

Warriors of the Sacred:

Revolution of our Divine Mother Earth

by Natalia Perera

“There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground”

– Sufi poet Rumi

We are living during times where each day is filled with magic. There is a revolution taking place right now, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not, to work with it, or not. It is a revolution not like any other in history: it is one of the heart. Past revolutions have been easier to detect, to fight with, or against because the mind was able to clearly decipher their meanings. This one, however, is silent to the mind, spoken in code, to be understood only by the language of love, by selected souls chosen to rise and be people of the earth, Warriors of the Sacred, for our Divine Mother Earth. This is a spiritual revolution, powerful beyond measure, against the rational, dualistic male culture that has dominated our current world in the name of God.

Let's not be bewildered by the word “spiritual” loosely used by the marketing campaigns of religious institutions, the likes of modern fundamentalists, that pretend to ‘teach’ us about our souls, and offer us ‘spiritual salvation’. When in reality, the human soul together with the energies of the earth and its creatures have been stolen and exploited, leaving behind a sordid wasteland of material products, profit and power systems and death machines.

We are here speaking of feminist spirituality: a way of life common to most indigenous matriarchal ancient traditions, based on the fact that we are spiritually joined with the earth and all of life.

Goddess traditions recognise that the spirit is within a body and that we are this world, and not separate from it. No distinction is made between “the life of the spirit” and “the life of the flesh”. To the contrary, they affirm our biological body living on a conscious biological planet, and celebrate our ability to transform our world as we transform ourselves, in acts of evolution and revolution. “Being spiritual” is the same as “being human”. Accepting this embodiment has enormous consequences; it is empowering on the one hand, yet requires us, on the other, as devotees of a Nature based spirituality, to rise and be conscious and responsible citizens of the world, and tell the truth about the Sacred.

The truth is that we are all now living inside the one body of Divinity; it is impossible for us not to be. Dualistic patriarchal religions that teach a separateness between our spirit and our body, our soul and that of our Mother Earth (including all her children – four legged, feathered, scaly, cold blooded, with blood or chlorophyll, with roots or not), cut us off from ourselves, from our origins and our destiny as creative children of an infinitely creative universe. They do so by overwhelming our minds with analytical philosophies and intellectual pursuits, and condensing our ‘humanness’ into a temporary, shameful offense, one to be transcended. But to deny our bodies, our roots, is to disempower us, to reduce us to an exploitable commodity. As men and women, we are all for sale in the modern world. This is not only spiritually devastating for us and our children, but also politically, socially, environmentally and psychologically.

Priests and pundits who speak of guilt, or sin or fear, or who preach within ‘hierarchies’ or ‘differences’ based on sex, caste, cultural, class, religion, national or even geographic distinctions are telling lies. Patriarchy thrives on exacerbating differences, for to keep us separated is what prevents us from attaining the common consciousness we need to bring about our own evolution. We are set up to compete against each other for survival: as economic enemies, political enemies, racial enemies,

religious enemies – worker against worker, white against dark, man against woman, belief against belief.

All who attempt to 'explain' human suffering, injustice, hunger and poverty as "manifestations of God's will" or even as "karmic debts" are merely reiterating monstrous patriarchal rationalisations for the status quo; serving the people in power. God and Karma are always available to justify what cannot otherwise be humanely justified. These 'explanations' of other people's suffering are, in a very real way, acts of human sacrifice: we are sacrificing living beings, their problems and their pain, to our fictional gods, to keep our worldview intact, and our own lives comfortable. How far we have fallen, disconnected from our primal recognition of spirit in all living things, to believe blatantly commercialist, power-mongering religious claims to God.

The truth is the Goddess does not want millions of human beings to starve and suffer and die so that a select few can undergo a "spiritual experience". Nor does the Goddess live solely in elite separatist retreats, dancing naked in the piney woods under a white and well-fed moon. The Goddess at this moment, is starving to death in refugee camps, with a skeletal child clutched to her dry nipples. The Goddess is on welfare, raising her children in a ghetto next to a freeway interchange that fills their blood cells and neurons with lead. The Goddess is an eight-year old girl being used for the special thrills of visiting businessmen in a Brazilian brothel. There are endless stories to tell.

The truth is that we are living on a planet undergoing prolonged torture, that is, a huge, fully sensate creature being subjected to an infinite variety of murders. She is dynamited, she is stripmined, she is gassed and sprayed with chemicals. She is riddled with wells, seeking oil, her blood, determined to suck out the last black drop. Her brain, which is the sea, is dumped full of poison. The air, through which she breathes, becomes a thick toxic cloud. All the heavy metals and radioactive elements, once

distributed sparsely throughout her body, are now leached into her bones, into her fleshly soil, into her womb; stored in lethal concentrations, drunk by roots, groundwater, tongues, they will pass down death to her remaining creatures for generations. A disconnected humanity starved of energy eats not only its own Mother, but its brothers and sisters too. Meanwhile, Nature's free and relatively wholesome, holistic energies of sun, wind, thermal heat, water, moon-tidal, human and organic compost are ignored, rejected. Not that they are nonfeasible, but that manhood in the West is defined as large-scale exploitation, rather than as local cooperation.

The same is reflected on how we are taught to treat our bodies. We read books on how to eat, how to make love, how much sleep to get, and impose these practices on the body rather than listening from within. Dissociation produces dangerously disconnected actions that surround us in every way: senseless killings pervade our media, women annihilating or siliconing their curves to meet the norm of undernourished models lifelessly plastered on billboards and magazines, men pounding their flesh into submission to build a sense of power, countless people falling into addictions, numbing their aliveness with processed dead food, drugs or compulsive activities and consumption, children who are beaten, molested and marshaled into obedience, driven away from their own young bodies before they even learn to understand them.

