



## Star Lore Alban Eiler

*I have been instructed  
In the whole system of the Universe;  
I shall be till the day of judgement  
On the face of the earth. Taliesin*

Alban Eiler celebrates the fiery life energy of the Sun as he enters the constellation Aries and is full of the thrust and parry of Mars, the planet whose energy rules Aries. The Sun emerges from the dissolving and formless days of watery Pisces and is reborn in this blazing place of renewal where we mark the beginning of the zodiac. It is a place of initiation, rebirth for the Sun as he pulls ahead of the power of night. Our inward Sun embraces the light and releases the sanctuary of the dark womb of winter.

At the time of Alban Elued when the Sun enters Venus governed Libra, we note and celebrate the balance of light and dark. When seen from satellite cameras both North and South Hemispheres become green at this time of year because this is the beginning of the rainy season in many places south of the equator, as well as the time of new green growth in the north. Looked at through time lapse photography our planet seems to pulse: green and then brown.

*I have been in an uneasy chair  
Above Caer Sidin,  
And the whirling round without motion  
Between the three rings of fire. Taliesin*

Aries is the place of entry into the zodiac, Caer Sidi/Sidhe, the revolving castle, as well as the gathering place of the folk of the Otherworld. Caer Sidi is a whirling tower with each of the twelve constellations a window. The Sun, Moon and planets appear to move across this vast procession of animals, taking on the characteristics of each constellation in turn.

If you watch from your place in Caer Sidi at twilight, you might notice Venus as she trails behind the Sun. Now she is only visible for a short time before sunset, a brilliant jewel of light in the Western sky. This Alban Eiler look for her close to the horizon, as the Sun sinks. After March 24, she will be so close to the Sun she will be invisible in his bright light, and then in April will reappear at dawn as the morning star. Her cycle of appearance, disappearance and return is central to the mystery of spring and rebirth.

*Is it not the wonder of the world  
That cannot be discovered?  
Taliesin*

The moment of spring is calculated for the Sun's entrance into the sign of Aries. If you live in the Eastern time zone, the moment of entry will take place on Friday, March 20 soon after dawn, 7:44 am EDT. All over the earth, for a day or two, the amount of light and dark will now be equal. Because of the tilt of the earth, each part of the globe receives the same amount of daylight and nighttime hours over the year, but light and dark are distributed in vastly different ways. The equator always basks in equal numbers of light and dark hours throughout the year, but for those of us north or south of the equator, there is a dance or a battle in the cycle of light and dark throughout the year which have shaped our psyches, our history, our stories about ourselves. During the celebration of Alban Elued (the *autumn* equinox) there is a great emphasis on the balance of light and dark, but this is not what we focus upon at the spring equinox. Instead, Alban Eiler celebrates the fiery life energy of Aries and is full of the thrust and parry of Mars, the planet whose energy rules Aries. The Sun emerges from the dissolving and formless days of Pisces and is reborn in this place of renewal. Aries has become the first sign of the zodiac, but according to older traditions, it is not the beginning of the cycle, which takes place in Virgo.