

merlin stone when god was a woman

merlin stone when god was a woman is a compelling exploration into the ancient roots of goddess worship and the prominence of female deities in early human civilizations. This groundbreaking work by Merlin Stone challenges traditional narratives that have long centered male gods and patriarchal structures, shedding light on a time when the divine feminine was at the forefront of spiritual life. Through her meticulous research and evocative storytelling, Stone reveals how goddess worship shaped societal norms, cultural practices, and religious beliefs across millennia. This article delves deeply into the themes of her work, examining the historical, archaeological, and theological aspects that underscore the significance of the goddess in human history.

Introduction to Merlin Stone's "When God Was a Woman"

The Central Thesis

Merlin Stone's seminal book, "When God Was a Woman," posits that early human societies revered female deities and that the shift to male-centered gods was a gradual development influenced by social, political, and economic changes. The book argues that the worship of goddess figures was the original spiritual practice, predating organized patriarchal religions like Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The Cultural and Historical Context

Stone's work situates goddess worship within the broader context of prehistoric and ancient civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and the Near East. She explores how archaeological findings—such as figurines, murals, and temple artifacts—support the existence of widespread goddess-centered religions.

The Historical Significance of Goddess Worship

Prehistoric Evidence of the Divine Feminine

Ancient figurines like the Venus figurines, which date back to the Paleolithic era, are among the most compelling pieces of evidence for early goddess worship. These small sculptures, often emphasizing fertility features, suggest that early humans revered female figures as symbols of fertility, abundance, and life itself.

Goddess Cultures in Ancient Civilizations

Many ancient societies recognized powerful goddesses who embodied various aspects of life:

- In Sumeria: Inanna/Ishtar was a goddess of love, war, and fertility.
- In Egypt: Isis was worshiped as a nurturing mother and protector.
- In Greece: The goddess Gaia symbolized Earth's fertility, while Hera represented marriage and family.
- In the Indus Valley: Seals depicting mother goddess figures suggest a matriarchal or matrifocal spiritual tradition.

The Transition from Goddess to God

Over time, especially during the rise of patriarchal societies, the worship of female deities declined, giving way to male gods like Zeus, Yahweh, and Odin. This shift was influenced by:

- The rise of centralized states and hierarchical social structures.
- The codification of religious texts that emphasized male divinity.
- Political agendas that sought to reinforce male dominance.

Key Themes in "When God Was a Woman"

The Power of the Divine Feminine

Stone emphasizes that the goddess was not merely a symbol of fertility but represented a comprehensive divine force embodying nurturing, creation, destruction, and wisdom.

The Suppression of Matriarchal Religions

The book explores how patriarchal religions systematically marginalized or eradicated goddess traditions through:

- The destruction of temples and artifacts.
- The rewriting of sacred texts.
- The marginalization of priestesses and female spiritual leaders.

Reclaiming the Goddess

Stone advocates for revisiting and honoring these ancient goddess traditions as part of a broader spiritual and cultural revival, emphasizing their relevance in contemporary society.

Archaeological and Mythological Evidence

Artifacts Supporting Goddess Worship

Some of the most significant archaeological finds include:

- The Venus figurines: Small portable sculptures emphasizing fertility features.
- The Goddess figurines from Catalhoyuk: Early Neolithic sites showing complex goddess imagery.
- The Inanna's temples: Sumerian sites dedicated to the goddess of love and war.

Mythological Narratives

Many myths from ancient cultures depict powerful female deities:

- The Greek myth of Gaia, the Earth Mother.
- The Sumerian myth of Inanna's descent to the Underworld.
- Egyptian stories of Isis's resurrection and protection of Osiris.

The Impact of "When God Was a Woman" on Feminism and Spirituality

Feminist Reinterpretations of Religious History

Stone's work has inspired a reevaluation of religious history from a feminist perspective, challenging the male-centric narratives that dominate mainstream religious discourse.

Spiritual Movements Inspired by the Goddess

Many contemporary spiritual movements draw on the ideas presented by Stone, including:

- Goddess spirituality and neo-paganism.
- Feminist theology.
- Earth-centered and eco-spiritual practices.

