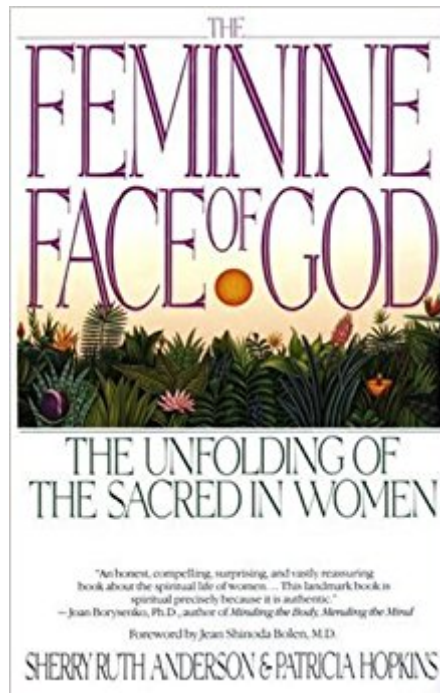




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The Feminine Face Of God: The Unfolding Of The Sacred In Women



Synopsis

With contributions from ã ã Maya Angelou and Marion Woodman, this ã ã pioneering look at women's spirituality has helped thousands of women redefine traditional beliefs and rediscover their own unique spiritual heritage. Drawn from workshops and interviews conducted across the country, ã ã The Feminine Face of God features ã ã one hundred women sharing their stories of spiritual awakening.

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Customer Reviews

The authors interviewed women across the country about "the unfolding of the sacred in their lives." A Seneca elder in upstate New York tells how the stones speak to her. "I'm just a vessel that God works through," says a community worker in Watts, Los Angeles, who radiates love to her "extended family." Other interviewees include a massage therapist, a professor of English, a rabbi, an ex-nun, artists, a Jungian analyst, Maya Angelou and members of a feminist spiritual community in Maine. Anderson, a Zen teacher, and Hopkins, coauthor of Good-bye to Guilt , conduct workshops across the country on feminine spirituality. If their writing has a rosy New Age tinge, the in-depth personal stories they relate are insightful, and their illuminating narrative is structured like a spiritual journey (childhood, leaving home, gateways, entering the sacred garden, relationships) to assist women in defining for themselves what is sacred. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Running the gamut from Anglicanism to Zen, psychologist Anderson and consultant Hopkins present an uncritical examination of uniquely feminine aspects of faith. Offering a complex, densely layered montage, based on extensive interviews with over one hundred women--each of whom has "found her own direct relationship with the divine or the real"--the authors seek to extend studies positing a distinctly feminine moral development to a consideration of "the way women experience the sacred in their lives." Included are ministers, rabbis, priests, nuns, and former nuns (both Christian and Vedantic), spiritual healers, tribal elders, and contemplatives, working variously as therapists, teachers, writers, artists, and social activists, and all meeting a basic requirement of striving to "embody" their beliefs "in everyday life." Most compelling within this spiritual supermarket are several detailed looks at individual quests--ranging from that of the Kabbala teacher who returned to Orthodox Judaism after exploring secularism and Sufism to that of the one-time southern beauty queen who transformed herself from a drug-addicted, alcoholic prostitute into a pioneering massage therapist for AIDS victims. Unfortunately, the frequently intriguing material is shoehorned into an unoriginal garden metaphor (leaving home to enter "sacred" gardens, cultivating plots with a variety of tools, etc.) that becomes cloying. Also a bit disconcerting are the constant references to the authors' own struggles to shape the work, usually resolved through meditation and never as interesting as the research itself. Still, there's much food for thought here--more than enough to sate human-potential devotees and to provide tantalizing tidbits for everyone else. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The first part of the title attracted me to this book, as well as the first few pages in which the authors explain their need to seek the feminine face of God. I particularly liked the reference to the Shekinah, and looked forward to reading more about this aspect of God. After a lifetime (75 years) of hearing and reading so much of the male perspective of God (which I accept as part of the Taoist yin/yang concept) I wanted to learn ways to think of God in my own, feminine terms. After all, do we really want to speak to a Sacred Masculine Essence about PMT and other female issues?

Traditionally men have had male metaphors to empower them in their sacred work, but women have not had any feminine metaphors. An early Bishop insisted that women do not even have souls! Women need collective healing from that. Clarissa Estes gets close to the mark when she refers to La Que Sabe, 'The One Who Knows,' as representing the Sacred Feminine Essence. But will there ever be an inclusive title? I expected to read about the early representations of the Mother/Father God and how we could use that in contemporary ways, but this concept is not included. The book

concentrates on the second part of the title: The Unfolding of the Sacred in Women. It focuses largely on individual women's struggles to find their spiritual path and says very little on what they discovered about the feminine nature of God. I was disappointed because of this. However I do not think the one star review is at all fair, and certainly not how I consider a feminine voice should be expressed with regards to the sacred. Surely the feminine face of God represents compassion and mutual respect, no matter how opposite our views. If you want to compare other women's stories with your own, the book is greatly encouraging. But if you want to change from addressing God as Father and learn how to approach Her as the Divine Mother without getting into the all-out goddess cultures, then, like me, you will be looking for a different book.

I have read many books on women and spirituality over the years, and I don't know how I missed this one. Many aha and transformational moments as I read the stories and author observations. A must read, especially for women in their 50's and 60's. Affords the opportunity to reflect and move forward, feeling a resonance and validity of a collective women's experience.

As a woman who is on her own journey into the Feminine Divine this book is a God-send. "Feminine Face", through the words, stories, and experiences of many women, informed me that I was not alone in my great discomfort with the religious practices I have been raised with. By allowing the reader to hear the voices of so many women from various lifestyles, ages, occupations, experiences, religious backgrounds and in varying stages of their journey, this book serves as a guide to the woman who is just starting on the path into her spirituality as well as the woman who is well on her way but may have hit a road block. Because it offers no clear-cut method for discovering the divine, "Feminine Face" encourages each woman to trust her own spirit and be empowered by finding her own way. This book will continue to be a reference for me and I recommend it for anyone who wants to mature from being a "child of God" to an "adult of God".

The authors, through much self reflection and hundreds of hours of interviews put the body to the Feminine Face of God. Enriching spiritually, fully validating the feminine experience of the divine in human seeking divinity. Awesome book. Thank you!

Loved it. 2 women go in search and talk to 30 amazing women about this mysterious and divergent thing called womens spirituality. Wild ride, deep heart.

Wonderful book. It is so nice to have confirmation and affirmation of the feminine energy of the Divine.

Interesting read but not what I expected.

This book gave me insight into the lives of women who live and have lived different lives than me. It was enlightening and inspiring.

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