. For this reason Merlin had disappeared into the underground sleeping for hundreds, almost thousands of years to this day...

A Long Long Time Ago (*INFINITY*)

Coming from around the Mists of Avalon again, Merlin gets back into our world once more conceiving the closeness of the past, present and future. Aren't there things from the past we are burdened with in present time and that influence the future? Thus, he remembers the time when the Round Table was still untouched, the time when all began and was working well. But he also remembers the later problems yet to be resolved, such as betrayal and hatred. He remembers the Holy Grail, which was expected to give the longed-for answer to the question of existence. The Grail is the symbol of "truth" having been sought after by so many religions for eons. Merlin realizes that his task has not yet been performed. For this reason he returns to present time, he returns to today!

Back Again (*RETURN*)

Merlin starts seeking for the beings who were knights in the past, the heroes of the legend, to reunite them and get them together at one table. It is not easy for him to find the chosen ones and to convince them once more to tackle the heavy task without repeating the mistakes of the past. Merely by switching off their so-called "mechanism of forgetting" he is successful in demonstrating the past identity and the task of every single protagonist of the legend. Leisure is over and finally Merlin finds one being after the other in a new body and in a new

life. However, still burdened with the problems of the past, Merlin points out to each one which trials he will have to undergo in the future.

Stop (*DISILLUSION*)

But also Morgaine, the priestess of the underworld, comes around. She remembers her deeds and so she starts the fight once again in order to realize her purpose. Treason and betrayal have been part of our civilization ever since. Isn't there always betrayal in the very beginning of an argument and a war over and over again? Therein lies the cause for a break-up in a partnership or friendship – as Lanzelot could not help his desire for Ginevra, King Arthur's wife, and because of that he committed a serious breach of trust towards his best friend.

On The Run (*ESCAPE*)

And Ginevra, instead of trying to face the problem, she escaped into a world of illusion: she doped herself with a drink that consisted of roots and deadly nightshades hoping this would help her to suppress reality. Also today there are means of all kinds – drugs – taken to withdraw from reality and to suppress the experiences one might come across. It is true, you do feel better for a short time in the beginning and seemingly you do get a grasp of all your problems. However, finally the rude awakening always happens on a level far below any former experience. Afterwards the deadly cycle starts over: you will need more and more of the drug and you will sink lower and lower. In actuality, nobody can ever steal away from himself, from his life and his problems.

Dreams can come true/Now It's Up To You (*HOPE*)

But it would not be our life if there was no hope, and if there was no chance to turn the wrong into right and the bad to good. It would not be Merlin, if he did not open a new gateway to help Ginevra. As in present time the past is threatening to recur. But it is more up to oneself to take one's course. Help is only for the one who seeks it and who accepts it. Therefore it is Ginevra's first step to decide and take matters at hand and not to hope that others will handle everything. Even set-backs cannot keep Ginevra from following Merlin's advice. There is no such thing as failure; there is only an inconsistency to follow through. This bears fruit when applied. In spite of all losses this was definitely one of the main principles of the knights around King Arthur, because they never gave up!

Goodbye (*GONE*)

At any time – then as well as today, it is hard to lose something or to separate from somebody important to oneself who you love more than anything. Whether

by death or by other circumstances – losing is always omnipresent as is pleasure and happiness. Often it is hard on both sides – it is not only the one who has to leave that suffers, but also the one who remains. How many friends of the Round Table left it and did not return? And how many people had to go at the wrong moment, as did Lancelot and Arthur himself finally... But the future is yet again in the hands of the Gods, and as such nothing is definite or final. For the time being it is only a matter of impeding the recourse of the past.

People Shall Be Free (*FREEDOM*)

The greatest wish of mankind is to be free. Free from false rulers, free from hostile attacks, but also free from their own compulsions and their own prejudices. Freedom, security and prosperity, Arthur had provided all this for the people in his empire. Thus he himself and Camelot became a symbol for these values. Freedom – the greatest good worth fighting for. This is why it is one of the most satisfying tasks to help others freeing themselves. Fringe groups, people thinking differently, even whole races have been damned and deprived of their freedom more than once. Race, skin colour, religion, belief and gender have always been the false motivators for slandering and hatred. Even after King Arthur's time, no better motives have been used as a pretext for persecution and warfare. It was one of the avowed purposes of the whole movement around King Arthur to bring peace and secure it. This also meant seeking for the Grail and – with that – to seek for and find “the truth”. Finally this would have brought everlasting peace to everyone in the world.

Time To Change (*RESPONSIBILITY*)

It is not easy for everyone to take this heavy burden of responsibility for what happened. Nevertheless, it is up to each of us to start changing things in our environment for the positive. The alluring materialistic prosperity enjoyed by our society is treacherously covering up decline like a non-transparent curtain. It is only with a common effort that we will concur and put an end to our wastefulness and begin to recognize our moral values again. While Camelot was flourishing, it was already doomed. People forgot what prosperity had provided them with and simply began to give up their great ideas of moral and their decency. Combined with wastefulness and without appreciation for what they were given by nature, the end was only a matter of time. But today we know about it: we know how King Arthur's Empire was destroyed and we know how the thousand year old Roman Empire vanished as many other empires did before. Merlin has very consciously chosen the present time to come back, in order to break the eternal cycle of harm on earth. Definitely! Merlin, however, has got opponents, the Powers of Evil, in the form of Morgaine who with well tried deceitfulness and temptation, strives to slander everything that can help. But Merlin has learned to discern the evil; he has learned not to trust without looking, but to be cautious. And he has learned to distinguish the human failings

of his friends from the deadly poison of a Morgaine who is full with hatred, and who seeks to disguise her real purposes as best she can.

Part Of Me, Part Of You (*LOVE*)

There is hatred, but there is also love. And man and woman are only complete, when they make up a couple. Like two halves of an apple cut apart in its centre. Eventually they become an entity after having been put together again. Love between two people has always been the source of our civilization. From it our children emerge and our families grow, thus it is the pillars of our society and the foundation of our future. Once having found the proper partner and knowing how to love him honestly in spite of his faults, temptations will not become a real danger to this partnership. Now Arthur has found a woman who really suits him and Lancelot is able to meet Ginevra, the love of his life, without the old burdens. Once more, it was Merlin who helped them with making the lies of the past vanish through communication and – maybe – a little magic...

Every Dream Will Have It's Day (*REALIZATION*)

Even though there are as many different experiences as there are men, we should remember that the world is the same for every one of us. For some, it is dull and cold, but for others it is sunny and warm. Many problems seem to be already resolved, however many of them we have yet to encounter. But the community is once again brought into existence, to complete its original purpose. It is their day again and barriers and problems of the past are remedied. It is true, Morgaine is not defeated yet and the process of making peace is far from being achieved, but the “Round Table” is united again ready to encounter new adventures together. Seeking for the Grail can be taken up again – and seeking for it is of definite importance to us all...