

The SUN ~ TREE ~ BLACKTHORN

"Let Nature take it's course!"

Anon

Spiky - projecting outwards - explosive.

BLURRING THE BOUNDARIES

Here we are, Dear Friends, at our first Solar example. Our first explosive item. While we fly through space with our wonderful Sun, we must remember that The Sun, in all it's perfection, is also a messy entity. Just like the first Tree in our pantheon of Seven. And so, The Fool steps off. Into a new journey. A new dawn. A new day. New adventures.....

Our messy friend, the Blackthorn is a rather innocuous tree. Often just a shrub. Especially in windswept coastal places that get battered. Then, they are like stubby bushes crowding together for protection, while being pummelled by the winds. Further inland, if they are not cut for hedging, then Blackthorn can grow up to 20 feet as more spread-out trees. Blackthorn are hardy and have virtue. But, like many good things, their virtue is usually, not hidden, but rather, ignored. We often take it completely for granted. We look through The Blackthorn. It does not stand out. But as we shall see Dear Friends, Our Friend the Blackthorn is deeper..... and so, as we see: then, there it is! The entrance to a small tunnel, an opening that the messy, spiky, Blackthorn has presented to us. And so, Dear Friends, We dive in!

The Blackthorn is a prolific grower in most countryside areas of western and northern Europe. Although, it originally comes from the south of Europe. The Blackthorn is called so because of the colour of it's bark. It reflects black, although it is, in fact, a dark grey. It is not a remarkable looking tree but it does have several remarkable qualities, which will be referred to later.

In the British Isles, at least, the Blackthorn has the sharpest and longest thorns. There are other species introduced. But here, Dear Friends, we shall stick with our near Native. Once embedded in the skin, the Blackthorn can be difficult to remove and often makes wounds go septic. This sepsis is an indication that it affects the blood which comes under the influence of both The Sun and Mars. Both of which are fiery in their character and incorporate blood as part of their affinities. The Sun is responsible for the Plasma of the blood and Mars is responsible for the Haemoglobin (the Iron) in the Blood. In the spring the Blackthorn literally bursts forth with flowers, so profusely, on the bough and, after the flowers, follow the leaves.

The flowers are a creamy white colour and, in Britain, they are among the first flowers to appear in early spring. Many other ornamental 'Prunus' (Cherry) species are planted because some of them flower in winter to bring hope during a cold dark time. Experience tells Dear Friends, that Blackthorn will flower at the very end of winter usually around a cold snap that will normally be the last cold snap, before spring arrives, proper, with the warmer sun. This cold snap will usually only last a week to 10 days and will come suddenly when the light and the temperatures generally are increasing. Years of observation suggest that after this cold snap, the warmer weather returns, hastening the unfolding of Spring proper, and then the Blackthorn flowers are ready to be picked for tonic purposes, along with some of the softer green woody growth. However, according to tradition, sprigs or boughs of Blackthorn must not be brought into the house for fear of bad luck.

Blackthorns are tough little trees, often seen growing out of rocks. But they flourish best in clay/lime soils. They are not that keen on acidic or peaty types of soil and are not found at all in Scotland. The wood of the roots is very strong. The main trunk and branch wood burns well and is dense and hard. Blackthorn logs give out a lovely hot heat and they burn slowly. For practical purposes the wood is used making for walking sticks and, in the old days, cudgels. Especially in Ireland.

IRISH SPIKYNESS

The cudgel is a very basic and highly effective weapon at close quarters. An easy to manipulate piece of hard heavy dense wood like a knobby baseball bat. Many country folk kept cudgels as easy weapons of defence against robbers, wild animals and other dangers. They were bits of boundary used to enforce boundaries and property rights. The cudgel turns into the most deadly of weapons when the thorns of the blackthorn are driven into the top thicker part of the wood. This becomes a formidable weapon because it further inflicts sepsis. Not just bashed in heads and bodies.

Therefore, to the technologically primitive, who did not understand, the Blackthorn represented a Tree of Power. It's power, to those in Ireland, is thought to be at it's strongest at the waning part of the Moon, known as 'the crone' or in the winter part of the year.

The Martial Art (The Art of Mars) indigenous to the Island of Ireland is 'Shillelagh' fighting, which uses the Blackthorn club. The power animal associated with Blackthorn is the Crow or the Raven. Cudgels were, quite often, the only weapon available to many Irish during the 800 years of English occupation of Eire (*The UK still possesses Northern Ireland*) as the English often disarmed the Irish and forbade them to arm themselves. Therefore it was just down to bits of wood that could be found over the Irish countryside when they'd had enough. or as was later pointed out. Down the pub

BLACKTHORN SYMBOLS

As an image, perhaps Blackthorn belongs somewhere in the Suit of Wands in the Tarot? Throughout many childhoods, illustrations in stories often had giants or bandits wielding blackthorn clubs. In Irish mythology, the Blackthorn was associated with malevolent fairies that had to be placated, honoured and protected against. The

Blackthorn in Ireland is considered to be one of the Eight Chieftain trees. Those who were imbued with greater leadership skills often had staves made from Blackthorn. People thought it gave these people greater power. Over them. And they willingly submitted to this 'power' A staff that created a bubble that produced magic or protected the clan. A force field. As we may see Dear Friends, our small selection of Trees; although appearing to be rather ordinary and uninteresting, all possess interesting qualities that have some kind of 'energetic power'.

Strife and fighting usually create destruction. And out of this destruction other paths and endeavours are pursued. When we look at the actions of the Sun we see that out of it's truly awesome destruction and continuous fusion, we see acts of creation taking place as the hydrogen gasses are literally pounded and exploded and forced so hard into ever more Hydrogen or, at the periphery of our beautiful Sun, new elements. Helium, Lithium, and on. Produced in trace amounts by the forces of heat, gravity, radiation, magnetism.

