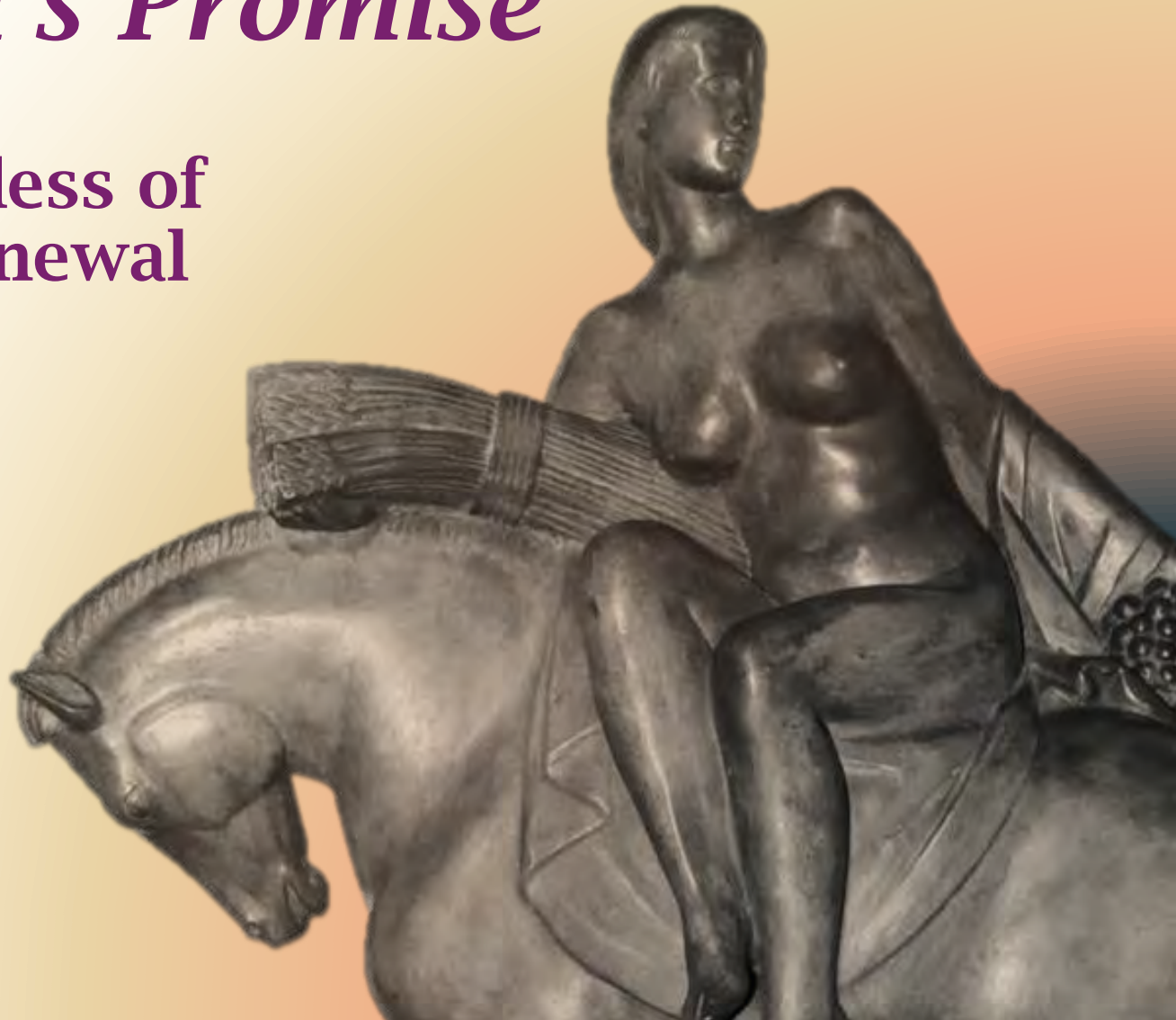


# *Ausvena's Promise*

A Celtic Goddess of  
Dawn and Renewal

Aurelie  
Nonie Douglas  
Rob Douglas



# Living Faith

- Blend of old and new
- Regional variation
- Henotheist beliefs
- Sacred contract
- Otherworldly agencies
- Ancestor veneration
- Reincarnation and afterlife
- Domestic vs mystery traditions



