

## The Beauty of Goddess

We are born from Her and, in the end, we return to Her. Yet the scant history of these past two millennia has taught us mainly of the suppression of the Feminine, and the apparent virtue inherent in distancing ourselves from nature. To find Her again, is to reclaim our connection to wholeness yet such a journey inevitably proves to be circuitous and spiraling. It is the nature of the Sacred Feminine, of Goddess, that ultimately, when one seeks most ardently to describe or understand Her, the rational faculties seem to fly right out the window. I believe this is because She beckons us to *experience and embody*, rather than just analyse, since our intellect and psyche, gifts though they are, can only take us so far. Our innermost nature, our most potent self defies identification tags and nice, neat little boxes, just as Goddess does. Yet, the truth of our Self, our world and the Sacred Feminine exists in the part *and* the whole. Indeed, it has been said, where there is paradox, therein lay Goddess...

Whether we vision Her as the Dark or Full Moon, the Fire of Summer, or the empty Air of Winter, She exists complete within these differentiations, yet while these aspects or states of being have their own identity, it is also true that polarities exist simultaneously as mirrors of each other. They are in essence twins of the same manifestation. So the closer we draw to the end of a cycle or project, the closer we are in fact to a new dawn breaking. The essence of the void is that it holds the potential for All. Similarly, in Her Nature we see an abundance of chaos, yet the broader perspective offers an insight which speaks loudly of great order and balance (in a healthy system). So too, this path of Spirit and Being pays reverence to the wildness at the root of all things, including ourselves. At the same time, it offers an enormously effective suite of tools and modes of understanding which benefit us each and every day, and which contribute to the healing of our Earth Mother and humanity as a whole.

Goddess Spirituality is about awakening to our most potent embodiment of womanhood, our connection with the Sacred Feminine (whether we are male or female), and the Earth Body/Earth Spirit in this most ancient land. We come to this country mostly from distant places, carrying with us the memory of 'religious' traditions far removed from this continent. 'Modern' Goddess Spirituality offers the potential for healing and transformation with our own ancestral roots, as well as the spirit and indigenous way of this land. In each tree and rock, in every waterfall and bird call, I hear Her voice, and I know myself as blessed and sacred.

Blessings for the coming months and may you be moved by Her beauty and grace.

#### Hymn for the Dark Moon

I am the keeper  
of the dark  
of my own death  
of my own release  
Keeper of the path  
that was hidden  
I know what has lived and died  
by my own hand  
Giver of the key  
Weaver of my very soul  
I come to thee  
Again  
I come to thee  
Crown of Stars  
And I am robed  
by your shadow hand.

In the following issues, we will discuss the faces of Goddess as Maiden, Sovereign and Elder, and the significance of these in our lives.

The Goddess Association in Australia (G.A.I.A.) is a not for profit, member- driven organization which is committed to bringing women together, united in the timeless wisdom and lore of Goddess. For more information go to [www.goddessassociation.com.au](http://www.goddessassociation.com.au)

Alicia Sherwood M.A. (Ancient History) facilitates programs and workshops for women. For more information, go to [www.moontree.net](http://www.moontree.net)