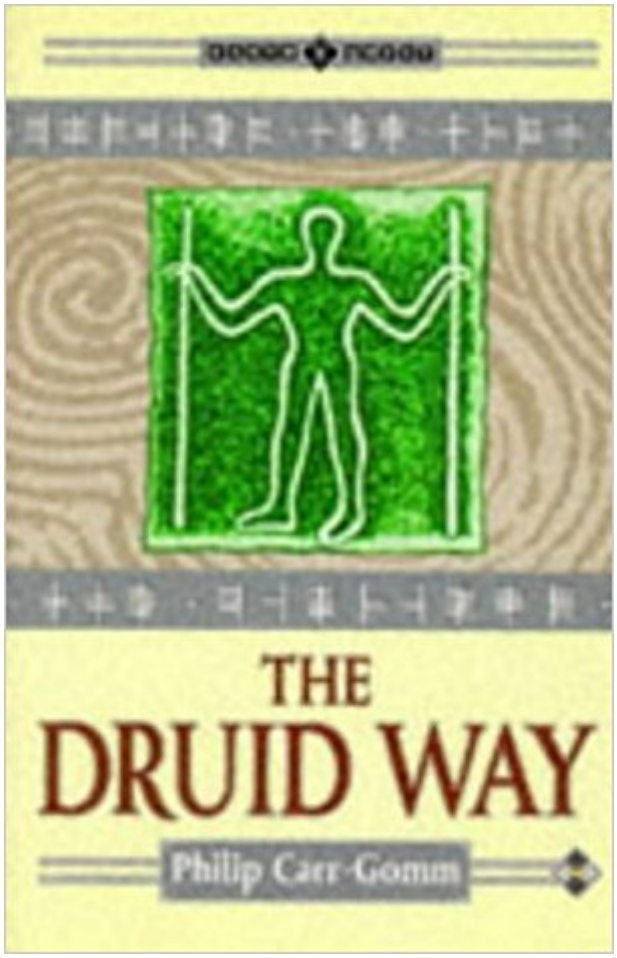
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The Druid Way: A Journey Through An Ancient Landscape



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Synopsis

The ancient teachings of the Druids represent one of the well-springs of inspiration of the Western Spiritual Tradition. Druids and Druidesses were magicians and poets, counsellors and healers, shamans and philosophers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On a walk through the Sussex downs from Lewes to the Long Man and back, Mr. Carr-Gomm takes you on a fascinating journey with glimpses into the past and present sensibilities of Druidry. Contains lots of tidbits about the history, archaeology, geography, and art of the area as well as philosophical, sociological and psychological insights.Mr. Carr-Gomm pulls all these aspects together into an enjoyable and informative story that’s hard to put down.

Great book about a druids journey in discovering his relationship with deity. It was easy to read and you felt like you were also going on the journey around the UK. It was kind of confusing for me at first not being familiar with the names and places on the islands, but I looked them up and it solved it. It’s laid out in chapters and in a narrative style. It contains myth and lore in British Druidy tradition of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids (OBOD), not a lot, but the author makes reference to it as he is experience the land, nature and the Goddess around him. It was what set me on the path of druidry and the goddess myself (the over arching cosmic goddess). I’d recommend for beginners and experienced pagans alike. If nothing else it’s a great story about a journey to enlightenment, much like the tarot.

Once again, Philip Carr-Gomm is NOT an anthropologist and hisbooks are NOT about the ancient druids. Druidry is a modern beliefwith only occasional ties to events/beliefs of 2000 years ago, just as modern Christianity is.I finished this book with a feeling of peace, it was almost a meditation to read it. However, I got very little practical information out of it. I certainly don't feel that it is "a complete description of the Druid Way." The comments by the author are closer to the book than the "synopsis" is. Wonderfully written, this book brings together a stroll around the countryside with the grief of a loss of a friend to show a path to enlightenment through the power and beauty of the earth....if you want to know about ancient druids, check out "The Druids" by Stuart Piggot or "The Celts" by T. G. E. Powell. The fact of the matter is the historical druids committed very little to paper until after they were assimilated into the Culdee church. And that all had the taint of Christianity on it.

The religion practiced by the ancient Celts and their priests the Druids, is and will always be a mystery. It is sad to see people wishing, hoping, and praying that they could defy logic and physics and go back in time figuratively or otherwise and follow "Druidism." The sad truth is they would probably tell the Druids they were not worshipping or performing their rites in a historically accurate way either! What these folks believe actually happened is just pure fantasy. They have no crystal ball into the past and are just as at a loss as the historians and archeologists investigating the ancient Celts using scientific means.The fact is Druidry is a modern manifestation and at best based upon guesses at what the ancient Celtic religion was. Philip makes no bones about it. He is not saying in any of his texts that what he is presenting is the unchanged religion of the Celts. Would we or could we really follow the ancient religion in its entirety today? Do we have the same exact needs, hopes, or world-views? A great deal of history has happened since then.What Philip does provide is another spiritual path or way for the modern individual; the Druid Way. The Druid Way is not an ancient religion brought out of context for a modern age but a modern look at an ancient religion which can be of use and import for us today.I have researched the ancient Celts extensively and yet this book is one of my favourites! It is a very enjoyable read.

The author , I believe, tries to demonstrate how to become one with the spiritual and ancestral history of the land by man made objects. He free-associates while he walks. Any thoughts of this author are valuable. He hallucinates from exhaustion and hunger. He tries to figure out ancient landmarks. Mr. Carr-Gomm does not demonstrate how one might apply the principals he attempts

to demonstrate/teach here to any land in the world. Must one hike around ancient artifacts,landmarks,archeological sites or monoliths to merge with the spirit of the Earth? How could we merge with the spirit of the land anywhere on Earth? That was clearly missing. Does one need to alter one's consciousness physically or with drugs in order to make insights?I believe many parts of the world are heavily into Paganism, Wicca and Druidism, For example, Germany, France, Slovakian countries,Romania, America, Canada, Africa, Australia. Yet the author speaks from the assumption that England and Wales are the only countries where these movements are legitimate and noteworthy. I think he is missing something here.I must however give Mr. Carr-Gomm credit for going 'outside the box' in his construction of this book. It is indeed a multisensory presentation of Druid history in a clever format. I like the "Notes' section at the end. I challenge Philip Carr-Gomm to do better. Move beyond Briton as his frame of reference for Paganism and Druidism; discuss these movements in different countries and cultures around the world. Yes most of us through our ancestors came from parts of Europe but that is 'old news.' We are discovering that the 'new world' is just as ancient and settled as the 'old world.' Perspective needs to change accordingly. I challenge Mr. Carr-Gomm to break free of his cultural prejudice. This is why I gave him four stars.

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