

The Triple Goddess by Hu the Horrible September/October 2001

The sacred three continues its magnanimous symbolism in the form of the triple goddess. This grand three-in-one being is the Great Mother, it is she who in the myth of Isis-Osiris-Horus, not only nurtures, but through her ability to revive – to reanimate Osiris is the very reason Horus exists at all; the thread of liberation or enlightenment occurring here through the Great Mother/Triple Goddess.

Her triple aspects being varying degrees of age, of innocence, of warm mothering and cold savage wrath, as a fount of wisdom unbound and both bestowing life and being a goddess of death, on greater and lesser levels; essentially, in this instance She is the unity of the Norns/Fates(1), the spinner of "...the thread of life...twisting it now strong, now weak...and remorselessly shearing it short."(2) In the guise of the Morrighan, her three aspects being Ana, Macha, and Badb(3), she is "...abundance and blight, laughter and loud screams..."(4), she can be the mother nurturing and loving but is also "...met at river fords, crouched and smeared with gore, washing the weapons and armour of those about to die in battle."(5) And further, in Odins journeying to Helheim – the abode of the dark goddess Hela(6), to unravel the meaning of his son, Baldur's, foreboding dreams, the Norse reveal the depths of the goddess' wisdom; so great it is where even Odin – Chief among Gods, finds solace when he's troubled.(7)

This great wisdom of Hers however isn't just there for the picking, her being is veiled – or perhaps the veils are her being... For example, the Calteach, who is known as 'The Old Veiled One', it is a trial of grand proportions to pierce the veil she throws about herself – in one instance the Calteach must be slain before she reveals her secrets to her triumphant opponent(8). Isis herself is another 'veiled' one; of whom Hedsel mentions has seven veils(9), though no more does he reveal, or should he do so, than that the first of the seven veils is black(10). The unveiling of Isis is to peer upon the raw, unbridled reality of nature – or nature of reality; She is the truth in existence that for us to know/to view, we must refine our perceptions and liberate our being from the domination of the perceived superiority of our intellect. In explaining true understanding as a combined function of the sensual, emotional and intellectual centres of the human machine together(11), Gurdjieff points towards the limited use of the intellect alone, however, Hedsel goes much further in saying the very seat of the intellect; "...the grey matter of the brain is actually the veil of the spiritual substance..."(12) to be pierced – herein lies the fountainhead of human suffering; the unrestricted process of thought. All anguish, depression, pain that weighs us down and fear that makes us weak at the knees originates in the mind; it is the dwelling of the mind on the remote or recent past, bringing to our attention that which is unalterably said and done, or plans away in the future, bringing into focus what we may or may not wish to have transpire in some far off time not yet upon us. These dual tendencies, the mental creation of all problems and the mind dazily daydreaming of any time other than NOW are the drive of the teachings yearning for us to 'live the moment' – the eternal present, such as "Never whistle while you're pissing", that are taught by any and all initiatory schools(worth their salt) the world over, even fictional ones(14).

With the recent astrological age of Pisces being largely of a dominant patriarchal nature for Western Civilization, lamentations may sound loudly for the hand fate has dealt the Goddess, she has actually survived through it all – and not only in the church sanctioned, sterilized form of the virgin mother Mary. The widely revered Black Madonna "of whose image there were nearly 200 in France by the 16th century...and some 400[having] now been discovered worldwide..."(15) together with the 100+ Sheela-na-gig carved mainly over the portals of churches and other ecclesiastical buildings on the island either side of the Irish Sea, even the much more 'underground' stream of Babalon, ARE the Piscean personifications of the Great Mother Goddess in her more pure, original manifestation. This is the goddess portrayed more along the lines of the Morrighan than the Virgin Mary; she is the full spectrum of the lunar light – the "...Black Madonna[having] her tradition in Queen Isis and her roots in the pre-patriarchal Lilith[Nephthys]..."(16) is both the full, light moon of Isis and the new, dark moon of Isis' sister Nephthys(17).

The Sheela-na-gig sculptures, whom are largely believed to be symbols of fertility – and no doubt some may well be on one level, however, with their focus on "...the sexual organs[that] are often shown in startling detail[including] parts of the genital anatomy not directly involved in reproduction at all such as the clitoris and the structure of the labia..."(18) point somewhat more directly to "...the ancient sexual magic which was so widely practiced in the pagan world, and which is still practiced in the Orient among the Tantrics"(19). The very common English name, now considered derogatory or even worse, offensive, for the yoni/vulval area the Sheela-na-gig display openly – the cunt "...sometimes

spelt with a 'k' ...is said to relate to the ancient Indian word Kundalini, meaning the mysterious 'serpent energy' of Tantrism"(20).

