

Master's Studies Special Lesson - The Croning of Our God -Woman

"The Crone is the spinster, the creative spider-woman who weaves the world from her own substance. Weaving a cocoon out of the substance of one's own life is the necessary prerequisite for the emergence of psyche: in withdrawing, we prepare a way out."

Motherpeace: A Way to the Goddess by Vicki Noble

Womens' wisdom has always been honored as the doorway to ascension from this world to the next. The honoring of Crones or wise women in any given society has always been recognized as marking a growing, enlightened society. Today, men and women are reclaiming the rites of passage that identify their spiritual oneness in ancient and accepted traditions. To come to personal power in this age of technology, it seems a few ancient rituals might be appropriately resurrected to explain the manifestation of the new age that is beginning to blossom within all of us. The Light Bearers are coming of age, demonstrating responsibility toward Mother Earth and putting their best feet forward on this path of reclamation of the Divine Female's path to glory. Accepting wisdom and compassion earned through living upon this planet for a good many years is the privilege of those who age from within to without. Croning or stepping into a position of elder stewardship, is the process of becoming the active spiritual descendant of Magdalene, Sheba and Sophia.

Croning is not necessarily related to physical age but, seems to agree with those who are over 40 years of age versus under 40. The aged rabbis teaching the secrets of Kabbalah in 14th century Spain were known to accept no students under the age of 40. The very process of aging is related to these wisdom-carriers but, their individual abilities to become Generals of their own destinies, thus creating leadership from within themselves, seems to identify them as Crones-in-the-making. Becoming wise, like taking on the mantle of Crone-ship, seems to be an "active" occupation. Meaning, the more you act upon the light and honor the Mother God within, the more your mantle of honor flows. Thomas Aquinas said in the Middle Ages that, "We will know the angels by their deeds." Our "living angels" need to be recognized for their immeasurable value in our society at large, and honored more often so we may reap the full benefits of their wisdom.

The process of Croning is a rite much like Baptism, Marriage, Coming of Age, etc. All rites personify a change in our understanding of our place in the Universe. When we honor goodness, wisdom, compassion, healing and growth in an individual, we strengthen that aspect of God within all of us. Therefore, this process of honoring the Mother God's creative influence throughout humanity must not be displaced in patriarchal-based societies. When we embrace the ritual of anointing our elders, we symbolically give our support to all that is rich and sacred on this planet. I like to think of life-affirming ritual as a vote of confidence in all the good that dwells within the heart of humanity. We can never tire from thanking Mother Earth for Her everlasting efforts on our behalf. By becoming ageless and timeless with our own wisdom, we mimic the ways of the Mother.

"The crone eludes precise definition. Some traditions, organizations, and individuals variously define the crone as a woman who is 50, 52, or 56, post-menopausal, consciously aging, willing to acknowledge her shadow. Crone is a term used to describe an ancient archetype, an aspect of the triple goddess (maiden, mother, crone), and the third phase of a woman's life. When a woman is near, in, or past menopause, she is potentially a crone. The designation refers to a perspective or point of view rather age or biological change."

Bayla Bower

I have been watching the gutsy public relation's efforts of a national soap maker since last August as they campaign to bring back beauty to all our God-Women over 40. You may have noticed more ads celebrating the very natural look of women who are accepting aging gracefully by embracing its gifts and not apologizing for sagging bodies or whitened hair? Crone consciousness is on the rise today, spreading in a grassroots movement through America and around the globe. When in doubt, call upon Grandma for ancient recipes of healing, to soothe the frustrations of "The Family" and to rescue the children from their frustrations with their parents. These Elders we also call Crones dwell within men and women, alike. Listen to my words, "We are in the know and what we know is; This Planet Needs Our Help."

Being a crone is about love, warmth, honoring the individual in all people but, most of all, inspiring kids to confidence, adults to love and other elders to accept their physical fates as we accompany each other over to the other side. Our mouths know when to open now and when to stay closed. Our manners are still compassionate but, we know when to table issues or not. Elders such as ourselves are bigger kids now than when we were five years of age. Our memories hold the positive images of all societies on the Earth and, the horrors of nations. We do not forget but, we do forgive. You would do well to cultivate our favor for, in the end, you will need us to become your goodwill ambassadors. To raise your children. Honor your allies. Save your self-worth when Wall Street claims your soul. By honoring your Elders, you invest in a future worth living. I have often in the past recoiled at the prospect of retiring to a warm spot later on in my old age, but, I think there is some irony in realizing that places like the Florida Keys, Costa Rica, Hawaii and Ireland have become great places of attraction for Crones throughout the world. All these places are green, fertile, welcoming, sacred and great doorways to ascension. Hmm, green, warm, welcoming and lush. Does that remind you of a sensual woman?

Our elders have the sacred duty of passing on the great tales of glory. They conserve the idea of freedom and the warmth of joy. Every commission, Presidential Cabinet and boardroom in American should be set up along the lines of Crones being the backbone of their number. And, every elder worth their salt is a teacher of life, even if that teaching represents 2 years of living a respective path. Neither age nor lesson plans restrict a Crone from stepping into that position of power. We all know children who at 6 are more like 60 year olds, don't we? Now is the time to let go of our fear of sagging bodies, loveless unions and the loss of sensuality. Our home, our planet is re-seeding the thoughts that all ages of man represent eternal knowledge of God. Therefore, being a Crone has as much value as being a child who turns into Marilyn Monroe or Hilary Clinton. We no longer need to see our bodies change and feel the need to punish ourselves for growing wise to the ways of the spirit. The very aspect of God we revere and adore is the wisdom and passion of the ages. How else to mimic God but age gracefully, embrace growth and teach the youngins' to live life more fully?

Croning celebrations are celebrated in the movies, both past and present, to our delight. Coming of age parties, whether they be birthday parties or welcoming the Goddess parties, are in all of our futures. And remember, croning occurs in men as well. This is once and for all a female planet. We all embody The Godhead, Male and Female. How many wonderful men are you encountering these days that have the sweetness and the wisdom of the ages just pouring out of them? The balance is changing ever so slowly but, this is a battle we all need to invest in winning. Crones, gather the children to your hearts and get your shows on the road again. We don't have time to retire...there is no retirement from God, wisdom, healing and love. There is only stewardship, release of the past to gain the future and positions along the golden highway as beacons and representatives of change. Start planning your "Croning Ceremony" today! Throw your standard in with mine and the millions of people who know we must all fight under the banner of Mother Earth, Herself. Keep giving them hell, Al Gore!

Love and Light Along the Road,

Dr. Gwen G. MacGregor
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