

IRISH MYTHS AND LEGENDS

<http://www.theemeraldisle.org/irish-myths-legends/>

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Celtic people are famous for their love of stories and story telling. There are a huge number of famous legends associated with the Irish Celtic people.
- ▶ Tales such as The Children of Lir, The Banshee and the land of eternal youth - Tir na n-Og are just a few examples of Irish myths.

Bodb Derg was elected king of the Tuatha Dé Danann, much to the annoyance of Lir. To appease Lir, Bodb married one of his daughters, Aoibh, with him, and they had four children. Aoibh died, and Bodb sent another of his daughters, Aoife, to marry him. Jealous of the children's love for each other and for their father, Aoife wanted to get rid of the children. She ordered her servant to kill them, but the servant refused. In anger, she tried to kill them herself, but did not have the courage. Instead, she used her magic to turn the children into swans. When Bodb heard of this, he transformed Aoife into an air demon for eternity. As swans, the children had to wait for 900 years until a monk blessed them and broke the spell.



MYTHS

- ▶ A myth is considered to be a **traditional story containing supernatural characters** such as unicorns, dragons or gods.
- ▶ A myth is **known as a 'True Story'** as opposed to a fable which is considered a 'False Story'.
- ▶ Myths are strongly **linked to religion** and as such the characters and plots however unlikely are believed to be real and a true recount of the past.



LEGENDS

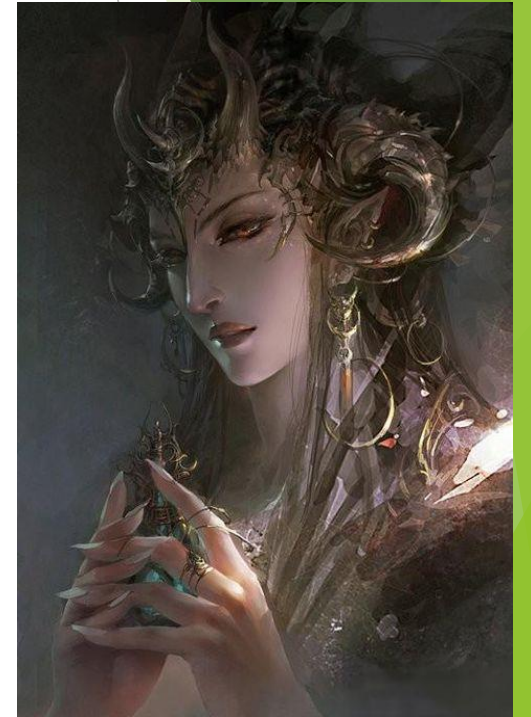
- ▶ A Legend is a story which has been passed from one generation to another.
- ▶ The events of a legend are not verifiable through history.
- ▶ Legends are often associated with saints and the extraordinary lives they led, legends can also contain mythical characters and are often about mythical places.
- ▶ The Irish people are a nation of story tellers, they have a huge amount of magical legends relating to their ancestors.



Celtic Mythology

► In Irish Mythology the **Fomorians** or Fomóraig were a race that were believed to inhabit the earth in ancient time before the gods, they included:

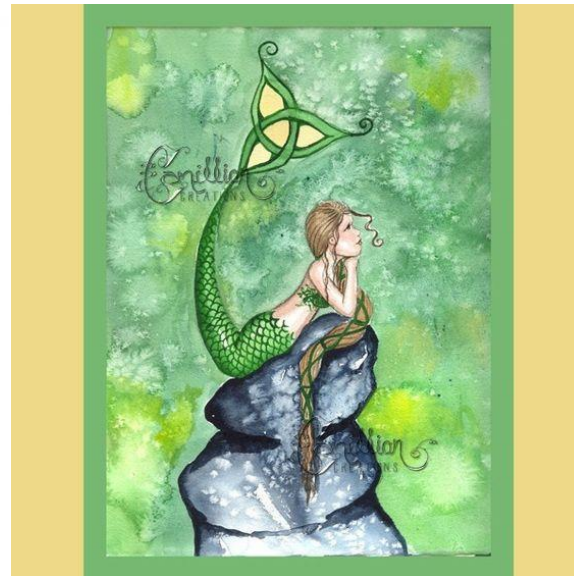
- Balor
- Banba
- Bres
- Buarainech
- Cethlenn
- Corb
- Elatha
- Ériu
- Ethlinn
- Fodla
- Tethra



Mythical Characters

▶ In Irish myths and legends we can find many supernatural creatures, like

- Dragons
- Unicorns
- Gods
- Sea Creatures
- Dwarfs
- Elves
- Giant
- Troll
- Mermaid
- Griffin



- ▶ Irish symbols: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/WP5Wk3ezMXE>
- ▶ [The three daughters of King O'Hara](#)
- ▶ <http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-irish-myths-and-legends.php>