Another hidden personification of the Great Mother surviving into the Piscean age is the Lady Babalon(21), who a number of modern practitioners(Jack Parsons, L.Ron Hubbard, Marjorie Cameron, Aleister Crowley)(22) for intents and purposes celebrate as "...the eternal feminine power of the cosmos"(23). Babalon, which according to Moon means 'understanding'(24), has much in common with the aforementioned figures; like the Calleach and Isis she is veiled – Crowley even numbers the veils as 7(25), and known as the 'Scarlet Woman' or 'Whore of Babalon' she calls to our attention the tantric sexual energies necessary for enlightenment just as the Sheela-na-gig does. Babalon's scarlet connotation however more pointedly denotes "...the blood of the lunar menstrum..."(26), that which signifies the very capability to bear new life, this being the root of the moon's motherly, or at least feminine, influence and identity. Menstruation, when not interfered with as it is in the West by artificial lighting and other electro and magnetic radiation is governed by the Moon – the new, dark moon "...is a time when women traditionally bleed[and the] full moon...traditionally this is a time when women ovulate"(27). This puts the lunar calendrical system into a different perspective; essentially the 13 month lunar calendar is a menstrual calendar(28). This also throws light on the thread of life woven by the three Fates that is said to be "...sometimes golden, more often blood-red..."(29). Further, with "...conception[taking] place on the 14th day after a woman's moon-time..."(30) it adds another, base, element to the Osirian/Setian/Isian/Horian cycle; after Set cuts Osiris into pieces, Isis finds 13 of the pieces and then only with the magically generated 14th piece – the magic phallus – of her husband Osiris can she conceive Horus.

Most fittingly, the triangle is a symbol tied to the goddess as the Great Mother; the triangle positioned with a single point down is a very graphic representation of her pubic region and, of course, the sexual and function of birth of the yoni/vulval area – more poetically referred to as the Delta of Venus. An example of this connection is while carrying Thor his mother Jord wore on her stomach a swastika within a triangle; the symbol of Thor as his whirling hammer Mjollnir within a symbol of the goddess as mother. Of further interest, the triple-goddess finds a similar symbolism in the Shamrock/3 leafed clover; the 3 leaves being a triple vulval symbol(31).

Notes

1. Barbara Walker "Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets" 1983; for eg see pages 302, 378, 382 & 675
2. H.A. Guerber "Greece and Rome; Myths and Legends" 1986; p 141
3. The three aspects could also be Badhbh, Nemhain and Macha or Banbha, Fodla and Eriu, the 'confusion' seems to stem from the uniting of the Morrighan with two other triple goddess', Bridget and Dana to form a 'Nine-fold' Goddess.
4. Barbara Mor "The Morrigan" in Women of Power mag. #15 p 60
5. Ibid
6. Hela herself is of the familiar maiden/mother/crone trinity, in a personal communication from A.A Incendium in early 2001 he names them as Brynhilde, Hela Modir and Hela Hagazussa. Also interesting is in Incendium's "Rokkrbok" 1995; p 20, he emphasises the worth of Hela's 'shadow aspect' in a trinity formed with the goddesses Frigg and Nerthus.
7. Abanner A. Incendium, 1995; p 22
8. Anthony Naughton "The Calleach" p's 17-21 of the Balder Journal #70, 1996
9. Mark Hedsel "The Zelator" 1999; p 67
10. Ibid p 471
11. P.D. Ouspensky "In Search of the Miraculous" 1949; p 67
12. Hedsel, op cit, p 45
13. In writing this I thought of an example illustrating this concept, it was a joke going around the physics classes of my final years of high school: Q; What do the theory of relativity and erections have in common? A; The more you think about them, the harder they get!
14. "Never whistle while you're pissing" is a favourite phrase of the enigmatic Discordian leader Hagbard Celine in Robert Anton Wilson and Robert Shea's cult science-fiction work of the 70's, "The Illuminatus Trilogy". Though what is fact, what fiction!?!
15. Sir Lawrence Gardner "Bloodline of the Holy Grail" 1996; p 157
16. Ibid

17. Hedsel, op cit p 475. Note that in dualizing, there is more than opposite poles, the interaction of the poles is the third force. For explanations of this see Ouspensky op cit p 77 and J.A. West "Serpent in the Sky" 1979; p 49
18. Jack Roberts "Sheela-na-gigs of Britain and Ireland" 1993; p 10
19. Hedsel, op cit, p 401
20. Roberts, ibid
21. Babalon's numerical equivalent is 156, which reduces to 3, see Avatar Fomors "The Scarlet Woman" p's 3-6 in Key of Alocer mag #5, 1995
22. Jack Parsons: one-time head guru of Jet Propulsion Laboratories – have played a large part in the success of NASA operations, later an Anti-Christ; L Ron Hubbard: former Naval Intelligence officer who went on to form the Church of Scientology; Marjorie Cameron: one-time wife of Parsons and third participant with the above two in the 'Babalon Working' in 1946 – an attempt to invoke Babalon herself within Cameron; and of course Aleister Crowley: student and head of various occult groups in the first half of the 20th century including the Golden Dawn, Ordo Templi Orientis, Astrum Argentum, keen chess player, mountaineer and Great Beast of Revelation 666.
23. Fomors, op cit p 6
24. Peter Moon "Montauk Revisited" 1994; p 199
25. Fomors, op cit p 3
26. Hedsel, op cit p 357
27. Sandra Collins "Lunar Life Blood" in Down to Birth mag, Autumn 2001, p 21
28. The etymology of 'calendar' is quite revealing, like Caledonia(Scotland) and California, it is derived from the goddess Kali – the Destroyer and likewise/therefore a goddess of time.
29. ???
30. Collins, ibid
31. Walker, op cit p 930