

## Crop Circles as Oracles: The Sun-Moon Formation at Clear Wood, UK, July 2019

Veronica Goodchild, PhD

May 2021



(The Clear Wood crop circle, photo by Steve Alexander [www.temporarytemples.co.uk](http://www.temporarytemples.co.uk). I've turned the photograph around to show the moon cradling the sun – see below)

Note to the reader: I would refer you to my crop circle chapter, Ch. 6, “Crop Circles: Star Codes/Earth Dreams,” in *Songlines of the Soul*, for a more detailed reflection on the crop circle phenomena.

### *Introduction*

In July 2019, I led a small pilgrimage group to the UK. The theme of our ‘walking mystery school’ was related to the sacred landscapes of Great Britain. These included Glastonbury, Avebury, and Stonehenge, among other sites. There are three major historical and legendary themes in this area. One is the early Christian one that reports that Joseph of Arimathea, Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and their entourage visited on several occasions the Druid initiation center at the Tor in Glastonbury, considered a heart chakra center on the planet. There, they established an early Celtic Christian church and community (which would still have honored ‘God’ as both father and mother, a union of male and female energies,

above and below, and the Earth as alive with spirit), and which today is connected symbolically with Glastonbury Abbey.

The other major theme of this area is a much earlier Celtic landscape called Iniswitrin, “Isle of Glass,” the Avalon of Merlin and Morgan le Fey, symbolized by the Tor. Between these two, and connected to both, are the Arthurian stories and the Grail legend, a myth that conceals an initiatory journey concerned, among other things, with the need to redeem the feminine and rediscover our ability for feeling and compassion, face the personal and collective shadow, re-enchanted the subtle mysteries of our soul’s relationship to nature, and use our imaginative capacity to effect change. This myth, a European one, also very much belongs to the imaginal history of England. These tales reach back in pre-history to the Great Bear, or Plough, constellation and Arcturus its brightest star (also the star of the gnostic Cathars in France), and fabled land of Atlantis. This star map is written on the landscape and creates a portal to Avalon, a between world also called “Isle of Apples,” in the county of Somerset, or Summerland as it was called.

This area of Sacred Britain is also the region of many of the crop circle formations of the last almost 40 years. Seeking to connect to this ancient and ever present ‘invisible Earth,’ our pilgrimage group also really hoped to be able to visit a crop circle as part of our journey!

I mention the symbolic themes of our pilgrimage – the union of masculine and feminine, above and below, the Grail legends, the earth as sacred landscape alive with soul, crop circles, and the power of imagination to effect change – as they become relevant to the crop circle that I’ll be discussing below, the sun-moon Clear Wood formation of July 2019. Too, they provide a context in which to weave the idea that crop circles can be approached as oracles.

#### *The oracular tradition – some background*

(The early part of this section is drawn from my essay, “Sacred Bees,” on my website)

Since time immemorial, various oracular and divinatory practices from around the globe have been recorded or written about. Possibly, one of the most enduring images of the oracular tradition, is the Pythia or “Delphic Bee” at the ancient mystery school site of Delphi on mainland Greece, where remains to the Temple shrine of Apollo can be seen to this day. The Pythia was Apollo’s main oracular priestess. She is accompanied by other bee priestesses, sometimes associated with the “Melissae,” bee priestesses of Demeter, Persephone, and Artemis, or called “Thriae,” bee maidens and seers who practiced divination and the oracular arts. The Thriae were 3 sisters, the number always associated with the goddess as maiden, mother, and crone. So these bee priestesses were the teachers of Apollo. They were inspired in their prophetic powers by eating honey, and lacked clarification and vision if they were deprived of it. The priestesses had to be

approached with the appropriate attitude and offerings otherwise they buzzed confusion and lies. The word *melissa*, in addition to meaning bee, also means priestess, poetry, and healing (Frith Luton, *Bees, Honey, and the Hive*, p. 67). With disregard, the dark side of Dionysos - whom the maidens honored - could erupt creating chaos, like a swarm of bees seeking renewal.