Out of the desolation created by the forces of wind, rain, sun, frost, comes the Blackthorn. Providing a home, shelter, food, and safety for birds and animals and providing the initial spark for more mature woodland in some distant future.

Given time, the Blackthorn will spread.

SPIKYGENESIS

This is where the virtue of the Blackthorn really stands. As a host tree for birds in small thickets in desolate places. Our Sun is The host Star for Our World. In the desolation of space which is unfriendly. Our beautiful awesomely destructive Sun, without which, nothing we know, could exist. And Blackthorn is being the genesis plant to a more developed and varied forest or hedge. Blackthorns plant themselves and spread through their sucker roots which are very strong. Or their boughs will hang to the ground and, if left to just grow, will establish roots and then once established, they then become a welcoming host for other species of fauna and other forest flora. In this, the French call the Blackthorn: "La Mere du Bois" or "Mother of the Forest".

There are other plants that prepare the way for the establishment of actual forest. Notably: Blackberry (Rubus). It has been noted also Dear Friends that Blackberry, when left alone, will harbour many locally fallen tree seeds and, at a certain point, the soil 'made' by the blackberry roots will become richer providing a great growth medium for the trees. The Blackberry suckers do the same as Blackthorn. They spread and root at any available opportunity. And the Tree saplings grow through them. And then as the Trees mature, the blackberry retreats and finds places to grow that have more light. The soil that the blackberry enriches provides nutrition for the new trees and therefore more vigour. The trees then take over, forming a proper canopy in the summer. And so if many of the hills and valleys of Britain, manicured by sheep and cattle, were bereft of livestock, then the process of natural afforestation would take 10 - 15 years. This would only be suitable for certain soils. Notably, chalky, loamy and clay soils. If one were to return to the same spot again after 20 years of being untouched, then, instead of scrubby emptiness, there would be woodland.

"And all men kill the thing they love
by all, let this be heard
some do it with a bitter look
some with a flattering word

the coward does it with a kiss
The brave man with a sword."

Oscar Wilde.
from The Ballad of Reading Gaol. 1897.
written when he was in exile in France.

This re-forestation was recently demonstrated with different species in Brazil by various well heeled, but sensitive, business types who had bought thousands of acres of scrubby land and gradually re-afforested the land until it was jungle again. A total transformation. So we know re-forestation can be done. It has been done many times in different parts of Our World. Roosevelt commissioned the US forestry commission to plant up many of the trees that had been stripped from the Aleghenny mountains, the Catskill mountains and the hills and tracts up to the Canadian border throughout most of de-forested New England. The trick is to 'assist'. But to let Nature really get on with it, without human intervention. The problems are that once land is stripped it takes a long time to transform it back. If that is even possible. This is rather an important factor in the survival of humanity.

By tampering and intervening, as humans do, they often just break the thing they love the most. The current fad for science saying that geo engineering with stratospheric aerosols, is a good thing, is going to break the whole world. And so this kind of thing must be stopped. This is boundary breaking in the extreme.

It seems that Blackthorn does not flourish very well in boggy, marshy or heath land where the soil contains more acidity than is comfortable. It is also noteworthy that these genesis plants: Hawthorn and the Blackberry are from the Rose family, they are cousins to the Blackthorn (Prunus). Hardy, strong, woody and really tough. Their life-force shines through. They grow well in clay.

Blackthorns can be rampant and for that reason farmers dislike them, because their thorns can pierce the flesh of humans and animals alike; and the tyres of farm vehicles. They can be pruned, though, and there are very many hedges in the UK that have Blackthorn in them. This was not always so. Until the middle of the 20th century 70% of hedges had Elm. But because of the ravages of Dutch Elm disease and the mass removal of millions of diseased Elms. Hedges made with Blackthorn are impregnable to humans and livestock, leaving them free to be inhabited by many small birds and animals. Largely because all the small animals and birds that can live in the Blackthorn environment do so very happily and are not pierced by the sharp thorns. In fact, some birds even use the thorns as a larder by skewering insects and larvae on them next to their nests. Sometimes Blackthorns will throw their roots out or drop hundreds of sloes which will, then, become saplings. The annoying thing for farmers is that they have to pull out these new trees or make a trench so the roots can be cut. Or else trees end up in fields where food is grown.

SPIKENHEDGE

Many hedges in Britain, that were planted and maintained for hundreds of years, have been ripped out by farmers switching to large scale crop production on the advice of large corporations. This made fields bigger. More industrial.

Chemical and seed corporations appear to make farming by chemicals a highly profitable business. At least, in monetary terms. The real long term downside of this course of action towards chemical agriculture was and is the regular and systematic use of herbicides and pesticides to increase crop yields. And these are

destroying health faster than anyone would have realised. The other big problem that we all suffer is the fact that the people who make and manufacture these seeds and chemicals (*that are most definitely poisoning our entire eco system*) do so without having to be liable to anyone they harm. Corporate immunity from reasonable prosecution is, in fact the very biggest problem humanity faces right now. This has come upon all of us very quickly, indeed.

Since this process began at the dawn of the 20th century and accelerated after World War II, it has caused significant damage to all aspects of fauna and flora biodiversity, lifespan and vitality. This is in all crop producing areas of the world. It is a forced blurring of the boundaries in order to feed ourselves. A removing of the natural boundaries that protect us. Like the antibiotics that are now used for sepsis and all kinds of inflammation; they damage the parts that do not need the attention. They blur the boundaries. They make a terrible mess where they shouldn't. And this mess is hard to clean up.

The real damage to arable and arboreal land all around Our World seems to have come after the formulation of the policies of the "Green Revolution". The Scientific political elites of the 1950's and 60's and their foundations and their policy makers saw that the world population was growing exponentially and they all said in many reports, that if most were not to starve, then new strains of cereals, grains and pulses had to be developed that could be grown closer together and give greater yields. And so, Dear Friends, with these new strains, came all the bugs and fungi that could attack them. At least, that is the scenario they gave us, then. However, we must be aware that in the days when the policies of Green Revolution were concocted and enabled were in the days when ALL media were owned by the billionaire or government shareholders who all had alliances and shares in the great Chemical, Oil and Agrochemical corporations and foundations and think tanks that make policy for every man woman and child on Earth as well as all the land all the sea and all the creatures. They have left nothing untouched, Dear Friends. More's the pity!

