Subject: Welcome to the Arcane Academia Newsletter
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The Arcane Academia Newsletter
by Dr Angela Puca

Hello Symposiast,

This is my newsletter's very first and ugly (sorry!) iteration!

It turns out that running a Newsletter is more complicated than I had anticipated but I'm happy to be here with you finally!

my website

Weekly Insights and Reflections

I recently published a video on the intriguing concept of the Triple Goddess in pagan and Wiccan traditions, discussing its historical roots and its common association with the stages of Maiden, Mother, and Crone. The experience provoked a flurry of fascinating reflections, chiefly among them being the need to differentiate

between ancient triadic deities and the modern Maiden-Mother-Crone archetype.

Delving into the origins of the Triple Goddess, it became apparent that the concept as we understand it today is not as ancient as often claimed. The commonly perceived continuity between the ancient triads and the modern Triple Goddess is more an interpretive stretch than a historically accurate portrayal.

Ancient civilizations did have triple deities. In Greek mythology, for example, there were the Moirai or Fates—Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos—who controlled the destiny of mortals from birth to death. However, their roles don't correspond neatly with the Maiden, Mother, and Crone stages. Clotho, the spinner, represents the beginning of life; Lachesis, the measurer, represents life's duration; and Atropos, the inflexible one, represents death. While these can be interpreted as different stages of life, this interpretation is modern, not ancient.

The same applies to the triple moon goddesses: Artemis, Selene, and Hecate, representing the waxing, full, and waning moon, respectively. The Greek moon goddesses indeed reflect three phases, but it's crucial to understand that they were separate entities, not one goddess in three forms, as the Triple Goddess is often portrayed.

In Celtic mythology, the Morrigan was a triadic deity with aspects of war, strife, and sovereignty. At the same time, in Hinduism, the Tridevi consists of Saraswati, Lakshmi, and Parvati, symbolizing wisdom, wealth, and power, respectively. Again, the roles and attributes of these goddesses do not align neatly with the Maiden, Mother, and Crone archetype.

It is primarily in the 20th century that the concept of the

It is primarily in the 20th century that the concept of the Triple Goddess as Maiden, Mother, and Crone was articulated, largely due to figures like Robert Graves and later, Zsuzsanna Budapest and Starhawk. Their work took elements from ancient traditions and reinterpreted them to create a new, spiritually empowering representation of femininity and the stages of a woman's life.

This isn't to downplay the importance or relevance of the modern Triple Goddess archetype. The Maiden, Mother, and Crone symbolism can offer valuable insights into the cyclical nature of life, the stages of womanhood, and the shifting facets of the divine feminine. However, it's crucial to approach it with a clear understanding of its historical context and evolution.

Exploring the Triple Goddess has been enlightening, underscoring the importance of critical inquiry and thorough research in our understanding of spiritual concepts. As we delve into the rich tapestry of human belief and mythology, we must always strive to separate historical fact from modern interpretation, appreciating each for its unique contribution to our collective spiritual journey.

Coming next in my Inner Symposium...

Lecture on "The White Goddess" by Robert Graves for my Magus+ patrons on Sunday 23rd of July at 4 pm UK time.

Zoom gathering with all patrons on Sunday 30th of July at 4 pm UK time.

Join my Inner Symposium

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