We see that the Delphic Bee was also called the Pythia. This is an important detail, for the Pythia points to an even earlier time before the Olympic gods where Gaia gave birth to Python, a huge snake or earth-dragon - always the symbol of the Great Mother - and the original oracle at Delphi. This serpent contained all Gaia's wisdom and knowledge and inspired the oracular priestess with her prophetic utterances. Apollo eventually slew the great Python but used her name, thus appropriating her wisdom at his own Delphic oracle where, beneath the ancient tripod upon which the priestess sat, the pneuma or spiritual breath from the earth-dragon energies in the Adyton or sacred inner sanctum beneath the Temple, would rise up and inform her visions and utterances. Moreover, the Python image also suggests the kundalini serpent of energy fire that travels from the earth up the spine, linking the subtle 'wheels' of energy in the body with both our organs and the universal energy field which surrounds us - a serpent symbol still to be seen on the medical caduceus today. Furthermore, in these stories we see the link between serpent and bee, matter and spirit.

The stories surrounding this oracular tradition seem to suggest that under certain circumstances it is possible to tap into a source of knowing and knowledge that is outside ordinary awareness. They suggest that such a way of knowing needs to be approached in an appropriate manner, a sacred manner, if we wish to access a clear channel to this direct knowing. This direct knowing, or *gnosis*, comes from another world, or dimension of consciousness - from the earth associated with the dragon or serpent energies, or from the heavenly spiritual realms associated with the bee or often with birds - and for which one needs preparation, for example, by slowing down and reaching a meditative state of mind. Or an oracular message can come in a spontaneous and unbidden way - through dreams, or a synchronicity for example - and which we should also receive in a respectful manner, to try to discern its message and meaning. Sometimes we purposefully seek guidance through divination cards, such as the Tarot or I Ching, or through a scrying technique. Gnosis is knowledge directly from another dimension of consciousness, from a central Source, however you might imagine that. The mystery schools of Egypt, Greece, Palestine, Europe and the British Isles, were based on a system both of learning the tradition of which one was a part - book learning we might say - but also upon an initiatory path that encouraged an embodied process of direct experience, *gnosis*. It was considered that there is no substitute for the challenges of personal experience of birth, symbolic death, and spiritual rebirth. Oracular or divination experiences were also part of an immersion in the depths for the wisdom required for each life.

The idea here is that our local or ego consciousness is only one form of knowing, that mostly we learn in the familial, educational, and cultural landscapes into which we are born. But there are other more enduring and wise sources of knowledge that can be relied upon with listening and discernment. Jung called these deeper layers the collective or archetypal unconscious. He encouraged us to be open to these cross-cultural deeper sources of knowledge that we access in our dreams or through the processes of Active Imagination, even automatic writing and, for example, from familiarity with our astrological charts as well.

But in addition to these sources, there is the psychoid level of the unconscious where, as Jung writes, psyche and nature “touch and do not touch,” a kind of zero-point field, which includes direct visionary and mystical experience, as well as sources of knowing that come from the natural world or wider cosmos, as in synchronicities. Here Jung is saying that it is not only our ‘inner’ world that guides us, but the spiritual depths of matter, of nature herself. And to the archetypal and psychoid, and even trans-psyche levels of awareness, we add the oracular sensibility, from the sources we have already noted. In fact, in the story above about the Pythia, it is the great Python, birthed by Gaia and symbol of the Great Mother, who knows all of Earth’s secrets, and can dispense her wisdom.

