

A Monumental Work
On
The Origin & Path Of Patriarchy

HISTORY
A SPIRITUAL ANALYSIS

By Roderick W. Marling

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HISTORY: A Spiritual Analysis

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With penetrating insight this work reveals the failed programming that's been running for the past 5,000 years, resulting in the endless repetition of exploitation, domination and violence. You will discover the driving beliefs, concepts and images that continually materialize on the world stage as historical events.

You will see the various religions of the world in their original cultural settings, and this new perspective will literally shock you.

Through this powerful book you will learn in explicit detail how biophobic patriarchal values have played themselves out in our personal lives in the last half of the 20th century, and how these values have impacted our sexuality, our relationships between men and women, and our relationship with the Earth.

You will discover all the historical events they didn't tell you in school, and all the things they still refuse to talk about!

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Introduction

"Do not think that I have come to send peace upon the earth; I have come to bring a sword, not peace. Matt. 10:34

In the above, Jesus was not talking about a physical weapon, but rather he was talking about power of the mind, the power of mental discrimination, which like a sword can be used to cut through our tribal programming, our cultural trance and our personal delusions.

This process is definitely not peaceful - to the contrary, it can be very upsetting. On the other hand, it is essential if we are ever to mature spiritually. Just as in early childhood, our perception of our parents gradually changed from one that viewed our parents as all powerful, larger than life figures, to one that became more realistic. A similar process can be observed in regard to our perception of our religion, culture and heroes.

The following work then is not a peaceful bedtime story. It skillfully cuts through the pretty packaging with which we've all become hypnotized, to reveal the shadow side of the historical narrative, the dark undercurrent that has to be directly perceived if one is to ever gain a

better understanding of our collective past. It is through this expanded understanding then, almost ironically, that we can collectively break free of our past mistakes, and begin to embrace a more fulfilling future.

Part I

And They Left No Survivors

From around 10,000-7,000 BCE (Before Common Era) there appeared in various places throughout the world, communities based on agriculture. These agricultural communities were well planned villages and towns, some of which later on developed elaborate irrigation and sanitation systems. Extensive trade also existed between these early settlements, even though some of them were thousands of miles apart.

One of the most striking features about these communities however, was the fact they were all built without any fortifications or defenses of any kind. These early cultures simply didn't manufacture weapons of war.

In general, the development of technology served the purposes of sustaining and enhancing the quality of life. Technology made life more pleasurable, freeing up time and creative energy. This is the Age of decorated pottery and other art works, stone carvings, and jewelry made from copper and gold. Writing, mathematics and astronomy also had their beginnings somewhere between 4,000 and 3,000 BCE.

Social organizations were founded on the relationship of mothers caring for their children. Nurturing and cooperation were the values that pervaded all activities. There was common ownership of the means of production, and the equal distribution of the wealth. There was also equality between men and women, with women playing a vital role at all levels of society.

Reigning supreme over these societies from horizon to horizon, was the Queen of Heaven and Earth - the Goddess. Known by many different names in many different lands, she was the origin and the substance of all Creation. She was the nurturing Mother, the indulgent Lover, and the merciful Grandmother, who received the dying back into her arms, to be reborn again. She was the living Whole, and all life's creative expressions were unique parts of this wholeness. Life was integrated into a mysterious, yet beautiful Cosmos.

This Cosmology then, was the original spiritual impulse of humanity come to bloom in all its magnificence. It was grounded in a biocentric spirituality, which perceived Nature as a living manifestation of the Divine, and sought to maintain a sacred bond with the rhythmic processes of the Earth.

Beyond the borders of this Sacred Reality, beyond the peaceful values of its culture, brewing in the dim twilight mists of the collective unconscious mind of civilized humanity, was a catastrophe from which the world is yet trying to recover. Out on the cold and arid steps of central Asia there lived a huge population of tribes, whose cultural evolution had developed along radically different lines.

At the very heart of this culture we do not find the paradigm of the nurturing mother, but one of a distant and dominating father. In Greek and Latin, the father and head of the household was known as "pater". From this word we get the term "patriarchy", which is a social organization where the "pater" or father rules exclusively.

In the structure of patriarchy, the male has absolute authority over all his dependents, including decisions of life and death. All wealth and property is owned by adult males, and passed down through the male line. Descent and succession are always traced through the male line as well.

This social arrangement was a reflection of the prevailing mythology of the culture. Within their belief system, these people worshipped Gods who were distant and many times wrathful. These male deities lived in the sky or on inaccessible mountaintops, and were perceived as having absolute supremacy and demanded blind obedience. Sometimes they wielded thunderbolts as a weapon of their wrath and punishment. Storms wind and fire were also instruments of their domination.

Another extremely important feature of their Cosmology was that in their eyes, the Natural World was not birthed. It was not perceived as part of the living body of the Deity. Rather, their world was made by a Creator, who remained separated from his creation. Spirit and Nature were split apart, and even antagonistic to one another.

With this type of mythology then, we can easily see how the cultural values that evolved among these patriarchal tribes were so radically different from those of the earlier Goddess centered cultures.

Furthermore, it's important to realize these people never developed agriculture. Originally, they were hunting and gathering tribes, who eventually developed large herds of domesticated cattle. They also domesticated horses and used them for transportation.

They were also nomadic tent dwellers, always moving with their herds, always looking for more or better pasture land. Their society was arranged with a rigid class structure. Those at the top of this hierarchy or "sacred order" were the strongest males, one of whom became the chief or king. The strongest warrior became the hero, the ideal of the social structure, and usually became the chief or king. In this way dominance and violence became equated with masculinity.

Moreover, this culture placed a high priority on all technological developments that could further serve their growing arsenals. They considered their weapons as sacred objects. They made various kinds of elaborate clubs, knives and battle axes, and they eventually developed the sword. But by far, their greatest military achievement was the development of the two horse chariot, with which they were absolutely invincible.

These patriarchal nomadic tribes have come to be known by various names: Kurgan, Indo-European, Indo-Germanic and Aryans. Some of the more specific tribes within this general group who have left their mark in our written historical accounts are the Hittites; the Archaeans, the Dorians, the Germans and the Celts.

All these people belonged to a common race known to anthropologists as the Alpine race. They were white skinned and much larger than the dark skinned races (and I may add all other races of earth) of the Goddess culture. They are also classified by a specific group of languages, all of which belong to what is now called the Indo-European family of languages.

We do not know for sure what initially motivated these people to leave their traditional home lands. Maybe some natural catastrophe, a dramatic change in climate, maybe the pressure of other tribes moving in and competing for limited resources. But for whatever reason, around 5,000 to 2,800 BCE these people began to push West. They came in waves, and left

destruction and devastation in their wake. They plundered and burned the unfortified cities and towns of ancient Europe, and killed a large percentage of the original inhabitants. Archaeologically, this has been well documented, with site after site showing the same horrific evidence, along with a sharp decline of the original culture.

There was a dramatic disappearance of traditional art, sculpture, architecture and pottery. There was also a marked decrease in the size of future settlements.

The strong man ruler became increasingly more predominant, and was perceived as divinely ordained by the Sky God. Dominance, conquest, and violence became valued characteristics. Art work began to reflect such values, depicting conquerors as heroes.

Funeral remains at this time, indicated a radical shift in the cultural values in the areas in which the Indo-Europeans settled. Grave sites are now found with the male ruler buried with numerous women and children, and even animals, all sacrificed at the time of his death.

About 1,800 BCE hordes of these barbaric tribes descended on the urban centers of the Indus civilization in India. Ironically, they called themselves Aryans, meaning "nobles". These "noble" people then, methodically proceeded to destroy the cities and slaughter the people who they referred to as "black skinned devils". Archaeologists have uncovered at the ancient city of Mohenjodaro, large numbers of skeletons of men, women and children all bearing cuts from the sword and battle ax.

It is not surprising to find the chief Deity of the Aryans, the God Indra, to be referred to as "he who overthrows cities". The people of Indra destroyed the cities of the Goddess, and it took them another thousand years to build one of their own.

They imposed a rigid caste system on the conquered people. The lighter skinned priests and warriors of the Aryans, were the upper ruling castes. While the darker race was assigned to the lower positions. Mixed marriages were strictly prohibited. Even as late as the 4th century BCE we find in **The Bhagavad Gita**, the Aryan hero Arjuna explaining how the entire social structure would be in danger of collapse as a result of mixed marriages. Gita Ch.1:41-44.

The cultural values of the Aryans were eventually written down in the brahmanical laws of Manu, **Manava Dharma-shastra**.⁽¹⁾ It should be remembered that Manu was known as a great sage of the Aryans, and was considered to be inspired by God. He established the laws of the Hindu society, and is still praised by many saints and sages in India today. I will share with you some gems from **Manu's version of the Law or Dharma**.

IX.17 "When God created woman, he allotted to them a love of their bed, of their seat, and of ornament, impure desire, wrath, dishonesty, malice and bad conduct."

IX.15 "Through their passion for men, through their temper, through their natural heartlessness, wives become disloyal towards their husbands, however carefully they may be guarded in this world."

II.24 "Women are able to lead astray in this world not only a fool, but even a wise man, and make him a slave of desire and anger."

V.28 "In childhood a female must be subject to her father, in youth to her husband, when her lord (husband) is dead to her sons; a woman must never be independent."

VIII 416. "A wife, a son and a slave, these three are declared to have no property; the wealth

which they earn is acquired for him to whom they belong."

V.154 "Though destitute of virtue, or seeking pleasure elsewhere, or devoid of good qualities, yet a husband must be constantly worshipped as a God by a faithful wife."

IX.30 "But for disloyalty to her husband a wife is censured among men, and in her next life she is born in the womb of a jackal and tormented by diseases, for the punishment of her sin."

VIII.371 "If a wife, proud of the greatness of her relatives or her own excellence, violates the duty which she owes to her lord (husband), the king shall cause her to be devoured by dogs in a place frequented by many."

I chose these particular passages, because they so dramatically show a degeneration of the feminine values and the outright perversion of the sense of justice, that for thousands of years served as the very foundation of Civilization.

As the militarization of the culture progressed, psychological conditioning became very important. It was now necessary to train a large percentage of the male population, so that at a moments notice and on command they might slaughter huge numbers of other human beings, destroying their homes, towns and cities. Without the least bit of exaggeration, this has been one of the dominant concerns of the Indo-European tribes for nearly 5,000 years, and remains so to this day.

One of the basic factors playing a role in this type of cultural conditioning, is the devaluation of the bonding process between mother and child. This always negatively impacts the individual's perception of self and the world, creating a condition of insecurity and fear.

Without adequate bonding between the growing child and the feminine principles of pleasure, and the natural fulfillment of desires, the sexual energy becomes repressed. Once this condition is established, the positive expression of sexual energy becomes perverted, and will begin expressing itself negatively through acts of aggression and violence, either toward others, or towards oneself.

Consequently, there is a complex structure of related cultural values that use and channel this negative psychological conditioning. Life in general is depicted as a struggle, a conflict, a competition with winners and losers. The winners are seen as the good guys, who deserve to take everything for themselves: "to the victor belongs the spoils", even when the "spoils" include women and children.

When it came to the use of the Earth's resources, the prevailing ethic among the aboriginal peoples had always been Take What You Need and Leave The Rest. This principle had sustained their thriving economies for thousands of years. With the Indo-European tribes however, we find a radically different ethical value: Take all you can get, and to hell with the rest. Consequently, they had to keep moving, constantly driven to conquer new lands as the old became exhausted. History more than bares this out. For we find this malignant ethic still prevails today.

The social structure of the Indo-European tribes is that of a pyramid. The natural resources and wealth of the community are owned or controlled by the few strong men at the top, who use sanctions and violence to keep those at the bottom in their place. Conquest, domination and exploitation are taught to be the natural God-given rights of the "good" men at the top.

When this mind-set of domination becomes internalized, and involves the creative energies within the individual, we have a condition known as asceticism. The originating impulses behind asceticism in the Aryan tribes, was that human beings could gain favor with the Gods, or gain great personal powers by forms of self denial. By turning one's back on the laws of Nature and the normal functions of the physical body, one could eventually conquer both the body and the Natural World.

They believed men could acquire miraculous powers, through renouncing all sexual experiences, physical pleasures and the natural fulfillment of desires, such as eating, sleeping and shelter from the elements. Some even went so far as self-inflicted pain or injury, such as standing in one position until the lack of circulation caused the flesh to die.

These examples of course were at the extreme end of the spectrum of social values, but what I would like to bring to your attention is this attitude, that in order to gain favor with the Deity, or identify with the Godhead, one had to liberate oneself from the Natural processes of the physical dimensions of Life. In this ascetic program the Feminine values of pleasure and the fulfillment of desires, were considered to be either a trap, or an illusion.

In the Buddhist scripture **Lalitavestara**, (2) a famous scene is presented where the future Buddha is at a party with a large number of beautiful women. At the end of the party everyone falls asleep, except the hero. He remains awake, and walks among the sleeping guests. Observing the beautiful women now sleeping in various conditions of disarray, he no longer sees their beauty.

"The sight moved him to loathing, and he thought: 'I do indeed live in the midst of a graveyard'. Then meditating on the idea of purity and penetrating the idea of impurity, he saw that from the sole of the foot to the crown of the head the human body originates in impurity. At this time therefore, he spoke: 'O hell of living beings, with many entrances, O dwelling place of death and old age, what wise man, having looked there on would not consider his own body to be his enemy?'"

We have a perfect example here, of the conscious recognition of the basic connection between the Female, the natural process of life and death, and the physical body. Of course in this scene, they're all devalued and shown to be the **enemy** of an exclusive transcendental version of spirituality. It quite naturally follows then, many years later after he becomes known as the Buddha, we find him explaining the first principle of his philosophy as: "All Life Is Suffering." This principle became the very foundation stone of Buddhism.

We can see this belief as direct opposition to the concept of the Divine as Immanent or within Nature. In order to identify with the image of the Divine as exclusively Transcendental, Nature and the natural processes of Life were devalued, and in some cases even demonized.

This view is also in complete opposition to the spiritual values of the ancient culture of the Goddess. In fact, it represents the metaphysical battle-ax applied to the very roots of the Feminine Perspective of Tantra.

