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Bio

Mary Fullwood, PhD, MFA, CMT, is a writer, artist, educator and somatic arts therapist. She received her PhD in Psychology (2003), and Expressive Arts Therapy Certification (1998) from Meridian University (formerly the Institute of Imaginal Studies), and, her MFA from Pratt Institute (1990). As a Certified Massage Therapist she focuses on creative embodiment where psyche and body are one. Her forthcoming book, *Sagrada Tales and Other Adventures* can be previewed online with Chapter 1, “Cactus Magic”, published in Volume Two of *Mythopoetry Scholar*. Her trickster-shamanic artworks are a creative dialogue with Sagrada, a beach that teaches dismemberment and renewal. Her website is www.eco-shifteartharts.com.

The Renewal of the Divine Feminine: Re-Imagining the Magical

Summary

Samhain, 2013, Venus-Inanna will lift the veil and enter the 7th Chakra evening star portal of renewal. Repression shape-shifted Her origination, the Paleolithic cave, the “grotto”, into the grotto-esque, first celebrated during Carnival celebrations, later to be demonized as grotesque: gross, unruly, base and threatening. The grotesque actually, “startles and awakens us to our very nature, stressing elements common to the entire cosmos: earth, water, fire, air; it is directly related to the sun, to the stars. It contains the signs of the zodiac.... It can fill the entire universe.” Here, we will re-imagine Divine Feminine’s magical, embodied connection between Land and Sky.

In-Depth Presentation Description

At the end of the First Annual Shamanic Astrology Gathering, November 6th, 2013, Venus-Inanna-Aphrodite will enter the final stage of her journey through the Underworld’s passage of descent and renewal. As Female Trickster, she will move toward Galactic Center and join the crescent Moon as she enters the 7th Chakra evening star portal of renewal. This will be a time that gives us pause to reflect upon the Divine Feminine and the power of her return. The repression of the Divine Feminine shape-shifted the Paleolithic cave and worship of the Divine Feminine, the “grotto”, into the grotto-esque, at first celebrated during Carnival celebrations during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, later to be demonized as grotesque: gross, unruly, base and threatening. The grotesque, in actuality, as noted by the father of Western culture’s carnival studies, Mikhail Bakhtin, “startles and awakens us to our very nature, stressing elements common to the entire cosmos: earth, water, fire, air; it is directly related to the sun, to the stars. It contains the signs of the zodiac. It reflects the cosmic hierarchy. It merges with various

natural phenomena: with mountains, rivers, seas, islands, and continents. It can fill the entire universe.” Trickster is the guide that leads us back to the Divine Feminine and within this presentation we will take the opportunity to re-imagine the magical, embodied connection between Land and Sky.

Freud noted, “The process of repression is not to be regarded as an event which takes place once, the results of which are permanent. Repression demands a persistent expenditure of force, and if this were to cease the success of the repression would be jeopardized, so that a fresh act of repression would be necessary.” As climate change, the Sky, is pressing us to look at the disease of Venus-Inanna-Aphrodite’s absence (repression), we re-member that our recourse on Land is to welcome Her enchanted, seductive return: mysteries oceanic, lunar, and planetary, the two poles of Her myth. Being oceanic, She brings back the archaic consciousness of the body, the flood of corporeal energy; being celestial, She opens for us the portals of the heavens.

Unrepressed, Venus-Inanna-Aphrodite is identified with the unpredictable, chaotic and destructive powers of nature as well as with the nurturing and life-bringing powers. Through beauty and mythic form, we awaken deep mental structures that share their capacity with the cosmos that produced them. As demonstrated by Venus-Inanna-Aphrodite and her need for renewal in the Underworld, the eternal beauty of love is linked to acceptance of change and death. And it is to this that we will pause, re-member, inviting and welcoming the return.

This presentation will be lecture-discussion oriented with images of enchantment that reflect upon the history of the Divine Female Trickster for our recourse for healing is found within Her return.