Now that the internet exists, no matter how much they try to shut it down or shadow ban, or even remove people's URLs, the toothpaste, about these issues, is out of the tube. Hundreds of millions of people are now aware of how many Hundreds of thousands of experiments around new strains, seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides were carried out then brought out on a much larger scale. With trials in closed environments without research into short, medium or long term effects on organisms in the wider environment. Because of the way that corporations operate. Humans and animals and much plant life are actually suffering because of this kind of industrial agriculture. Which often forsakes' quality for quantity.

SPIKING THE DNA

We can say, too, that after WWII, genetic engineering really began to take off. Genetic engineering has been in existence for all of the 20th century. Before World War II genetic engineering was called 'Eugenics'. With the discoveries of the death camps in Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany at the end of WW2, the name "Eugenics" became a byword for fascistic perverted Frankenstein science. The Solar/Saturnine powers, decided, after the 2nd War, to shift the emphasis away from 'Eugenics' to such nebulous subjects as molecular biology and molecular engineering, nano scale technology and the engineering of DNA. Of course, back then, before the war, trans-genesis did not exist, like it does today. Where a jelly fish gene can be spliced in with a mosquito to produce day glow markers.

Therefore, in order to grow these crops successfully, new strains of the same crops, wheat, maize (corn) soy etc; more and more pesticides and herbicides had to be used. Of course, all these get washed into the soil and water and end up in

everything. When we mention the raising of livestock in the agricultural process then, certainly in the UK, if the meat produced is not labelled "organic" in its production, then, it is full of growth promoters, anti biotics and various vaccines. And so to those who enjoy their carnivorous appetite, our meat may not actually be what it seems. un meat. because of all these hormones, anti biotics and vaccines. Another blurring of the boundaries.

The "green revolution" encouraged the close planting of crops in highly industrialised amounts. In hot, wet countries, crop yields were encouraged all year round. The Punjab area of India and Pakistan is where a great deal of food is grown to feed the growing populations of the sub -continent. The Punjab is the rice bowl of the Indian sub-continent, as well as there being grown many other crops. Now, though, after 60 - 70 years of intensive cultivation, many thousands of farmers are committing suicide. Why? because the blurring of the boundaries has meant that the water table, in these intensively farmed areas, is polluted in many places. There is over salinisation of the water table in many places because of the over use of industrial fertilisers to increase yields. The salts from these (mainly nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus) have leached into the water table thus poisoning the soil for most plants. Add, as well, the herbicides and pesticides and the recent development that many farmers are having Genetically Modified seeds foisted on them by utterly mercenary corporations. These seeds do not produce live seed when harvested. This forces the farmer to go and buy more seed.

SPIKY AGRICULTURE

Since the very beginnings of Agriculture, farmers have saved their own seed and have had enough to plant the next crop. The farmer, having to go back and pay cash money year after year for his seed, now, sees no hope in farming. What is the point if you cannot save seed? Here the boundaries are blurred so badly that it does not seem that any occupation is worth it, if there is no reward at the end. What is the reward? Apart from feeding oneself and one's family and animals then the reward simply is 'renewal' One cannot be a willing participant in a society that does not offer any meaningful rewards. Incentivisation is a part of how many human societies function. This manifests as large corporations 'stealing' agriculture for themselves and holding on to it like a man holding a gun to another man's head. But, in this case, it is large industrial agricultural corporations holding a gun to collective humanity. This is repeated in many ways. This entrapment was one of the reasons why this book has been written. And within are solutions. Being aware of the problems is the first step, though.

Many place names in Britain have the word 'Thorn' in them. These come, either from the Hawthorn (also known as the "Whitethorn") or, of course, the Blackthorn. That Blackthorn is a hedge plant which creates boundaries is something that should not be lost on us.

Boundaries are our ways of creating order. The Blackthorn in the UK is one of the physical boundary Trees used to denote ownership and use of land. Land is parcelled up. Sheep go here, oats are grown there, woodland down there, fallow over there and so on...it denotes compartmentalisation which is how humans deal with the world. It also denotes that there is order and structure. Order promotes harmony. Suppressed order only promotes resentment. In fact, Suppressed order also enables suppression, repression, oppression and depression. and these create great disharmony. Which is the seed of revolt.

While we may look at the boundaries of fields and pasture and woodland we note that all these are in fact, compartmentalised.

Compartmentalisation is also a useful tool for governments and corporate entities who wish to control masses of people. For instance, the buildings of the EU

bureaucracies in Brussels are designed in a way to cut people off from one another but to be controlled at the centre. Typical centralised fascism. But this happens in all other business and corporate and govt environments. At the spy centre GCHQ everyone is compartmentalised from one another so that no one knows what the other is working on except the central few. A Technocrats dream. A freedom loving person's nightmare.

And, like the fields and woods, there are entrances and exit ways. Recently though, the amount of entrances and exit ways are being restricted or 'blocked' by all governments and corporations. Many humans now live in a world where the internet exists. This internet has enabled the sharing of enormous amounts of information and data about the various naughty happenings and events that are in fact mostly caused by corporations and governments using agent provocateurs to engineer outcomes and steer masses of their people and customers toward their vision of 'social control'.

