In County Meath, Ireland, upon the hill of Tara sits a mysterious stone known as the Lia Fail (the stone of destiny). For thousands of years, up until 500 AD, the kings of Ireland were coronated upon this stone. History informs us it was one of the four legendary treasures brought to Ireland by the Tuatha De Danann, the other three being the Dagdas cauldron, the spear of
Lugh and the sword of light of Nuada. The Tuatha De Danann means the children of the Goddess Danu, who are said to have ruled over Ireland some 4000 years ago. Danu is considered to be the mother of all Irish Gods and in Wales they honour her as the Goddess Don, Don and Danu being one and the same.

Danu is also known as Anu, in county Kerry there are two mountains named after her which are known as the Paps Of Anu. Patricia Monaghan in her book " the encyclopaedia of Celtic mythology" writes " Most significantly we find an Irish divine race, thought to represent the God of the Celts called the Tuatha De Danann, the people of the Goddess Danu". In her book Valerie Estelle Frankel writes " It is believed that the Celts started with the concept of a mother Goddess named Danu ( meaning water from heaven ). The name of the Danube river is derived from Danu and evidence shows that Celtic civilisation evolved at the headwaters of the Danube river around this time. Water was venerated as the source of life, personified by Danu. Numerous rivers in Europe bear her name, such as the Don rivers of England, France, Scotland, and Russia. The Irish called themselves the "Tuatha De Danann" the people of the Goddess Danu ".

The Goddess Danu descends from the Vedic tradition, she is the daughter of Daksa and wife of Kashyapa Muni. Its interesting how in the Irish tradition her father is known as Dagda which is similar to Daksa especiably when we consider the "K" and "G" and their phonetic similarity. In Sanskrit the word Danu means "flowing water" she was know as the Goddess of rivers, being the daughter of Daksa she was also the sister of Sati the wife of Lord Shiva. For those billion plus souls who follow and practice Vedic tradition the Lia Fail stone is recognised as the Shiva Linga, especiably when one considers its Vedic and family connection to Goddess Danu, Sati and Lord Shiva.
As a Celtic Goddess Danu was known by many names, Annis, Ani and Anu to name a few. She was the protector of wizards, the Goddess of rivers, water, wells, magic and wisdom. Holy wells, sacred lakes and shrines are remnants of this powerful Vedic Goddess. The advent of Christianity saw her transformed into a hideous child eating demon of the wells and when this failed they destroyed the wells or rededicated them to “St Anne” the mother of the virgin Mary. The Christians with their rampant ignorance transformed Annis into Black Annis, a moon Goddess revered and worshipped throughout the British Isles was now seen as a witch. In the legend of Arthur this same Goddess is most probably the Lady of the lake, the famous arm beholding Excalibur and proclaiming Arthur as King. The Lady of the lake was a mother Goddess of a triad similar to that of Danu and its no coincidence she appears through water. Upon Arthur’s death Excalibur is returned to the Goddess who gave birth to the King in the form of a magical sword, and as Arthur revolves through this cycle of birth and death he once again returns to his mother through the symbol of the sword. With King Arthur’s demise his body is returned to the Isle of Avalon in the care of three women, Guenevere, Morgan Le Fey and the Lady of the lake, which once again reinforces this triad nature which is characteristic of Goddess Danu.

It is a story awash with symbolism as it depicts the King receiving power in the form of a sword from the mother Goddess, the Lady of the lake, Danu, the Goddess of water. As with everything in this world mother nature reclaims that which she has given in order for us to be reborn anew. This symbolism continues in the ritual of the sword and the ring, where the female has a choice between the sword and the ring offered by a prospective mate. In offering the sword, the symbol of his power, he places his life within her hands. Taking it he becomes the willing sacrifice and dies, if however she accepts the ring which symbolises the cycle of everlasting life, she accepts him as her mate. These ancient stories flavoured with philosophy and dressed in symbolism are very much a reflection of the mysterious stone upon Tara’s Hill, the Lia Fail, the stone of destiny and ultimately or originally the ancient Vedic Yoni and Lingam.

In Europe the Goddess appears as its longest river – the Danube. Danu is the wife of the great Vedic sage Kashyapa Muni and from them come the Danavas. Diti is also the wife of Kashyapa Muni and from her come the Daityas. Germany was previously known as Deutchland and once again this is simply a corruption of its ancient name Daityastan. Stan is a Sanskrit word meaning land, we see it in place names such as Turkistan, Kazikstan, Afghanistan, etc, and so Daityastan means the land of the Daityas, the sons of Diti, and its here in Daityastan – the land of Diti – the Goddess appears.

From the Black Forest in the town of Donau – eschingen she flows throughout Germany – Austria – Slovakia – Hungary – Croatia – Serbia – Bulgaria – Moldava – Romania and eventually merges into the Black Sea. In Aberdeenshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear she appears as the rivers Don. In Russia the Don river is one of its biggest, flowing for some 2000 kilometres. She appears throughout Eastern Europe as the Dnieper river, one of the four major rivers of Europe whose name, according to mainstream academia, is a combination of Danu and Apara. What does this say about Europe when two of its four major rivers, the Danube and Dnieper are named after the Vedic Goddess Danu. On she flows throughout Eastern Europe as the rivers Donets and Dniester pay homage to Danu as she journeys from the Black Forest to the Black Sea.
On the other side of the globe, the island of Bali, it is said that the name for their religion is agama tirtha, the religion of holy water. Here water is revered for its power to make things grow, and to wash away impurities both physical and spiritual. In Bali they build their temples on springs and throughout Bali their irrigation system is a network of temples as the water washes over sacred monuments such as the Shiva Lingums. The central temple which connects thousands of other temples throughout Bali is the beautiful Pura Ulul Danu Bratan pictured below. It is built upon lake Bratan and roughly translated its name means “The Goddess Danu is in charge of this lake”. On the Indonesian Island of Bali Danu is the Supreme Goddess. Danu is mentioned in the Vedas as one of thirteen daughters of Daksa given to Kashyapa Muni. As divine beings their main role was to populate the universe with good progeny. The Danavas are mentioned in the churning of the ocean of milk going back millions of years, and she is also mentioned as the primordial waters upon which creation takes place. Although the Danavas, the sons of Danu are described as Asuras, its never a simple black and white picture. In the Rig Veda she is described as Danucita - the richness of light, the Asvinis are described as Danunaspati - the Lords of Danuna, Soma is called Danuda - overflowing with Danu, the Maruts are called Sudanavas - Su being Sanskrit for good, the Vishvedevas or universal Gods are also described as Sudanavas. So although the Danavas are known as Asuras, Goddess Danu, the sister of Sati, is one of the great personalities amongst the Devas.

“Danu represents an ever-flowing stream of celestial grace which purifies and fertilises the earth. The earthy manifestation of Danu as a river thus represents only a partial disclosure of her being. Physical contact with her earthy manifestation, however, connects one with the awesome, heavenly, transcendent dimension of the goddess and of reality in general”.