

Small Group Ministry Session Twenty-Eight: Images of the Goddess

OPENING WORDS

“There was a time when we were not [part of a male hierarchy], remember that. We walked along, full of laughter, we bathed bare bellied. We say you have lost all recollection of it, remember...you say there are no words to describe it, you say it does not exist. But remember. Make an effort to remember. Or, failing that, invent.”

Adapted from Monique Witting, *Les Guerilleres*

CHECK IN

Current state of physical or spiritual health

Joys or concerns about loved ones

Concerns/excitement about what is happening in our lives

REVIEW COVENANT

REVIEW PROGRESS OF THE CIRCLE

DISCUSSION

The Unitarian Universalist curricula *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* (1986) and *Rise Up and Call Her Name* (1994) have had a profound impact on Unitarian Universalism. Chants and readings of the Goddess and earth-based traditions are part of worship; the language is more inclusive, and there are special services honoring these traditions (Solstice and Equinox celebrations, for example).

Isis, Astarte, Diana, Hecate, Kali, Innana are all words for the female divine from ancient cultures. Spider Woman, Kuan Yin, Mary and the Earth as Mother are modern variations.

1. What is your relationship with female images of the divine?
2. Have these images influenced you or your spiritual practices?
3. Has your spiritual history affected your relationship to the female divine?

CHECK OUT

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish had been different?

CLOSING WORDS The Charge of the Goddess

“I who am the beauty of the green earth and the white moon among the stars and the mysteries of the waters, I call upon your soul to arise and come unto me. For I am the soul of nature that gives life to the universe. From me all things proceed and unto me they must return...And you seek to know Me, know that your seeking and yearning will avail you not, unless you know the mystery; for if that which you seek, you find not within yourself, you will never find it without. For behold, I have been with you from the beginning, and I am that which is attained at the end of desire.”

Starhawk, *The Spiral Dance*