People have been much freer over the last 20 years or so to share very large amounts of information with one another. Because of the Internet people have been freer to develop a more over arching understanding of what is actually happening on Our World. It is now an accelerated race to see who are the real movers and shakers that we barely see and even more likely do not notice. We ask 'what do they want' and 'why do they want it' And so because the human world is waking up to the more unsavoury secrets of the elites the elites are responding with more and more of this suppression repression oppression and depression. This is happening world wide as the leaders of Our World appear to be shifting their 'power' away from what was termed 'soft power' to 'hard power'. People have always been made to go through hoops or over hurdles or find themselves blocked because the Solar Saturnine elites are generally milking nearly all of us in some way or another but now they literally wish to embed us all as if we were within a matrix pod being given all our memories and our sustenance without being aware that we are in stasis. And therefore under their total control. From Birth to death. This is how cut off from Nature so many are.

Boundaries are necessary for the movement of materials, fauna and flora corresponding to how the land is used. In life, generally, we all need moral, attitudinal, emotional, physical, and mental boundaries. These are necessary so that humans can interact peacefully, respectfully and kindly with one another. And more importantly, because we have nearly all forgotten, we need boundaries with Nature. We, like the Blackthorn, Dear Friends, forget. Nature outside Us exists. Otherwise unending scientific or government or corporate intervention, a crossing of boundaries just enables purposeless chaos and endless conflict. This is just not good for anyone. And neither is relentless suppression. Which, sadly has marked much of the history of the current incarnation of Humans over the historical period of the last 7000 years.

This general compartmentalisation which is managed through secrecy or secretive type behaviour from all of these institutions has permeated many cultures and societies so that the right hand knows not what the left hand does. And so this, Dear Friends, is where the rot sets in and corruption and tyranny reign supreme. At this time, many boundaries are being crossed for very many mercenary, cruel and thoughtless purposes and absolutely no thought, whatsoever, seems to be given, to any of the consequences. The Solar/Saturnine powers, who promote the continuing crossing of these boundaries, do so because they seek to control others and because many of them become so obscenely rich to the point where they think less of the rest of humanity and even less about the planet that they live on.

Humans are at the threshold of an age which has dispensed with a continuous tradition of understanding and knowledge of the material world or real contact with the natural world. Because of this attitude by important people who make

decisions for everyone else, a certain moral bankruptcy has become standard. Throughout.

Now Mankind has begun to cross those boundaries by trying to quicken evolution itself, through the varied occupations of Science, Business and Technology. Through, among many other aspects, the rapid introduction of GMOs into the general environment and right now, the idea of a one world system of globalisation where the Technocratic mindset is being forced upon almost every individual human is the current discussion of our times. So far everyone has grown up in an environment that is natural. After a fashion :-)

We can even say, that the crossbreeding of the same kind of plant or animal is "natural". In that, the genes are almost identical to one another with very slight variations but not with enormous, fundamental differences. What is most 'unnatural' is the idea that one kingdom can be spliced into another without terrible consequence. The idea of transfusing genetic material of a scorpion into a wheat plant to provide more 'husk' protection for the end product, sounds good. But the reality? The Practice?

If this mindset allows for this kind of cross over, then please Dear Friends, imagine what they have locked up behind those fences and walls with lots of security and surveillance. It cannot be good. Those who do not see the value of different cultures, environments, species, ideas relating to rights and freedoms are not only the people who control and organise most of the world but also the ones who are encouraging the rapid destruction of absolutely everything humans hold dear. To these people, we never see, we are but chaff in the wind. We individuals are blown about barely able to control our lives but not realising that there are already strings pulling us this way and that.

And so it seems that the Blackthorn is there to remind us, Dear Friends, that there are appropriate crossings where boundaries exist...and that these boundaries exist for a reason and the simple reason is that there must be balance and that strong firm boundaries provide a harmonious balance to all things great and small. This overproduction and these subtle systems of suppression produce huge imbalances. Not caused by Nature, but caused by Humans. Humans have crossed the Rubicon in terms of acceptance to the laws of Nature.... Opening up a real Pandora's Box of perceived control of nature through genetic crossing of species and entire kingdoms, the plant to the animal. But nature always responds in kind with just the right amount of energy. As for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. See Saw dynamics.

Nothing does kingdom crossover naturally. This is all entirely artificial and must surely lead us and all else that lives to almost certain destruction? This destruction through GMO's crop sprays and wi fi signals is already destroying many birds and insects in areas of the world where GMOs or chemical sprays and crops are regularly cultivated. Part of the very deep problem is that many GMOs are designed to have large amounts of petroleum based herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and fertilisers dumped or sprayed on them. The rest of nature around these specific GMO plants, which have been subject to all these substances then overreacts or dies. Super weeds are formed and there are more predatory microbes and bugs despite the pesticides. And so all around this whole subject we get nothing but 'freaks of nature'. And unpredicted overreaction. The GMO plants and their sprays are creating a 'bubble' that is not actually part of natural nature and so nature, obviously is 'compensating' by the overreactions that we now see in places where GMO's have been sold to those duped farmers by corporate con artists.

To observe the action of Blackthorn on cultivated land is to understand that when too many boundaries are crossed or when there is unchecked rampant growth. There is just purposeless chaos often accompanied by disorder, famine and a great deal of destruction. What happens when a Blackthorn is left alone for some time is that it will put out suckers from its roots and it's boughs will touch the ground and

take root and when the sloes settle on the ground they will produce small scions and then before you know it theres a seriously messy copse of small trees which become impenetrable to anything larger than hedgehogs and sparrows.

THE BLACKTHORN MOMENT

In the tale of "Briar Rose" or "Sleeping Beauty", many young men try and die to penetrate the huge hedge that has grown up around the family castle of the sleeping princess... Apparently, the hedge has grown around the castle covering the entire building over a period of 100 years. One may imagine rampant high impenetrable walls of dogroses, rambling roses, honeysuckle, blackthorn hawthorn, Spikyness upon spikyness. Some of the young pursuers die because of the sepsis produced by the piercing of the thorns into their flesh. But, after a hundred years the Blackthorn/Briar hedge opens up to reveal a way into the castle. The Prince, then, discovers the miraculously preserved princess locked in suspended animation along with the rest of the castle's inhabitants.

