

Well hello and welcome to another article of Talking with Time, the only news provider that gives you the facts and only the fact on some of histories greatest icons. Well as you all know as March comes around so does the much-celebrated Saint Patrick's Day. A day celebrated all around the world from Mexico, to Russia, and here in the United States, plus not to mention being a national holiday in Ireland. But before we all put on our green and begin the search for leprechauns and 4 leaf clovers, do any of us know what we are truly celebrating? Who St. Patrick really was and why we commemorate him every year? And how he had become the man so celebrated today? Plus we will try to clear up some of the mysteries and legends that have shrouded his story for ages. These are some of the facts we hope to find as we travel back to the year 483, which is believed to be at least 10 years before his believed death, to hopefully find the facts on Saint Patrick.

**Interviewer:** Well thank you for taking the time to do this interview with us Saint Patrick we know how busy you must be. But might I say it is a real honor to meet you.

**St. Patrick:** Please just call me Patrick, and the honor is all mine. I would be happy to share my story, so that it is remembered by future generations. As it would seem from your words I will become quite the legend. So lets make sure my legend is correct.

**Interviewer:** Well I'm short on time so lets get started. Not much is known about your past, how was your childhood?

**St. Patrick:** Well I was born in Roman Britain, and that is where I lived for 16 years of my life. However at that time I would be captured by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave.

**Interviewer:** How horrible, forced into slavery at the age of 16. Were you ever able to escape your captives?

**St. Patrick:** Yes I was, but I would be held captive for 6 years before I would finally be able to escape and return to my family.

**Interviewer:** Wow such a traumatic experience at such a young age how did this affect you?

**St. Patrick:** Well I always prayed to see my family again and I had never lost hope. So when I was finally returned to my family I was great full to god for it had to be his work. Being in captivity allowed my faith to grow for it gave me hope in my desperation.

**Interviewer:** So have you always had strong belief your religion even as a child?

**St. Patrick:** Yes my family was very religious, as my father and grandfather were both part of the clergy. So soon after I had escaped slavery and returned to my family I decided to follow their footsteps and enter the church myself.

**Interviewer:** In the church you would quickly gain the titles of deacon and bishop, these are not easily accomplished tasks. How would you say you were able to acquire these titles?

**St. Patrick:** Well I was a contemporary of some great Saints for example St. Augustine, St. John Chrysostom, and St. Jerome. I was even a contemporary of Pope Leo the Great. And I studied for my priesthood in St. Martin of Tours' seminary. Through this extensive study I believe I was able to reach those ranks.

**Interviewer:** Well being a man of such experience what were some of the most exciting events that occurred while you were in the clergy?

**St. Patrick:** Well when I was a young man still studying I saw the Visigoths sack Rome in 410 and when I was a bishop in Ireland when Pope Leo I persuaded Attila the Hun not to attack Rome. Being able to witness these events would provide me with much wisdom and experience to draw upon later on in life.

**Interviewer:** So being a Bishop what did you plan to do next with your life since you had finished your religious studies?

**St. Patrick:** Well I felt a connection to Ireland being that I was taken there as a slave when I was a child. So I decided to return to Ireland as a missionary in hope to spread religion and correct the ways of the people.

**Interviewer:** Though it is well known that you did missionary work in Ireland mostly the north and west parts of the island. There is almost no record of where and how you worked. And no link can be made with any church in Ireland and the work you did. Why is this?

**St. Patrick:** I was much of a traveler and did not just stay in a church. I walked all across Ireland spreading Christianity to the people. I did not believe that staying inside a church and hoping the people came to me would work. So I decided to go to the people traveling from town to town. And due to my constant traveling I could not carry much with me and what I did was often misplaced or lost which may be the reason their aren't much records of my work.

**Interviewer:** We do have record of two of your works however. The Declaration and The Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus. If you don't mind would you care to explain them?

**St. Patrick:** Well the first The Declaration was an autobiography of sorts. Kind of what we are doing here. I wanted my story to be remembered and so I decided I would write it all down. The second The Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus was an open letter where I

had excommunicated certain Brythonic warriors for they had preformed raids in Ireland and had take some of my converts into slavery.

**Interviewer:** We also have other works done by others mainly Tirechan and Muirchu whose accounts often show you in a bad light and even contradict some of your own writings. They portray you as a martial figure, and one who works with druids and destroys pagan idols. They even go on to say that you curse kings and kingdoms and accept gifts from female followers. Are these accusations true?

**St. Patrick:** Of course not, these men just warped my actions to make it seem I was doing these horrible deeds. I greatly opposed druids and tried greatly to do away with them. And I did no such thing as destroying idols for I would never go to violence to solve a problem. And as for accepting gifts from women followers that I can say is true. For the gifts of noble women greatly helped my cause for with their help we were able to found churches and nunneries. Which helped spread Christianity even faster. Those accusations are nothing but horrible misinterpretations.

**Interviewer:** Well now lets get into some of the many legends that surround your name. It is said in legend that you were able to banish all snakes off the island. However scientist have proven post-glacial Ireland never had any snakes. What do you make of this?

**St. Patrick:** I think maybe snakes act, as a symbol for druids for right now the snake is the symbol of the druids.

**Interviewer:** Another legend is that you were the one who introduced the shamrock to the Irish as you used its three leaves to represent the Holy Trinity to help teach the concept to the people. Is this true?

**St. Patrick:** Why yes it is. I thought they people would grasp the concept of the Holy Trinity more if they could relate it to something. And the shamrock was perfect for it had three leaves and when the people saw it would remind them of the Holy Trinity.

**Interviewer:** Wow what a creative idea and to think the shamrock would go on to be a main symbol of Irish culture. Well another legend is that during your travels you had met two ancient warriors of legend Caite mac Ronain and Oisín who some how survived the ages and traveled with you telling you stories.

**St. Patrick:** This legend is not true for I did travel with many different companions however none were warriors from Fionn mac Cumhaill's warrior band the Fianna. This was probably just a legend started due to the fact that I traveled so much and that I had told stories of these warriors before so it might seem that they had told them to me themselves.

**Interviewer:** Well its nice to have those legends cleared up. For much of your life was a mystery to historians due to the lack of records, and spread of such wild legends made telling fact from fiction very difficult.

**St. Patrick:** Yes I can see how over the many years information can get misinterpreted and turn out to say something completely opposite from what is true.

**Interviewer:** Well Patrick were running low on time so I have just one more question to ask you before I go. You are one of the most revered and favored Saints in all of Christianity. Having your own day dedicated to you that is celebrated every year by almost the entire world. How do you think you could have become so popular?

**St. Patrick:** Well I guess it was because I am connected to the people. I do not live in palaces living a life of luxury like other bishops. I walk all of Ireland teaching and spreading my wisdom of Christianity to the people. And I acted as a common man myself I was no better just because I was a bishop. Also I believe in the future I grow to become more famous like you said because of the mystery and legend that surround my name. Gaining peoples interest and thus becoming more revered.

**Interviewer:** Well thank you Patrick for your time but I really must be getting back to my own time now. This has surly been a pleasure.

**St. Patrick:** Oh the pleasure is all mine and be sure to get this out to the people I want the to know the real St. Patrick and not the one of Legend.

Well there you have it, the true story of St. Patrick told by the saint himself. And though the legends of his name may not have been true he is still s legend himself. As he would spread Christianity throughout Ireland and soon become its Patron Saint. A single man who opened Irelands doors to Christianity. Saint Patrick a normal man who would create an amazing legend.

**Jonathan Razack**