The fact that some values of the ancient Culture have survived is truly remarkable. The principles of Tantra were vigorously suppressed, but never entirely eliminated from the consciousness of the aboriginal peoples of India. (Or even from Europe). From time to time Tantra would experience a revival, and consequently the dominant culture would undergo a burst of creativity and transformation. Both Hinduism and Buddhism adopted in some form or another, various concepts and practices of Tantra. Unfortunately, most all of the ancient Tantric scriptures have been destroyed or lost to the world.

While the Aryan tribes were busy with their conquest of the early Indus civilization, other members of the Indo-European people were now sweeping like a hurricane across the landscapes of other civilizations.

The Hittites spilled out into Anatolia around 1700 BCE. There is evidence they burned to the ground at least 300 cities. Other tribes like the Hurrians, and the Kassites, continued to push southward into Mesopotamia and Canaan. In 1,200 BCE the Achaean tribes invaded what is now known as Greece, followed by another wave of Dorian invasions in 1,000 BCE.

These Indo-European tribes considered themselves a superior race, simply because they possessed the insensitivity and the technological capability to destroy the more culturally developed cities of the original inhabitants. They were in continual conflict, not only with the conquered people, but between themselves as well.

To gain an understanding of the Indo-European invaders, it is very important to understand their Gods. For the images of the Deities are reflections or personifications of certain characteristics within the collective consciousness of the people. These images contain the genetic code as it were, of the collective psyche.

They contain the unconscious ideals, values and qualities that are seeking to manifest on the conscious level.

A wonderful study in this whole area is presented by Robert Graves in his two volume work entitled: **The Greek Myths**.⁽³⁾ In several of the myths we witness the Heavenly Father Zeus, raping Goddesses and mortal women alike. In one story he also rapes his twin sister, Hera, and shames her into marrying him.

Hera revolted one day against some of his outrageous behavior. For this she was hung up from the sky by her bracelets, with an anvil attached to each ankle.

It is interesting to note, that Hera wasn't originally the sister of Zeus, but the ancient Mother Goddess of the aboriginal peoples of Greece. Her son/consort was none other than the young Zeus. As the invading tribes pushed into the area, they began to elevate Zeus to correspond with their own male dominated society. In this process, they claimed Zeus to be Hera's twin. Eventually, even this position wasn't good enough; he rapes her and forces her to marry him, whereby he becomes the sole ruler over all the other Deities.

On a cultural level, this story tells an interesting tale. Zeus is symbolically associated to the invading Indo-European tribes, while Hera is associated with the aboriginal people. Here we are able to see the interaction between the two cultures. The Goddess worshipping people are "raped" or conquered by the patriarchal tribes. And one day Hera, or the original inhabitants, revolt and are consequently punished.

On a much deeper, psychological level, this story also reveals something about the individuals within the Indo-European culture. They devalued their own feminine qualities. They suppressed the inner female, as well as oppressed the women in the society at large. They forcefully exalted the masculine qualities of the culture, as they exaggerated the masculine within themselves.

This internal process produced a violent imbalance within the individual, as well as within the culture at large, signified by the image of the rape. This is just one small and brief example how these mythological stories possess a wealth of information, if one is able to read

between the lines.

No such subtlety of interpretation is needed however, when we examine the mythology associated with the other major players in the destruction of the Goddess culture. We will now turn our attention to a collection of patriarchal tribes who became known as the Semites. They were sheep and goat herding nomads, pushing up out of the Syro-Arabian deserts. They had domesticated the camel and used it effectively in their campaigns of war.

One of the first waves of these barbaric tribes into the civilization of Mesopotamia, were a people that came to be known as the Akkadians. At about 2,400 BCE under King Sargon, they gained control of all Sumeria.

The cultural consequences were dramatic to say the least. The position of the Mother Goddess began to decline, as indicated by changes in the mythological stories.

Metaphysically the world became split into two opposite factions: the good forces of light and the bad forces of darkness. In this context, there developed the identification of the Natural World and the Female with the forces of darkness. The sky God and Males were then identified with the forces of light. This was reflected in the devaluation of women in the culture at large, and the replacement of the feminine values of peace and cooperation by competition, domination and violence. To the ancient civilizations of the fertile river valleys, these changes came upon them as a nuclear winter. And the invasions continued.

The next wave of Semitic tribes

The next wave of Semitic tribes were known as the Amoritic Babylonians, who carved out an empire with Babylon as its capital. Around 1,800 BCE one of their leaders, King Hammurabi codified and rewrote many of the ancient laws of the original inhabitants into a new text, for which he is still famous.

Another group of Semitic invaders was the Canaanites, who moved into Palestine and Syria. They were followed by the Hebrews around 1,900 BCE.

We can gain a tremendous insight into some of these invasions from the writings of the Hebrews. They quite graphically describe what happened in the Old Testament of the Bible. They claimed their Deity gave them the land of Canaan, and that it was theirs by "Divine Right". It mattered little to them, that this area had already been a center of civilization for thousands of years. It became their "promised land", and with "Divine orders" they waged a campaign of genocide against the inhabitants.

"When you shall pass over the river Jordan, entering into the land of Canaan, destroy all the inhabitants of that land: beat down their pillars and break in pieces their statues, and waste all high places." Numb.33:49-56

"Observe thou that which I command thee this day: Behold I drive out before thee the Amorite, and the Hittite and the Perizite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Take heed to thyself lest thou make a covenant (treaty) with the inhabitants of the land wither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee; But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images and cut down their graves, for thou shalt worship no other God, for the Lord . . . is a jealous God". Exod 34:11-16.

This wasn't a mission to win converts to their religion, or to somehow spread their cultural enlightenment. This was simply a brutal campaign of aggression and conquest. When they

met resistance, as in the case of King Sihon of the city of Jahaz, the Israelites under the leadership of Moses demonstrated their brutality.

"The Lord our God delivered him into our hands; we killed him with his sons and all his people. We captured all his cities at that time and put to death everyone in the cities: men, women and dependents; we left no survivors". Deut.2:33

This was not an isolated case, as one might hope. The text goes on and on, city after city captured and all the people slaughtered.

"Joshua captured Mukkedah and put both King and people to the sword, destroying both them and every living thing in the city. He left no survivors, and he dealt with the King of Mukkedah as he had dealt with the King of Jericho. Then Joshua and all the Israelites marched on from Mukkedah to Libnah and attacked it.

The Lord delivered its' King and the city to the Israelites, and they put its' people and every living thing in it to the sword; they left no survivors there, and dealt with its' King as they had dealt with the King of Jericho. From Libnah, Joshua and all the Israelites marched on Lachish, took up their positions and attacked it. The Lord delivered Lachish into their hands: they took it on the second day and put every living thing in it to the sword as they had done in Libnah." Joshua 10:28-32

This by no means exhausts the description of the holocaust. Page after page, it goes on like this, until one is naturally left wondering what kind of God is it, that actively promotes genocide? When examining the written accounts the Hebrews left behind, we find that originally the name of their God was never spoken, and it was deliberately written so that it could not be pronounced. It was written with only four consonants: **YHWH**. As a substitute for this secret name, they used the words Adondi or Elohim.

Hundreds of years after the original scripture was written, scholars who no longer knew what the missing vowels were, attempted to reconstruct the word. They then came up with the name Yahweh, interpreting its meaning as part of the verb "to be", to give their Deity the title, "the one who is".

Whatever the true pronunciation of the name of their God may have been, we do have definite and clear images of his character. Their God was described as a Father-Creator who essentially made the world out of nothing. He created human beings in his own image, and he saw that everything was good.

Then, after some time, things started to go very wrong. The children he created in his own image became disobedient. God was then sorry he ever made the whole lot.

He said: "I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, from man even to beasts, from the creeping thing even to the fowls of the air, for it repenteth me that I have made them." Genesis 6:5-7

"Behold I will bring the waters of a great flood upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, under heaven. All things that are in the earth shall be consumed." Gen.6:17.

Of course he doesn't annihilate everything, but spares one family of human beings and a number of animals to repopulate the Earth. But the image is clear, God is perceived as a strict, authoritarian Father.

And when he is disobeyed, he becomes the punishing parent, who is capable of killing even his own children; not just the ones who have misbehaved, but also the innocent ones as well. Or are we left to assume that all the animals and plants were guilty by association?

We have to step back from the story line just enough, to imagine what it is like to live in a family where your father has just killed your brothers and sisters, and destroyed the entire house as well. What kind of trauma within your psyche would this produce?

When we thoroughly explore some of the consequences to this type of psychological programming, we are led to the conclusion that this particular image of Deity, is perhaps one of the most pathological images ever to evolve out of the human mind. A dictatorial father who "lays down the law" to his children, and if they somehow misbehave becomes the punishing parent, "for their own good". And of course, in this dysfunctional family, the punishment is death.

Undoubtedly, this represents the child's worst nightmare. The loving and nurturing parent turned killer. It is a betrayal of the bonding process. The development of security and trust are completely undermined, and the internal dynamic is now based on fear, not love. But just as in any dysfunctional family, the culture at large is in deep denial. No one is willing to talk about Daddy.

The image of the killer parent was not some abstract, mythological symbol, simply taught to small children to scare them into behaving themselves. Not at all. In this culture, the killer parent became a concrete reality. How do we know this? We know this for a fact, because once again it is written down in the Bible for all to read.

"He that curseth his father or mother shall be put to death." Ex.21:17

"He that striketh his father or mother shall be put to death." Ex.21:13

"She that plays the harlot in her father's house shall be put to death." Deut.22:21

"Six days you shall have to do work: the seventh day shall be holy unto you...he that does any on it, shall be put to death." Ex.35:2

"If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, or who commits adultery with his friends wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death". Lev.20:10

"If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death." Lev.20:13

"Now a man or a woman who is a medium or spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones." Lev.20:27

"If your brother or son or daughter or wife or friend suggest serving other gods, you must kill them, your hand must be the first raised in putting them to death, and all the people shall follow you". Deut.13:6

"If the inhabitants of a town that once served the Lord your God, now serve other gods, you must kill all the inhabitants of that town, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword. And all the household goods that are there, thou shalt gather together in the midst of the streets thereof, and shalt burn them with the city

itself, so as to consume all for the Lord thy God, and that it be a heap forever: it shall be built no more." Deut.13:12-16

Like the violent patriarchal Indo-Europeans, we find the Semitic tribes also developed strong anti-feminine, anti-sexual values. In the first book of the Bible, the Hebrew Father God curses his disobedient daughter, Eve:

"I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband and he shall rule over you." Gen.3:16

This curse lays the foundation on which a great prison is built, and one half of humanity is seen as its rightful inmates. Because of the disobedience of Eve, all females were perceived as cursed. Consequently, they were made subservient to males by divine decree. This theme continued to be propagated and developed in all facets of the Semitic culture.

Another aspect to this anti-feminine attitude is the complete devaluation of the birth process itself. Birth is no longer seen as a miraculous event, in which women participate in the creative powers of the Mother Goddess. In this new context, it is perceived as a curse of the Father God.

In chapter 12 of the book of **Leviticus** this theme is developed further. Birth is seen as something "dirty" or spiritually degenerate. It boldly declares that a woman who has given birth is considered unclean, and needs to be put in isolation for purification. Furthermore, if the baby is female, the mother is considered more impure than if she had a male, and is ordered to spend twice as long in her spiritual quarantine.

This negative programming is not some minute, isolated example. This attitude was pandemic, continuing to develop for more than two thousand years and still exists to this day.

Another important insight into the prevailing attitude toward females within the Semitic culture, was revealed in the book of **Deuteronomy** chapter 22 verses 28-29.

"If a man find a girl that is a virgin which is not betrothed and lay hold on her and they be found, then the man that lay with her shall give the girl's father fifty shekels of silver and she shall be his wife."

In this belief system, rape is not considered a crime in and of itself, but can actually be an instrument of ownership. If however they are not found, the man is able to go his way, while the girl is now considered damaged goods and unfit to be given in marriage.

Once married however, a woman is still never secure about her home and possessions

"When a man hath taken a wife and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes because he hath found some uncleanness in her; then let him write her a bill of divorcement and give it in her hand and send her out of his house." Deut.24:1

We find in all these examples, the exact reversal of the family values of the earlier civilizations. The Female is now devalued, humiliated and without protection under the law and before the eyes of God. Very much like the laws of Manu in India, we find a psychological climate that exaggerates the masculine while minimizing the feminine. It elevates the strictly rational and intellectual qualities of consciousness, while suppressing the intuitive and emotional qualities.

This psychological imbalance generated a tremendous conflict not only in the psyche of each individual, but in the collective consciousness of the entire culture. Violence, domination, conquest and exploitation became the direct manifestations of this pathology. And the image of the Deity was directly associated with this psychological crisis. The Father-God is projected as the killer parent, and all his children live in the shadow of his wrath which at any moment might be poured out upon the Earth. This was the fearful paradigm on which the cultural values of these violent and barbaric tribes were based.

It must be recognized, the patriarchal Semitic and Indo-European tribes didn't come as simple immigrants or missionaries into the civilized cities and agricultural centers of the world. They didn't even come seeking alliances, treaties or compromises. They came to conquer, dominate and exploit. This fact has to be recognized and acknowledged on a conscious level, before we can begin to understand the deeper problems of our present world. For we have inherited many of their beliefs, values and pathologies. And the Program is still running.

The Revolution

To further explore the evolution of our patriarchal programming, we will now focus our attention on a relatively more recent period in our history. A period, that has shaped and influenced our present world as no other - the Roman Empire. What is particularly important about this period, is that within the Roman Empire we find the actual convergence of many of the Semitic and Indo-European cultural values.

Rome's vast area of conquest stretched from England to Greece to Persia. It typically reflected the Indo-European culture with multiple sky deities; a class structure which included slaves, and a passion for technology. No army in the world was a match for their war machine, and they simply crushed any whom resisted.

However, in a small Roman province in the Middle East, called Judea, there arose a spiritual and cultural revolution that would eventually influence not only the Roman Empire, but the succeeding cultural development for the next several thousand years.

There is very little actual historical documentation regarding the origins of this revolution. What we have to rely on is information copied from earlier works, and these probably were copied from bits and pieces taken from verbal accounts. At any rate, the center of this movement was an individual named Yahshua. In Greek, his name was Iasion or Iasus. Today we know this figure by the name of Jesus.