Here lies another truth about the Blackthorn in relation to our selves. We often force things because our will demands that we do. And that messes things up or puts up walls that we actually do not need. But every time experience has taught that if anything is forced, that thing will either eventually break or something unintended connected to it will be broken or changed. And thereby lost to us irrevocably. An example of this is the overfishing of the North Sea and the destruction of the North Sea habitat for fish through the prolific testing and drilling for oil, for which corporations have set up very high demand. Our impatience to convert this one product into a world changing material that has produced trillions of products has had its' consequences. As we see with all the ocean pollution and the rubbish dumps outside every town and city growing larger and more mountainous.

This natural opening, this natural opportunity is, perhaps, what we should take notice of more? These Blackthorn moments come more frequently than one might imagine. The trick is, to recognise when these moments, as opportunities, present themselves. Opportunities actually present themselves far more often than we might think. It is human impatience which makes us think that events or subjects are not progressing or moving as fast as we would like. Patience! Dear Friends.

By introducing GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms) into the wider environment without proper long term tests, we cross these boundaries time and time again. It is this impatience of humans that speaks hurriedly and tells them that they must push these boundaries. Our general moral and ethical boundaries become more and more blurred. Usually subverted by greed. Humans set up the destruction of key areas of our environment all because of the insane political system we have in the world where corporations tell governments what to do by buying them and then in turn the governments buying the electorates of those countries through tax breaks, sweeteners or welfare payments. And the reason for the electorates being bought and keeping relatively silent is because of the highly sophisticated media machines that run all day every day telling everyone how great this or that product is ,and how it is going to change our lives whilst embedding us all in an ever tighter system of social control constructed on highly rigid and inefficient artificial infrastructure. If humans are to really understand themselves fully then, they must break free of this 'separated' artificiality.

The boundaries are so blurred that there is nowhere to turn. Nowhere to go but to wait. Until the right opportunity comes along to escape or change the pattern of stifling destruction that is forced upon all of us because some few people need power and control. The "Land" for everybody is so important. But humans are putty for the rapacious robber barons and manufacturers of poisons and weapons. Humans behave like collective amnesiacs forgetting the great fundamental importance of the Land for our emotional and mental well being. The land, where

food is grown and where nature, that is everything outside us, co exists.

Like the blackthorn copse left to flourish, without intervention, it is a mess, it is impenetrable, it looks isolated....only the very nimble can get in and out without being skewered.

BLOOD RED BLACKTHORN SLOES

The fruits of the Blackthorn are called Sloes which are added to gin to make Sloe Gin. A small amount of this can be imbibed over the days where the light is shortest. The Sloes are picked in October and soaked for a good couple of months. They are warming and purgative. In a good way. Liver cleansing and Capillary strengthening. The healing properties of Blackthorn exhibit Sun traits. Strengthening Blood and heart and being astringent for the Liver. The sloes make a strong red dye and can also be used for ink. Sloe gin is made by placing sloes and sugar or honey or maple syrup or molasses in a half emptied bottle of gin and then left for a couple of months and used, sparingly, as a winter tonic. Do not, under any circumstances, put raw sloes in your mouth. The feeling and taste sensation is as if one were eating cotton wool with battery acid...hugely astringent. And that is one of it's keys. It "draws out".

The great vital properties that make Blackthorn a tree of The Sun are several. Firstly the flowers appear on the bark at, almost, the coldest part of Winter; The Sun is always hopeful in winter and this is always a hopeful sign right at this last cold blast of winter. Usually at the first or second week of March. In Britain, at this time, there is often a cold snap with winds from the north and east bringing cold dry air often with snow just before the milder air of spring, proper, comes from the west.

Secondly, where many other fruits ripen in the sunshine, over the warmth of summer; in the parts of the world that have seasons, The later summer sun ripens nearly all fruit so that humans in these parts could and can harvest and store food over winter. Blackthorn misses that normal late summer harvest time but moves further into colder temperatures. Blackthorn uses the first frosts that often appear in October to truly ripen it's fruit. This makes Sloes a welcome winter warmer in the form of sloe gin. Sloe Gin requires a modicum of effort but is probably worth it on a cold winter's day when one needs to warm the cockles of one's heart.

Both the timing of the flowering, at the coldest part of spring, and the ripening of the fruit at the first true frosts of Autumn, usually in October/November, are particularly unique. It is the cold that sets off and quickens the flowering and fruit processes. This is a particularly interesting physiological process because it runs counter to virtually many other plants. Although, physiologically, there is no evidence that the tree internally: sap, wood and root, changes temperature except in the slowest way. There will often be bitter cold weather in early march and early October. Following increases and decreases in light and temperature. It is a curious peculiarity, that can give us all hope, that it will flower and the fruit will ripen at really cold times of the year Just before and beyond the spring and autumn equinoxes.

After the long winters, which are often cold and wet in the UK, it's a real pleasure to see the prolific first flowers of the Blackthorn. Many other ornamental cherry species that originally are combined with blackthorn to produce hardiness flower at different times in winter. This is generally unusual for other plants in a cold climate like the UK, where the seasons still seem to exist.

THE CROWN OF THORNS

In old country ways the Blackthorn symbolises the union between life and death as exemplified by the the creamy white flowers on the very dark grey bark. Here we can surely even contemplate the symbolism of yin and yang. Its simplest form is a little of yin inside a lot of yang and a little yang inside a lot of yin. beginning, forming, growing, proliferating, maturing, producing, decaying, dying, becoming reborn. It is the story of Christ or any of the other great Holy people of Our World. In stages. The story of Christ is of one who spoke clearly of delineation, he had concepts of good and evil, he followed the 10 commandments which were the moral ties that gave the society he lived in it's order, and he was obliged to obey Roman law and, embedded in that, Rabbinical Law. His sermons and parables are about how to achieve balance in a world out of kilter, in a world that had too much yin and not enough yang or vice versa. In a world of seemingly endless cruelty, barbaric harshness and suppressed hopes.