# Indo-European Myth

- Beyond the Oceans
- Keeper of heavenly gates
- Sky Chariot
- Keeper of Horses
- Protector of Warriors
- Brings hope and renewal
- Summer and Harvest feast
- Clothed in gold, white or red



*Zara-Zarenitsa, Andrey Shishkin, Oil on Canvas 55" x 70", Russia 2010*

# Indo-European Dawn (\*AUS-)

PIE  
\**Auśás*

Avestan  
*Uša*

Greek  
*Eos, Eoṣ*

Latvian  
*Auseklis*

Germanic  
*Ostara*

Ukranian  
*Zorya*,  
Зоря

Vedic  
*Uṣás* उषस्

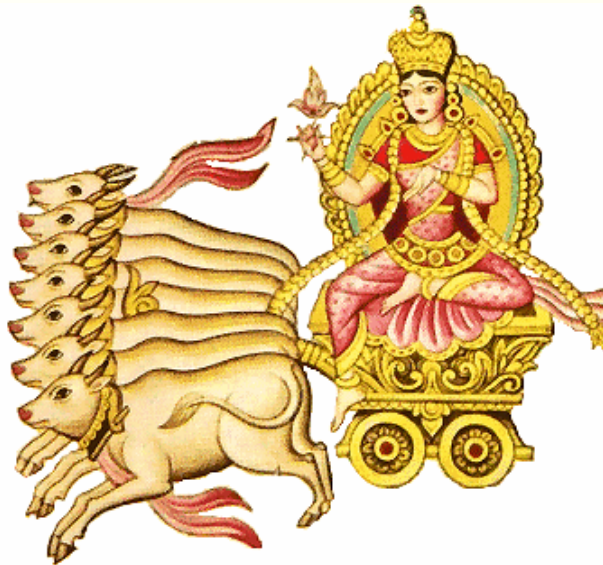
Armenian  
*Ayg* (այգ)

Roman  
*Aurora*

Lithuania  
n *Aušrinė*

Saxon  
*Eostre*

Polish  
*Jutrzenka*



1. *Usas* Rigveda Votive. 2. *Eos*, Greek Vase 440BC, John Hopkins Museum MD. 3. 9<sup>th</sup>C Greek-Byzantine *Chludov Psalter*, Moscow MS.129d. 4. *Ostara*, Johannes Gehrts, 1884. 5. *The Morning Star*, Watercolor Alphonse Mucha, 1902.

# Insular Celtic Names

## Ausecia

*O Brittonic: aus (dawn) + ecou- (mare)*

## Ausvena

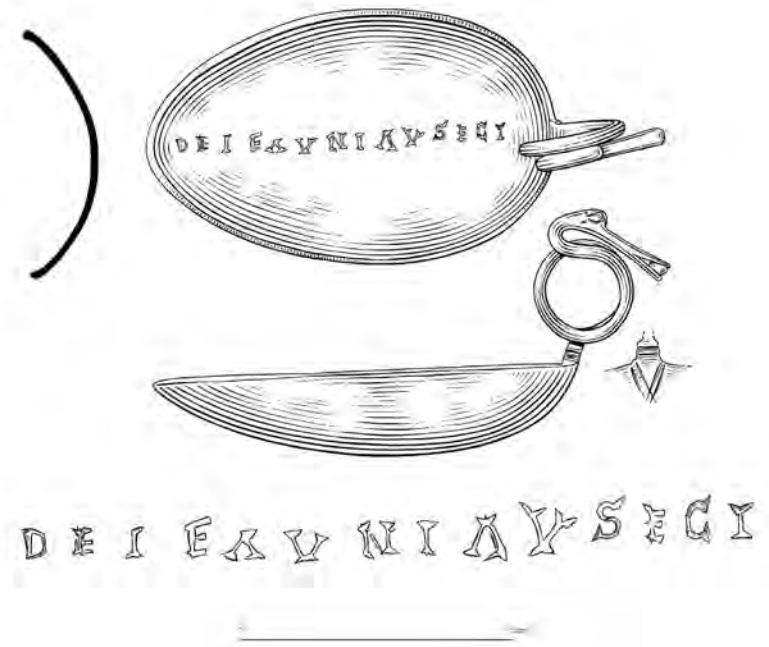
*O Brittonic: aus (dawn) + -bena (lady)*