Jesus turned his back on the patriarchal culture of the day, and began to preach a different message:

"I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from Heaven." John 6:32-34

With these words, Jesus directly challenged the authority of the Torah and the Mosaic foundation of the culture. The impact was such that on numerous occasions people tried to kill him as he spoke.

Jesus also openly violated the rules regarding the Sabbath. He also drank fermented wine, which gave the religious establishment reasons to call him a drunkard. (Matt.11:19)

Above all other social and religious transgressions however, the most revolutionary was the

fact that Jesus taught that men and women are spiritually equal. This was an affront to the whole social fabric of the patriarchy. Furthermore, he boldly taught the feminine values of cooperation, nonviolence, forgiveness and love. And he taught these values in a society of men who by law were free to kill their own children for misbehavior.

What was perhaps even more shocking for his day, was that Jesus was a renowned teacher who openly and freely associated with women. In the Semitic patriarchy of the Middle East, this indeed was very unusual to say the least. The prevailing attitude was that women were either unfit spiritually or mentally incapable of receiving the "higher truths of God".

But as we read in **The Gospel of Luke** 8:1-3, Jesus and his intimate group of followers were financially supported by a group of women. I firmly believe, it is with this seemingly obscure fact, we have a clue to a story that for centuries has been lost. Only recently, have the necessary pieces come together.

In 1945 near the town of Nag Hammadi, Egypt, a whole library of early Christian writings was discovered. Very little has been revealed about this find in the mass media. And most likely the majority of the Christian Churches, would rather not have it reach the light of day.

Nevertheless, these writings effectively represent a huge constellation of diverse ideas and beliefs that at one time existed in the early Christian movement. Many more Gospels were once part of the New Testament than what we have been lead to believe. And at Nag Hammadi, several of these have finally come to light after being buried for nearly two thousand years.

One such scripture was **The Gospel of Philip**. What I find particularly interesting in this account, is that we get an unusual insight into the human character of Jesus, as well as a considerably different interpretation of his mission.

Almost in direct contrast to the ascetic persona that is portrayed by our familiar Gospels, here Jesus is shown in a very different light:

"There were three who always walked with the Lord: Mary his mother and his sister, and Magdalene, the one who was called his companion . . . The companion of the Savior is Mary Magdalene. Christ loved her more than all the disciples, and used to kiss her often on the mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended by it and expressed disapproval."

Not much is really known about the person that this Gospel refers to as the companion of Jesus. She was called Miriam of Magdalene. She was a woman with a title, which indicated she was dedicated to a temple. In other words Miriam of Magdalene was a Priestess. The really big question remains, in what capacity did she serve in the temple? Was she part of the ancient heritage of Qadishtu, a "sanctified woman" serving as a Hierodule or sacred prostitute?

Interestingly enough, there is some evidence to help solve this mystery. One piece of the puzzle comes from the fact that any woman who served in the temples as a Hierodule, was always put down by the patriarchal cultures, and was continually misrepresented as a common prostitute. This could very well account for the long-standing reputation of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute, even though there is no scriptural support for such a reputation. Yet, well into the Middle Ages, Mary was regarded as "the patron saint of prostitutes".

This speculation as to Mary's role in the temple is further substantiated by other related pieces of evidence. Later in **The Gospel of Philip** (4) we read:

"There were three buildings specifically for sacrifice in Jerusalem... the third facing East was called the Holy of the Holies... the Holy of the Holies is the Bridal Chamber."

The Gospel then goes on to relate, "**Redemption takes place in the Bridal Chamber.**" From what we now know about the ancient ritual of the Sacred Marriage, which played such an important role in most all the cultures of the world at one time, can we safely speculate as to the real purpose of the Bridal Chamber?

We really don't have to ponder the question too long, for **The Gospel of Philip** goes on to explain that when Eve separated from Adam, the original spiritual unity of humanity was broken. The purpose of the Bridal Chamber is to heal this split: "Indeed those who have united in the Bridal Chamber will no longer be separated." This sacramental union is also referred to in the Gospel as "**the Redemption**" and the "**Holy of the Holies**". (5)

In view of the information revealed by **The Gospel of Philip**, we can now better understand one story given to us in the "official" Gospels of the New Testament. As we are told, out of all his disciples, Jesus first appears to Mary Magdalene after he rises from the tomb. She is then instructed to tell the others. Very few actually believe her, and some even went to the empty tomb to see for themselves.

This story seems to substantiate the idea that Mary was indeed, the closest to Jesus, and she definitely played a leading role among his disciples. This view was developed further in **The Gospel of Mary**, which was also discovered near Nag Hammadi in 1945. In **The Gospel of Mary** the language is very simple and direct. It is almost as if an eye witness was recording the scene as it actually unfolded, leaving unchanged, the all too human characteristics of the disciples. After Jesus departed, "Peter said to Mary, "Sister, we know that the Savior loved you more than the rest of women. Tell us the words of the Savior which you remember..."

Mary Magdalene then relates a vision she had of Jesus and what he told her. When she was done,

"Andrew answered and said to the brethren, "Say what you wish to say about what she has said. I at least do not believe that the Savior said this. For certainly these teachings are strange ideas." Peter answered and spoke concerning these same things. He questioned them about the Savior: "Did he really speak privately with a woman and not openly to us? Are we to turn about and all listen to her? Did he prefer her to us?" "Then Mary wept and said to Peter, "My brother Peter, what do you think? Do you think I thought this up myself in my heart, or that I am lying about the Savior?" Levi answered and said to Peter, "Peter, you have always been hot-tempered. Now I see you contending against the woman like the adversaries. But if the Savior made her worthy, who are you indeed to reject her? Surely the Savior knows her very well. That is why he loved her more than us."(6)

The Gospel of Mary ends here, but unfortunately the animosity on the part of Peter and Andrew does not. This rather insignificant disagreement between Mary of Magdalene and some of the other male disciples, represents the beginning of a rift within the early Christian movement that gradually escalated into two widely diverging streams of ideas, values and practices.

In the early Church there was definitely a strong message that men and women were spiritually equal. In Acts 2:17 we find, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your **sons** and **daughters** shall prophesy."

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus." **Galatians 3:28**

We know for a fact, there were some groups of early Christians who literally embraced this revolutionary teaching. Women were found in all positions of authority in the early churches, teaching and administering the sacraments.

Along with this spirit of equality and the increasing acceptance of women, the image of the Divine once again began to take on the language and symbology of the Feminine.

In the Old Testament of the Bible, the feminine creative aspect of the Divine is associated with the wind and breath, and was known in Hebrew as **Ruah Elohim**. It is described in the very beginning of **Genesis** as the wind or breath of God that moved over the waters of the deep, and consequently brought forth all Creation. Gen.1:2.

This concept of the feminine creative force became known in Christianity as the Holy Spirit. In keeping with the original gender of the Holy Spirit then, the early Christians conceived of the Divine composed of a Trinity: the Father, the Mother (the Holy Spirit) and the Son.

One of the books discovered near Nag Hammadi is entitled **Trimorphic Protennia**. Roughly translated it means, "the three forms of Divine Thought". In this work we find a sophisticated metaphysical presentation, specifically revealing the feminine aspect of God. The book begins:

"I am **Protennia**, the Thought that dwells in the light. I am the movement that dwells in All, She in whom the All takes its' stand... I am revealed in the immeasurable, ineffable things. I am intangible, dwelling in the intangible. I move in every creature... I hid myself in everyone and revealed myself within them... I am the Word who dwells in ineffable Silence..."(7)

Another book found at Nag Hammadi, which also expresses the feminine aspect of the Divine is titled: **The Thunder, Perfect Mind**. This work begins:

"For I am the first and the last. I am the honored one and the scorned one. I am the whore and the holy one. I am the wife and the virgin. I am the mother and the daughter."(8)

This resurgence of the Feminine Perspective within the early Christian movement, was perceived as a serious threat to the patriarchal societies of both the Hebrews and the Romans. For it called into question some of the principles on which the patriarchy rested: the inequality of the sexes; the establishment of an exclusive male hierarchy, and the use of violence to keep it in place; the concepts of cut-throat competition and conquest to gain an increasing amount of land and resources.

In light of these widespread values, we can understand how some of the followers of Jesus had a very difficult time moving beyond their own cultural programming. For as we have seen in **The Gospel of Mary**, even the closest of the disciples had serious problems.

The patriarchal values tenaciously survived the original challenges of Jesus and his revolutionary followers, and quickly reasserted themselves even in the movement itself. Perhaps the greatest proponent of male domination within the early Christian Church was the apostle Paul. He of course never knew Jesus personally, and in his early life actually persecuted the early Christians. After his "conversion", he began preaching a gospel that in regard to women, was the exact opposite of what Jesus had taught and lived.

For in his first letter to the Corinthians in Greece, he brings up the Old Testament to establish that women, by their inherent nature, are not equal to men. In Chapter 11 verses 8 and 9 he says: "For the man is not taken from the woman; but the woman from the man. And the man indeed was not created for the woman, but the woman for the man."

Later on in the same letter he lays down the law:

"Let the women keep silence in the churches, for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, so saith the law. And if they learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

One can only guess at what Mary Magdalene, and all the women that supported Jesus had to say about this sexist attitude. But Paul doesn't stop there. Not only does he establish women as a secondary form of human creation, but now because of Eve, all women are not to be trusted.

In his first letter to **Timothy** Chapter 2:11-14 we read:

"Let the woman learn in silence with full submission. But I suffer not a woman to teach or to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed and then Eve, and Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in transgression..."

If anyone might be deluded in thinking that Jesus came to free women from the curse that was laid on them by the wrathful God of the Old Testament, Paul attempts to set the record straight once and for all. He restates the curse: "Wives shall submit to their husbands in everything." **Ephesians** 5:24. And, "The head of a woman is her husband." I **Corn.** 11:37. An extension of this absurd logic is of course, that a woman without a husband is like a woman without a head. As ridiculous as this may seem, the tragic fact was, this accurately reflected the prevailing mind-set of the patriarchy.

It is well worth considering, all the records we have of the early Christian Church were written by the Church "fathers". The Church "mothers" had all been silenced and their works destroyed. An avalanche of negativity came down and literally swept them from our collective past.

A typical example of the dominant attitude against women teaching in the early Church is expressed by Epiphanius, the Bishop of Cyprus. Evidently, at one time in his early life he had joined a group of Christian women in Egypt. After he had left them he describes their teachings as "nonsense" and a "salacious myth". He never reveals exactly what this teaching was, but he felt justified in attacking them.

"For the women who told me about this salacious myth were outwardly very charming, but all the devils ugliness was in their vile minds. However the merciful God saved me from their depravity... I reported these people to the local bishop, and found which of them were masquerading as members of the church. And so they were driven out of the city, about eighty of them, and it was cleansed of their rank, thorny growth."(9)

This type of cleansing took place on a wide scale. The Church fathers continued to preach their gospel of intolerance, not only toward women teaching in the Christian movement, but they vehemently attacked all facets of the Feminine Perspective as well. They effectively cast a dark shadow of negativity over everything associated with women: motherhood, the physical body, sexuality, and the entire Natural World.

One of the early Church fathers, Irenaeus, the Bishop of Lyons in the 2nd Century, claimed that Eve was responsible for bringing death upon herself and all the human race.(10) Because of this belief, we find in a number of the early writings, the idea that Jesus brought immortality to human kind and therefore came to "destroy the works of womanhood". In other words, birth and physical existence in and of themselves are seen in a negative context, simply because they end in death. The exact same idea was presented in the Buddhist scriptures some 500 years earlier.

This negative interpretation of physical existence is developed further by Origenes Adamantius, at one time widely considered to be the greatest of all early Christian theologians. He has this profound revelation for us to consider:

"Everyone who enters the world is said to be affected by a kind of contamination. By the very fact that he is placed in his mother's womb . . ."(11)

Not content to leave it at that, St. Augustine later brings this concept to a strange and twisted conclusion:

"By a kind of divine justice the human race was handed over to the devil's power, since the sin of the first man passed at birth to all who were born by the intercourse of the two sexes, and the debt of the first parents bound all their posterity..."(12)

Here we find that procreation is the instrument for transmitting sin and death in this world. Later on he explains: "The continuation of the world carries on the crucifixion and agony of the historical Jesus."

With this, we have the completion of a metaphysical doctrine against humanity. Human beings are not perceived as inherently part of a divine and sacred existence. On the contrary, the very fact that we are born into physical existence, renders us evil, corrupt and condemned. Birth, sexuality and death, are all inextricably woven in the fabric of our fallen nature.

Based on this metaphysics of alienation, the male dominated Christian hierarchy, early on began preaching the Gospel against the Natural World. The world from this point of view, is divorced from any spiritual reality. The world is not our home. The body is not our friend. And God is somewhere else. **"Whoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."** James 4:4.

Psychologically, this split within the Consciousness of human beings produced a social and cultural atmosphere charged with disaffection and repression. Sexuality was no longer regarded as a sacrament, a means by which we came into the immediate and tangible contact with the Divine, but as something dangerous, and sinful. Asceticism became the dominant mind-set of the day. The body and all its natural tendencies were to be sacrificed to the Spirit, so that the Natural World might be conquered.

Obsessed with these concepts, virginity and martyrdom were seen as weapons to be used in the war against the physical dimensions of life. Celibacy was celebrated as a sign of success in this campaign of spiritual conquest. It was elevated above all virtues, and seen as a panacea for all the evil of this world. It was the one way of destroying "the works of the woman", and stopping the continuation of this corrupt world, that in the words of St. Augustine "carries on the crucifixion and agony of the historical Jesus."

In this toxic psychology of fear, repression and guilt, the Female became the universal symbol

of everything negative and depraved. A church father named Quintus Septimus Florens Tertullianus, stops dancing around the issue and goes straight for the jugular, telling women in no uncertain terms:

"Do you not know, that you are each an Eve? You are the devil's gateway; you are the unsealer of that forbidden tree; you are the first deserter of the divine law. You are she who persuaded him, whom that devil was not valiant enough to attack. You destroyed so easily God's image, man. On account of your desert - that is, death - even the Son of God had to die".(13)

As bad as this picture portrays of one half of the entire human race, there were others who could still build on it. The Patriarch of Constantinople in the 4th Century, John Chrysostom, continues the condemnation:

"What else is woman but a foe to friendship, an inescapable punishment, a necessary evil, a natural temptation, a desirable calamity, a domestic danger, delectable detriment, an evil nature, painted with fair colors?"(14)

These quotes do not represent the ranting of a small group of old men locked away in some mental institution as one might suspect. On the contrary, all these men were highly respected teachers and theologians of the Church. Canonized as saints, they were considered to be the very mouthpiece of the Heavenly Father. And their attitudes came to represent a major part of the conceptual foundation of what is commonly called Western Civilization.