Christ spoke clearly, about love, compassion, gentleness, of forgiveness of consciousness of generosity, about the greed of the money changers in the Temple. He spoke about these concepts during the age of the formation and consolidation of the Roman Empire. In his own little part of Our World (*modern Israel and the Palestinian territories*), what Christ was teaching ran counter intuitive to the times in which he lived. And he died on a wooden cross nailed through his hands and legs with iron nails pierced by a spear in his side and crowned with Thorns which would undoubtedly encouraged the development of a quick septic fever that would have definitely contributed to his death. Things are very 'spiky' for this poor man.

Crucifixion, as a torture death, was not unusual in any part of the Roman World. We must be aware that the Romans were extremely cruel because they found that cruelty was the only way to extend their power over whole countries, regions, tribes that they had brutally conquered. Once people were aware of how dreadfully harsh Roman justice could be, many settled down and stayed as orderly as they could. However, occasionally things were likely to blow.

In the slave revolts, known as the Servile Wars (*'servium' means 'slave' in Latin*) that occurred during the 2nd and 1st centuries BCE, ended with the mass crucifixion of 20,000 slaves after the First Slave War under Eunus (136 -132 BCE) and another 70,000 slaves that revolted during the Third Slave War under Spartacus (73 - 71 BCE) The remnants of the Second Slave War (104 -100 BCE) were sent to the gladiatorial arenas where they were expected to be entertainment for bloodthirsty punters, but instead as pre-discussed, turned on each other, each with a single thrust of their blades. The slaves that were crucified, were done so along the main roads that the Romans efficiently built. As a reminder to all travellers on these roads. As well as the proclamations that went out, not to mess with the power of Rome. Some of these roads were actually built or repaired by these slaves who were, then, cruelly crucified, after they had finally served their purposes. Of being slaves.

These do sound like an awfully big numbers. But the Romans were always about expansion which means big numbers with everything. In 88 BCE during the middle of these slave revolts there is the murder of 80,000 Romans in Roman occupied Greece encouraged by a ruler who had not yet been absorbed within the bosom of Roman rule. The Roman general Pompey is sent to deal with this agent provocateur (Mithridates). The Romans were very determined to send a message to all slaves. Cruelty is a currency to men who did not know any better. To make people obey. The Romans then conducted other wars that obtained millions of slaves and continued to add more and more territory to the Empire. To sustain the slave economy.

The messages that Christ broadcast to his closest followers, and the story of his life, gave hope to many people at a time when hope seemed to be in short supply.

Roman occupation meant taxes. And then, if those taxes were not paid then one would pay through some dreadful mortification of ones' flesh or through servitude or imprisonment. Christ's main message seems (!) to have been, that there was hope and redemption from the trials and harshness of life, the oppression and tyranny of the soldier priest classes (and now from the hugely increasingly overwhelming scientific/corporate/political security state) and that if one were to turn to believing in a single all powerful God who had a plan for everyone and that God's will was mysterious to us generally but we should put our faith in God. people were asked to put their faith in God when 'there is nothing else' because the Emperor was only a man.

(!“seems” because even now, still: Bible scholars and the Clergy cannot exactly ‘define’ what the Bible actually means. And so they debate and argue endlessly. This is part of the paradox of an artificial construct that is used to control populations and groups of people. Often based on pragmatism. Adaption to a situation as it arises. If there were more actual definition, the Bible may then, lose it's ‘mystique’. Religion and mysticism go hand in hand. An unquantifiable, un-definitive quality allows for endless speculation. Religion is not a solid concrete thing.)

Even though the Emperor was officially a God and had to be thought of as such by his subjects. But the Emperor was far away...his power lay with the ability of the nobility and the effective bureaucracy to use the soldiery to enforce their will anywhere in the empire. *(The idea of ‘God’ is that he/she/it is meant to be all around, all powerful, all knowing, all present. Omnipresence. That is the ‘idea’).* This happens all the time in the nation states and the supranational states of the world, today. It is part of how life is led by nearly all people. Although many barely realise. This is possibly the closest we have to being ‘in a matrix’.

As Christ had to deal with the Matrix he was in in the Holy Land, with the Rabbis observing him, People, looking for answers and looking at him, and the Romans observing but quite often, not intervening. Until it the day came to crucify certain ‘criminals’. Who may have proved ‘Politically inconvenient’. Rather like state and EU.

When we look at the behaviours of certain governments or corporations today, we see that they are just as tyrannical as the Roman emperors from the Time of Christ. It is subtle but it is messy and because we are so very caught up with being scratched and pierced by it's cruelty, Sometimes we barely notice. but we, perhaps, return home exhausted and drained from just being ‘out’ in the world. Just like our Blackthorn.

In folklore, Blackthorn is one of the trees used to make the crown of thorns. Here, we can contemplate the extraordinary power of opposites to create balance and how a little of something can effect a whole lot of what it comes into contact with. In today's world 0.2% of the very wealthy have a connective multiple effect on every living organism on Planet Earth. Through interlocking corporate share ownership, in impossibly massive corporations. Almost like mycelium.

Blackthorn is a plant medicine that covers the crown chakra; which corresponds with the Sun. Here, for the moment, we are assuming that Christ existed and we are looking at his life according to the words of the New Testament. If we look at paintings/prints/icons representing Christ, we see he has the halo around his head and over his head.

