



THE CAILLEACH OF SLIGO

**Stories and Myths from
the Northwest of Ireland**

Michael B. Roberts

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Author Michael Roberts says:

‘The stories in this collection were first told when the world was still young. They were intended to explain how the world came into being and how it changed to being merely human. I heard them first as a boy from family, friends, teachers and others.

They have been gathered and embellished in the course of my life. I retained them as small fragments of memory that I have tried to reassemble here. For me, they still taste of the long ago, of youth and innocence and of happy times before the world lost its sense of fun and wonder.

Although some of the stories are very old, I have tried to tell them in a new voice. Some are the reflections of a small boy backed up by a lot of reading and experience at a later time. All have truth and wisdom hidden between the lines. Readers may find their own truth and wisdom in these stories, but all truths are valid.

In these pages you will hear about Maebh and Fionn, Balor of the Evil Eye and the dreaded Fomorians, Diarmait and Grainne, Fraoch and the Great Worm, Niamh of the Golden Locks, Tuan the storyteller, warriors and druids, banshees and much more.

The stories are generally of the northwest of Ireland, or a local version of well known Irish tales, but they reflect myths and legends that can be found around the globe. All have an Irish content but a universal theme.”

About the Author

Michael B. Roberts is an anthropologist and storyteller, and founder of the Summer School of Sligo Myths and Legends. He lives in Sligo.

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