GODDESSES AND GODDESS WORSHIP:
A Selected Reading List

This bibliography cites recent books on goddesses and goddess worship. Entries are organized in five categories: Bibliography, Reference, Goddesses in History and Myth, Goddesses in Jungian Psychology, and Goddesses in Contemporary Spirituality. Each entry is briefly annotated. For references to journal articles and pamphlets, consult Anne Carson's Feminist Spirituality and the Feminine Divine, cited below.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


"This bibliography is intended to serve two groups: researchers who are investigating the concept of the Goddess and the effect that male-centered religion has on women's lives and psyches, and members of the women's community who wish to become aware of the wealth of material available on the Goddess in Her many guises, how women are interacting with Her, feminist theology in particular, and the feminist worldview in general." (Intro.) An alphabetically-arranged, annotated bibliography of current and historical writings. Subject index.

REFERENCE


Identifies over 1,000 female deities in alphabetical order. Some of the entries are quite short; others retell myths and legends.


Recounts the legends of 115 female deities and mythic heroines from various cultures of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas.

Many of the 1,350 entries are names -- of gods and goddesses, creatures of folklore and myth, saints and martyrs -- but events, places, symbols, and customs are also covered in treatments ranging from single sentences to several pages. A strong feminist perspective flavors the commentary.

GODESSES IN HISTORY AND MYTH


A study of the early Middle Ages, employing archaeology and folklore.


A scholarly study of early polytheistic religions, in which gods and goddesses shared many of the same attributes and exercised equivalent power, and to which the active sexuality of the goddesses (and their priestesses) was central.


Seventeen essays, including historical and cross-cultural studies, on the manifestations of goddess worship in Greek, Egyptian, Roman, Hebrew, Christian, Hindu, Chinese, Japanese, African, and Native American sources.


Treats goddesses and divine female figures in the Jewish tradition and in the Old Testament.


A sourcebook of woman-centered religious texts, including ancient writings on goddesses.


Non-sexist revisions of ancient Greek myths, suitable for children.

An examination of ancient goddess worship and its transformation into more modern patriarchal religions.


Covers women's roles in classical, Native American, and Judeo-Christian mythology. Lavishly illustrated. Treats such themes as goddesses; guide figures; the moon, menstruation, and menopause; heroines; and origins and matriarchy.

GODDESSES IN JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGY


Uses ancient Greek goddesses to label a typology of female personalities and to encourage readers to identify and develop their own inner goddesses.


Reveals the feminine psyche through Jungian analysis of Greek goddesses and self-examination of the author's own life.


Looks at women's psychology in terms of mythological figures, from a Jungian perspective.


A classic Jungian exploration of female psychology, concentrating on the moon, Isis, Ishtar, and the Virgin.

GODDESSES IN CONTEMPORARY SPIRITUALITY


Based on interviews with contemporary Neo-pagans and witches.


A classic anthology of articles from the sixties and seventies, including scholarly theological studies, well-reasoned and passionate opinion pieces, and alternative rituals. Some contributions cover goddess worship.

Claims that patriarchal theology is being replaced by multiple approaches to religious image-making: visions of God as woman, androgyne, or non-oppressive male; feminist witchcraft and goddess worship; mysticism grounded in experience; and dream analysis.


A warmly encouraging book, presenting a synthesis of feminism and spirituality that the author terms "womanspirit." Suggests techniques for meditation, dreamwork, mythmaking, healing, and creating rituals.


A guide to developing spiritual awareness, with special attention to psychic communication, reincarnation, witchcraft, and psychic skills for children.


Delineates the woman-centered principle of "immanence" or "power-from-within" as symbolized in the goddess and manifested in rituals, organizational structures, and magic.


A manual for feminist witches, with lucid explanations of the role of the Goddess and pagan God as liberating symbols.

Compiled by Susan E. Searing, UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 2/87.