
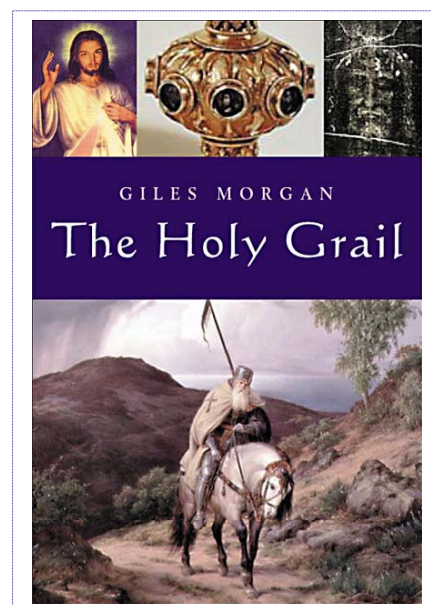


The Holy Grail

Giles Morgan

new title

publication: 17 th February 2005	BIC code: HRY
extent: 160pp	Report Code: NP
Format: Crown Octavo (186 x 124mm) hardback	ean: 9-781904-048343
price: £9.99	isbn: 1-904048-34-X
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- **The Holy Grail is a controversial and mysterious subject that appeals to mainstream and fringe audiences.**
- **The phenomenal success of *The Da Vinci Code* indicates the continuing public fascination for areas where myth and historical fact meet**
- **Arthurian legends and historically based dramas currently have a high profile due to the success of films such as *Lord of the Rings*, *King Arthur*, *Gladiator* and *Troy*.**
- **Interest in Antiquarianism and related mythologies is currently very high and likely to increase with the forthcoming release of Julian Cope's book, *The Megalithic European*.**

The Holy Grail is a subject that fascinates and intrigues. Through its various guises as magic cauldron, cornucopia, horn of plenty and chalice cup it has remained at the centre of popular culture from antiquity right up to the present day. An object of marvel and mystery it inhabits a place in mythology that has its roots in historical facts. The Grail has been a major inspiration and catalyst for literature and the arts in Western Culture. From Celtic mythology to the flowering of the medieval romances it has in many ways fulfilled its mythical role as a nurturing and regenerative vessel by providing such a rich and seemingly perpetual source of interest to writers and artists.

Charting the emergence of the story of the Grail offers a revealing insight into the cultural shift from Celtic paganism to the emergence and domination of Christianity in Western Europe. The influence of Eastern mysticism emerges in the Grail romances as a result of the medieval crusades with its clash of cultures and subsequent cross-pollination of ideas. The Grail has come to symbolise the ultimate achievement in the modern mind and became an object of fascination for Carl Jung, TS Eliot, Wagner, William Blake and the Pre-Raphaelites.

Giles Morgan has written for magazines including *Fortean Times* and *Focus*. He reviews books for *Crime Time* and has had poetry published in various magazines.

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 Distribution UK: Turnaround, 3 Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Rd, London N22 6TZ
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