*Crop Circles as Oracles* **I would suggest that the crop circle treasures as psychoid phenomena, uniting invisible geometric complexities that underlie all of creation with nature, appearing as they do spontaneously and unpredictably in fields of grain, are also expressions of the “Pythia,” inviting us to enter their portals for oracular purposes and transmissions from the goddess. Crop circles, like oracles, speak a symbolic language through their astounding geometric signature and artistic beauty, and convey information that, like dream hints, we can engage with our imagination to dream a new dream for our earth, and help the evolution of our consciousness to a higher and more mature spiritual and physical level.**

*The Clear Wood Crop Circle, July 2019*

So, to return to our pilgrimage group. I had mentioned to our group before we began our journey that I very much hoped we would be able to visit a crop circle, and others hoped so too. This seemed unlikely, though not impossible, as it was the height of the crop circle season in England, that runs approximately from May to late August. But even if there were a crop circle within range on the 9 days of our journey, over the years, farmers were becoming more reluctant to allow entry to their fields where a formation had come down, due to the increase in numbers of people visiting, the occasional disrespectful attitude of visitors, and the potential for damage or destruction to their crops, and the resulting loss of revenue. One can hardly blame them.



Nevertheless, our group decided about half-way through the pilgrimage, two evenings before we left Glastonbury to go to Devizes (for the last few nights of our stay) – a town situated more or less in the middle of many of the annual formations in the sacred landscape area of Great Britain, and the place of an annual international crop circle conference – that we would create a meditation to formulate our request to the circle makers, to be granted the privilege of being able to visit one. We decided to be as specific as possible in order to be clear about our preferences but, as in any prayer or shamanic intention, to not be attached to the outcome, but open to the outcome. Briefly, we asked that it would be a crop circle within 30 minutes' drive of Devizes, that we would be permitted to enter the field by the farmer, and that the symbolism of the formation would (optimally) be relevant for the theme of our pilgrimage, or perhaps contain a message we needed to hear.

**Believe it or not, a formation was reported the very next day. It became known as *the* crop circle of 2019!** (More on that below) The formation was in a field at Clear Wood, near Upton Scudmore, Warminster in Wiltshire – it measured about 200 feet in a field of barley. Moreover, the drive was 31 minutes away from Devizes according to google maps, and the farmer was welcoming visitors for the modest fee of 5GBP!!!! The first opportunity to visit (due to our pilgrimage plans) was on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> in the late afternoon, after a glorious day at Avebury and a drumming ceremony at West Kennett Long Barrow. On that day, we couldn't locate the field, but the following day, with clearer directions, some of us made the journey (Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>), which coincided with the first day of the Crop Circle Conference, that some of the group stayed on to attend, myself included.

Before I proceed, there is another connection too in relationship to this formation that I'd like to mention. A woman, Belinda (whom I know as it turns out), had a dream (in the UK where she lives) the night before the new circle was discovered – the night of our meditation – that a crop circle was in the process of being prepared, and that “a man was painting on a canvas so huge it filled the whole landscape, all rich grass green except for patterns, *somewhat like crop circles* [my emphasis],” and a “still, gentle woman like a deer, very close to the painter, but who, confiding in the dreamer, was concerned that she felt she was demanding too much of him [in the work she asked of him?]”! Our request?!? I didn't know that Belinda had this dream until some months later, but I found it remarkable as not only did I know Belinda, but my close friend, Tayria, also on the pilgrimage, was the woman to whom Belinda told her dream on one of Tayria's Dream Symposiums, that she offers with Jocelyn Mercado of [www.wearesacredplanet.com](http://www.wearesacredplanet.com) !! (And this trio of Belinda, Tayria, and myself, became relevant in a recent situation, but that's another story, which I've included in my paper, “Synchronicities as Oracles.”)

*Approaches to the Clear Wood "Sun-Moon" Formation, and an Experience in it, as Oracle*  
From looking at early photographs of this new formation, the first main impression I had of its design was of a Crescent Moon cradling a Sun, but the notable feature to me was that the Moon sliver was *as big as* the Sun disc. The image suggested a union of opposites, a marriage of feminine and masculine in harmony and balance. For me, it also signified a union of spirit and matter, spirit/sun embodied in matter/moon, not separated or alienated from it. It brought to mind the following saying:

"When the Moon shines as brightly as the Sun, the Messiah will come."