This is to indicate the Crown Chakra. He came into full consciousness and became aware. He may have been born aware? or, maybe he acquired his awareness over time? Through layers of experience. In many portrayals, Christ is seen as having light on or around his hands. This denotes the healing energy that comes from complete understanding of how Humans are. In history, he is mistakenly called by the Romans, the King of the Jews. But in all fairness, he is a King of Awareness. There are other kings and queens of awareness throughout Human history and they all

demonstrate that the cruelty and folly, the greed and pride of men are their undoing. And all these wonderful people who may, also, be called Holy, point out that the perpetration of overt, cruel, naked, rabid, rapacious power takes up a ridiculous amount of selfishly wasted energy to maintain. And there's the rub Dear Friends.

It does seem like Christ knew about how people ticked. He seemed to be under no illusions, whatsoever. Christ is reputed to have spent time in Egypt as a boy. (*The Ancient Egyptians referred to Egypt as "Al Khem". named after "The soil of Egypt"*). Later, in his 20's when he, most likely, should have been married and father to children, he pursued his vocation as an aesthetic in caves and the literal wilderness in the desert near the Dead Sea with the Essenes (*the Essenes were Jewish aesthetics whose lives were similar to the Buddhist, Hindu or early Christian Aesthetics. There is a secret society, today, called "The Essenes"*) and then his time with the Essenes, gave him the tools to high awareness. To Christ awareness, "Christos" The consciousness of the divine and the sublime within a material and human form and the means to cope with the brutal world in which he lived.

Christ has great mystery surrounding him, Christ sees into the hearts of people, he is a healer of the sick, The Bible records 'miracles': he feeds the 5000, he turns water into wine, he treats women as equal, he patiently counsels his disciples because he is aware and accepts their frailties and their failings, he is almost always not violent. He is aware of forced or broken boundaries. It is as if He is the only one around with emotional maturity and the deepest humane compassion. When he goes into the the world of other people, he is emotionally cut and scratched by other people. As we all are, Dear Friends! It is the way of Our World and how humans must live in it. These other people behave like the Blackthorn. Spiky. People behave like the Blackthorn and are spiky to one another but are barely conscious either. And a man of such awareness as Christ must have found it very hard to just 'live' in this world of people, after his time with the Essenes in their caves.

While he is out, in the world, Christ forgives his oppressors. He even forgives the oppressive state within a state, The political ferment of the day. The times of The Emperor Tiberius and his disgusting predelictions and the problems with the various political factions in Roman ruled Judea which were always near to the surface. He is also so at peace with himself and with the world, accepting of any consequence, and yet not acquiescing to any worldly authority.

This is remarkable in itself. Humans are rarely at peace with themselves at any level. And so this, along with mere example of his life; and the stories about him, is enough to act as a small stone of bright inspiration in the big pond of the Roman World. And beyond: into Persia, Arabia, north eastern Africa. In places where the people living in them were aware that 'there is more', but not, perhaps, in the way that we all might think of 'more'?

And so, nearly 300 years or so after the death of one man who was nailed to a cross, as a scapegoat for corrupt state and religious officials; this man of great compassion and awareness. This man who saw through everything and into everyone, This man was elevated by others into becoming the most important figure in the western half of the Eurasian landmass for 17 centuries. Who's image was cultivated by the mafia-like church hierarchy with the cooperation of the state who saw to it that differences to the religious propaganda were purged so that the church and state could continue to have a compliant, ignorant population. (*rather like what the Orwellian techie and social media have done to nearly everyone on Earth, by stealth, over the last 20 years.*)

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SPIKY SYMBOLISM

The leaves and flowers of the Blackthorn are used in the spring as a tonic. It is used to clear excess fluids from the body and is thus a diuretic and astringent. Although it is now no longer popular in herbal or folk medicine. There are many herbs and simples that have now been forgotten or discarded because they have not been understood for their 'Vital' properties. If we look briefly at the tissues, organs and anatomical systems associated with The Sun, then, we see: mind, heart, blood, plasma, circulation, eyes and head.

The spines of the Blackthorn are very sharp and therefore, can be used as a weapon with terrible consequence. Some of these become branches but many stay very spiky indeed! To be pierced with blackthorn spikes is, at once, extremely painful and after a short time the piercing will affect the blood vessels causing inflammation and sepsis. Part of the reason why these sharp spines are so problematic, is because they have a skin on them; and some of this skin slips off into the wound, once penetration and contamination occur and work their septic explosive magic. If this sepsis isn't treated, then, real systemic inflammation will set in bringing with it fever, perspiration, horrible headaches with other general bodily pains accompanied by systemic septicaemia and local gangrenous proliferation and if this is not treated soon. Death will often follow. ooohh! Spiky!!

The fallen leaves of blackthorn in the autumn/ fall make a good compost. They will, especially, make a good compost on exhausted soils. This compost needs to be well rotted before it is added to the soil. The composting process leaches out the small amounts of cyanide that lurk within the Blackthorn. But these really are nothing compared to the cyanides and others that lurk in Trees like the Rhododendron or the Bay. These can never be burned or composted. Although they often are. Elder leaves can be added to help the rotting leaf matter process along and neutralise the most toxic compounds that often lurk in plants we barely take any notice of.

Compost is VERY important. As making it will only add to the only 1 inch of topsoil there is on Our World, that we have, feeding the nearly 8 billion people and 30 billion domesticated animals. **One inch (2.5 cm)!!!!** Our World is so fragile but it is also tough. Like the Blackthorn. So, get making that compost, Dear Friends! :-)

And also, Dear Friends, we too, must become tough. Tough like the dense wood of the humble Blackthorn. We must toughen up. For we are now bombarded with the daily spikyness of life and the peculiarities of living in an artificial age, almost outside nature. Here we must look deeper. And change, accordingly, and adapt more to nature, than rather getting nature into one big mess. Like it is becoming. Like Humans are turning it into.

The Celtic ogham associated with Blackthorn is Ss which is 4 strokes from left down to right through the centre of the writing line.

