

# Lux Madriana

Madrianism is probably best known for being the religion which teaches that God is female. In its present form the religion has been in existence for some fifty years, but has been closed and esoteric to the extent of being a veritable "secret society". Over the past few years, a small number of Madrians have broken away from the closed or "gnostic" groups to form an open or "catholic" Madrianism.

In the wake of the researches of Robert Graves and others, and the publication of feminist works such as "The First Sex" and "The Paradise Papers" showing that the worship of a female God was the original religion of humanity, a number of Goddess-cults have sprung up, often connected with the Women's Movement, in England and America. Madrianism, however, is unique in being a full-scale systematic religion with its own scriptures, rites, catechism and all-female priesthood.

I talked to Sister Angelina, one of the organisers of Catholic Madrianism in England

B. What is the purpose of Madrianism?

A. Ask rather what is the purpose of life.

B. Alright; What is the purpose of life?

A. Before this life you have lived other lives. After this life you will live others again. All the things which seem important to us now will pass away upon death, to be replaced by others that will seem equally important for a little time and then will pass away. So it may go on for ages upon ages, an endless wheel of birth and death, of bodily life and spiritual life, always seeking satisfaction in material things, like a dog chasing its own tail, always finding in the end disappointment and disillusion. This will go on until we reach above the illusory things of matter and seek to re-unite ourselves with the Absolute which is the source of all life, and in which we shall become perfect as we were in the beginning.

B. And this Absolute you call the Goddess?

A. Yes.

B. Why not just "The Absolute"?

A. Because. She is not an abstract thing, an "it". That is a very common mistake. The highest thing we know on this earth is the human personality. All "its" are lower than that, they are sub-personal. God is not sub-personal but super-personal. She has all the attributes of personality, but in a degree far higher than we can begin to understand.

It's very fashionable to call God a "force" these days. The Life-Force or something like that. Science is full of forces like gravity and electricity so that makes God sound nice and scientific. Of course, it's still a metaphor just as much as calling Her a person. Only it's a purely physical metaphor. A force can be physically great, but never morally or spiritually great. That is a typical patriarchal perspective - greatness equals physical greatness; muscle. It is a logical extension of the male-god image.

B. Is that why you call God She?

A. Part of the reason, but not the most important part. That is more difficult to explain. People usually want the answer to this wrapped up in neat logic, but even modern psychology shows that the conscious logical part of the mind is only the tip of a great iceberg. When we speak of God as She, we are triggering off a whole set of unconscious spiritual processes which bring us to a fuller understanding of Her nature. That is why She revealed Herself to us in female form, and why for the vast majority of time human beings have lived on earth they have worshipped Her in the image in which She revealed Herself. On the other hand, when people rebel against that image and set up male images of God, they set an opposite process in motion. One which can



only lead to atheism and alienation. That is what is happening today.

B. But isn't any religion out of place in the modern world?

A. Yes. I wouldn't quarrel with that. But if we live in a world where Truth is out of place, that is a comment on the world, not on Truth. We live in a world totally dedicated to material greed - based on it. It is wholly destructive. It is burning up the world's energy sources at a terrifying rate, it is destroying the environment, it is causing uncontrollable inflation and is creating destructive weapons with the capacity to destroy the world a thousand times over. Of course spiritual values are out of place in a world like that. If they weren't there would be something wrong with the spiritual values. And a truly spiritual approach to life, a spiritual revolution, is the only antidote to the poison of materialism that is killing civilisation.

B. Couldn't the patriarchal religions provide the same antidote?

A. No, they couldn't, because materialism is the logical extension of patriarchal religion. Patriarchy is like an escalator into hell. We are just reaching the bottom. To take one step back - like opting for patriarchal christianity, for instance - would only be a brief postponement of the inevitable. The only solution is to start the whole machinery running in the opposite direction, and that means attuning ourselves to the true image of God.

B. What would a Madrian society be like?

A. Madrianism is a religion and not a political movement, so I can't give you any social blueprints, but I think a society strongly influenced by Madrian values would tend to be a simpler kind of society, very much decentralised politically and more based on local communities. There might well be a return to the land, since Madrian ritual is deeply bound up with the rhythm of the seasons and the pattern of the year. It probably wouldn't be a rich society in material things. There might not even be a monetary system. Interestingly enough, that is just the type of society we may have to have if we survive the ecological and energy crises.

B. What about the position of women?

A. Madrianism as such espouses no particular social policy, though individual Madrians may. All I can say is that in ancient Madrian Matriarchal societies the central unit was the extended family and women were the heads of these families, therefore they were the rulers insofar as these societies can be said to have had rulers. Women also held a generally higher position than men, although social position was not very important in those societies.

B. Is it true that some Madrians practise magic?

A. Yes.

B. What is your attitude to that?

A. I take it you mean low magic - magic used to bring about material effects. The main danger with this is that it can become an end in itself and lead people to seek psychic power for its own sake or for material gain; though in my own experience people who seriously study magic usually pass through the lower stage into high magic - that is magic devoted to spiritual and religious purposes. But the real advantage of magic is that people brought up in a thoroughly materialistic society like ours often find it difficult to accept the spiritual and supernatural side of life as a living day-to-day reality. Working contact with the extraordinary and, in materialist terms, "impossible" experiences connected with magic, divination and the psychic arts in general, (and there is no doubt that such things do occur), can be a very important factor in eradicating the deep-rooted materialist conditioning that has been instilled into them, opening the way for genuine religious experience.

B. What advice would you give to someone who wanted to deepen and develop her spirituality?

A. The greatest obstacle to such development is an impersonal idea of God. The essence of spiritual development is an ongoing personal relationship with Her. Of course there are lots of ways of developing that relationship. Through meditation techniques, ritual, the Rosary and so forth, but the first essential is simply to open contact - to let Her through, as it were. The important thing to remember is that She is always with you, and always trying to contact you, you only have to allow Her in, to give Her



permission, because she will not take you by force. Set aside a time of quietness regularly each day. Don't make prayer a formality, talk freely to Her; if you have difficulty in accepting Her, talk to Her about this. Ask Her to take control, to pray through you. Read the scriptures She has given to us in this age, particularly "The Mythos of the Divine Maid" and "The Crystal Tablet". These will help you to have a closer understanding of Her, and will provide a basis for meditation. And if you need further help, or want to get involved in Catholic Madrianism don't hesitate to get in touch with us at Lux Madriana. We are always happy to give personal help and advice whether you are a Catholic Madrian or not.

Interview by Bryony Evans.

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