## Awen

*Welsh: descendant of Ausvena*

## Asa

*Gaelic: au (dawn, east) + -a (f)*



5<sup>th</sup>C silver cigni spoon inscribed with DEI FAUNI AUSECI. One of 33 silver spoons with British Romano-Celtic inscriptions of deity names, discovered in East Anglia, Thetford Horde, British Museum.

# Epithets of Epona

*Romano Gaulish*: Great Horse  
from PIE: \*ékwos (horse)



*Altar from Auchendavy,  
Strathclyde Region,  
Hunterian Museum,  
Glasgow, 2<sup>nd</sup> C AD*

*Rauranum Inscription, France 1-2<sup>nd</sup> C AD*

- **Matrona** (mother)
- **Atanta** (Far-reaching- goddess)
- **Eponina** (dear little horse goddess)
- **Potia** (increasing one)
- **Ipona** (horse goddess)
- **Epotia** (lady of increase)
- **Catona** (battle goddess)
- **Dibonia** (good goddess)
- **Vovesia** (she of the knowledge beneath?)

# Regional Names

## **Madran**

*Manx (fox)*

## **Modron, Madrun**

*Dumfrieshire*

## **Madrine, St. Madrine**

*Galloway*

## **Beel Savin**

*Manx: Bright Summer*

## **Beli Sama**

*Britonic: Ptolemy, Ribble R. Cumbria*

## **Titam**

*Origin Unknown: Fairy*

## **Sister: Ana**

River Annan, Dumfrieshire



# The Second Sun

Dawn's light precedes the Day



Immortalite by Henri Fantin-Latour, Lithograph Stone,  
L'Estampe Moderne 1897

- Dawn's hair (or mane) illuminates the sky.
- A veil or shawl conceals her light.
- Dawn goes missing or is captured, but it is not immediately obvious.
- Tears of dew or amber reveal her absence.
- A search party sets out to find her.
- She communicates via the Language of Birds.
- She is guarded or aided by a Black Bull.

# A Lost Child



Gallo-Roman Dea Matrona, 1st-2nd century CE, National Archaeology Museum, Athens

- Dawn has a relationship with a child who is hurt or hidden from her.
- Her grief and later recovery features in her story.
- Amber and jet is worn to symbolize her sorrow and joy, respectively.
- Protector of Children.

# Well at the Worlds End

Dawn is tested



- Dawn goes beyond the seas to a place in the east.
- She encounters a hag and guardian spirits.
- She transforms into or is guided by a horse.
- She is charged with guarding a well in a cave or fortress which overflows.
- Dawn must devise her own escape.

# Battle of the Seasons



- Dawn's release from captivity is ensued by battle.
- The protagonist is a giant, sea monster, or Cailleach.
- Her champion has solar qualities.
- Linked to folktales about a battle of birds and animals.
- A mock battle is re-enacted at May Day between Dawn and the Cailleach.



# The Cattle Raid

Protector of Horses, Cattle,  
Warriors and Raiders

- Dawn leads a raid to restore cattle and prosperity.
- The cows are likened to stars or souls which return home at dawn.
- These mythic cows are the ancestors of native cow breeds.
- Reiving was considered a birthright and native economy.

# Horse Queen

- Dawn incarnates among her people at auspicious times.
- She leads warriors into battle on a horse or chariot.
- She marries the first chief, granting sovereignty of the clan.
- All nobility descends through her daughters.



