

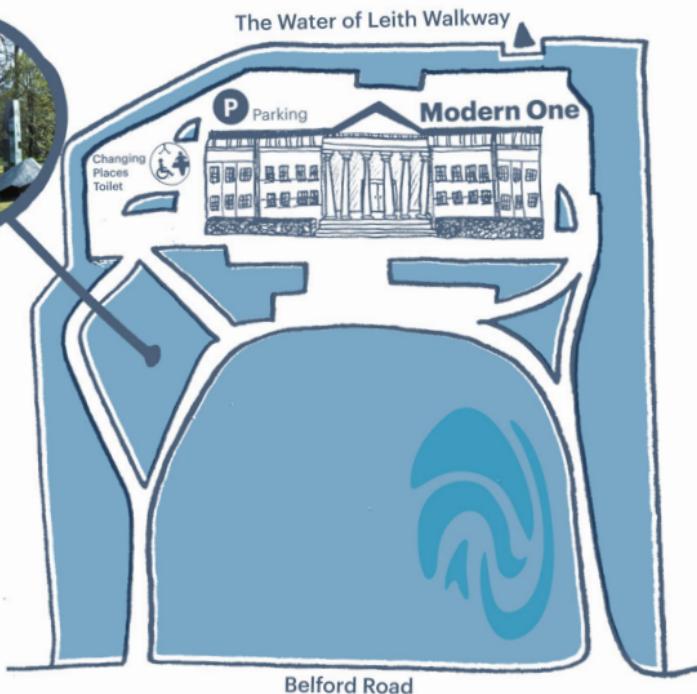
# Conversation with Magic Stones

Inspired by  
*Conversation with Magic Stones*,  
1973  
**Dame Barbara Hepworth**

Start here:



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BOWNESS.



Belford Road

It was late and Angus  
was tired.

He decided to stop and rest.

He leaned against one of the  
stones in the old stone circle.





He felt odd and the air  
became filled with the strong  
smell of the earth, the trees  
and the grass.

Sound vibrated all  
around him.

He thought he could hear  
the roar of a bear.



He sat up and looked  
all around.

There was nothing there.

He leaned against the stone  
again and this time the sound  
vibrations were louder,  
but when he looked  
around again there was  
nothing there.

Soon his eyes began to close.  
This time the stone spoke in a  
low soft voice.

'Don't close your eyes, don't  
go to sleep, for if you do you  
may forever weep.'





DON'T CLOSE YOUR  
EYES...



Suddenly, a magpie flew onto  
the stone beside him.

He felt uneasy; it had grown  
cold and darkness began  
to fall.

He leaned against the  
stone again.



As he did, an image appeared faintly before him.

He rubbed his eyes.

The image grew stronger and stronger until before him stood a woman wearing a bearskin hat.



Angus froze with fright.

He rubbed his eyes again.

He must be dreaming.

He opened his eyes, but she  
was still there.

She smiled at him.

'Don't be afraid 'she said.  
'I will not harm you'.



'My name is Artio and I am  
the goddess of nature  
and wildlife.'

I'm here to warn you  
not to fall asleep among the  
stones as fairy magic fills the  
air tonight'.

Angus laughed, 'Fairy magic?  
I don't believe you!'

'Yes, fairy magic.  
It's the annual fairy gathering,  
and they're looking to take a  
human back to fairyland  
tonight, they will be here with  
the coming of the moon..'

She continued, '... Legend says that a young man called Tam Lin was out hunting with his grandfather when he fell from his horse and was taken away by the Queen of the fairies herself.

She made Tam Lin a knight and his job was to guard the forest.'



Angus kept listening to Artio's words: '... In the village there lived a young girl called Janet.

One day she was walking in the woods and saw a beautiful, milk-white horse standing beside a well.



She was drawn to the unusual horse and walked towards it, plucking a rose from the bush that grew by the well, as she walked.

As quick as a flash, the knight Tam Lin appeared.

'Come, come and dance with  
me!', sang Tam Lin.

Janet fell under his spell and  
she danced with him  
for hours.

For three days Janet returned  
to the well in the woods and  
they danced 'til the sun set,  
and the autumn moon shone  
brightly in the sky.



'Where are you from',  
Janet asked.

Tam Lin told her that he had been stolen by the fairy Queen but now he was worried that he would never escape.

'I'll help' said Janet, 'let's make a plan!'

Tam Lin told her that at midnight the fairy folk ride past the well and that she could rescue him by pulling him off his white horse and holding on to him tightly.

At midnight Janet took her place in the thorn hedge on the edge of the wood.

Soon she heard the fairy bells and she knew the fairy troop were heading her way.

Her heart thumped as the sound grew louder.



Soon the troop came into view and she saw the fairy Queen seated on her coal-black horse.



Tam Lin's horse approached and Janet rushed from the bushes and grabbed the bridle. With all her strength, she pulled Tam Lin from the horse.



Immediately the fairy Queen's black horse reared up as she brought it to a halt.

'Tam Lin's away!', she cried.

Janet held Tam Lin tightly as the fairy Queen threw spell upon spell at Tam Lin.

She turned him into a lizard, then a snake but Janet didn't give up, she held Tam Lin tightly and wouldn't let him go.



At last the fairy Queen gave up as she knew she had lost Tam Lin.

She cried out in anger, 'I've lost the fairest knight in all my kingdom and if I'd known, I would have turned your heart to STONE.'

With those words the fairy riders vanished into the night.



All went quiet again and  
Angus looked around.  
He was alone in the circle  
of stones.

Just as he was leaving to go  
home, he heard a voice say.

'If you hear the fairy bells,  
don't go to sleep or you may  
forever weep' and he knew he  
had just had a conversation  
with magic stones.



The End



We hope you enjoyed this sensory story about the  
**Conversation with  
Magic Stones.**

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