



The Feminine Face of God: The Unfolding of the Sacred in Women

Sherry Ruth Anderson , Patricia Hopkins

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For many contemporary women, the old patriarchal models of religion are no longer relevant, forming a need to look beyond the male-oriented past to a wider, more fulfilling spiritual horizon. In this fascinating and thought-provoking book, Sherry Anderson and Patricia Hopkins show how many women have redefined spiritual beliefs and rediscovered their unique spiritual heritage - The Feminine Face of God.

Anderson and Hopkins guide you through the sacred garden of:

- * Childhood - seedbed of life's sacred passage
- * Leaving home - finding your own inner authority
- * Relationships - new perspectives on intimacy
- * Spiritual practice - the importance of guidance and discipline
- * Sexuality - a wild card constantly cracking open the heart
- * and much more.

The Feminine Face of God: The Unfolding of the Sacred in Women Details

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Emily O'Connor says

Literally the best book ever

I loved the primacy of the research stories as well as the authors stories and find so much hope in this book.

Elizabeth says

This is an invaluable if dated resource for navigating complex spiritual landscapes from a place of vulnerability and intuition. It can be bio-essentialist (exclusive of trans people) and approaches femme spirituality from the perspectives of "women" and not "femmes", womyn, feminine of center people and/or a myriad of other identities that need to be included but aren't necessarily within the title "women". But as a source of wisdom, strength, affirmation, encouragement, challenging and guidance, the authors have created an excellent resource, particularly the imagery of tending an inner garden that's woven throughout the text, and the stories they collected of these womens' lives, that resonates as much now as I'm sure it did then.

Juliana says

Interesting, but it almost feels as if too much was trying to be said in one book. I suppose the book I really wanted here was one that explored the experiences of a few women in more depth, rather than tidbits from everyone. Still, an intriguing read, with some good commentary on the importance of women recognizing and acknowledging their own spiritual needs and taking time for themselves to develop their own spiritual practices if they are so inclined, rather than pouring all of their time and energy into other people, and rather than ignoring their own spiritual instincts and inclinations to adhere to (largely patriarchal) tradition.

Carla says

Cisnormative, heteronormative, euro-centric. Includes the voices of people of color but seems to try to squeeze non-major religious traditions (like Native American traditions) into the authors' personal theories of a universal feminine spiritual experience. Sort of appropriative, but really more speaking over and attempting to speak for all women in all cultures and religious traditions.

Rae says

This was a very enlightening book for me in college. Near the end of the book, the authors talk about women who have remained in their marriages versus those who have left to be alone or a few with women. My boyfriend now husband had broken up with me, and I remember thinking about this. An all female commune

was starting to sound good...Also, this book is not a hard core male bashing read, which was a relief from the other feminist literature I was reading at the time.

Em says

Super interesting theory/idea, but a little vague in application.

Fernanda Navarro says

Beautiful book, full of inspiring stories. Perfect for finding your own spiritual path, your own inner garden.

Isis Isis says

About the worst introduction to sacred feminine concepts. Written with a strong judaistic influence. There is almost a worshipful wishful devotion to the dominant male perspective throughout this book. As if the author was desperately seeking approval from ancient male bible characters. One of the most disappointing reads in feminine spiritual literature to date.

Viki Sonntag says

I've just reread this after some 20- 25 (?) years. Wow. Very impressive in its humanity and scholarship. Considering it was published in 1991, there is good representation of women of color and lesbians "in their own words". Profoundly, I believe the book values deep questions, not for seeking definitive answers but to explore the essence of women's sacred unfolding in everyday life. Speaking finally to how we, as individuals, as women and women-identified folks, find ourselves in community and within each other, I felt was powerfully inclusive, even to revealing the space for our collective mind to consider the more complex issues of our times. Quoting one community, "in our diversity is our strength".

Potassium says

An interesting idea. Two women interviewed "spiritual women" from all over and told their stories.

My main issues with this book are that it seemed a bit dated (it was written in the early 90s) and that the authors definitely had a bit of a chip on their shoulders. I would have chosen completely different people to interview and tried to tell a more complete story.

Also, the millennial in me cringed hardcore at some of their conclusions. And at the whole garden metaphor. And at the idea that what makes you a woman is the "sacredness" of bearing a child. And also at the privilege that these women had to be able to afford to not work, take tons of time in mountain retreats, and write this book. Maybe that last one is just jealousy.

Still - there were some nice things about the book. I loved the idea that women taking time for themselves is healthy and necessary, not selfish. I think our culture still believes that women are supposed to be doing all the things perfectly at all times.

And I also liked the concept of "how do you share your life with someone without losing who you are?" I would have expanded that question beyond heteronormative relationships, but it's still a good question to ask.

One other comment. I read the Kindle edition and it was full of typos again. WTF AMAZON?

Rae says

I read this back in my early college days when I was much more interested in feminist issues. I found it useful to examine the spiritual side of women and this gave me a lot to think about. Nothing earth-shattering though.

Susan says

Like most books of this type... it stimulates helpful thinking. By no means is it a transformative or revolutionary approach to the divine in femme energy. There is so much more. So much scared femme history lost to religious, societal and even spiritual patriarchy. It is worthwhile to read for some of the ideas...half complete as they may be.

Celía Burke says

I picked up this book over a year ago in a used bookstore and I'm so glad I did. Though this book is older, the concepts it presents are timeless. Seeking divinity in what is feminine is ancient, and I am not alone in wanting to explore my spirituality with this point of view. What I love about this book is that it emphasizes that everyone's spiritual journey is different, and though it offers stories of different women's experiences, there's always a reminder of taking your own path, or "tending to your garden." In a world where people are so quick to take sides and believe that everything is black and white, I live in the gray. These women do too, even those who follow a specific religious path. I truly appreciate that and find it refreshing. Because of this, it holds up even after almost 3 decades.

Constance Chevalier says

I was looking for more.

J.M. says

Read this in college. It was a real eye-opener to me, who was raised Catholic and unfamiliar with the feminine in religion, particularly feminine aspects of the Deity which retain sexuality (as opposed to being sexless or celibate). Very interesting read. I'd recommend it for any woman looking to find a sacredness she can better identify with in conventional religions.