*Temple Wood South Circle*



*Hilton of Cadboll, Class II Pictish Stone Reproduction, Kintyre, Argyll  
800CE*



Iron Age Distribution of Horse Coins

2<sup>nd</sup> C BCE Rennes, Brittany | Map X@LaTenne

# Belton (Beltane)



## ***Belton – The Lucky Fires***

*Gorse burning*

*Moving Livestock to Summer pastures*

## ***Triumph against Winter***

*Dew Rite*

*May Queen Parade or Pantomime*

*Games of Skill or Mock Battle*

## ***Healing and Protection from Otherworld***

*Protection from Trooping fairies*

*Child blessing at sacred well*

*Rowan crosses*





## Reiving Season

### *Lammas Wapinshaw*

- Harvest celebration
- Riding the bounds
- Cattle Raid

### *Michaelmas Games*

- Equestrian events
- Courtship

### *November Eve*

- Winter Horse Feast
- Cattle moved

# Holy Places



*St Madrine's Cave.  
Rhinns of Galloway, Scotland.*

- East-facing cave with healing well.
- Dedicated to Medieval Saint
- May Day blessing for children



*Massabielle Grotto, Lourdes, France  
(Hautes-Pyrénées)*

- Ancient cave and spring of Epona.
- In 1858 Bernadette Soubirous experienced visions of a beautiful lady with yellow roses on her feet.

Each dawn is a new beginning



# Ritual Elements



Orens salute  
(palms upward)



Honorific Greetings,  
Singing,  
Orations, Petitions



Offerings~  
scent, work,  
petals, daily  
chores



Prayers carried  
by smoke

# Visualization Formula

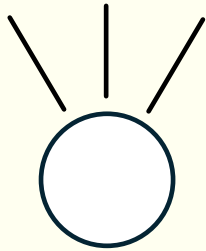
SYMBOLIC



ZOOMORPHIC



ANTHROPOMORPHIC



*ADLAIS*



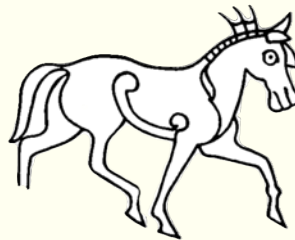
*Yellow Primrose  
or Gorse*



*March Hare*



*Red Fox*



*Pale Mare with Red Ears*

**A young maiden  
with shining hair.**

**White or saffron  
veil or mantle.**

**Amber crown or jewels**

**Yellow roses at her feet.**

**Riding a horse or chariot.**

# Peace to the Fallen



***'At the setting of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.'***

*Australian Commonwealth Military Forces hat badge 2. Ode of Remembrance, The Fallen by Laurence Binyon 3. Children's Commemorative Peace Medal 1919 4. Postcard, Lithograph, John Sands Sydney 1901*

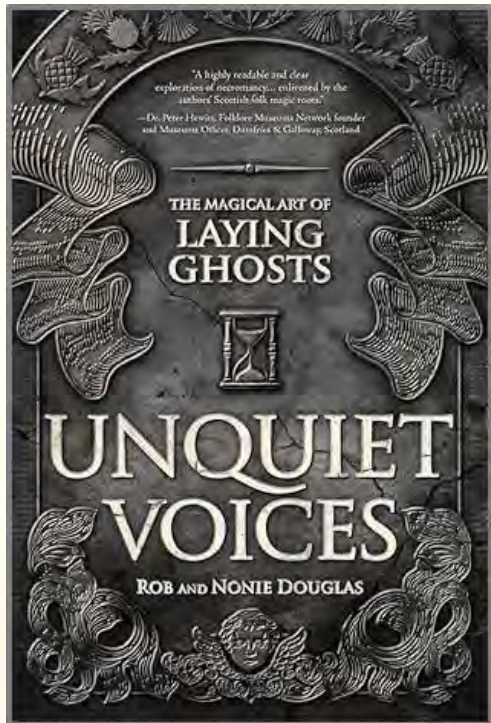


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 arcane.borders

[www.ArcaneBorders.com](http://www.ArcaneBorders.com)



## **Unquiet Voices – *The Magical Art of Laying Ghosts***

- Cosmology of Spirit Realm
- Anatomy of the Spirit
- Recognize Human and Non-Human Spirits
- Magical tools, Invocation, Communication and Rites
- Investigation, Diagnosis and Rules of Engagement
- Methods to Lay Ghosts
- Arcana - Glossary of terms