There are always fungi when it comes to trees. Trees share their lives with fungi and many trees appear to have specialised fungi that grow on them. And so it is, with the Blackthorn. Taphrina Pruni is a gall forming fungus. It impersonates the sloe seeds by consuming them and remaining in their place and also expanding the flesh size of the sloe. These tend to yellow. The common bracket fungus Phellinus Panaceus slowly consumes the wood of the tree. They have an orange tinge to them and are full of tiny holes. Blackthorn suffers spore damage from the common rust fungus, Trachzchelia Prunae-Spinosae turning the leaves yellowy brown.

Many butterflies host and feed from the Blackthorn. Thecla Birtuluae, Brown Hairstreak, Aporia Crataegi, Black-veined White and the Satyrium Pruni, Black Hairstreak.
Moths too. Yellow tail, Swallow Tail, Common Emerald, Small Eggar, Magpie and

Lackey

The wonderful healing peculiarity of Blackthorn in Homeopathic Medicine is its affinity for the blood vessels, the arterial circulation, certain headaches and sharp pains. This makes the Blackthorn a particularly Solar material. Blackthorn or *Prunus Spinosa* has a remarkable type of headache often associated with it. Blackthorn, in Homeopathic medicine, has a direct affinity with heart or circulatory problems. Making it super Solar. It is as if a sharp spike were being driven through the eye all the way to the back of the head. It will often relieve most sharp eye pains. Or more generally, Ciliary neuralgia. The spines of the thorns are the best indicator here. It is most likely that blackthorn could be a very successful low potency remedy on a regular basis for some similarly affected patients. As with any medical problem it is always important to consult the right physician when in doubt.

The Bach Flower Remedy 'Cherry Plum' is as close as we may get to Blackthorn here. Cherry Plum has, as its leading indicators: "desperation and deep depression" for those who contemplate suicide as a way of escaping deep emotional pain. There is fear of loss of control and dread of doing some frightful thing. As if a dam were about to break open and cause unnecessary chaos and pain to others. Therefore to some in this very distressing state, suicide seems like an option. But this too has the dread of anticipation built into it. There may be this feeling that life is just too spiky. Cherry Plum may well help relieve this awful state and allow the patient to come to calmer less terrible decisions about their lives and the lives of those they love. This could be construed as the remedy for the Prisoner. The mental tortures that one must go through. Whether in Peace or War. Prisons are difficult places at any time.

In the language of flowers, the meaning of Blackthorn is: "Difficulty." This is, most likely, the reason why the flowers on boughs should not be brought 'into' the house. Although the wood and logs are not under this 'ban'. They are often kept by the door. As staff, as walking sticks, as lumps of wood.

The Blackthorn can remind us what a fantastic little tree it is because of its ability to create strong impermeable boundaries. Collectively humanity needs these boundaries. To keep us safe, to make life a little more predictable and to give us all hope at very dark times. If one is ever in the British countryside, Dear Friends, then please do please: Appreciate the spirit of the humble Blackthorn.

Other *Prunus* Species that could be used for many varied reasons and conditions.:

Prunus Armeniaca: The Apricot.

Prunus Domestica: The Prune

Prunus Dulcis: var *Amara*: Bitter Almond

Prunus Persica: Peach Tree

Prunus Serotina: Wild Cherry Tree.

Of course with all these wonderful fruit bearing trees one can make all manner of a million puddings, sweets, sorbets, compote, lozenges, creams, tonics, syrups, cordials, high strength freeze dried powders, teas, tisanes, ice creams. Or just on their own, unadorned. Many of these edible *Prunus* species are used and enjoyed in a bewildering variety of ways. Many of the mature woods make nice furniture, ornamentation and also burn with a slow burning good hot heat.

The Apricot Kernels contain a 'banned' substance, Laetrile. Also known as B17. Laetrile has a bitter principle within, that is thought to be effective at reducing cancers. The big western pharma cartels do not like it. So they will not entertain it, in its present form. Western pharma do not want to cure, generally. They want continuous illness. That is how they make their money. Western Pharma are 'in business' and this means their markets must be continuous. Or they also make their money through cancer treatments, which are often very expensive, very

debilitating and have approx 25% efficacy after 5 years. So with a poor product, Western pharma are allowed to poison the whole world. Because they have bought the governments. Who have legislated for them. in their favour.

Remember, Dear Friends, nothing is 'easily' achieved. There are always difficulties, obstacles, barriers. There is always a Great Work. Here, Now. Our Great Work must be to concentrate on making Our World a place fit for All without resorting to the incredibly destructive means and so many technical fixes or so much Human interference. So far. These preclude too much artificiality. Artificiality puts too much pressure on natural systems and functions. In fact, all these, mentioned, make things worse. The quality of all things is diminished. Further on, then, Dear Friends we will continue to find solutions which do not hurt the Earth or the creatures and plants that live in it in quite the same way as we are doing now.

And so, Dear Friends, as we sit by our fire on a winter's Day. At the least Solar part of the Year which is also 'a beginning', The Blackthorn logs are glowing hot and, looking deeper, we see the cities in the fire and we are away with a wee glass of Sloe gin to pull us into the next solar cycle. We are stoking up our fires: inner and outer. As above so below. We are putting our feet up by the fire taking a well earned time of peace, warmth and calm, to reflect and to look forward. While being mindful of the present moment. For time does not stop. We must forever stay within the present moment for it really is all we have. Now is all we have.

And so, after our spiky beginning along our funny journey of 7; we go. We hurtle, spiralling along. Our beautiful World is spinning and turning and being pulled along and just being held. Held by the magnetic gravitational and radioactive hand of our fiery friend, The Sun...And so, Dear Friends, we spin and turn and are pulled into another time and towards the world of a beautiful flower. A herb, a healer, a food, a happy adjuvant.

This new being that we are about to encounter is a A great positive addition. A Sunny friend. Always within the Solar Sphere of our strange and terrible journeys; our wonderful and joyful light speed spin towards the flower that will sustain and heal. Let us diffuse and infuse ourselves within the next very special being from our little Pantheon.

Beyond.....!