In the beginning of the Christian Revolution the faithful were understandably persecuted by the established power structure of the Semitic tribes, as well as the patriarchy of Rome. This new Movement was perceived as a dangerous threat to the powers of the day, and rightly so.

But as the Movement grew, values of the male dominated cultures began to infiltrate and eventually overshadow the feminine values of love and forgiveness, nonviolence and cooperation. And men began to take over all positions of influence and power.

By 300 AD we find a male Christian hierarchy so powerful within the Roman Empire, that it could successfully lobby for official recognition, and the right to worship publicly within the city of Rome itself.

The popular myth concerning this reversal of public policy, is that in 312 AD the Roman Emperor Constantine miraculously converted to Christianity. If in fact he ever did convert to Christianity, it certainly was not a conversion to the teachings of Jesus. Later on in his life, he had his wife Fusta boiled alive and his own son strangled.(15) He also declared himself to be the new Messiah, who would spread the Faith to the far ends of the Earth.

At this turning point in history, the Christian religion became part of the very Establishment that it originally saw as the scourge of the Earth. Within less than a hundred years, the Roman Empire became ruled by the Christians themselves.

Now the tables were turned. The persecuted became the persecutors. Edicts were declared, that to believe any other way than what the official power structure had declared to be "the truth", was not only a heresy of the Church, but considered treason by the State, punishable by torture and death. Methodically all books, writings and information contrary to the Orthodox position were burned or suppressed.

As the Christian hierarchy tightened its' grip on the reigns of power, it was not simply content

to eliminate diversity within its own ranks, but eventually went after all the other religions in the Empire, especially those that had any surviving elements of the Feminine Perspective. Fire and the sword were now used to spread the Gospel of Love.

In 391 AD, under the orders of the Christian Emperor Theodosius I, the temples of the Goddess at Rome were closed down, along with the ancient temples at Eleusis in Greece, and what was considered to be the "seventh wonder of the world", the temple at Ephesus in western Anatolia. This rigorous process of spiritual purification, also included the massacre of seven thousand people in Thessalonica.

In 450 AD the famous site of the Goddess in Athens, the Parthenon of the Acropolis finally succumbed to the changing tides of history, and was converted into a Christian church.(16) The end of an era had come, and the beginning of a new one began.

Part II

The Long Road Into Night

The two currents of the patriarchy, the Indo-European and the Semitic, to a large extent now merged. The old Roman Empire crumbled, but up out of the ruins rose the Holy Roman Empire. With the cross in one hand and the sword in the other, it marched down through the centuries, and across the lands of Europe.

We are now approaching "the twilight zone" of Western history, a black hole of cultural values into which such concepts as justice, equality, human rights, and common sense disappeared. Very few history books actually explain what happened, and those writers that have attempted some insight into this period, use such terminology as "mass hysteria", or "collective psychosis", and pretty much let it go at that. The implication is, it was an aberration, an exceptionally dark time of history to which there is no rational explanation.

The analogy of the dysfunctional family is once again most appropriate. No one wants to face the hard truth about Daddy. Part of the healing process is coming out of this denial, talking about what happened and seeing it for what it is. And surprisingly, we find there are some rational explanations.

Part of this process of understanding is to put the events in their proper context. When viewed in the broader perspective of the preceding millennia, the picture becomes more clear. For the conceptual architecture in the developments of this period of history, was meticulously being developed several thousand years earlier. We have examined these psychic blueprints; the ideas and beliefs that helped form an entire culture

As we know, the physical structure of the Roman Empire did not last, but the religious and cultural Empire that replaced it continued to grow in strength and size. The patriarch of the Roman Church continued to consolidate an increasing amount of power in his office, until his word was perceived as the word of God. The Popes saw the European continent as a big chess board, with every king and tribal chieftain as a piece on the board, to be moved and manipulated as they saw fit. It was a most profitable game in terms of power and wealth, and it lasted for over a thousand years.

The large cities of Europe were all distribution centers of the Roman Church, who's cultural values were sold to the surrounding populous as the only redemptive qualities of mankind.

The outlying areas however, were populated by large numbers of people still closely connected to the land. The peasant farming communities were extremely conservative, and clung tenaciously to the old beliefs in the Goddess and the sacredness of the land. Furthermore they still celebrated the ancient feast days of the seasons, calculated by the motions of the moon.

These people also lived in a communal society, and held productive farmland in common. Women in these communities, not only helped feed the family, but they were also healers, teachers, counselors and midwives.

To the sophisticated leadership in the Christianized cities, these people were known as pagans. In Latin, the word **paganus** simply means "country dweller". It was to these people then, that the Institution of the Church gradually turned its attention.

These rural people or pagans, were eventually seen as a threat to the patriarchal structure. They had the audacity to remain steadfast in their own culture and religion. For this they were labeled heathens and heretics, and their women leaders were called witches. The Jewish population was also classified in a similar manner, along with any religious sect that dared to believe differently than the dictates of the Roman hierarchy. All these "dangerous and subversive" people, had to be dealt with. So a system of organized terrorism was brought into being. It was called the Inquisition.

In 1252 Pope Innocent IV issued a series of edicts aimed at the pagans, heathens, heretics and witches. It authorized the seizure of land and goods, imprisonment, and torture to secure an admission of guilt, from anyone that happened to fall under the suspicious eye of the Church. Upon giving a confession, they were then convicted and sentenced to death - usually to be burned at the stake.

This proved to be the most effective extortion racket ever devised, and nearly all the local governments wanted in on it. By this means, the Church and State acquired huge amounts of land from the rural population and peasants.

At about the same time, there was a rising professional class of men called "doctors of medicine". These men saw what the Church was doing as a wonderful opportunity to eliminate their competition among the country folk. Women who were practicing the art of healing, and caring for the sick without the medical establishments' stamp of approval, were simply accused of using witchcraft. Witchcraft was a heresy, a crime against God, so the Inquisition took over from there.

In 1484 two Dominican priests named Kramer and Sprenger published a book entitled the Malleus Maleficarum, meaning: "The Hammer of the Evil Doers". This became the witch hunter's handbook for over 200 years, and went through 30 editions.(17)

In this exalted and authoritative document we discover the "real" reasons for witchcraft. "All witchcraft comes from carnal lust, which in women is insatiable... wherefore for the sake of fulfilling their lust they consort even with devils."

It goes on to enlighten us further. "More carnal than a man... she is deceitful, with a slippery tongue, a liar by nature. She is naturally credulous and impressionable, therefore quicker to waver in her faith, and consequently quicker to abjure the faith, which is the root of all witchcraft."

Under this system of beliefs almost anyone could be accused of being a heretic or a witch.

And once the accusation was made, it was in fact, worse than receiving a death sentence. The person accused, very likely would never know who the accuser was. All proceedings were in secret. The person accused was not informed of the nature of the charges. Furthermore, they were not even allowed legal counsel. Evidence was accepted from anyone who would come up with a damaging report, even known criminals, perjurers, excommunicates and young children were allowed to testify against the accused. Torture was then used to secure a confession.

In the Malleus Maleficarum the process is pretty well spelled out for us.

The accused must be "often and frequently exposed to torture. If after being fittingly tortured she refuses to confess the truth, he (the inquisitor) should have other engines of torture brought before her, and tell her that she will have to endure these if she does not confess. If then she is not induced by terror to confess, the torture must be continued."

If by chance the individual remains alive and still refuses to confess, "she is not to be altogether released, but must be sent to the squalor of prison for a year, and be tortured, and be examined very often, especially on the Holy Days."⁽¹⁸⁾

What is particularly revealing is that generally during the most preliminary of the proceedings, a female who was accused of being a witch, was usually gang raped. These multiple rapes however, were never regarded as part of the actual process of torture.

The official procedure of torture took many insidious and perverted forms of mutilation. Various devices were used to crush bones, tear limbs out of their sockets, and squeeze the air out of the lungs. The inquisitors would also proceed with branding irons, red hot pokers and pliers. They gouged out eyes, pulled off fingernails, slowly roasted hands or feet or immersed them in burning sulfur. Those who died under the process were said to have committed suicide, or were "killed by the devil".⁽¹⁹⁾

Once a confession was wrung out of the accused, he or she was made to repeat the confession before a room full of officials, who accepted the confession as "given freely and spontaneously without the pressure of force or fear". Then the heretic was handed over to the secular government to be executed, most often to be burned alive at the stake. Sometimes however, the Church officials would exercise an extreme act of mercy, and recommend the individual be strangled before being set afire.

This psychopathic campaign continued for hundreds of years in Europe. Torture was sanctioned and remained a legal recourse of the Church for over 500 years, and wasn't officially abolished until 1816 by Pope Pius VII. It is difficult to determine how many deaths were the result. But rough estimates indicate that anywhere between 8 to 12 million women were murdered by the Church and State.

It was recorded by an eye witness that in one year at the city of Como, over one thousand witches were burned at the stake. In Geneva, in a three month period over 500 people were killed. At Toulouse, it was recorded that 400 women were burned in a single day. In England between 1542 and 1736 the estimate is that no less than 30,000 people were slaughtered in this process of spiritual purification.⁽²⁰⁾

This by no means even begins to exhaust what has been actually recorded. And given the obsession with secrecy on the part of the Inquisition, we can safely conclude that the record only represents a small fraction of the actual numbers.

Another factor that has to be figured into this terrible equation, is that huge numbers of farm laborers were pushed off their land. Many people simply starved to death as a result. The landless peasants were forced to move into the cities, where they lived in horrible conditions, working for wages that barely kept them alive.

If you were a merchant however, or an owner of one of the small but growing manufacturing companies of the day, this was the best of times. You had an inexhaustible supply of cheap labor. So the business community ultimately benefitted by this campaign, and promoted it as well.

The most influential theologians of the day were not exactly sitting on their hands either. They were busy spinning out their updated theories on the fallen nature of women and the world.

A theologian by the name of Gratian, who was considered the greatest authority on Catholic canon law in the 13th century, had this revelation for all to consider:

"Man, but not woman, is made in the image of God. It is plain from this that women should be subject to their husbands, and should be as slaves."(21)

Supposedly, one is free to speculate as to who's image women were created in.

Several centuries later, the most influential theologian of perhaps the entire Middle Ages, St. Thomas Aquinas, felt he could enlighten us further.

"Woman is in subjection because of the laws of nature... Woman is subject to man because of the weakness of her mind as well as her body."(22)

He went on to explain that every woman is really the result of a birth defect, that resulted from her father being ill at the time of conception, or in a state of sin.

St. Bernard, not to be out-done, felt he could build on that: "It is easier for a man to bring the dead back to life than to live with a woman without endangering his soul."(23) We can well understand why he started a monastic order!

What is important to understand here, is these attitudes were not isolated beliefs, but were all part of a huge, and growing conceptual current that had its beginnings several thousand years before, when the first Semitic tribes invaded the civilized areas of Mesopotamia and the Middle East.

When the Protestant Reformation came along, they did in fact reform many areas within the Christian movement. But unfortunately, they too were caught up in this powerful current that believed in the inherent superiority of the male; the divine right of domination, conquest and exploitation; and the use of violence and killing as a means to achieve their ends. They also participated in the campaign against the pagans, heretics, Jews, witches, slaughtering millions of innocent people.

Both Martin Luther and John Calvin continued the gospel against women. They both believed that women should be subject to their husbands in all things, as a punishment for the sin of Eve. For a woman to refuse this type of subjugation, was to refuse the judgement of God. Luther pretty well spells it out for us:

"The rule remains with the husband, and the wife is compelled to obey him by God's

command. He rules the home and the state, wages wars, defends his possessions, tills the soil, builds, plants, etc. The woman, on the other hand, is like a nail driven in the wall. She sits at home and... does not go beyond her most personal duties..."(24)

As I have indicated many times in this presentation, there is a subtle, underlying connection between the physical body, sexuality, women and the Natural World. To devaluate, or attack any one of these, will negatively involve the others.

After explaining his position on women so well, Martin Luther quite unconsciously, shows us the above principle at work:

"All natural inclinations are either without God or against Him; therefore none are good. I prove it thus: All affections, desires, and inclinations of mankind are evil, wicked, and spoiled, as the Scripture says."(25)

From this astounding conclusion we can gain a real insight into the extent of the problem that was responsible for the torture and deaths of millions of women during this period. Not only was it a direct attack against women, but an attack against our own physical nature, our sexuality and the entire Natural World.

The repression of humanity's biological nature, became externally manifest in the violent oppression of women and feminine values. The denial and repression of sexual energy, became the fuel for the engines of torture and killing.

In a certain way, the attack on women can be seen as a extension or externalization of the whole ascetic, anti-sexual program that permeated the Indo-European tribes. Asceticism was based on the idea that spiritual growth depended on the **control** and **conquest** of Nature.

Human beings set themselves against Nature, supposedly to transcend the Natural World. Once the Female became a symbol of the Natural World, she was consequently set upon as something to be controlled, conquered and even eliminated.

In the so called "lower nature" of the animal kingdom, the males of the various species, are almost always instinctively programmed to protect the females and her young. This of course is to insure the survivability of their species. It has also been found that in most species, males will refuse to attack females even under strong provocation. This is a biological directive of the Natural World.

But when we come to the human species, we find a strong cultural agenda to "rise above" all such instinctual programming. The "higher" rational qualities are believed to be far superior to the emotional and physical characteristics of our nature. We are taught to transcend our "lower animal instincts". As Gratian put it, "**Man, but not woman, is made in the image of God**".

This also translates into the concept that the Mind, but not the Body, is made in the image of God. Spirit, but not Nature, is made in the image of God.