Others include our medical systems which treat the body as mechanical, separate parts while numbing us to our real source of pain: the divorce from the spirit that dwells within. Standard training for psychotherapists completely ignores the role of the body in mental health. Conspicuous in their absence are requirements in anatomy, breathwork, nutrition, allergies, movement, neuromuscular alignment, bioenergetic character structures or even simple massage. Touch is considered far too taboo. In this light, we see that our health care crisis extends far beyond the issue of insurance coverage – it is a crisis of connection with the biological reality of our existence.

Our education systems are based on the lies we are fed through mass media, under the pretence of feeding our children's minds while slowly killing their souls, teaching competitiveness and survival at one another's expense. Even universities educate our minds at the cost of our bodies, where we sit completely still for years on end, training ourselves for sit down jobs that continue to ignore the body's needs, in automated routines and in environments that totally annihilate our senses.

Perhaps even the increasing problem of homelessness is a metaphor for our own cultural homelessness, for the body is indeed the home for the spirit. Degradation of our physical reality is a cultural epidemic for which there is no book to read, no simple cure, no pill to take, no miraculous healing. Nor can we necessarily ease the pain that comes when the numbness wears off and we awaken to the constriction and abuse we have previously allowed.

The truth is that the Goddess IS the world. A world desecralised by the abhorring mental construct of patriarchy's institutional and doctrinal denial of our oneness over the last 4000 years. But set against hundreds of thousands of years of human time of knowing our true Nature, the past 4000 years is really a brief forgetting. Time has come now to remember the chemical connections between our cells and the stars, between the beginning and the now, and to re-activate the primal consciousness of oneness between all living things. To re-establish the magic link between our individual psyche and the earth's vital energy flow, between all evolving matter and all evolving spirit and deepen our sense of reverence and faith in Our Nature.

As we evolve into a new state of consciousness then, as Warriors of the Sacred, we must revolt against the established systems of our current patriarchal society. To deserve respect, our spiritual revolution needs to be politically, environmentally, economically and socially responsible. We need to align our intent for the creation of a new earth with the desire of our heart to express its unique essence, its joy,

and align that with the actions we choose to adopt in our present lives. Our feet solid yet gentle upon the earth, this requires tremendous attention, discipline and focus of our mind, heart and body. Our Divine Mother has given us all that we need to be whole: from natural medicines to nutritious foods, to sustainable resources, to inherent gifts that we can bring into play: intuition, prevision, clairvoyance, telepathy, synchronicity, ecstasy, imagination, all of which can re-ignite the magic within us to evolve into a new reality. We need to re-claim what was destroyed when war was declared on the reproductive bodies of women, on the fertile body of Mother Earth, on the body of knowledge and techniques taught by women over generations.

We need a new, global spirituality – an organic spirituality that belongs innately to all of us, as the children of earth. We need a spirituality that acknowledges our earthly roots as evolutionary and sexual beings, just as we need an ontology that acknowledges earth as a conscious and spiritual being our Mother and our home. We need this organic, global spirituality because we are ready to evolve as a globally conscious species. So I invite you to take this radical step in a loving return to the Goddess and her only commandment: “Love life, for it is what it is” and make sacred again our experience of life, dance to Her music, in celebration of what it means to be human.

As humans or Warriors of the Sacred, we can adopt some practices in our daily lives to begin to change ourselves, and our world:

- Yoga is one of many holistic ways of connecting us to our bodies and reclaiming our health, consciousness and power
- Communal meditation for individual knowledge, honouring each person’s direct experience
- Ecstatic dancing without apology

- Doing the necessary inner work with a therapist in order to live happy, open, mutually respectful and fulfilling intimate, sexual relationships and be conscious creative beings
- Reconnecting with Nature's cycles and rhythms, of seasons, moons and stars, will inspire a reverence in us for her wisdom
- Seeking natural therapies for maintaining a level of health and vibrancy that prevents illness and the need for the modern medical system
- Investing in alternative education systems for our children which nourish their creativity, emotional intelligence and soul connection to Nature
- Eating a mostly wholesome, vegetarian diet is itself an evolutionary act for our own health but also a revolutionary political act for the health of our planet
- Adopting a "green" and "peaceful" approach to politics, our home and life, using natural resources, recycling and composting as much as possible
- Simplifying our lifestyle so we can minimise consumerism and our reliance on financial institutions
- Choosing work for the benefit of both our families and humanity, one that is inspiring and creative and not just for personal profit at the expense of others
- Learning to communicate with the spirit of trees, plants, animals, insects, birds, fish, reptiles, and rocks as well as the spirit of the elements of earth, air, water and fire, hence experiencing directly the web of life

- Healing our sense of isolation – community living, local, mutual cooperation and open communication, considering the welfare of all in our decisions
- Promoting global consciousness, finding universal solutions to the world's problems

These encapsulate what it means to be a Warrior for our Divine Mother, not a small nor easy task, but nevertheless, a calling so enriching that it can no longer be ignored if we have been asked to rise to this revolution. Let's live a life of deep meaning and significant contribution and come together on full moon nights to find strength and conviction on this path of evolution and revolution, in celebration of Her.

I leave you with yet another quote from Rumi:

“Come, come whoever you are,

An unbeliever, a fire-worshipper, come.

Our convent is not of desperation.

Even if you have broken your vows a hundred times,

Come, come again”.

Blessed be, blessed be, blessed be Our Divine Mother Earth.

Writer's Note: this article includes extracts taken directly from authors Monica Sjöö and Barbara Mor with the intention of inspiring readers to read their profound, life-changing book *The Great Cosmic Mother: Rediscovering the Religion of the Earth* (Harper & Row, 1987). Some reference has also been made to Anodea Judith's great work *Eastern Body, Western Mind* (Celestial Arts, 1996)