

Our current delusion is an over-valuation of the intellect—that which has given us so much and enabled us to transform the conditions of our being by technological wonders. Our inherent psychic unbalance is projected into our environment, that “vegetable glass” in which we see our own image. Half the world starves; the rich get richer, the poor get poorer. Technology, which does so much to release many from labor and fear and pain, does nothing for others except allow them to be exploited the more efficiently. And this applies not only to humankind itself but to the other units of consciousness that share the planet, in animal and elemental forms. Some of these have been exploited shamelessly—the rape of nature with the machine. To others, the subtle elemental worlds, we do not even acknowledge existence, let alone rights.

Whatever we do to lesser forms of life we do to ourselves. As the balance is tipped more and more askew with technological contrivance, so does the day approach more quickly when our own brain children, the chemical, mechanical, electronic, subatomic monsters, will destroy us.

This dangerous imbalance is part of a wider phenomenon—the repression of the feminine principle. Fortunately, a realization of this state of affairs is beginning to dawn, with consequent movements of the mind to achieve a rebalancing.

Feminism and green politics are a part of this movement, as also a neopagan revival of religious sensibilities—of celebration of the wonders

of the earth and the cycles of nature under the provenance of the divine feminine, so long neglected.

And the Goddess, the divine feminine, is no mere product of a trendy fashion in New Age philosophy. She has been with us from the beginning of time, as we will discover in some of the paths of her expression that we intend to follow in this book.

What we shall do first is provide a manual of techniques (magical and mystical, active and contemplative) for contacting the Goddess within, which will also serve as a basis for living harmoniously within the Earth. This is the function of Part One, which is largely concerned with the dynamics of the sacred or magic circle.

Then having set up our sacred or magic circle, our mandala, our holy place of evocation within the heart and home, we will explore how the Goddess has been revealed down the ages by those who sought to evoke her. And we shall find that these ways are equally valid for us today. In the ancient world, the threefold Goddess was a very powerful force, far beyond the subjective sphere of archetypes described by modern psychology.

In Part Two we shall show the kind of reality these feminine powers represent—not only by drawing upon source material from different periods over the past two thousand years, but by active imaginative workings that will demonstrate their ongoing reality and relevance today.

THE MAGIC CIRCLE

The magic circle is a model of all that exists in creation. It therefore holds within itself both masculine and feminine principles. In one sense the center is the masculine, the central point, the seed; and the circumference is the feminine, the womb within which all that occurs can be brought to fruition and new life.

And insofar as all creation is an expression of form, and it is through form that spiritual potential may be expressed, the whole circle is very much an expression of the feminine. This is revealed by the way it responds to the cycles of nature, be they the nodal points of the day and night or the seasons of the year. The dynamics of the circle are the aspects of the Goddess.

The fourfold cycle of the seasons and of the daystar is one way in which the magic circle may be expressed. That is: spring, summer,