



Brocéliande with Ozégan

Rob And I am with Olivier Ozégan Pepere who is known in this area as Ozégan because he is a story-teller, who lives very close to the famous forest of Paimpont. This forest has another name, Brocéliande. What does this name mean, where does this name come from?

Ozégan You know a river may have many springs, and there are many springs for Brocéliande. Felix Belemeney from the 19th century has received about thirty meanings about Brocéliande. I will give you a few ones. First *Arvrokilen* in Brittany language, *Arvrokilen* means the land of knowledge. Knowledge in the meaning of wisdom. Another meaning is *Bro Brekilian* a very old name from very old Celtic language and it means the sacred land.

Rob There is a lot in the name itself which gives an impression this forest is full of legends.

Ozégan On the map, Brocéliande doesn't exist, on the geographic map. Brocéliande is uuh forest of legend and if we believe writers and poet from Middle Ages, this forest was covering more than half of Brittany and uuh goes to Normandy.

Rob So it's not just what we find now.

Ozégan Yes.

Rob Now it's a big forest, it's 9000 hectares.

Ozégan Yes.

Rob But before it was...

Ozégan Yes before it was a very, very wild and wide forest but you know poet and the writers are more in the imagination than in the geographic, so we have to, to be wise to understand this. However tales and the legends are like a mirror. You can find inside them the beauty of the universe and your own beauty. It is not possible, it's not good to try to put the legend in the geographic area or in historical period. We know that in each tales there is part of truth but just a little.

Rob Which are the most common legends associated with the forest of Brocéliande?

Ozégan Of course Merlin, King Arthur and the Morgan and Vivian, because the uuh Vivian and Merlin meet themselves at Barenton the spring of Barenton and there is only one spring like that which has been told in many legends and there is only one



forest, Brocéliande who has that kind of spring, because the spring of Barenton produce bbbbb-bouillonnement, bubbles but there is not fire under to make bubbles.

Rob This place is where Merlin met his love.

Ozégan Vivian, yes that's right.

Rob And the legend says that King Arthur was present in the forest, also?

Ozégan Bon, first you know poet and writers during four or five centuries have written about this legend in all Europa. We have of course the most of the books are English and French but we have Spanish version, Hungarian versions, Russian versions, Swedish versions, Italian too and German too. So, it's the most important literary from Europa. And for French people it is very important too because the first name of all of this legend is 'les Romans des Chevaliers de la table ronde' or 'les Romans de la table ronde', the Romans of the round table. And these books which were at the beginning were in uuh the typical language have given a literary because poets have made their own version.

Rob OK. You know the forest very, very well because you've taken people on guided visits. Which places do you take them to?

Ozégan Why I guide people to the spring of Barenton, first is the.., you know in legend it is the big place where Merlin met his love, Vivian. In the top of my heart I am a romantic. So this place yes and it is a lovely place a quiet place, and this spring is known during centuries for having every time water s.., so it is very rare for a spring to keep its water crossing centuries.

Rob Which other places are there that, that cannot be missed?

Ozégan Yes, alors, yes there is the Val sans Retour, where the Morgan la Faye kept knight people which are umm not loyal to their love is the reason and the meaning for the name, Val sans Retour, in French mean the place without return, we can't go in, we can't come back. We are prisoners in this valley.

Rob Would you say that this place is it haunted?

Ozégan Very haunted.

Rob So visitors must go there.

Ozégan Yes enfin you know there is the Lancelot beautiful knight has liberated the valley of this curse because he is loyal to his love even if his love is not his own love because Lancelot love the queen and the queen is not his wife. We have to understand that in this time people believed that love save their soul. And when you

love somebody you are becoming love and love is the heart of the creator. So when you love you are in the heart of the creator. This is the thoughts of troubadours people in the courtesy love. Then Lancelot has taken a queen for the throne of his heart. This is the pattern of the courtesy love.

Rob Courtly love.

Ozégan Courtly love.

Rob Which isn't the same as physical love its something higher something spiritual.

Ozégan Yes, and Lancelot is loyal because he knew that when you love you are becoming love and you save your soul.

Rob For visitors to the forest where should they start? Because it's an enormous forest isn't it?

Ozégan Yes you know, you know there is a beautiful place called the Château of Comper with a lake it is very known here because beautiful people are working inside. This is the *centre d'imaginaire arthurien*, the Centre of the Arthurian imaginaire, which have the most important bibliothèque library of Europa on the subject of the literatury of Arthur, Merlin and so on. And in this castle there is exposition every year they take toute une exposition and they have uuurhh very gifted guides in the castle and you have the lake and the legend that this is in this lake that Lancelot has been educated.

Rob Ozégan, you have given us an idea about the forest of Brocéliande. Thank you very much.