This belief system virtually becomes a sword that splits the human psyche in half. The entire culture becomes schizophrenic. And consciousness erupts in many strange and violent ways. War and genocide is one expression of this pathological condition. The devaluation, torture and killing of women is another. The exploitation and physical destruction of the Earth is yet another. It is all part of the same psychic dysfunction.

With this realization in mind, we can better understand how the next dark chapter in our history unfolded. In 1452 Pope Nicholas V, issued an official document to King Alfonso of Portugal. This document was entitled *Romanus Pontifex*. In effect, it expanded the war against the witches and heretics to include all non-Christians throughout the world. It actively promoted the idea of conquest, colonization and exploitation of non-Christian nations and their territories. The Pope directed King Alfonso to:

"capture, vanquish, and subdue the Saracens, pagans, and the other enemies of Christ . . . to put them into perpetual slavery . . . to take all their possessions and property."(26)

With such direction and support from the Church, Portugal expanded its dominions by making "discoveries" along the Western coast of Africa, claiming the land for Portugal and using the indigenous people as slaves.

Shortly after, Columbus also made such profitable "discoveries" for Spain in the Americas. In 1493 Pope Alexander VI, issued an official document to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella entitled *Inter Cetera Divinae*.(27) This document granted to Spain the same powers of conquest and exploitation that had been given to Portugal. In this way, the Christian imperialist ambitions would eventually expand to include the New World.

The invasion into the Americas by the Christian European tribes, was a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions. Shortly after Columbus landed on the island he called Hispaniola, all the women leaders of the various clans were strangled to death, and all the ruling families eventually killed. Every person over the age of 14, was made to pay a certain amount of gold every 3 months to their new rulers. If they somehow failed to meet this obligation, they simply had one of their hands cut off. Many tried to escape this reign of terror, and were hunted down with dogs and killed. Many women aborted their babies, rather than bring them into a world ruled by such barbarians. Left with no options and no hope, there were mass suicides.

Because so many of the original inhabitants chose death rather than submit to a life of servitude, the Spanish were actually forced to import slaves from Africa.

Thirty years after the Spanish arrived on Hispaniola, the native population went from approximately one hundred fifty thousand people to no more than four thousand. Today there are no indigenous people left on the island where Columbus first set foot.(28)

Unfortunately, this was only the beginning. The conquest of the New World was the continuation of the same pathological condition that gave birth to the Inquisition, only now it had broadened its scope to include half the world. It became a systematic war waged on all native cultures.

Within a 100 years, literally millions of people either died of disease, murder, starvation, suicide or despair. No one really knows for sure how many people there were in the Americas before the invasions. There are now some educated estimates which claim that at least two thirds of the Native population died between 1519 and 1650. The question of numbers and percentages will never be fully answered. What is beyond dispute however, is that the actual number of survivors of the holocaust, reflect but a small fraction of the original inhabitants. The fact that there are any survivors at all, reflects the tremendous strength of their religious and cultural values, and the integrity of the people.

When exactly the Inquisition ended is purely academic at this point. The spirit of the Inquisition never ended. Instead of labeling the indigenous people as pagans, heathens,

heretics or witches, the power structures simply called them other names, such as Indians, savages, and animals. Anyone who resisted the conquest, who tried to hold onto their own land, culture, religion, or personal dignity was seen as an enemy.

In the United States, the native population experienced the same holocaust as others did. The white European tribes wanted the land for themselves and were simply unwilling to share. They believed they were a superior race and their God had destined them to possess and rule the Earth.

This popular delusion was clearly reflected in a statement made by President Taft, as late as the beginning of this century. "The day is not far distant when the whole hemisphere will be ours in fact. As by virtue of our superiority of race, it already is ours morally".(29)

By this statement however, Taft wasn't simply vocalizing public sentiment. For the instruments to make this racist dream a reality, had already come into being nearly a hundred years earlier. In 1823 the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Johnson v. McIntosh adopted the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and Conquest. Chief Justice John Marshall pointed out that Christian European nations had gained "ultimate dominion" over the lands of America during "the Age of Discovery".

"Discovery", he explained, "gave an exclusive right to extinguish the Indian right of occupancy, either by purchase or by conquest . . . That law which regulates, and ought to regulate in general, the relations between the conquerors and the conquered was incapable of application to . . . the tribes of Indians . . . fierce savages who's occupation was war, and whose subsistence was drawn chiefly from the forest."(30)

This blatant justification for classifying Native Americans as subhuman, unworthy of even the consideration given to a conquered people, became the legal foundation for U.S. Indian policy.

The indigenous people of the plains were particularly resistant to this racist policy. Consequently, in the 1880's the invading European tribes decided to eliminate the native people's food supply. In a twelve year period, approximately some 50 million buffalo were slaughtered. Huge mountains of carcasses were simply left to rot in the sun.

This not only eliminated the food supply, but decimated the entire culture of the plains people. They regarded the buffalo as their most sacred animal. The people depended on the buffalo not only for food, but for most everything else: shelter, clothing, tools, etc. Within a relatively short time, their entire world collapsed.

They were then relocated to the worst pieces of land the Government could find - euphemistically called reservations. These people were then supposedly out of the way, of the more serious business of white people - "settling the land".

At one time in Europe, before the violent campaigns of the Inquisition, the rural people or pagans held their land communally. The patriarchy with its values based on competitive greed, believed this practice to be at the very heart of pagan heresy, and vigorously sought to wipe it out.

As in Europe during the Middle Ages, control and ownership of land became the driving force of public policy in the United States. And as in Europe, we find the same savage campaigns to gain control of the rural population and their resources.

We can see how this process played out, in a detailed account of one of the individuals who was most instrumental in bringing it about.

In his book, [Year 501 The Conquest Continues](#), Noam Chomsky relates what the scholar Angie Debo describes in her classic study entitled, *And Still the Waters Run*.

"In the independent Indian Territory, land was held collectively and life was contented and prosperous. The Federal Indian Office opposed communal land tenure by ideological dogma, as well as for its practical effect: preventing takeover by white intruders. In 1883, a group of self-styled philanthropists and humanitarians began to meet to consider problems of the Indians. Their third meeting was addressed by Senator Henry Dawes of Massachusetts, considered a "distinguished Indian theorist", who had just concluded a visit of inspection to the Indian Territory. Like earlier observers, he described what he found in glowing terms:

"There was not a pauper in that nation, and the nation did not owe a dollar. It built its own capitol, in which we had this examination, and it built its schools and its hospitals. No family lacked a home."

Dawes then recommended that the society be dissolved, because of a fatal flaw, of which the benighted natives were unaware:

"Yet the defect of the system was apparent. They have got as far as they can go, because they own their land in common. It is Henry George's system, and under that there is no enterprise to make your home any better than that of your neighbors. There is no selfishness, which is the bottom of civilization. Till this people will consent to give up their lands, and divide them among their citizens so that each can own the land he cultivates, they will not make much more progress."⁽³¹⁾

"Dawes's proposal to bring enlightenment to the savages was approved by the Eastern humanitarians, and soon implemented. He introduced legislation that barred communal landholding and headed the Commission that oversaw the dispossession of the Indians that inevitably ensued. Their lands and property were looted, and they were scattered to the remote urban areas where they suffered appalling poverty and destitution."

Not surprisingly, the Indian Wars have not ended. Today on the reservations, the people live in the worst poverty in the Western Industrialized World. The average life expectancy is only 44.5 years. People live longer in Bangladesh. The infant mortality rate on the reservations is the highest in the Western Hemisphere. Alcoholism is a rampant and chronic problem. And there is a continual and unrelenting effort to assimilate the Native Americans into the dominant culture. Even what little reservation land remains in Indian hands, is continually under pressure from developers, mining and logging companies. The natural resources of this once worthless land, have now become corporate target areas. In some areas, there is tremendous pressure building to set up toxic dump sites on Indian land.

In 1900 there were only 250,000 full blooded native people remaining on their land. By 1990, that number is down to 30,000. This is no accident, no aberration of modern policy, but merely represents one small wave in the storm of genocide that has been raging in the world ever since the first Indo-European and Semitic tribes attacked the cities of India and Mesopotamia.

After nearly five thousand years, the same old patriarchal program of **Discovery** and Conquest is still running. Only now it is worldwide, from Africa and Indonesia to the Americas. One area that is so tragically typical of many places in the world is Guatemala.

In 1954 a U.S. backed military coup overthrew the democratically elected government in Guatemala. Some 8,000 peasants were murdered in the first two months. Particularly targeted, were Indian village leaders, union organizers and any of the clergy who were sympathetic to the poor.(32)

Death squads set up by the CIA, increased their campaigns of terror to genocidal proportion in the 1970s. Over 400 villages of the indigenous Mayan people which make up 60% of the population were burned to the ground, and over 100,000 civilians were slaughtered or "disappeared". Many of the bodies that were found showed signs of torture and mutilation. Since 1980 45,000 people in Guatemala have disappeared, 175,000 have been killed and over 200,000 have been forced into exile. And the holocaust continues in Guatemala even today.(33)

Instead of labeling these people heathens and savages, the power structure now conveniently refers to them as communists, guerrillas and terrorists, making them fair game for extermination. In exactly this way, whole tribes of native people in Central and South America are disappearing, even before we can learn of their existence. What little information we do get is second hand from other surviving tribal peoples.

The industrial driven consumer society armed with their advanced technology, moves across the lands and seas of the Earth, spreading their Gospel of **Materialism, Competition** and **Progress**. No culture, no people, man, woman or child, no mountain, river, animal or plant shall stand in its way. The whole world is now going to have **PROGRESS**, even if it means destroying the entire planet itself.

Each year in the United States over 4 billion tons of topsoil is lost, caused by gross mismanagement of the land. Every day, billions of gallons of water are being drawn up from the ground which isn't being replaced by rainfall. If this practice continues at its present rate, very soon we will turn the bread basket of the world into a dust bowl.

Worldwide, humans are attacking the remaining tropical rainforests with a vengeance. Every minute, 50 acres of trees are eliminated. The magnitude of this crime, simply escapes most people's comprehension. But, the fact remains that over one half of all the animals and plants on the Earth, live in the tropical rainforests. Each year, literally thousands of species are driven into extinction, because of this mindless rape of the Earth. And the rate of extinctions is accelerating all over the world, not just in the rainforests.

Even when considering these horrendous events, by far the most long lasting and perhaps the most devastating of all, is how human beings have impacted the Earth's atmosphere.

In the last 2 centuries we have produced a greater change in the chemical composition of our atmosphere, than all the changes that it has undergone in the previous 1 million years. How this will ultimately impact life on the planet, no one can really predict at this point. One thing however, scientists have determined with a great deal of certainty that our protective ozone layer, which shields us from the destructive ultraviolet radiation of the sun, is growing increasingly thinner in places. This allows greater amounts of UV radiation to reach the Earth's surface. Already in certain places where the ozone layer has shown the greatest degree of damage, scientists have detected a marked increase in the frequency of skin cancer in humans, and genetic damage in plants and animals.

The worst part of this scenario however, is that even if every country agreed to stop releasing ozone destroying chemicals into the atmosphere next year, the chemicals that are already in

our atmosphere will go on destroying ozone for over one hundred years.

This is just one of the most obvious problems we have created in our atmosphere. There are others, which may prove to be even more damaging in the long run. At best, we are carrying on some very dangerous experiments, the outcome of which, we haven't got a clue.

This pathological process of plundering the Earth is fueled by the ever increasing greed of the chosen few, who see themselves as Lords and Masters of Nature. We live in a world where 20% of the population of the planet consumes 80% of the Earth's resources. In the United States, the top 1% of the population owns and controls more wealth, than the bottom 90% combined. And with every passing year, the wealth is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands.

In the book of **Genesis** God said:

"Let us make man to our image and likeness; and let him have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the air, and the beasts, and the whole earth... increase and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it..." Gen. 1:26-28,62

Unfortunately, this concept has served as a Divine mandate for a large number of the human species to rape and plunder the Earth. It has also served as a conceptual model from which many other negative and perverse ideologies were spun out.

The English philosopher Francis Bacon (1561-1626), at the center of a new current of cultural influences, reflected the secular and scientific spin to the old Biblical directive. In his vision of human destiny, he saw Nature as a slave.⁽³⁴⁾

"I am come in very truth leading to you Nature with all her children, to bind her to your service and make her your slave."

The French philosopher Rene Descartes (1596-1650) seemed to echo Bacon from across the English channel. He flatly stated that the ultimate fulfillment of humanity is to become "Lords and Masters of Nature". In his totally rational Universe, just as Man was separate and superior to Nature, the Mind was separate and superior to the Body. It is not ironic however, the Christian theologians of the day were preaching that Men were separate and superior to Women.

Bacon and Descartes reflected the new scientific and commercial ideology that had been sweeping across Europe for some time. The new professional classes and entrepreneurs had been rising in power and prominence. The ethics of private ownership of land and resources became a dominant theme, along with the strictly rational and utilitarian beliefs of science. When the Industrial Revolution arrived in the middle of the 18th century, these swelling conceptual currents were suddenly

At about this same time, the ideas of Charles Darwin began to capture the imagination of many people in high places. In his new theory on Evolution, he proposed that in any species only the most fit were able to survive. Picked up by the male dominant power structures of Industrial Capitalism, this concept proved more than adequate to justify the violent exploitation of people and resources. When Darwin's theory of Evolution was applied to the "real world" of macroeconomics, personal profit became inextricably linked to biological survival. Monopolistic Capitalism now became the dominant working model for the way the world works. Increasingly it was perceived as the only way businesses could survive in a savagely hostile world.

The ethic of maximizing personal gain regardless of the consequences to others or the environment, consequently became the primary directive of economic life. Competition for the limited and dwindling resources of the Earth, is now translated into a life and death struggle to survive.

When the huge conceptual currents of Monopolistic Capitalism, Scientific Materialism and the Patriarchal Paradigm all merged in the 20th Century, we find an explosive mixture that put an end to all pretense to a civilized society. The industrial war machines of the modern nation-states began to seriously battle one another for turf and natural resources. The result has left the Earth poisoned, scarred and millions of people dead or impoverished.

After two long and bloody World Wars and hundreds of smaller conflicts, human beings still long for peace. Having been programmed to believe in violence as a legitimate method to achieve peace, people all over the world still appropriate tremendous quantities of the Earth's resources to support growing military establishments, even at the risk of undermining their own standards of living, or sacrificing a quality education for their children.