This saying is reputedly from the Baal Shem Tov - I believe he was a 17th century (?) Ukrainian(?) or Polish mystic, and founder of Hasidic Judaism. The arrival of the 'Messiah' refers to the new cosmic consciousness, unity consciousness, consciousness that unites masculine and feminine, spirit and matter, rational thinking with shamanic, visionary knowledge, science and the dreaming mind, understanding and direct experience, or *gnosis*. This crop circle anticipates and mirrors to us this arrival.

Jocelyn Mercado shared that she felt the horns of the moon encircling the sun disc reminded her of Egyptian goddesses such as Hathor who, on the crowns of their heads, bear the moon 'horns' of the goddess holding the sun-moon disc, again an image of balanced unity and the Marriage of Opposites, achieved.

A further elaboration of the Clear Wood formation was contributed by megalithic scientist Robin Heath. His article ([www.temporarytemples.co.uk/a-strange-synchronicity-by-robin-heath](http://www.temporarytemples.co.uk/a-strange-synchronicity-by-robin-heath)) added amazing connections between the formation, *a 'marriage of moon and sun' temple theme, together with a fascinating connection of our circle with Stonehenge*. Robin felt this to be truly remarkable. Basing his observations on measurement and geometric features, he writes:

"Despite being less than a week old, and with Stonehenge being more than 4500 years older, these two geometric forms are shown to be closely connected, not only by their geometry but by their metrology and astronomical content, for they both demonstrate a high level of understanding of the marriage of sun and moon, a quality which may interest quite a few people.

My initial impression of the formation as a union of sun and moon turns out to be geometrically accurate as well! The crop circle is an analogue of Stonehenge – both are sun-moon temples. The ancient wholistic knowledge represented by Stonehenge is once again present with us today. Robin continues: "this moon cradling sun circle is one of the most important ever discovered, visited, and measured."

And we were there!! Could we even possibly have 'helped' its appearance by our prayers, and did Belinda's dream anticipate it?

Interestingly, our group had visited Stonehenge two days before some of us visited the crop circle, not knowing then, of course, the connection between the two, and that this was based on the “sun-moon temple theme.” While at Stonehenge, I received the following oracle at the so-called ‘Heel’ Stone at Stonehenge: The heel stone is a large unworked stone outside the immediate inner circles but within the ritual precinct; it is a marker, along with 3 others, of the directions. I was drawn to it because it looked rather like a large breaching whale. It was significant as marking the rise of the sun over the horizon on the summer solstice, the sun casting the stone’s shadow into the central stone circles as at it rises up into the sky. Similarly, if you turned toward the west from the Stone, the setting sun at the winter solstice could be seen through the central circle area. Symbolically, these solstice markers were important as ceremonial stages in the death and renewal rhythms in our seasonal and spiritual lives. (see: <http://www.stonesofstonehenge.org.uk/2015/02/the-heelstone-stone-96.html>). Here is the voice I heard:

“Daughter of Time  
Can’t you see  
For a long time now  
I’ve been calling thee to me”

What is this enigmatic saying? How might I understand it? An oracle is a hint, like a dream – it’s up to you how you ‘hear’ it and let it guide you. Nothing here is fixed or certain. The message may even change over time. Is this a calling to know more about Stonehenge? About its hidden geometric and astrological signature? In that two days’ later, I was in the formation, which unbeknownst to me then, was to be proven closely connected with Stonehenge, did the oracle refer to their connection? Was it a calling back to a more serious engagement with the crop circle phenomena and their meaning and mysteries? I hadn’t been in a crop circle since 2012 and beyond marveling over the yearly formations since that time, I had not furthered my thinking about them beyond what I had written in my book *Songlines*. Or is it a calling perhaps to learn more about sacred geometry? Perhaps especially the relationship between CCs and ancient sacred sites?

