

Dowsing in Gozo

Sally Cunis (2004)

Two years ago I travelled out to Gozo, Malta's next-door-neighbour, with my local art group. Not only was I keen to practice my watercolour painting, but I was drawn (pun not intended!) to the area because of its warm climate and ancient temples.

I only managed to visit one temple, but it is one of the most ancient, if not, *the* most ancient, of the temples on the islands. My kind and patient art tutor kindly drove me there one sunny day, and whilst he painted, I dowsed. It is a large complex, with the temple similar in shape to a clover leaf or trefoil, and, some say, to a seated goddess. Vast stones were used in its construction, some weighing up to 50 tonnes. There are alcoves and what look like stone altars inside. It is apparently the world's earliest free-standing stone building, and is situated in the middle of Gozo, on the Xaghra Plateau. Built at two different times, the older part of the temple predates the pyramids by some five centuries. (Although dating monuments changes with advancing technology.)



The Temple of Ggantija, Gozo

There are panoramic views to the surrounding countryside towards the south-east, and I had a strong sense of it being a place where the earth mother herself, as goddess, had been worshipped aeons past. I felt both awe and reverence, and a presence of something profound and extraordinary. Dowsing produced findings of large energy lines flowing both towards and away from the site, and I became very excited when I dowsed a spiral under the steps leading up and in to the temple.

At this moment, a young couple came up to me, and were interested in what I was doing. They were local people, and knew the area, and when I told them I had found the spiral, the girl showed me a stone just inside and to the right of the entrance, carved with – yes, a spiral! This seemed to indicate a blind spring, I felt. I was even more

excited then, so to calm myself down, I offered my rods to the girl, and she shared my excitement when the rods moved for her. Her partner appeared to take all this in his stride, and when we parted, I expressed the hope they would teach their dowsing skills to the Maltese. Well, you never know!



Inside the temple, Ggantija, Gozo

However, the most amazing thing happened after the couple had left; I went around continuing with my dowsing, and found myself almost communicating with some great spirit, perhaps the spirit of the place. It felt as though the temple had been asleep for a very long time, and there was a sense of a kind of awakening as I “tuned in”. I stood for several moments in thought, with my eyes closed. Time seemed not to exist; past ages felt very present, and all connected together in some mysterious way. I felt the need to express my sadness at the way we, humanity, has been so neglectful of honouring our lovely planet, and not behaving as the true custodians we were surely meant to be. I felt much emotion as I thought this, and on opening my eyes, I saw something which took my breath away. There at my feet, lay a beautiful stone, glinting in the sunlight. I swear it was not there when I first stood on the spot. I picked it up, and held it in my hands. Fools Gold, I think it is called, but whatever it’s called, it doesn’t matter. I “knew”, with absolute certainty, that this was a gift -from the Earth Mother or the Guardian of the Temple perhaps? Fanciful maybe, but it felt very special to me. I have it still, kept carefully in a little box, and it is used when the need is there, either by humans, animals or places, for healing, and connecting.

Truly a gift from the gods, and an experience, and a gift which I shall always treasure. And one day, I shall go back, not just to Ggantija, but to visit the other temples and sites on Malta and Gozo. Anyone like to join me?

PS I did go back, but that’s another story...