Educational and Cultural Repercussions

Her book has become a foundational text in women's studies, religious studies, and anthropology, influencing educators and scholars to explore the divine feminine as a significant aspect of human history.

Modern Relevance and Continuing Legacy

The Reemergence of Goddess Worship

Today, there is a growing movement to revive goddess traditions, integrating ancient practices with modern spiritualities. This resurgence emphasizes:

- Environmental stewardship.
- Gender equality.
- Personal empowerment.

Challenges and Criticisms

While celebrated, Stone's work has also faced criticism for:

- Overgeneralizing prehistoric beliefs.
- Underestimating the diversity of ancient religions.
- Romanticizing matriarchal societies that may not have existed as portrayed.

The Future of Goddess-Centered Spirituality

The ongoing interest in goddess worship demonstrates a desire to reconnect with a more balanced, inclusive spiritual paradigm that honors both masculine and feminine divine principles.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of the Divine Feminine

Merlin Stone's "When God Was a Woman" remains a pivotal work that challenges us to reconsider the origins of religious belief and the role of women in spiritual history. By uncovering evidence of goddess worship from prehistoric times and highlighting the societal shifts that suppressed it, Stone advocates for a more inclusive understanding of human spirituality. Recognizing that the divine feminine once stood at the center of human consciousness encourages contemporary society to embrace the values of nurturing, equality, and interconnectedness. As the world continues to grapple with issues of gender inequality and environmental crises, revisiting the lessons from our ancient past—when the goddess was supreme—offers inspiration and guidance for a more balanced future.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Merlin Stone
- When God Was a Woman
- Goddess worship history
- Ancient female deities
- Divine feminine
- Matriarchal societies
- Goddess mythology

- Feminist spirituality
- Archaeological evidence of goddess worship
- Reclaiming the goddess
- Goddess spirituality movement
- Prehistoric goddess figurines
- Venus figurines
- Goddess-centered religions
- Role of women in ancient religion
- Reemergence of goddess worship

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Merlin Stone and what is her significance in the context of 'When God Was a Woman'?

Merlin Stone was an author and scholar best known for her book 'When God Was a Woman,' which explores the ancient worship of goddess figures and challenges traditional patriarchal narratives about religion and history.

What are the main themes discussed in 'When God Was a Woman'?

The book examines the origins of goddess worship, the suppression of female deity figures in patriarchal societies, and the impact of these shifts on modern religious and cultural beliefs.

How did Merlin Stone's work influence contemporary understanding of ancient religions?

Her work contributed to a reevaluation of the role of goddess figures in ancient societies, inspiring feminist interpretations of religious history and encouraging greater recognition of female divine symbolism.

What evidence does Merlin Stone present to support the idea of a widespread goddess worship in ancient times?

Stone references archaeological findings, ancient art, and mythological texts that depict female deities and goddess-centric rituals, highlighting their prominence in early religious practices.

In what ways has 'When God Was a Woman' impacted modern feminist spirituality?

The book has inspired many to explore goddess worship and incorporate feminine divine figures into spiritual practices, fostering a resurgence of interest in matriarchal and goddess-centered spirituality.

Are there any criticisms or controversies surrounding

Merlin Stone's theories in 'When God Was a Woman'?

Yes, some scholars critique her interpretations of archaeological evidence or argue that her conclusions may overstate the prominence of goddess worship, leading to ongoing debates in religious and archaeological circles.

Additional Resources

Merlin Stone: When God Was a Woman - An In-Depth Exploration

In the landscape of feminist theory, religious history, and mythology, few works have sparked as much scholarly debate and cultural reflection as Merlin Stone's groundbreaking book, *When God Was a Woman*. Originally published in 1976, this seminal work challenged long-held patriarchal narratives about the origins of religion and the divine, illuminating the profound influence of goddess worship on early societies. As an expert review and exploration, this article delves into Merlin Stone's contributions, the core ideas of her work, its historical significance, and its enduring impact on contemporary spirituality and feminist thought.

Introduction to Merlin Stone and When God Was a Woman

Merlin Stone was an American artist, writer, and scholar whose multidisciplinary approach combined archaeology, mythology, history, and feminism. Her work aimed to uncover and restore the ancient goddess traditions that predated the rise of patriarchal monotheism, particularly within the context of ancient civilizations such as those of the Mediterranean, Near East, and Indus Valley.

