

APPEARANCE IN FOLKLORE AND LITERATURE

In folk religion and folklore, trees are often said to be the homes of tree spirits. Germanic mythology as well as Celtic polytheism both appear to have involved cultic practice in sacred groves, especially grove of oak. The term druid itself possibly derives from the Celtic word for oak.

Myths use plants as symbols of life and of the healing power of nature. Some plants yield poisons and some die in winter, plants can also represent death and decay. The study about plants in mythology may give insight into historical and recent use of plants in the religion.

Since ancient days, trees have been used to represent life, growth, wisdom, prosperity and more in legends, poetry, literature, and religion. We all know the symbolism behind an olive branch and the Tree of Knowledge from the Garden of Eden.

Numerous popular stories throughout the world reflect a firmly-rooted belief in an intimate connection between a human being and a tree, plant or flower. Sometimes a man's life depends upon the tree and suffers when it withers or is injured, and we encounter the idea of the external soul, already found in the [Ancient Egyptian Tale of Two Brothers](#) from at least 3000 years ago. Here one of the brothers leaves his heart on the top of the flower of the acacia and falls dead when it is cut down. Sometimes, however, the tree is a mysterious token which shows its sympathy with an absent hero by weakening

or dying, as the man becomes ill or loses his life. These two features very easily combine, and they agree in representing to



Sometimes the new-born child is associated with a newly planted tree with which its life is supposed to be bound up; or, on ceremonial occasions (betrothal, marriage, ascent to the throne), a personal relationship of this kind is instituted by planting trees, upon the fortunes of which the career of the individual depends. Sometimes, boughs or plants are selected and the individual draws omens of life and death. Again, a person will put themselves into relationship with a tree by depositing upon it something which has been in close contact with them, such as hair or clothing.^[1]

Often a tree will be associated with [oracles](#). The oak of [Dodona](#) was tended by priests who slept on the ground. Forms of the tall oaks of the old [Prussians](#) were inhabited by gods who gave responses, and so numerous are the examples that the old [Hebrew terebinth](#) of the teacher, and the terebinth of the diviners may reasonably be placed in this category. In [Greek myth](#), oak trees are said to be inhabited by spirits or [nymphs](#) called [hamadryads](#), and if they were cut down by mortals, the gods punished them since the beings in the trees were believed to die.^[8] Important sacred trees are also the object of

pilgrimage, one of the most noteworthy being the branch of the [Bo tree](#) at [Sri Lanka](#) brought thither before the Christian era. The tree spirits will hold sway over the surrounding forest or district, and the animals in the locality are often sacred and must not be harmed.^[1]

The custom of transferring disease or sickness from humans to trees is well known. Sometimes the hair, nails, clothing, etc. of a sickly person are fixed to a tree, or they are forcibly inserted in a hole in the trunk, or the tree is split and the patient passes through the aperture. Where the tree has been thus injured, its recovery and that of the patient are often associated. Different explanations may be found of such customs which naturally take rather different forms among peoples in different grades.^[1]

In Arab folklore, sacred trees are haunted by [jinn](#); sacrifices are made, and the sick who sleep beneath them receive prescriptions in their dreams. Here, as frequently elsewhere, it is dangerous to pull a bough. This dread of damaging special trees is familiar: [Cato](#) instructed the woodman to sacrifice to the male or female deity before thinning a grove, while in the [Homeric poem](#) to Aphrodite the tree nymph is wounded when the tree is injured, and dies when the trunk falls.^[1]

Early Buddhism held that trees had neither mind nor feeling and might lawfully be cut; but it recognized that certain spirits might reside in them, such as [Nang Takian](#) in [Thailand](#). Propitiation is made before the axe is laid to the holy trees; loss of life or of wealth and the failure of rain are feared should they be wantonly cut; there are even trees which it is dangerous to climb. The Talein of [Burma](#) prays to the tree before he cuts it down, and the [African](#) woodman will place a fresh sprig upon the tree.^[1] In [Hawaiian tradition](#), a tree either located at the end of a valley or on a cliff near the sea, is used by the soul as a gateway to the Underworld (AKA [Pit of Milu](#)).^[9] Some [Ancient Indian tree deities](#), such as Puliyaivalaiyamman, the [Tamil](#) deity of the [tamarind tree](#), or Kadambariyamman, associated with the Kadamba tree.

OUTCOMES

Trees give off oxygen that we need to breathe. Trees reduce the amount of storm water runoff, which reduces erosion and pollution in our waterways and may reduce the effects of flooding. Many species of wildlife depend on trees for habitat. Trees provide food, protection, and homes for many birds and mammals.

Students learned responsibility by caring for the plants, learned how to communicate and compromise with each other, gained leadership skills, and developed self confidence. They also developed skills of observation as they watched interactions among plants, animals, soil, and weather.

Through a campaign, governments can also recruit volunteers and raise funds to plant trees on public land. Implementation: Encourage residents to participate in and support tree planting efforts with tree giveaways, corporate sponsorship or competitions, and other programming.

Therefore, we conclude that trees should be regularly planted to save the mankind and the animal world. Tree plantation and its after-care is a pleasing work too. We can get much pleasure in planting trees and in taking care of them.