As a depth psychologist, I am, of course, interested in their meaning – why are these formations appearing in our fields? What are their messages and purpose? How might they be commenting on our planetary challenges at this time, and the need to evolve to a higher level of consciousness, and a deeper understanding of not only how consciousness, psyche, includes matter (synchronicity) but also how matter has spiritual and archetypal depths, seen for example in psychoid phenomena – (see especially quantum physics and the Jung-Pauli dialogue, and Nassim Haramein and the Resonance Academy). As in a dream where often an understanding or disclosure of its meaning can hinge on an almost overlooked detail, it is important to remember the specific fact that this formation along with

Stonehenge is particularly concerned with the Sun-Moon connection. In alchemy, for example, this ‘Sacred Marriage’ was the *coniunctio*, the goal of the work to unite opposites, after the opposing forces in our nature had been differentiated and made conscious, in order to arrive at a new level of transformed awareness – this of course can be a life’s work.

Though I have learned more about sacred geometry over this past year and am part of a group studying the crop circle formations in more depth since 2019 – both contributing a lot to my wonder at their extraordinary presence – my inclination is to remain more with these psychoid mysteries as, well, mysteries, without trying to fix them too quickly into some kind of overly easy ‘interpretation.’ I prefer to engage with them as oracular portals – approaching them in a meditative manner and letting their wisdom speak to me in whatever way that surfaces, whether it’s words, images, sounds, or even movement.

Here, our *experience* of crop circles is just as important as these more symbolic observations, if not more so. I have been lucky enough to have been able to enter some extraordinary formations, but not everyone has this opportunity. To me, crop circles are one of the greatest mysteries of our time; no-one has the final word on them. That’s part of their presence – their enigmatic mystery invites conversation, different points of view, a wondering, a visioning, sharing our stories around a table like knights and dames of Arthur. So, to that end, everyone can, if they wish, approach these mandala marvels as thresholds, doorways and, through meditative techniques, approach them as oracular portals. Their photographs can be seen by all on the internet. Through this visionary approach we can enter the psychoid realm, where mysteries occur in that subtle in-between space of the imaginal domain, and hear the wisdom of the circle makers, or paint the images that arise for us there.

One story of being in the Clear Wood formation itself (the second time on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019) was lying down in one of the satellite circles, and looking up to see what I perceived to be a ‘cloud being’ making the gesture of the **Grail Chalice**, arms raised overhead; feet planted. So I spontaneously got up and imitated the gestures, raising my arms above my head, planting my feet on the crop, on the earth – feeling the energies descending from above, and feeling the earth energies rising up from below – and sensing the bio-field all around, the star people above, the stones/mineral kingdom and gnomes/earth spirits from below, an orchestration of multi-leveled reality. Feelings of gratitude and joy flooded my body, and I felt intensely alive, that it is a human’s job to live between earth and sky, stone and star – perhaps this is what we’ve lost, this connection to the sacred, to a universe alive with energy and potential, and wanting our love. At that moment, I heard a woman say, “I think this one’s sourced by Arcturus.”

*The light of Sophia – sun and moon*



One of the ways in which the crop formations portray a sense of the linking of the invisible timeless realm (circle makers, eternal geometric structures, starry realms) with the time-bound world (fields of barley or wheat, curious people, earthy realms) can be seen in the ancient figure of Sophia, goddess of wisdom. Sophia appears many times in our history (in philosophy and in the OT for example), but in the myth of Gnosticism, God got caught in matter at the creation of the world, and in some versions, it's God's equal female partner, Sophia, who got caught in matter, and she needed to be redeemed by the faithful and returned to God. God needed to be made whole again through the agency of human beings. So, Sophia is the feminine representation of two dimensions: both a plan for creation; and an experience to be found at the heart of matter. Here, Sophia is symbolic of our plan for creation, and those moments when this inborn story comes through into concrete reality – as in synchronicities that help us on our way, and in the annual manifestation of crop circles. We all long for a sense of purpose in life provided by living our “true story,” a story that shifts and unfolds from decade to decade. Likewise, crop circles might be showing us Earth's true story, also one that unfolds from decade to decade.