When God Was a Woman is her most influential publication, a meticulously researched yet accessible book that challenges the dominant narrative of a male-centric divine. Stone argues that early societies revered women as divine beings, symbolizing fertility, creation, and the earth itself. Over time, these sacred feminine symbols and deities were suppressed or replaced by male gods, a shift that had profound social, political, and spiritual repercussions.

The Core Thesis of When God Was a Woman

Merlin Stone's central thesis revolves around the idea that the earliest spiritual consciousness of humanity was inherently feminine, embodied in goddess worship. Key points include:

- **Prehistoric Goddess Worship:** Stone posits that archaeological findings suggest a widespread veneration of female deities dating back tens of thousands of years, well before the advent of organized patriarchal religions.

- **The Mother Goddess Archetype:** She emphasizes the importance of the Mother Goddess figure, representing fertility, abundance, and the cycle of life and death. This archetype was central to early spiritual practices and societal structures.
- **Transition to Patriarchal Religions:** The book traces how, over millennia, societies shifted from goddess-centered faiths to male-dominated pantheons, a change often linked to the rise of agriculture, warfare, and social hierarchies.
- **Suppression of the Feminine Divine:** Stone explores how patriarchal religions systematically marginalized or demonized the divine feminine, with enduring effects on gender roles, societal values, and spiritual life.
- **Reclaiming the Feminine:** An underlying message of the book advocates for the recognition and revival of goddess spirituality as a means of restoring balance, equality, and a more holistic understanding of the divine.

Historical and Archaeological Foundations

One of the most compelling aspects of Merlin Stone's work is her detailed examination of archaeological evidence supporting female divine figures across ancient cultures.

Notable Archeological Discoveries and Their Significance

- **The Venus Figurines:** Stone discusses numerous prehistoric figurines, such as the Venus of Willendorf and the Venus of Hohle Fels, characterized by exaggerated female features. These figurines, dating back between 28,000 and 40,000 years, are believed to symbolize fertility and goddess worship.
- **Goddess Symbols in Ancient Art:** From the carved figurines to cave paintings, artifacts depict female figures with prominent reproductive features, underscoring the centrality of fertility and motherhood in early spiritual life.
- **Ancient Temples and Ritual Sites:** Excavations of sites like Çatalhöyük in Turkey reveal complex religious practices centered around female imagery. Temples and shrines often feature goddess figurines and symbols of fertility.
- **The Sumerian Inanna/Ishtar Cults:** As one of the earliest known civilizations, Sumerians revered Inanna (later known as Ishtar), a goddess associated with love, fertility, and war. Her prominence in Mesopotamian religion highlights the continuity of goddess worship.
- **The Mother Goddess in Indus Valley:** Artifacts from the Indus Valley Civilization (circa 2500 BCE) include seals and figurines that suggest a focus on fertility and motherhood, indicating widespread goddess reverence.

Implications of Archaeological Evidence

Stone's synthesis of archaeological data suggests that early spiritual systems were predominantly female-centered, emphasizing fertility, earth mother worship, and cyclical life processes. This stands in stark contrast to the later patriarchal religions that often portrayed male gods as supreme.

The Shift from Goddess to God: Societal Dynamics

Understanding the transition from goddess-centered to male-dominated religions requires examining societal, economic, and political transformations.

Factors Contributing to the Shift

- **Agricultural Revolution:** The shift from hunter-gatherer societies to settled agriculture altered social structures, often leading to increased hierarchy and male dominance.
- **Warfare and Conquest:** Societies engaged in warfare tended to favor male deities associated with strength and conquest, reinforcing patriarchal authority.
- **Patriarchal Societies and Social Control:** As hierarchical states emerged, divine authority was often centralized in male gods to legitimize kingship and social order.
- **Writing and Religious Texts:** The codification of religious doctrines, such as those in the Hebrew Bible, Christian, and Islamic traditions, often reflect and reinforce patriarchal values.