Militarism is a rampant disease that has spread to the farthest corners of the globe, and is actively being promoted by the United States.

From 1989 through 1991 the United States increased its export of weapons to the Third World more than 138%, making the U.S. the leading arms exporter in the world today. Total arms sales rose from \$12 billion in 1989, to \$22 billion in 1993, and still rising. Furthermore, it has been estimated that approximately one third of the U.S. foreign aid given out to other countries, is devoted to direct grants or loans for the purchase of U.S. military equipment.

(35)

While the number one export of the United States is weapons, we shouldn't be surprised to find this country has become the most violent on the face of the Earth. The power structure that was born out of conquest, sustained through domination and exploitation, has so effectively instilled the population with these violent attitudes, that in the mass media today, the act of killing has become a form of entertainment. And killers are portrayed as heroes.

The seeds that have been planted long ago are beginning to bear fruit, and it is bitter indeed. The gangs in our inner cities are reflections of the military gangs supported by our foreign policies. Both groups of killers fly their own colors, talk their special talk and even walk their own special walk. How can we expect the gangs on our streets to behave any different than our gangs on foreign soil? It is a fact that in the two years from 1991-1993, more people were murdered in the United States, than all the U.S. soldiers killed in the Viet Nam War.

The hard truth is, people in this country are at war. But instead of fighting the power structures of oppression and exploitation, they are killing one another in the streets. Instead of battling the attitudes of conquest, and mindless competition, they are turning on one another in fits of rage and revenge.

A society that lives by the gun is a sick and dying society. And the Patriarchy is dying all around us. For it doesn't answer our questions anymore. It doesn't fulfill our deepest needs. And our children are killing themselves out of hopelessness and despair. The hour is getting late, and it's time now to wake up from our deep cultural trance.

Part III

Our Story

In the preceding treatment of History I have tried to show how the cultural programming of the patriarchy separated human beings from the biological reality of the Natural World. Psychologically, the masculine qualities became exaggerated and dominant while the feminine characteristics of the species were repressed. As a result, there arose a violent and pathological imbalance within individuals in the culture.

In order to heal this deep fragmentation personally, we have to move into our shadow-land, into our darkness, and dis-cover that which has been hidden.

For most of us, this takes a tremendous amount of courage. For there in the darkness we have kept our secret pain, our self loathing and rage. And under the covers of denial, they attack our peace of mind and even torture our physical body. We have become victims of our own myths, beliefs and symbols, held prisoner by our conceptual structures and wounded by our ideals of perfection.

This is not a negative judgement about who we are, or even about what we have done. It is about what we have been taught, how we have been plugged into a defective program that has been running for the last 5,000 years. In his book Ulysses, James Joyce has his hero utter in prophetic wisdom: **"History is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake."**

Many people in the world, especially in the United States, refuse to look into their collective and personal darkness. They are simply afraid of what they might find. The pain is too terrible, the nightmare too horrible, and their very lives feel threatened. So they live in denial. They remain asleep, dreaming their dreams of some magical cure, utopia, or salvation.

Just as night and day are legitimately equal parts to our physical reality, the known and the unknown are complementary components of our psychological reality. Being programmed to value the known and to fear the unknown, we quite naturally attempt to hold on to one, and escape the other.

How each of us tries to carry out this exercise in futility, depends on our programming and personality. People who are caught up in trying to escape their shadow will inevitably feel frustrated and helpless, and at some point, many turn to some kind of substance or obsessive behavior for help or relief. And the faster they run, the more frustrated and helpless they become. Unfortunately for some people, their whole lives come crashing down around them before they stop running.

Individually and collectively we have to stop and ask ourselves, what is in the darkness of our Being that is so frightening, so terrible that we can't stand to look at it? The ancient Greeks had a wonderful story about what lives in our cave of darkness. They said that an ancient Goddess dwells there. Her name is Medusa. She has serpents growing out of her head, and her face is so terrible that all who looked at her were petrified with fright.

Symbolically, Medusa represents our unrecognized Divinity, and all the feminine and creative aspects that could not be conquered, controlled or dominated by the analytical mind. All those creative energies that were denied expression became as serpents growing out from her head. And when we come face to face with these unintegrated and unexpressed aspects of our creative power, we become frightened.

The belief systems and values of the patriarchy have cast a spell, and put a terrible curse upon the Goddess. Being immortal, and yet part of our humanity, she could not be killed or eliminated entirely. She was simply pushed into the shadow-land, the darkness of the subconscious mind, where she now appears to be something terrible and frightening.

Individually and collectively, we must now remove the curse, set the Goddess free and reclaim the power of the night. We have to do this not because some wise person or some holy book says so, or because somehow we think we will be more spiritual. I am sure you can see by now, the reasons go far deeper than such superficial nonsense.

We are at a point in our evolutionary journey in consciousness, where Adam can no longer continue alone. Our image of the Male Deity can no longer facilitate the deeper yearning of our hearts. The intellect without the balancing qualities of the emotions and intuition has become suicidal. Not only has Adam become suicidal, but he is on the verge of turning the entire Garden into "the Wasteland". We have come to the point that if we are to survive as a species, the Goddess not only has to be set free, but welcomed back into the bridal chamber of our soul.

How do we begin this process then? How do we move into our collective and personal darkness, break the spell and lift the curse? We begin by examining our most basic of all human relationships, our relationship with our own body. It is my realization that you can't truly begin to love yourself or anyone else for that matter, while rejecting your own physical reality.

It is very important to begin this process by fully recognizing your body as part of who you are at this level of experience. Your body is your own unique connection with this dimension of existence. It is your own particular connection with your mother and father and with all your larger human family. It is also your connecting link with all other life forms here, and with our one common mother - the Earth.

To understand and strengthen this primal relationship with your body, will automatically transform all other relationships as well. This process is not easy, and cannot be completed in a week, a month or a year. It is an on-going process of exploration of who you are, and on a deep emotional level will begin to reconnect you with aspects of yourself, that in the present moment you are scarcely aware of.

As you begin to explore this relationship, you will also begin to recognize that many of your negative beliefs and feelings associated with your body, are simply the reflections of the predominant emotions and beliefs of the culture you happened to be born into. These programs have been deeply imprinted into your body and mind, and have been running for your entire lifetime. They've not only influenced how you thought, felt and acted, but even helped to establish the very parameters of what you could or couldn't experience.

I'm not writing about some esoteric fine point here, that for the most part remains a question for academic debate. I'm relating to beliefs about our biology that have left all of us deeply wounded and our bodies damaged and scarred. And this trauma began before we emerged from the womb.

For most of us living in the last 60 years in the United States, our birth took place not in the tranquil comforts of home and family, but in a place of disease, pain and suffering - in other words, in a hospital. Our mother was not surrounded by the support and care of people who loved her. Rather, she was brought into a sterile environment of strangers, who for all their

good intentions, remained distant and professional.

Without adequate knowledge and preparation about what her body was going through, she was frightened. And as the contractions increased, she gladly took the drugs the professional people offered, not knowing these chemicals would also affect her baby.

Throughout the long span of human development, women have always moved with instinctual wisdom into a squatting position, in order to use the natural force of gravity in their deliveries. Finding herself in an environment where instinctual wisdom is devalued by scientific theory, most likely our mother was not given the freedom to move as her body dictated in the birthing process. The professional people forced her to lie flat on her back, making her labor that much harder and longer.

Through this ignorance, the baby is put under tremendous stress by the difficulties of such a prolonged labor. In many cases the doctor has to intervene with forceps. He grabs the babies' head with his steel tools and forcefully pulls the baby out of the birth channel, many times injuring the child in the process.

In harsh contrast to the environment in which the newborn has spent the last nine months, she or he is now subjected to the most insensitive hostilities imaginable. Glaring light pierces the eyes, loud noises assault the ears, cold air shocks the skin. Sometimes, as a result of such a traumatic birth, the baby needs help to breathe. So he or she is held upside down and hit on the backside. The resulting shock is not from the blow itself, but from the forceful rush of cold air into the lungs for the first time.

It is important to realize here, that the first act of the baby's body in this new environment resulted in searing pain. Many babies simply remain afraid to take another deep breath for a long time afterward, and some remain shallow breathers for the rest of their lives.

We came into this world with pain and tears, simply because of ignorance. But the ignorance does not stop here by any means.

In the first few critical minutes after birth, the lungs are striving to perform an almost miraculous feat. They're struggling to come on line immediately at 100% capacity. They generally require 4 to 5 minutes to make this critical transition. During this time the brain depends on the placenta as a backup to keep it adequately supplied with oxygen.

This double source of oxygen from the lungs and the placenta, insures the young brain will get the necessary amount of oxygen during this critical transition. For at this time, even the slightest oxygen deprivation can permanently damage the brain. Once the lungs are stabilized and functioning at full capacity, the body in its instinctual wisdom will make the necessary adjustment. The heart automatically closes a valve, stopping the flow of blood into the umbilical cord and placenta. The blood is now directed to the lungs and the transition is finally completed. (36)

Against the biological wisdom of millions of years that went into the design and evolution of this miraculous process, the medical establishment thinks it knows better. It is a widespread practice in this country to cut the umbilical cord immediately after birth. In many cases the baby is already under tremendous stress as a result of a long and difficult delivery, and in some cases under the added disadvantage of the drugs given to the mother, and to this already stressful situation is added the premature cutting of the umbilical cord. Most often, this practice sufficiently tips the balance against the baby so that breathing becomes a serious problem. Intervention is required at this point or the baby would die.

It is a tragic fact, tragic because in most cases it is preventable, that in a large percentage of all hospital deliveries even today, the baby requires resuscitation. In those first critical moments when the lungs are struggling to supply the brain with oxygen, the backup system is cut off. Consequently, the brain suffers oxygen deprivation which many times results in brain damage.

Unfortunately this is not some far out theory that can't be verified. Autopsies have revealed brain lesions resulting from just such oxygen deprivation during birth. This information hasn't exactly been kept secret either. A doctor by the name of Henry F. Windle wrote an article which was published in Scientific American, 1969. After extensive research in childbirth practices in the United States he concluded "birth asphyxia lasting long enough to make resuscitation necessary always damages the brain ..."

The failure to breathe on the part of the newborn, is not found anywhere else in Nature. And among human beings it is found nowhere else, except in the hands of the medically trained professionals in hospitals.(37)

The tragic consequences of such ignorance are only now beginning to be realized. It is seriously suspected among scientists who are studying child development and learning, that "neurological impairments at birth" are causing learning disabilities among 20 to 40 per cent of our school children.(38)

Unfortunately, this is one of the most dramatic and concrete examples of ignorance begetting ignorance. But the horror story does not end here. After such a traumatic delivery, the professionals determine that mother needs time to recover. So the baby is quickly cleaned up and carried off to another part of the hospital - the nursery. This one act, done so routinely in our institutions of modern medicine, probably is the most damaging single act of their entire birthing ideology.

Nature has genetically coded into the human brain, specific patterns to be activated immediately following birth. These patterns are generally referred to as the "bonding process".

The newborn baby has left the comforts of the womb, and the brain is now specifically programmed to quickly receive input from his or her new world. Just as the mother served to provide the unborn baby with a world as womb, the mother is now required at this particular stage of development, to provide the newborn with a world centered on herself. Her baby is seeking to establish contact and interaction with her, because without her, the center of this new world would remain missing. The innate brain patterns are looking for her face to lock onto as a means to establish the centerpiece of this new world. This in turn, activates another process in which the image of the mother becomes the perceptual foundation for all succeeding mental structures.(39)

So it is vitally important that immediately after birth, the newborn baby be allowed to be completely flooded with sensory information regarding the mother. He or she needs to have skin to skin contact with the mother, to be touched, held and caressed. This specifically activates certain centers in the brain which relieves the birth related stress. The baby also needs to hear the voice of the mother. This offers a sense of continuity between the interior world of the womb and the exterior world at large. Her voice serves as a bridge between these two worlds.

The baby not only needs to hear, see and feel the Mother, but he or she needs to smell and

even taste her as well. Consequently, breast feeding is the most important element in the whole bonding process, as it provides an opportunity for all these vital sensory processes to be activated at once. As the umbilical cord was severed, the direct link between the baby and the source of nourishment had been cut off. Now through the breast this link needs to be quickly re-established. The continuity between the womb and the external world is assured, and the baby will recognize the new environment as safe and nourishing.

Beyond this biological level of interpretation, the bonding process is primarily a communication on an intuitive-emotional level. The mother's breast is the channel through which the baby is nourished psychically as well as physically. This nourishment establishes a foundation on which future development is secured and stimulated. Specific functions of the brain are activated, which in turn begins a process of structuring knowledge about the world at large. All new experiences are then referred back to this basic structure, and integrated into an expanding yet coherent world view.

Intelligence has been defined as being based on our ability to move from the known to the unknown.⁽⁴⁰⁾ If this is indeed the case, the newborn baby is involved in the most dramatic transition from the known to the unknown that he or she will ever face. And it is through the bonding process that Nature has provided the necessary means for this transition to be completed.

It has been recognized that depending on the success or failure of the bonding process, the innate intelligence of every human being can be enhanced or injured, stimulated or starved. Through the success of this first and most important of transitions, the baby will be adequately equipped in the future to move into the unknown with self assurance and the excitement of adventure.

Having now understood something about the biological and psychological importance of the bonding process, we can begin to understand the absolute horror the newborn baby must endure, when he or she is separated from the mother immediately after birth. The process that has been encoded in his or her genes over a span of millions of years is simply dismissed or not recognized. And the consequence is a psychological trauma that may leave its wounds for a lifetime.

Just when the baby is genetically primed to focus on the mother as the centerpiece of his or her new world, the process is interrupted. The baby is removed and isolated. Consequently the centerpiece is not clearly brought into focus, the foundation of intelligence and personal power is not adequately formed, the unknown remains yet unknown, unpredictable and even a source of fear and anxiety.

The most severe anxiety that a baby can possibly experience is abandonment. And now, just after a long and traumatic birth, the baby is left in a raging storm of anxiety. The newborn tries to fight back at these intolerable circumstances; trying in vain to communicate his or her most basic needs. But the screams and crying fall on deaf ears, as this reaction is interpreted as nothing more than a sign of good health.

