**Individual Film Analysis Essay**

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**THE SYMBOLIC MEANING OF MOTHERS IN PARANORMAL FILM**

The most beautiful word in the entire universe is "Mother," which has an endless number of definitions. Being a mother is the most difficult aspect of a woman's life that she will ever confront, as she must maintain a variety of responsibilities for her children, such as guardian, creator, teacher, and many others. The most appropriate definition of a mother is unconditional love and caring for their children. A character who is absolutely selfless and sacrifices all of her lifetime to make sure that her children's needs and demands are fulfilled. Undoubtedly, it can be said that mother’s love is the most precious thing a human can ever get. The article “Of Milk and Honey: Artemis Ephesia and the Symbolic Bodies of Mother Goddesses” discusses the goddess Artemis' physical appearance and characteristics. Goddess Artemis was not like other women since she had several breasts, which made her different and portrayed her as the source of maternal nourishment which specified from this statement: **“In monotheistic cultures such as Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the breast manifested sacredness and was believed to be the “spiritual nurturance of all Christian souls” (Lonescu, 2020, Yalom, 5).”**

Other mother goddesses, on the other hand, differ in their female figurine, body structure, and symbolism, such as "Greek Artemis," "Goddess Cybele," "Artemis Ephesia," and "Amazons." Artemis in Greek myth was the huntress and goddess of wild animals, chastity, and childbirth, but Artemis Ephesia was the nourisher of the entire world, as she had various breasts, symbolizing her status as a mother goddess. This line of the article explains the statue of Artemis Ephesia's physical shape and symbolisms of her becoming a goddess mother:

**“The peculiar many breasted statue of Artemis Ephesia represents a Mother Goddess, the breast symbolizing the fertility of women(Lonescu, 2020, Clayton, 87, Price, 35).”**

Cybele was the greatest god in Phrygian mythology as the mother of gods and the Anatolian goddess of motherhood, and she is described in the article as: **“One of the earliest material depictions of the ‘Great Mother’ is described by Sarolta Takács1 as a terracotta statuette of a seated (mother) goddess giving birth with each hand on the head of a leopard or panther (Lonescu, 2020, Takács, 376).”** Because of the similarity, the characteristics of the goddess Cybele were later linked to the symbolisms of Greek Artemis.

Amazons were the warrior women and were incapable of mothering as they pursued to be equals in strength like heroes and demigods. In this paragraph of the article, their significant sacrifice is described: **“The ancient Greek depicted the Amazons as a nation of warrior women and numerous stories describe how these women would chop off their right breast in order to strengthen their right arm and facilitate the drawing of the bow (Lonescu, 2020, Yalom, 22).”**

As opposed to, in the film "The Others," one can clearly see the mothering symbolism in the main character, Grace Stewart. She was very concerned and obsessive about her children, Anne and Nicholas, who were suffering from a severe kind of photosensitive sickness. It was not easy for her to raise her children alone while her husband was fighting a war and she had no idea if he was alive or dead.

Grace was a very religious woman in the film, as she always taught and insisted on her children studying the bible and learning the biblical commandments to the path of light. Also, her daughter Anne used to believe in ghosts since she could feel and see them in the house, but Grace never allowed Nicholas to trust her because Nicholas became afraid of them, and she also did not approve of her daughter's statement. She always inspires and tries to instil in her children a strong believe in Christianity as the holy of the Bible so that they are not afraid of darkness and ghosts. In this situation, these characteristics reflect her as a very concerned or caring mother.

Beside, she was very sensitive about her children’s caring as the house always used to cover up with the curtains so that the light can not comes up to the house and no electricity in the house as well. There were also some very strict rules for all members of the home, including the servants, about always locking the doors when entering or leaving the children's room. She also informed the servant family everything about her children so that they would be protected from the sun, which would kill them. These attitudes or behavior portray her as an obsessive mother.

To recapitulate, the article focused on the signs of mother goddesses in many cults, and the main character in the film represents the signs and symbolisms of mother as a decent and caring character.