Our history has been a journey from a pre-patriarchal Luna stage, followed by a Solar patriarchal age, and now once again, we are at a point of change and the world needs a new attitude. In Thomas Aquinas' visions as recorded in *Aurora Consurgens* (“Rising Dawn”), an alchemical text, the collapse of the Christian (‘otherworldly’/one-sided spiritual) orientation – seen in images of blackness and flood – is followed by a vision of wisdom/Sophia. The ascent of Sophia is what follows the collapse – and this is imaged in the union of “the brightness of the sun and moon,” (Marie-Louise von Franz, ed., *Aurora* pp. 405ff), to be found in the house of Wisdom. This union of sun and moon is a mystery; it is an alchemical reference to the production of a kind of ‘supernatural light,’ here an ‘aurora,’ a ‘dawn,’ an indicator of the subtle goal of alchemical transformation – a new perspective or understanding based in wisdom. The swing from vertical spirituality (Christianity and the Solar age from about 2,100BC or so) to horizontal materialism (rise of science, technology and the suppression of mysticism, from about the 17<sup>th</sup> century) could be, now, a *synthesis* of spiritual and material – a new understanding. The new spirit comes through our natural desires, passions, and conflicts, but is not identical with them – it is a life fully lived in all its complexities while reflecting on dreams and images that arise out of these complexities (the union of sun and moon) – and this is the historical challenge of our era: this is what Aquinas' visions seem to be anticipating. Also, our challenge involves our experience of what is sacred and this evolution will include our relationship with the spirit in matter and light in nature – our struggles with our own forces of nature, the challenges of the material circumstances in our lives, and our relationship with the spirit of nature herself. Matter, nature is a new source of ‘light’ – this is the new phase emerging – the light of the creative world soul, *anima mundi*, that can also be unpredictable and spontaneous – as in synchronicities, as in

creative inspirations or sudden insights, as in crop circle appearances. (See Gary Sparks, *At the Heart of Matter*.) Tolerating mystery that we cannot understand rationally and causally is part of our new challenge! One long overdue and one I welcome!

Entering crop circles imaginably in an oracular fashion can be a way of walking through a portal to the *anima mundi*, soul of the world, the subtle 'light of nature' and of the cosmos, and allowing our imagination to forge the loving connection between heaven and earth, and to, momentarily, dream into Sophia's secrets for our world.

*The Oracle given to me at Clear Wood*

After I had gone into the Clear Wood formation the first time on August 2nd, later that evening, I allowed myself to sink into a meditation as I participated in a small group meditation practice at the Devizes CC Conference. As a way to complete this essay, I will share what came to me – a message conveyed in oracular fashion. In retrospect, I could see how it wove themes from our Pilgrimage deepening them. At the beginning, I've added the oracular saying that I received from the Heel Stone at Stonehenge, 2 days before going to Clear Wood, because Stonehenge we now know is intimately connected with the Clear Wood circle, and it just feels as if it belongs here. (And just a note here, the 'you' in the writing is everyone, it's not me alone.)

“Daughter of Time

Can't you see

For a long time now

I've been calling thee to me:

The Chalice is restoring the Wasteland.

We are reseeded your planet and reseeded you.

In this way, the light body of the planet and your own light body is growing and expanding.

At midnight the clock is reset and this is NOW. Now is the [only] moment that is eternal, so all is spreading through the planetary web.

At the reset, you bring forward all the other cosmic seasons, integrating them as you move toward another era.

In spite of how things appear on the surface, new energy is forming in your consciousness and in the subtle body of the earth.

This is leading to a whole new era of the integration of earth spirit and heavenly matter.

The Sacred Marriage is con stellated; you are becoming aware of your stellar origins and you are becoming a Star.....”

\*\*\*\*\*

References:

Veronica Goodchild, *Songlines of the Soul* (Nicolas-Hays, 2012)

Robin Heath, *Sun, Moon, and Stonebenge* (Bluestone Press, 1998)

J. Gary Sparks, *At the Heart of Matter* (Inner City Books, 2010)

Marie-Louise von Franz, Ed., *Aurora Consurgens* (Inner City Books, 2000)

[www.resonancescience.org](http://www.resonancescience.org)