Consequences of the Religious Shift

- **Marginalization of the Feminine Divine:** Female deities and symbols were replaced or suppressed, leading to a diminished role for women in spiritual and societal contexts.
- **Patriarchal Gender Roles:** Religious narratives helped solidify gender roles, often portraying women as subordinate or associated with temptation and sin.
- **Cultural Memory and Suppression:** The historical memory of goddess worship persisted in folklore, myths, and clandestine spiritual practices, but was largely marginalized.

The Revival of Goddess Spirituality and Feminist Perspectives

Decades after the publication of *When God Was a Woman*, the book's ideas contributed to the burgeoning feminist spirituality movement and a reevaluation of religious history.

Key Movements and Developments

- **Goddess Movement of the 1970s and 1980s:** Inspired by Stone's work, many

women and activists sought to reclaim the feminine divine, establishing goddess-centered rituals, communities, and spirituality practices.

- **Modern Goddess Worship:** Contemporary practices often involve honoring goddess archetypes like Gaia, Isis, or Durga, emphasizing empowerment, healing, and ecological awareness.

- **Feminist Theology and Religious Reinterpretation:** Scholars and theologians have revisited sacred texts, seeking to uncover or reimagine the divine feminine within major religious traditions.

- **Academic Reassessment:** Universities and research institutions increasingly recognize the importance of goddess archaeology and myth in understanding human history.

The Impact on Contemporary Society

- **Gender Equality and Empowerment:** Reclaiming the goddess archetype fosters a sense of empowerment among women and marginalized groups.

- **Environmental Consciousness:** The goddess as Earth Mother aligns with ecological movements emphasizing sustainability and reverence for nature.

- **Holistic Spirituality:** Many modern spiritualities incorporate goddess worship as part of a more inclusive and holistic approach to spirituality.

Critical Reception and Legacy of Merlin Stone's Work

When God Was a Woman has received both acclaim and critique over the decades. It is praised for its pioneering synthesis of archaeology and feminist theory but also scrutinized for its interpretations.

Strengths

- **Innovative Perspective:** Challenging patriarchal narratives, Stone opened new avenues for understanding religious history.

- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Combining art history, archaeology, mythology, and feminism, the book offers a comprehensive view.

- **Reclaiming the Feminine:** It has inspired countless women and spiritual seekers to explore goddess spirituality.

Criticisms

- **Speculative Interpretations:** Some scholars argue that Stone's conclusions are overly optimistic or interpret archaeological data through a feminist lens that may overlook alternative explanations.

- **Limited Scope:** Critics note that the book primarily focuses on certain cultures and may generalize across diverse societies.

Enduring Legacy

Despite critiques, Merlin Stone's *When God Was a Woman* remains a foundational text in feminist spirituality, religious studies, and mythological scholarship. It has inspired subsequent works, documentaries, and spiritual movements dedicated to restoring and honoring the divine feminine.

Conclusion: A Reimagining of Humanity's Spiritual Roots

Merlin Stone's *When God Was a Woman* is more than a historical account; it is a call to reconsider the fundamental narratives that shape our understanding of divinity, gender, and human history. By illuminating the once-prevalent goddess worship and challenging the patriarchal structures that suppressed it, Stone invites us to imagine a more balanced spiritual future—one that embraces the sacred feminine as an integral part of our collective consciousness.

In today's world, where gender equality, ecological sustainability, and spiritual authenticity are pressing concerns, her work offers profound insights. It encourages us to revisit ancient truths, honor the divine in all its forms, and foster a spiritual landscape that reflects the fullness of human experience.

Merlin Stone's pioneering exploration remains a vital touchstone, inspiring ongoing dialogue between history, spirituality, and social justice.

[Merlin Stone When God Was A Woman](#)

merlin stone when god was a woman: When God was a Woman Merlin Stone, 1978

Documents the ancient worship of the great creator Mother Goddess under a diversity of names and details the rewriting of myths, the recasting of rituals and religious doctrines, and the transformation of the Goddess into a wanton, depraved figure by invading patriarchal tribes.

merlin stone when god was a woman: The Goddess Re-Awakening Shirley J. Nicholson, 1989-05-01 This anthology, with essays by Riane Eisler, June Singer, and others, considers Goddess myths, current psychological perspectives, and the feminine principle in spirituality today. It offers a worldview that integrates intuition, intellect, and feeling.

