



The Nurturing Mother

*I am not yet born: provide me
With water to dandy me, grass to grow for me, trees to talk
To me, sky to sing to me, birds and a white light
In the back on my mind to guide me...*

Louis MacNeice 'Prayer before birth'

Demeter is the Mother Woman, surrounded by children or care for the vulnerable and helpless. Motherly love is her guiding principle and her dedication to this is her single purpose in life. Symbolically the Goddess Demeter represents Mother Earth and her vegetative nature and life source. She is the protector of the natural birth right and wellbeing of young children and personifies the three 'Blood Mysteries' of the female life cycle; the Maiden, the Mother and the Crone.

Demeter is the introverted goddess of Love, together with her sister Goddess Aphrodite. They express their love in a very different way. Demeter reserves her love for her children and dedicates her service to her loved ones. Aphrodite is less selective, she shares her abundance with everyone and anyone, preferably adults. For Demeter, the body is the sacred temple while Aphrodite uses her body and an object of lust and playfulness.

Dharmic path

Demeter represents the mother instinct in women. Not that other goddess personas can become a mother. But Demeter find complete satisfaction to mother others. It is easy to give her the status of being holy and in history Christianity have found an equivalent to the Demeter persona in Mother Mary. Demeter is constantly in tune with the physical needs like enough sleep, healthy food, warmth and health. She can easily develop practical skills such as baking bread, handy crafts, gardening and harvesting. By these skills she can contribute to the larger community while still being available for her children.



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Demeter

Love

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Karmic imprint

The young Demeter relates very strongly with her mother which can lead to a symbiotic relationship between mother and daughter. In the myth, she loses her daughter Persiphone by a tragic event which cuts a deep wound in Demeters' heart. The story symbolically explains the tragedy of losing childhood when the first menstruation starts. Even though the daughter partly returns to be with the mother, it remains a scar in the female psyche. Demeter lives, conscious or unconsciously the tragedy of sacrifice that is part of each stage in life; the blood and pain with menstruation, leaving children from the mothers 'nest' and the ending of the blood cycle with menopause.

Challenges

By her uncomplicated nature, Demeter does not think twice about how to raise children or improve her personal qualities. She is somewhat conservative and does not easily recognize her flaws or stagnating patterns. Her worldly horizon is simple and uncomplicated and expects from her partner to 'just' bring food on the table. If she is a single mother with children she would need external help to develop economical independence. By her (sub) conscious pain of the sacrifices in the female cycle (Maiden, mother and Crone), she is challenged to transform her pain into fertile potential.

Our dominant urban and technocratic environment expect young mothers to be considerate of career and independence, which can bring the Demeter woman in conflict with her inner drive. She can feel powerless in bringing forward her voice and relies on her Artemis and Hera sisters to give mothers an honorable position in society. She is more likely to feel comfortable on a rural setting within small communities where she is better able to combine her motherhood with a practical help in the work of handicraft, gardening or harvesting.