After many hours, frustrated and exhausted the baby sinks into a state of helplessness and apathy. The sensory and cognitive receptors in the brain that were once open for a flood of information, now begin to close down. Freud's description of the newborn infant is like a self fulfilling prophecy. His observation was that the baby "lacks consciousness, perception, sensation and all other psychological functions."⁽⁴¹⁾

In a way he is absolutely right, but only if we are observing the abandoned baby. For in this

situation the baby is in a state of psychic shock or depression, which generally takes several months to dissipate. Over time, the infant slowly begins to find ways to compensate for all the losses.

Once the stage-specific process of bonding has been missed, the baby then has to work at putting together the pieces of a fragmented world. This is a particularly laborious task, because now the pieces may be warped by anxiety and fear. Is there any wonder then, why we are witnessing an epidemic increase in infantile autism in all the technological societies of the world?

In a much larger view, the process of bonding with the mother begins the bonding with our body and the Earth. If this process is interrupted or retarded the child will have great trouble feeling completely at home in the body or on the Earth. Acceptance, security and trust will not be at the center of his or her world. Personal power will not be the foundation on which later development is built.

Consequently the unbonded child or adult is always turning back to that earlier stage of development, continually trying to establish a base of power. We find these attempts manifesting themselves externally, as behavior based on **power over others, violence, exploitation and obsessive-compulsive attachments** to material objects: food, sex, drugs, etc. The hunger at the center needs to be constantly fed. And the feeling that there is something missing never seems to go away.

We have an insight here, as to why somewhere in this country there is a rape occurring every three minutes. The unbonded male is not seeking sexual pleasure, as some people mistakenly believe. Rather, he is desperately searching for the power he lacks. Compulsively he returns to the female, seeking that missing bond with the feminine and his own personal power.

We can also understand, how this adequately serves as a metaphor for our technological society's relationship to the Earth. Based on the fear for survival, human beings attempt to gain security and power by exploiting the body of our Mother Earth. This relationship effectively demonstrates no real bond with the Earth. Consequently, in our blind search for security and power we find ourselves destroying the very basis of our own survival.

Ego has been defined as that part of the mind which is turned externally and interacts with the world at large. The ego is based on a primary sense of personal power and self-esteem. If the bonding process has been inadequate, the ego is not grounded in its source of power and remains malnourished, weak and afraid.

On the other hand, if the bonding process has been successful the ego is sufficiently grounded in the source of personal power, and it quite naturally expands to include an ever growing sense of identification with others. The very basis of Love rests on a healthy sense of self-worth and personal power.

Understanding the ego in this holistic context, we can see how damaging and misplaced the idea is that the ego should be done away with, or somehow weakened. The problem in our society is not too much ego, **the problem is the ego has been damaged, fragmented, ungrounded, separated from its base of security and power.**

Each of us, whether we are consciously aware of it or not, has been deeply wounded by some of the toxic ideas and values of our culture. It is not the fault of our parents or any individual.

This is not about blaming people. It is about recognizing the mythologies that we have been living and the cultural programs we have been ritualistically playing out. The consequences have now become so severe, the pain so deep, the nightmare so terrible, that collectively we are beginning to wake up.

Each of us has felt deep loneliness and fear in the night, but we had no idea what had happened to us. Part of the process then of waking up, is to become more consciously aware of what has happened. We are then able to reconnect with our hidden pain and work through it. In this sense pain is our blocked creative energy. It is the place where our power remains frozen. By bringing our attention back to these places, we are able to release our creative power and initiate a process of healing and transformation.

As I have stated before, part of the process of becoming more aware of what has happened to us is by recognizing the mythological scripts that have played out in our lives. The story of your birth is actually a ritual performed as part of the mythological programming of the culture.

Now if you happened to be born a male, you were almost automatically selected to play the role of the sacrificial offering or victim. In this role you were required to sacrifice a part of your body to the male god of the semitic tribes, or the god of scientific theory. Either way, the priest/professional faithfully reenacted an ancient ritual and the foreskin of your penis was systematically cut off.

Isn't it strange, that almost immediately after a male arrives in this world, his sexual organs are attacked and mutilated? And this is done most often, without any anesthetic whatsoever! From the baby's subjective experience, what is the message here?

On the deepest level of awareness, already sexuality is linked with pain. The source for his greatest physical pleasure is turned into his greatest pain. And so a wedge is effectively driven between the body-mind relationship, and the baby is left to deal with this horrific abuse the best he can.

It shouldn't come as any surprise to find that 80% of all silent crib deaths are male infants. (42) Could it be, that after all the trauma of the birth itself, this next injury simply proves to be too much, and he never recovers from the shock? As of yet, there is no concrete evidence to support this connection. However it can be seen through the eyes of common sense, that this barbaric ritual has a tremendous impact on the male psyche. There could also be a connection here with the growing incidence of sexual dysfunctions among males, and with their problems of negative social interaction and emotional withdrawal.

The concept of the "wounded child" is not some abstract catch phrase of pop psychology here. Mythology doesn't exist just in books, but always seeks expression through action or ritual. Here, there is a knife and blood, and physical mutilation to an individual too young to understand anything of what's going on. The wounded child is a living reality. And sometimes in the silence of our nights we can still hear him crying.

We have begun to peer into the collective darkness of our pain, anxiety and fear. And we have discovered some of the trauma we suffered upon our arrival here: the unnaturally prolonged and difficult delivery; the introduction of drugs into the birth process; the forceful removal from the birth channel; the premature cutting of the umbilical cord, leaving the stress filled brain without adequate oxygen; the interruption of the bonding process, leaving us isolated and feeling abandoned; and in the case of male infants, the added violence of circumcision.

Having suffered and endured all that, Nature still has provided a means for healing to occur and development to proceed. Breast feeding her baby, the mother is not only providing the necessary nutrition the baby needs, but this one act more than any other, provides the psychic nourishment the baby needs for healthy development. Having missed the stage specific opportunity of the bonding process immediately following birth, breast feeding that is continued over a long period of time, will do much to compensate for that missed opportunity. The breast milk of the mother not only provides nutrients to stimulate and strengthen the baby's immune system, but it is also now suspected that there are specific hormones in the milk that actually facilitate the bonding between the mother and child.(43)

All biological processes have their own wisdom, which we are only now beginning to consciously understand. When our cultural conditioning takes precedence over our biological programming, it is always done at some cost. It is no mistake of Nature, that the human child is dependent on the mother for a longer period of time than any other species. We now understand there is actually some purpose, some reason for this extended infancy.

At birth, the human brain is already proportionately huge compared to the rest of the body. This fact indicates the driving intention of our biology is centered around the development of this miraculous mind-brain system. We also know that the brain-mind develops through interaction, and that breast feeding happens to be the most powerful and intimate of all interaction the baby can experience. In this light, it's obvious why it is so imperative that this intimate relationship be encouraged.

If we look at the other primates, one of the species that is physiologically similar to human beings is the mountain gorilla. Their infants do not remain helpless or dependent for quite as long as human babies. Regardless of this fact however, the females nurse their young for over three years.

It's also interesting to note that among the various so called "primitive peoples", we also find mother's breast feeding their babies about the same length of time.

Our genetic programming is always attempting to provide the most optimal conditions for the development of intelligence. And breast feeding our babies is one of the most important aspects of our genetic programming for this development.

In a culture that devalues Nature and the instinctual wisdom of our bodies, the rational mind has set itself up as the sole authority. It dictates what is normal and what is abnormal, what is scientific, and what is superstition. Consequently, millions of babies have been and will be, deprived of their most basic needs.

This profound ignorance on the part of our culture, perpetuates itself by retarding the development of intelligence in our children. And through this process, the story of Genesis becomes our reality. The seemingly abstract ideas of the fall of human nature has now become a literal and concrete fact. Not because of some deities' curse or some inherent flaw in our nature, but because we have unconsciously and faithfully played out the mythologies of our culture. We believe ourselves to be separated from the Divine. We have left the beauty and harmony of the Natural World to walk the Earth as rejected and abandoned children. We no longer deeply trust our world to meet our basic needs. So we feel we have to sweat and toil and exploit, just to survive. We live in a place of fear. So we feel we have to defend ourselves, and march in conquest for the sake of security. We live in a place of pain; so we feel we have to medicate ourselves just to feel good.

The mythology of the "Fall" adequately fulfills itself, as our negative cultural conditioning mindlessly is passed down from one generation to the next. It literally has left its scars on our bodies and in our minds. We have become fractured, fragmented, fearful people, living out our lives in contraction and limitation, repression and guilt.

The true miracle is that so many of us have actually survived. For there are many who were not so fortunate, falling along the way to infantile autism, childhood schizophrenia, hyperactivity dysfunction and a wide range of learning disabilities.

The wedge that was driven between body and mind as a result of the birthing ritual, is systematically driven deeper by our antisexual morality. Once again, our culture ritualistically plays out a negative mythological program that impedes the natural development of intelligence.

As young children we are genetically programmed to interact and explore our bodies and everything in our immediate environment. Through this interaction our intelligence develops and expands. As this process proceeds, our parents or those around us, gave us messages about what was good to interact with and what wasn't. When the object of attraction was a fire or a moving truck in the street, strong negative messages were appropriate - our survival depended on such messages. What was particularly inappropriate at this point in our development however, was that many of us received equally **negative messages about certain parts of our own body**. These body parts of course had nothing to do with survival issues.

The body was giving us strong messages of pleasure, while our parents were giving us messages of negativity. Because of these conflicting signals our genitals became a source of confusion. The brain-mind system at this stage of development is simply unable to compute such ambiguity. The brain pattern imprints concerning our sexuality and physical pleasure became ones of stress and anxiety. The wedge that was driven between mind and body at our birth, is now driven even deeper. Not only are we left unbonded with our mother, we are now methodically being prevented from bonding or deeply connecting with our own body.

Physical stimulation of the pleasure centers in the body are a natural part of human development, whereby the pleasure circuits between the genitals and the brain are activated and developed. This neurological integration facilitates our capacity for pleasure. It is an essential part of our genetic programming. Being a powerful interaction between the body and mind, pleasure actually stimulates neurological growth and the development of intelligence. But once again, our cultural programs have attempted to override this natural process. Our belief systems are part of a mythology of conquest, not of cooperation. The way of Nature is seen as chaos, confusion and death. We have been taught that human beings are here to conquer, control and dominate Nature and thereby transcend Nature.

In this context then, pleasure is perceived as terribly threatening. It is seen as giving in to Nature, and ultimately leads to the loss of control. In the New Testament, we find in a letter written by Paul to the Galatians a clear statement of this polarization:

"The flesh lusts against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other". Galatians 5:17

We find the same message in his letter to the Romans:

"For the wisdom of the flesh is hostile to God." Romans 8:7.

This conflict between the body and the spirit was later expanded and refined by St. Augustin, who explained that our sexual impulses were actually the body's rebellion against the rational control of the mind. Just as Adam and Eve rebelled against the law of God, our sexuality perpetuates that act of rebellion.

Martin Luther, who protested the corruption within the Catholic Church, nonetheless, held onto this mythology of polarization as a lifeboat, flatly stating:

"All natural inclinations are either without God, or against Him, therefore none are good."

Of course these negative attitudes were not something new. They merely represented several more articulations of the long anti-sexual sermon of the patriarchy. From Buddha to Shankar, from Socrates to Luther, it's the same old theme.

As the modern day of scientific discovery began to dawn, the religious context and language of this theme began to loosen its grip, and eventually gave way to the language of science. Now the negative message is no longer clothed in the terminology of body and spirit, good and evil, but is replaced by the criteria of normal and abnormal, health and disease.

In 1812 Dr. Benjamin Rush, generally credited as the father of modern psychology, declared masturbation to be the cause of "impotence, pulmonary consumption, dimness of sight, vertigo, epilepsy, loss of memory and even death." (44)

This opinion was not some obscure theory confined to the halls of academia or scientific journals, but directly reflected the widespread belief system of the general population. For in 1916, a similar message could be found in such a popular educational tool as The Boy Scout Handbook. In a chapter written by a physician called "Health and Endurance", we read, "any habit which a boy has that caused this fluid to be discharged from the body tends to weaken his strength, to make him less able to resist disease...".

This attitude has become deeply ingrained in the public mind. Even today, it is almost an unwritten law among professional football coaches, to instruct their players not to have sex the night before the big game so as to preserve their strength.

In 1968 The Boy Scout Handbook was still advising young boys to avoid the loss of semen. No longer on purely physical grounds, instead it advised against it because it "may cause guilt and worries". This was a classic case of a double bind. Because it was as late as 1976, Pope Paul VI was still pronouncing masturbation "a grave moral disorder", which of course made it almost impossible not to associate "guilt and worries" with the act.

If sexual attitudes are repeatedly associated with fear, guilt, and punishment, then sex quite naturally becomes a source of unhappiness, dis-ease and problematic relationships. On the other hand, if our sexual attitudes embrace the cultural values which have a positive interpretation of the Natural World, then sex becomes associated with trust, affection, tenderness and sensitivity towards others. Our biological integrity is maintained, and even strengthened through our sexual expressions.

Only relatively recently have scientists begun to suspect, that self-pleasure might actually be necessary for developing the capacity for orgasm. The implications here, go much further than just physical development. There have been a number of studies done where the deliberate inhibition of the natural sexual response in animals, has been observed to result in aggressive and cruel behavior. Sexual permissiveness on the other hand, resulted in more

peaceful and nurturing relationships.

Furthermore, when the necessity for sexual pleasure is recognized and appreciated, this in turn establishes a strong connection with our own personal power, the ability to effectively act and make a difference in our world. It is through this sense of personal power that we can safely reach out to others in cooperation and a true sense of relationship. This in turn, becomes the very basis for community.

The compulsive obsession of our culture to compete, dominate and control, are all symptoms of human beings lacking personal power and the inability to engage in relationship. Sex is entered into from a sense of separation, not out of a sense of connectedness. The symptoms of such a pathological condition are alienation, repression, guilt and violence. This condition is becoming more obvious in every segment of our lives, as the culture begins to manifest some of the more advanced stages of its disease. And probably in no other area of our lives is this negative conditioning more obvious, than in the relationship between men and women.