merlin stone when god was a woman: The Trojan War Diane P. Thompson, 2013-06-13 The Trojan War occurred more than 3,000 years ago. Since then, starting with Homer's epics, people have been writing, painting, sculpting and creating music about this event and its participants. This book starts with an overview of the Bronze Age when the Trojan War occurred, and then follows a selection of the major literature about this war from Homer down through the ages and on to the Internet. Each retelling of the Troy story is discussed in its historical context and includes a synopsis of the story itself. The ways of telling the story change over time. The main versions considered include Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*; a selection of Classical Greek Dramas (especially *Iphigenia at Aulis*); Virgil's *Aeneid*; Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*; Guido delle Colonne's *History of the Destruction of Troy*; Racine's *Iphigenia (at Aulis)*; Goethe's *Iphigenia in Tauris*; Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*; Joyce's *Ulysses*; and two feminist Troy novels, Sheri Tepper's *The Gate to Women's Country* and Marion Zimmer Bradley's *The Firebrand*. Instructors considering this book for

use in a course may request an examination copy here.

merlin stone when god was a woman: Unspinning the Spin Rosalie Maggio, The Women's Media Center, 2015-01-27 The Women's Media Center—founded by Jane Fonda, Gloria Steinem, and Robin Morgan—presents its first comprehensive guide to using accurate, inclusive, creative, and clear language. At a time when language is too often used to “spin” instead of communicate, *Unspinning the Spin: The Women's Media Center Guide to Fair and Accurate Language* was created to help everyone understand and be understood. *Unspinning the Spin* offers the convenience of a dictionary, the authority of a usage guide, the helpfulness of a thesaurus, and the wit and wisdom of an entertaining and authoritative teacher of the subject. Organized alphabetically for easy use, with cross-references to related words, phrases, and issues, this book goes beyond the scope of the usual reference book. It mines a wide variety of fields to present the background, current uses, accuracy, alternatives, and best practices for choosing and decoding common words and phrases, and offers a trove of suggestions for bias-free language. *Unspinning the Spin* is a practical, indispensable how-to that is fun to read. It's invaluable for journalists, bloggers, students, teachers, government officials, and communications professionals, and it will be compelling for any reader who loves the English language. The author, Rosalie Maggio, has been an expert and widely read authority on language for more than 25 years. She is the author of the award-winning *Dictionary of Bias-Free Usage* and the editor of *The New Beacon Book of Quotations by Women*. *Unspinning the Spin* includes a preface by Robin Morgan, feminist activist, former editor-in-chief of *Ms.*, and award-winning author of more than 20 books; and Gloria Steinem, writer, activist, editor, bestselling author, and cofounder of *Ms.* This book is the first publication of WMC Press, the publishing arm of the Women's Media Center. “Given the growing awareness of sexism imbedded in our everyday speech, we—and the news media in particular—need alternative language. *Unspinning the Spin* should be a welcome resource for journalists, and for anyone who works with words, to consult. At last we have a comprehensive, authoritative (and funny!), feminist Fowler's.” —Suzanne Braun Levine, author, first editor of *Ms.*, and first woman editor of *The Columbia Journalism Review* “Language is power and debates are won or lost on how the arguments are shaped. Anyone who cares about politics, power, and the histories we make today will find *Unspinning the Spin: The Women's Media Center Guide to Fair and Accurate Language* a reference for all seasons.” —Katrina vanden Heuvel, Editor and Publisher of *The Nation*

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merlin stone when god was a woman: Scoffing at Scripture Frank Bolger Kelly, 2011-02 A former Roman Catholic, Frank Bolger Kelly has long wondered why thinking humans as a whole in the 21st century have not yet been able to disenthral themselves from the demonstrable falsehoods and sectarian nonsense of organized religion. A few years ago, Kelly decided to sit down with the sacred scriptures of several of the world's major religions, the alleged bedrocks of these various creeds, in a last-ditch effort to achieve holy inspiration. Instead, he became wholly disenchanted, and *Scoffing at Scripture: A Commoner Reads the World's Holy Writ and Rejects Traditional Religion* is the result. Far from representing that all-elusive Word of God, creedal scripture the world over, it seems to Kelly, merely cloaks the tribal agendas and cultural designs of the world's priestly (and virtually allmale) elites. With the general reader in mind, the author has grouped together a series of compact discussions of religion and scripture for cross-cultural comparative reference. Kelly's intent is to facilitate critical analysis of the world's holy writ and, in particular, to encourage younger, skeptical readers of a secular mind to confront the doctrinal, scriptural, and ritual absurdities of those faiths into which they were born and continue to be indoctrinated. Frank Bolger Kelly grew up

