

Creation Myths

The earliest creation stories talk about the primeval water - this came first. This water brought life, but also death. It created and it destroyed. As with all aspects of creation there is duality. It is an immutable law of creation inherent in the fact that creation is spirit in matter. From this duality comes all further dualities.

These energies of life and death were personified and deified in early people. In the Babylonian creation myth, the Enuma elish, that precedes the Judeo-Christian creation story, the primeval waters were known as Nun. The two forces of creation and destruction were seen to be at war with one another, until Marduk - the Lord of the Forces of the Cosmos overcame the swirling chaos of the waters and their serpent deity, Tiamat. (Serpent is the symbol of the Goddess).



So now in the myth we have the feminine energies of the world “conquered” by the masculine energies of the world and out of this “conquest” came the primordial ground of creation. It is helpful to see “conquered” in these myths, as merely the next stage of development, (We could say, for instance, we conquered 1st grade and moved to 2nd grade), rather than seeing it through the masculine ego lens of overpowering and destroying.

This mountain arising from the waters was charged with the energy of Life and as such was seen as the sacred mountain, the most holy place on earth - the navel of the world. This became the archetype of the temple, which is also only a representation as mentioned in the last teaching, of the human body itself.

These creation myths are all similar - showing up all across the world. I am sure you recognize the echo of this ancient myth in the story of Genesis and in the story of Noah in the old testament, and it shows up in the 2000 remaining temples along the Irrawady River in Myanmar - all replicas of mountains rising from the life giving and also destructive waters of the river.



The pyramids of Egypt too are mountains built to exact sacred geometry along the banks of the mighty Nile that comes to flood and destroy and deposit rich silt for crops, every year. In Buddhism the mountain temples most famous example is Borobudur in Java, that some of you have visited with me. Rising above the plains set in a sacred site between the life giving and destructive forces of

the volcanoes, it is a testament to the rise and growth of the human soul from the ground to the heavens - rooted and grounded in chaotic creation and rising to the Consciousness of Heavenly realms, just like each human life.





It is not the purpose here to elucidate all the creation myths, but it makes a fascinating study. What is more important to me is the recognition in you that what is seen outwardly is representing an early understanding of the self as it strives from the primeval waters of it's beginnings to the enlightened state. The myth is talking about you, not oceans, volcanoes, rivers and mountains, but you yourself.

In the very earliest understandings of self, all this "knowing," was projected outward on to nature, and gods were seen to *be* every aspect of the natural world and as such to be worshipped and appeased. It takes a long time to take back this projection. It requires that you emerge from the swirling chaotic energies of infancy and childhood and start building the solid mountain temple of your being - the structure of achievement and success and aspiration, and that you finally realize that it is Holy and the dwelling place of the Spirit of Consciousness Itself.

Exercise:

Take some time to consider your own creation. How is this myth talking about the forces of the Universe coming together in creating you?

What was your birth like? What are the stories and myths around this?

What is the template of feeling and belief that was created together with your own being?

What informed you from conception, development in the womb, to the birth and rising out of the waters of the temple of your being?

Share with one another the stories of your birth and try to feel your way into what the experience was like for that young being and how it informed your life.

Try to feel your way into early humans understanding of creation, within themselves, and outside of themselves. How did this understanding inform future development in the world?

Collect pictures of your mother pregnant with you, and with you as an infant with one or both parents. How would you like to relate to that little being?

Write a blessing for life, for that infant that you were. Think of the story of the Sleeping Beauty. All the good fairies brought a blessing at her birth. The bad one, bought a curse. How is this too your story?

