

Reclaiming the Divine Feminine



Part Two

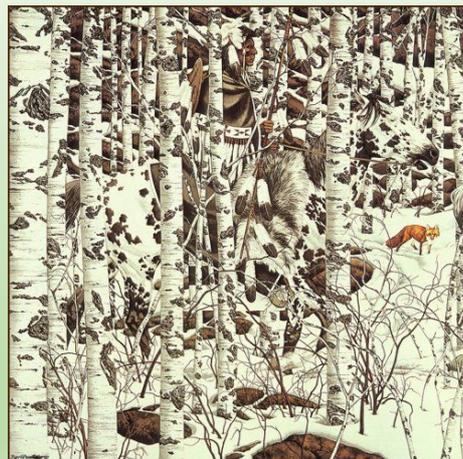
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In the beginning...

There was no word for religion
because you can't see something
when you live inside it.

All was sacred; all lived together in
a cosmic dance.

<http://www.bevdoolittle.net>



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Four Stages of Creation Gods

1. The Goddess Alone.

Creation from a great chaotic soup.

The Sky Mother created Earth with the help of aquatic and semi-aquatic creatures and a handful of seeds.



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Robin Wall Kimmerer *Braiding Sweetgrass*

One woman is our ancestral gardener, a cocreator of the good green world that would be the home of her descendants.

The other [Eve] was an exile, just passing through an alien world on a rough road to her real home in heaven...

...Look at the legacy of poor Eve's exile from Eden; the land shows the bruises of an abusive relationship. It's not just land that is broken, but more importantly, our relationship with land.

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Whenever the Healthy Feminine is revered:

- Equality between gender and races
- Religion is primarily experiential
 - Dance rather than dogma
 - Human populations limited
- Silence rather than learning
 - Suffering has meaning
 - All creation is valued
 - Focus on resurrection

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We Asked Permission To Hunt the Sacred



Reproduction of a Palaeolithic cave painting of bison from the Altamira cave, Cantabria, Spain, painted c. 20,000 years ago.

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We Observe the Honourable Harvest

- Ask permission before picking/harvesting
 - Never take the first fruits
 - Never take the last fruits
- Never take more than half
 - Always give thanks
 - Always give back

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Whenever the Masculine is Revered

- Humanity believes that it is superior to all other creation
 - Humanity is creative and expansionist
- Feminine is seen as lesser and often dangerous
- We focus on power and overcoming enemies
 - Population growth encouraged
- Textual learning predominates over oral
 - We defy and deny death
 - Law over spirit
 - Law over lore

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2. The Goddess as Mother and Wife of God



A cycle of birth, death and resurrection in an equal balance of power

Isis, Horus, Osiris
(c24 BCE)

First Hebrew Temple



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The Goddess Resurrects the God



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Synchretism as Cultures Merged



Hermanubis

Kushite/Egypt: Dedun with Osiris

Romans/Egypt: Anubis with Hermes

Mesopotamia/Greece: Ashtart with Aphrodite

Egypt/Sumeria/Assyria: Isis with Inanna/Ishtar

Yahweh with Zeus/Jupiter

Hesiod's *Theogony* (c 700 BCE)

Chaos



Gaia, Erebus, Nyx, Tartarus and Eros



Uranus, Aether, Hemera, Ourea, Pontus



3. The Goddess killed by the God – Babylon



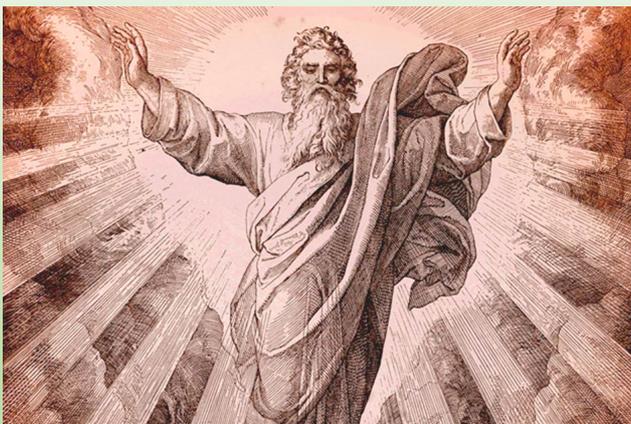
Tiamat, Goddess of the primeval depths.

Marduk cast one half of Tiamat into the sky to form the heavens and the other cast down to form the earth.

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4. The God alone - Yahweh



Creation from no-thingness.

Goddesses need not apply.

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Why Did This Happen?



Fierce is one thing

Child sacrifice is another

"They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons as offering to Baal" (Jeremiah 19:5).

Baal's wife was Asherah



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The Dark Side of the Divine Feminine is Blame

"If you can only own the light in you and not the dark then the dark will come to rule you. If you won't acknowledge your own shadow you will project it onto others and call them bad, evil, the enemy. The world is not in a dilemma because of 'the bad guys'. It is in this mess because of all the 'good guys' running around projecting their unknown darkness onto others and then feeling justified in 'fixing' them. Or if that doesn't work, killing them in the name of God, progress or peace."

Danaan Parry.

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Meditation – Your Own Creation Myth

With thanks and acknowledgment to David Goddard.



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Homework

Begin the Honourable Harvest

Visit your Place of Power
 Take with you some oats or similar
 Ask permission before picking a leaf or nut or berry
 See if you can sense the response
 Scatter some oats on the ground as a thank you if the answer is 'yes.'

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