in an Irish Catholic family in the Bronx, New York, matriculated to a noted Jesuit college in New England, and subsequently did time at a prestigious non-sectarian institution of higher learning in the Midwest. It was during his enlightening time at the latter that Kelly first began seriously to question not only his own religious upbringing but the scriptural bases of all the world's major religions. Kelly was quickly convinced that the vast majority of the faithful the world over, commoners like himself, just might reconsider their religious roots and motivations in a new light if they actually bothered to immerse themselves for a time in their own sacred scriptures, rather than merely fake familiarity with them. Actually to read scripture in all its antiquated, tendentious, sectarian absurdity, Kelly reasoned, is to take a first, giant step in renouncing irrational creeds of all kinds. Thus was born *Scoffing at Scripture: A Commoner Reads the World's Holy Writ and Rejects Traditional Religion*, a book from which the author hopes the open-minded reader will draw a secularly pure, spiritual sustenance.

merlin stone when god was a woman: Eden in Sumer on the Niger Catherine Obianuju Acholonu, 2014-01-06 EDEN IN SUMER ON THE NIGER provides archeological, linguistic, genetic, and inscribed evidence of the West African origin of mankind, language, religion and civilization. It provides multidisciplinary evidence of the actual geographical location in West Africa of the Garden of Eden, Atlantis and the original homeland of the Sumerian people before their migration to the Middle East. By translating hitherto unknown pre-cuneiform inscriptions of the Sumerians, Catherine Acholonu and Sidney Davis have uncovered thousands of years of Africa's lost pre-history and evidences of the West African origins of the earliest Pharaohs and Kings of Egypt and Sumer such as Menes and Sargon the Great. This book provides answers to all lingering questions about the African Cavemen (Igbos/Esh/Adamas/Adites) original guardians of the human races, Who gave their genes for the creation of Homo Sapiens (Adam) and were the teachers in the First Age of the world.

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merlin stone when god was a woman: The Natural Pregnancy Book, Third Edition Aviva Jill Romm, 2014-08-05 A revised and updated edition of the classic handbook for women seeking a safe, organic, eco-friendly, and natural pregnancy, featuring an integrative-based approach with new medical, herbal, and nutritional information. Every mother wants the best for her unborn child, from the baby's conception to birth. What's more, every mother wants clear, straightforward information delivered in a calm, empowering voice from someone who knows the facts. Enter Dr. Aviva Jill Romm, an expert in natural childbirth with more than twenty years of experience in both alternative and allopathic medicine. In this newly revised third edition, Dr. Romm takes a holistic approach, emphasizing natural remedies wherever possible and providing up-to-date advice on herbs that promote wellness during pregnancy, and alleviate such familiar concerns as anxiety, fatigue, morning sickness, and stretch marks. With tips for a nutritious diet, exercise and posture, and information on the emotional and physical changes that childbearing brings, *The Natural Pregnancy Book* is your comprehensive guide to a safe, healthy pregnancy, as nature intended it.

merlin stone when god was a woman: A Cracker Gal Finds Religion Mary Louise DeWolf, 2011-07-27 If you are interested in religion, or in enriching your own religion, or in searching for a

religion that suits you, you will enjoy this book. It is the story of the authors religious journey in stories, poems and sermons. Early in life, her father took her brother, the oldest sibling, to one church, and she and her two older sisters went with their mother to another church. But, she recalls that her first significant religious experience happened at home when she was alone. The authors spiritual growth began in this religiously divided family. She found her way, slowly and questioning, to a different religion and to her own theology. The fruits of her journey are, basically, what the book is about poems and sermons. The poems chronicle the changes that occur in her life through this questioning: the meaning of life, relationships, love, nature, the seasons, and holidays. Writing and delivering sermons involve the head and the heart, knowledge and intuition, sensitivity and frankness. These sermons demonstrate the authors commitment to a religion that fits her science, not a separation between the two. The sermons are about how to live in this world with all of its complexities, while understanding that not only do religions differ widely, but so do individual theologies, convictions, and personalities. The goal of the sermons is to help us all make this world a better place to live by respecting the worth and dignity of every person with justice, equity, and compassion; engaging in an ongoing search for truth and meaning; exercising our conscience and the democratic process; and acknowledging the interdependent web of all existence.