As our patriarchal culture plays out its mythologies on the world stage, individuals have become overwhelmed, hypnotized as it were, by the constant barrage of symbols, signals and messages. Just as our culture's ideologies have influenced the manner in which we were brought into this world, and helped shape our attitudes about our body and our sexuality, they've also had a tremendous impact on the relationship between men and women.

The widespread problems we are experiencing throughout our society regarding the relationship between the sexes represent the bitter fruit of seeds planted long ago. If we examine this problem from a historical perspective, we can gain much needed insight into some of the dysfunctional programs that have been running for the last several thousand years.

Currently, there are a number of religious groups around the country preaching about a rather abstract subject they call "family values". If we explore some of the sources for their beliefs and ideas, we find a value system reflecting the patriarchy's myth of relationship, in which the intimate bond between men and women is actually devalued and attacked.

If we begin our examination of some of these ideologies in the context of Christianity, the apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians boldly declares **"It is good for a man not to touch a woman."** I Cor. 7:1. He tries to soften the blow by explaining, that if an individual is unable to live up to this elevated standard of "goodness", then it is better to go ahead and get married, rather than to live in a state of perpetual sin.

However the message is quite clear, if a person is serious about loving God, human relationships are to be somehow transcended, especially the relationship between men and women....

Like an undercurrent of polluted water, this concept has poisoned the well of human relationships down through the centuries. For hundreds of years, anyone who even suggested that people living as husband and wife might be more blessed than those who were celibate, could be excommunicated. The earliest Christian marriages were performed outside the church building, in order to keep the church free from any moral pollution associated with the marriage ritual.

All the Church fathers preached a sermon of negativity when it came to the relationship between the sexes. St Jerome said that: **"every man who loves his wife passionately is guilty of adultery."** The explanation being, that one should only love God passionately. St Ambrose

said: "marriage was a crime against God, because it changed the state of virginity that God gave every man and woman at birth. Tertullian claimed that marriage was "more dreadful than any punishment or any death."

As strange as it may seem, for over one thousand years the Christian Church did not recognize marriages in Canon Law. It wasn't until the year 1215 at the Fourth Lateran Council that marriage was granted any legal status. Furthermore there was no Christian sacrament of matrimony until the 16th century.(45)

This antagonistic attitude and reluctance to recognize the most basic of human relationships in a spiritual context, reflected the deeper animosity toward women and sexuality. And when the Church finally did compromise on the issue of marriage, it made sure that the concept of women's rights and equality, found no support in the Church.

As it gave ground on the issue of marriage, the Church compensated by making sure it gained even greater control over women, who were always seen as a threat to the male power structures. Much of this grave responsibility of control, quite naturally fell upon the husband.

During the Middle Ages, the Christian Church published some clear guidelines concerning the relationship between a husband and his wife, called the Rules of Marriage. Within these guidelines, we find explicit instruction to the Christian husband who at one time or another, might find himself with a disobedient wife:

"Scold her sharply, bully and terrify her. And if this still does not work...take up a stick and beat her soundly, for it is better to punish the body and correct the soul than to damage the soul and spare the body...Then readily beat her, not in rage but out of charity and concern for her soul, so that the beating will be to your merit."(46)

As astounding as this may seem, this document was not some isolated work by a small group of sadistic old men, but generally reflected the prevailing values of the culture at large. Not only were these attitudes widespread, but they literally spanned the centuries.

In the 18th century, both English and American law established guidelines for marital disagreements based on Sir William Blackstone's famous "**Rule of Thumb**":

"in order to enforce the solitary restraints of domestic discipline," a husband was legally free to beat his wife, but the rod was to be no thicker than his thumb.(47)

At the same time, the Anglican Church supported such brutality by officially declaring:

"Women are intrinsically inferior in excellence, imbecile by sex and nature, weak in body, inconstant in mind, and imperfect and infirm in character."(48)

With this prevailing attitude, a husband's right to discipline his wife was not even questioned. And certainly she had no legal recourse. A man's house was his castle, and the "sanctity of the home" could not be breached by the courts.

This situation existed right into the 20th century, and to a large degree still exists today in the United States. It wasn't until the legal reforms of the 1970's that domestic violence was even seriously considered. Up until then, a man who committed aggravated assault against a stranger, was charged with a felony. If however, the same assault was against his wife, he was charged with only a misdemeanor, which rarely landed the attacker in court, much less in

jail. This injustice, unfortunately still exists in most states today.

In 1991, 4 million women were reported beaten, and 1,320 were killed in domestic violence in the United States. One third to one half of all female murder victims, are killed by their spouses or lovers, as opposed to 4% of male victims killed by their female partner. More American women are injured by the men in their life, than by car accidents, mugging and rapes combined; 22-35 percent of all visits by females to emergency rooms are for injuries from domestic violence. This of course does not take into account those women, that for various reasons don't go to an emergency room, and those too humiliated to tell even their closest friends.(49)

In 1992 the AMA, backed by the Surgeon General, declared that violent men constitute a major threat to women's health in this country. Should we really be surprised at such violence, when we realize the pathology of our cultural programming. In computer science, there is a universal saying: "Garbage In. Garbage Out." In other words, if there is a flaw in the software (the programming) then the results can only be flawed. It is not a problem of the hardware, the inherent nature of human beings, but in our conditioning, ideologies, and mythologies. These serve as the blueprint or model for our reality, and the foundation upon which our culture is built and organized.

As these negative programs are being lived out in our culture, human beings find themselves alienated, fearful and in despair, many times believing that their pain is inherently part of the human condition. It should be pointed out however, that males are also victims of this negative programming as well as females. In our culture males are conditioned to feel that to become mature men, they must reject all that is feminine: the feminine qualities within themselves, as well as the feminine values of the culture. The qualities of competition, domination and conquest are elevated to overwhelming importance within the culture, and the result is an extreme psychological imbalance.

Our education system perfectly reflects this debilitating imbalance. The curriculum in our schools is almost totally locked into the development of the left brain. Rational intelligence has become almost the exclusive focus. Emotional development is only addressed in terms of "adjusting" to this already imbalanced focus. Objectivity is always in the spotlight of our attention, while subjective reality is marginalized and relegated to the dark basements of our being. Scientific objectivity has become the new religion of our Age, and our schools have become the temples in which it is preached without end.

I am not suggesting that science and technology are bad in and of themselves, or that somehow they should be eliminated. For they have greatly contributed to the development of human understanding and prosperity. What I am saying is that we have finally reached a point in our development both culturally and individually, where this imbalance between the masculine and the feminine , the intellectual and the intuitive, the mental and the emotional has become pathological to the point of being self- destructive. Our culture is on a path of self-destruction.

As dark as things may appear, we should keep in mind that death is not an end in itself, but represents a transformation. In the most broad terms, the death of the patriarchal culture actually represents the birth of true civilization.

A New Day Dawning

Individually and collectively, the people on this planet are involved in a process of transformation that is simply unprecedented in its scope. We are involved in one of the most

dramatic evolutionary transformations of consciousness the human species has ever experienced, more significant and inclusive than the Renaissance of the Middle Ages, the Scientific-Industrial Revolution and the discovery of the Americas all combine.

This journey in consciousness is not without a direction or purpose. Like a morning glory breaking through a sidewalk seeking sunlight, a New Perspective has broken through the dominant mythologies of our culture and into our collective consciousness, and the world hasn't been the same since. It's as if a door in the unconscious mind opened after being closed for thousands of years, and all at once there She was - The Goddess.

Whether we choose to interpret The Goddess in terms of a Female Deity, or as a personification for the anima - the interior feminine aspect of every human being, or as a metaphor for the characteristics of instinctual and intuitive wisdom, nonetheless the presence of the Feminine within the collective consciousness can no longer be denied or ignored.

We can also recognize this breakthrough in consciousness by following a distinctive trail of ideas and beliefs, which were once part of the culture of the Goddess, so many millennia ago. For if we look back at the events of the 1960's, something absolutely extraordinary is revealed. The gestation period for a large number of historical movements ended and collectively we experienced a tremendous birthing process. For in just a relatively short time, a whole list of events and movements broke into our collective consciousness during the 60's: The Women's Movement; The Civil Right's Movement; The Peace Movement (which did in fact stop the Vietnam War); The American Indian Movement; The Environmental Movement; The Neo-Pagan Movement; The Natural Foods Movement; The Home Birth Movement; The Sexual Revolution (when people began to take off their religious straight-jackets and more freely express their sexuality); and the birth of a subculture: rock'n'roll, long hair, psychoactive drugs, wild and colorful clothes and experiments in communal living.

One event however, more than any other of the 60's or even of the entire 20th century for that matter, which was of unprecedented significance occurred in the last few months of that decade. It was as if this one event served as a symbolic climax to a decade of transforming consciousness.

On July 20th 1969, while millions of people on Earth watched in utter amazement, two men stepped out onto the strange and mysterious landscape of the Moon. Driven by an almost genetic sense of urgency, the scientific priests of the patriarchy reached out and connected with the ancient Goddess of long past mythologies.

The attention of the mainstream culture was given to the importance of the technological achievement itself, while the deeper, subtler implications remained hidden or unrecognized. In terms of mythological significance, human beings collectively reached out and touched that mysterious, ever changing Goddess of the Night, Queen of the Stars, and brought back to Earth parts of Her body as a magic talisman. It was in fact journey in consciousness, into the shadow side, into the darkness of the unconscious mind, the realms of the Feminine, and the anima.

In the Indo-European languages the root word for both "moon" and "mind" are the same. Even to this day, we speak in terms of this connection with the word "lunacy", (as if the mind was somehow influenced by Luna - the moon). Originally however, this was perceived as being in a state of grace, whereby one was possessed by the spirit of the Goddess. (50)

In the language of the archetype, our journey to the Moon represented humanities' journey to the forgotten lands of the mind, a reconnection with the Feminine and the rebirth of the

Goddess. Being the very instrument of Grace and Ecstasy, once again She is among us, bringing new Life to the wasteland of an alienated and hurting humanity.

Through the lens of these metaphorical associations, we can now see the 1960's as a unique period in the last 5,000 years of what has been called "Western Civilization". For this period represents a sudden and dramatic shift in consciousness, a birthing of ideas, beliefs and values all part of what I call **The Feminine Perspective**.

The various Movements that were born in the 60's, can be seen metaphorically as individual children of the Goddess, each having been spawned from the consciousness of **The Feminine Perspective**. Each of these Movements however, has remained more or less isolated from the others, intently focused on addressing some particular aspect within the mainstream culture, struggling with their own agendas as if each were seeking it's own identity and sense of purpose.

These Movements have been tremendously successful in their own spheres of activity, growing and gaining strength through the last two decades. Individually however, they have achieved a stage of maturity in which a transformation is now necessary if they are to continue to mature. And as if guided by some internal clock, this next stage of transformation is right on time.

In the 1990's these Movements, these children of the Goddess are all coming together. They are beginning to consciously recognize their common bonds to the same Mother. And the **networking between these separate groups represents the formation of an entirely new culture**. It is from this inevitable union that the structural elements of a true civilization will be formed. The foundation for this planetary society, in which many diverse cultures will peacefully participate, is already being laid down.

We are living at a time on the Earth, unlike any other that has gone before. The Culture of the Goddess that had been driven underground thousands of years ago, has re-emerged to open up a whole new horizon of future possibilities. To those who fearfully hold onto the patriarchal ideas of conquest, exploitation and competition, truly it will be the end of their world. But those who are able to see beyond the old patriarchal programming and mythologies, and embrace The Feminine Values of empowerment, partnership and cooperation, for them - a whole new day is beginning to dawn.

NOTES

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Roderick W. Marling

The Author

(Referenced From: <http://www.kamakala.com/roderick.htm>)

As a philosophy student in the late 60's Roderick Marling was introduced to the spiritual traditions of India including the practice of Yoga. Soon after he bought a one way ticket to India where he planned to live the rest of his life as an ascetic monk. While at the famous Temple of the Goddess Kali in Dakshineswar, India, Roderick had a vision in which it was revealed that he should, contrary to his well laid plans, return to the United States, refuse military service (which he knew would result in going to prison), and become initiated into the spiritual path of Paramahansa Yogananda through the Self-Realization Fellowship in Los Angeles.

After much inner turmoil, Roderick eventually accepted the vision and returned to North America. He refused the military's demand for his participation in the Vietnam war. Consequently, Roderick was sentenced to 6 months in jail and 18 months of alternate service work. Immediately upon completing his sentence, he then moved to Southern California and became initiated into the Kriya Yoga of Paramahansa Yogananda and his line of gurus.

In 1976 Roderick moved to Ananda Cooperative Community in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Northern California. Ananda was founded in 1968 by Swami Kryiananda, who had lived with Yogananda for several years and at one time served as vice president of the Self-Realization Fellowship. Roderick was associated with Ananda for two years, and lived in the monastic section of the Community for about a year.

After leaving the Community in 1978 Roderick continued to follow the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda. He was eventually initiated into all four levels of Kriya Yoga, which he faithfully practiced 3 to 4 hours daily. Then in 1985 he began to have a series of dreams and visions that revealed a new direction to his spiritual journey.

"I had moved from peak to peak in the mountain range of my spiritual journey, conquering the heights, touching the sky, basking in the light. I did not realize there was another side to spirituality. The scriptures I read did not mention it. My teachers did not talk about it, because they themselves did not know. It had to do with the wisdom not of the mountain, but of the valley. It was the journey into the depths, not the heights of the human soul. It moved me not into the sky, but reconnected me back to the earth. I no longer just basked in the light, but also dissolved into the darkness. It was beyond the realm of the masculine hero's conquests. It was none other than the feminine dimension of life."

Roderick has now combined thirty six years of daily meditation with a scholarship that spans over three thousand volumes on religion, mythology, history and archeology. This blend of Western scholarship and Eastern mysticism has produced a view of Life that is absolutely unique. You will not find anything like it in the current yogic literature. In fact, much of what Roderick has to say is diametrically opposed to the traditional beliefs of both East and West. Furthermore, he directly addresses the difficult subjects of sex, drugs and religious beliefs and always comes up on the side of expanding personal freedom. In fact, if there is any one theme that runs through all his work, it is this sense of freedom.

KamaKala Publications is now proud to present the work of Roderick W. Marling. Our wish is that you spend some time exploring this material, and maybe you too can catch a glimpse of this expanding freedom.