

## **KEN SILVESTRO**

### **Meeting the Goddess: Embrace, Beware, Love and Protect**

The goddess is often couched in qualities such as: spirituality, feminist tensions, sexuality, patriarchal subservience, therapeutic healing modalities, and longterm oppression. It is clear that all these claims are accurate, since the goddess is a quintessential quality of the deep psyche, projected in every manner and form.

In providing passions from the deep psyche, the goddess's embrace can ignite a fire that burns through our hearts, lift us to ecstatic experiences, move us to depressions and remorse, and provide us with spiritual joys beyond our imaginations. A quote from Carl Jung (1969) is apropos, capturing the depth and paradoxical experience of meeting the goddess: "... she is the solace for all the bitterness of life. And, at the same time, she is the great illusionist, the seductress, ... with her Maya ... [producing life's] frightful paradoxes and ambivalences where good and evil, success and ruin, hope and despair, counterbalance one another" (*Aion*, p. 13).

In this presentation, it is the early images of the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, analytical case material such as dreams, Rumi's poetry, cinematography, and literature that are used to resurrect this magnanimous, hidden quality of human nature and to release the goddess from the depths of the psyche back to a conscious level of understanding and relationship.

Encountering the goddess introduces both desire and danger for men and women. Escapes are certainly a necessity. Submissions are delicious, enticing and ominous.

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