merlin stone when god was a woman: Ghetto Religiosity II Khalil Amani, 2001-08 The primary focus of this book is our religious understanding of sex. It is the author's premise that the sexual attitudes of today were erroneously and maliciously set up by men whose ultimate aim was to control the sexual practices of the ancient Jews and the rights of women. Most controversial is our present view of homosexuality and how the Bible has thoroughly misshaped our ideas about homosexual love. The case is made that homosexuality is not a sin against God but rather a conspiracy conjured up by the machinations of the ancient Levitical priests. It's high-time someone came along with a voice that speaks the truth about our 'Western' brainwashing without trying to proselytize to a particular brand of religion. Someone that doesn't skirt the issues because of denominational ties. I cannot be excommunicated, defrocked, or untenured! Neither am I bound by the Masonic sword. I speak freely! ...Many preachers merely parrot the party-line to keep their congregation in a religious coma, extracting thousands and millions of dollars to feed their ostentatious lifestyle If you want to know the truth, here it is! Peep it and recognize! -The Author

merlin stone when god was a woman: *Women and Evil* Nel Noddings, 1991-05-08 Human beings love to fictionalize evil--to terrorize each other with stories of defilement, horror, excruciating pain, and divine retribution. Beneath the surface of bewitchment and half-sick amusement, however, lies the realization that evil is real and that people must find a way to face and overcome it. What we require, Carl Jung suggested, is a morality of evil--a carefully thought out plan by which to manage the evil in ourselves, in others, and in whatever deities we posit. This book is not written from a Jungian perspective, but it is nonetheless an attempt to describe a morality of evil. One suspects that descriptions of evil and the so-called problem of evil have been thoroughly suffused with male interests and conditioned by masculine experience. This result could hardly have been avoided in a sexist culture, and recognizing the truth of such a claim does not commit us to condemn every male philosopher and theologian who has written on the problem. It suggests, rather, that we may get a clearer view of evil if we take a different standpoint. The standpoint I take here will be that of women; that is, I will attempt to describe evil from the perspective of women's experience.

merlin stone when god was a woman: *The Great Turning* ,

merlin stone when god was a woman: *Harlots And Heresy* Isabel Merians, 2004-06-30 Sexual love was once regarded as so sacred and holy that the Sacred Sexual Mysteries were taught within the temple itself--a time when the great Goddess was considered the Creator of the Universe. Harlots and Heresy is an exciting, fictionalized account of five of these women, Jezebel, Delilah, Salome, Athaliah and Lilith. Each tells her own compelling story. The Old Testament was written at a time when Yahweh's followers were in conflict with the Goddess worshippers. Learn how these magnificent, powerful women were demonized as politics and faiths collided.

merlin stone when god was a woman: Goddess Wisdom Made Easy Tanishka, 2019-01-08

Learn about the ancient goddess traditions and reconnect with your femininity, your natural cycles and your intuition. Ancient civilizations once worshipped female deities and women were the leaders, counsellors and healers of their communities. Through the ages, the wisdom of the Goddess was then forgotten, and people around the world lost their connection to ancient feminine wisdom. In this practical guide, Tanishka, a leading teacher and author of women's wisdom traditions, introduces the main Goddess cultures and explains how their teachings and practices can empower and transform your life today. You will learn: the history, philosophy and practices of ancient Goddess traditions the seven Goddess archetypes and their corresponding chakras the life stages of the feminine journey and how to transition through each one rituals to reconnect with your inner goddess insight and tools to understand and align with the cycles of nature This book was previously published under the title Goddess Wisdom (Hay House Basics series).

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