

Druidhome

This isolated, and truly beautiful area, is a haven for a secretive sect of Druids who moved here after a lucky exploration trip by the famed elven ranger, Galad Fenevriel, 127 years ago. Galad still lives here in Applegate, and continues his explorations.

Despite being in the subtropical zone, the winters are cold, and snowfalls occur in most years. The high valley is surrounded by tall mountains, some with permanent snowcaps – Mt Screadcenn (Screaming Head), Mt Damnù (Damnation) and Soinneàin Gaoithe (Windblast) Mountain to the north, and peaks almost as high to the south, especially Mt Toirneach (Thunder) and Sceimhle (Terror) Mountain.

The valley is transected by Siobhan Stream, whose clear waters also have an invigorating effect downstream from Gruama (Misty) Brook which flows down from awe-inspiring Gruama Falls.

Above the Gruama Falls is a portal to other sites on Nibirum, and also other planets in the Universe. This is where the elves of Artemisia came from thousands of years ago via Arda and Faerun. The knowledge of this portal is dangerous, and when discovered, Queen Miriel II of Elen Daelarion asked that a colony of rather high level druids settle in the area to protect the portal from either ingoings or outgoing (already, several Goa'uld and Jaffa have been intercepted and 'dealt with'). [NB: This portal is one of three on Artemisia, one already documented in the Hellenic Portal Gate on the borderlands of the Iraisian City States and Themisia]. Unfortunately, the existence of this portal is known to quite a few people, especially the orcs and others from the mountainous vales of Dolina-Strakha (Valley of Fear) south east of River Watch. So far the valiant Druids have kept them at bay.

The fabulous Jenolan Cave is another protected site – mainly from greedy dwarves, whom the elven druids rather distrust. It is a labyrinth of twisting tunnels opening up into glorious caverns filled with limestone wonders – stalagmite, stalactites, columns, shawls and limestone pools. Through the magnificent arch, Diabhail Coisteach (Devil's Coachhouse), a brook – Uaimh (Cave) Brook, emerges; while the main cave entrance is much further up the slopes of Mt Damnù.

The Siobhan Stream arises from the Mergin Spring on the foot of Mt Soinneàin Gaoithe Mountain. It can cleanse one's thinking so clear thought and rational decisions can flow from the imbiber. However, it does this only once a month, and only for one person at a time. The effect lasts three days. Needless to say, the four Eldest Druids take turns each month.

Finally, there are the four villages/hamlets – Oakland (Talamdarach), Applegate (Ullgeata), Kyooz Meadow (Scuaine-Moneir) and Green Walk (Siúlóid Ghlas). These are detailed in their respective maps. However, all have housing for the Eldest Druid,

head person of the village, stores, assembly hall and a sacred site.

I have chosen to stay with the English translations for the villages, otherwise used Irish Gaelic (or modifications) for the other names.