Abstract: Wisdom returning (long abstract)

Good news: the Divine Feminine is returning all over the world! She has many names. To name a few: Wisdom/Sophia/Prajñaparamita/Quan Yin/Amaterasu. She manifests herself in female/male symbols of balance: the Yin/Yang- and Yab/Yum-symbols and ‘the Star of David’, the two triangles in the circle, one triangle facing upwards and one facing downwards, a universal symbol which only later became an important symbol in Jewish tradition. These symbols of balance were in developed in a Golden Age of harmony, balance and peace.

Around 1000 BC the Divine Feminine Principle finally disappeared globally out of our societies, laws, religions and consciousness. The male started to dominate in Bronze and Iron Ages. Male emperors, kings and scribes started to write down the laws and the holy texts, which became very unfriendly against the feminine and female human beings. They argued that these male-oriented written holy texts had to be taken literally and that they were the one and only eternal truth. Dark and Iron Age times of continuous warfare, aggression, competition and domination of the happy few spread over the world. In these dark times world art and graves show many weapons for the first time in his-story; for the first time settlements had to build defensive walls. Enslaved and dominated females and males suffered a lot. These devastating times are ending….

Why? They are ending because the Divine Feminine is coming back. She descends from the heavens and reappears on earth. She was sent away but she is returning.

How can we trace her in this present global development? And what are the implications of her come back on earth in academic, commercial and daily life? This lecture will give an interdisciplinary and global overview of her return in various academic fields: we will find out why and how she is coming back in modern archaeology, anthropology, philosophy, religious studies and world religions, art history (which shows the degeneration of the female image in patriarchal times very clearly), neuropsychology, evolutionary psychology and last but not least (inner) alchemy.

Wisdom teaches us to regain our ancient female dignity that we have lost in patriarchal times. She instructs us how to open our hearts; how we can live more balanced and happy lives and be prosperous in our business and private life. She awakens us and teaches the integrated Middle Way. She brings back peace and harmony to a more feminine and balanced world.

In this lecture I am going to reconstruct egalitarian societies in balance and peace and their knowledge of the balanced Middle Way, the Way of Wisdom.

Method: In this reconstruction work I use an interdisciplinary method. I give new insights in several scientific disciplines; archaeology, anthropology, art history, mythology, sacral geography, landscape mythology, ethnology, linguistics, religious studies, psychology and inner alchemy.

This lecture is giving you the instruments to uncover and unveil older egalitarian cultures in your own surroundings, where ever you live on earth.

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1. A flowered introduction

The meadow with flowers. I invite you to see before you a beautiful and bountiful meadow of flowers in all colors and forms. It is summer. But autumn arrives and the flowers fall apart. Winter comes and a thick blanket of cold ice and snow is covering the seeds. But a new spring comes and covers the meadow again with tiny flowers. They are the first ones who dare to stretch their small faces above Mother Earth.

In this lecture I am giving you back a few of those beautiful flowers that we have lost but are coming up again. This meadow is a metaphor for what happened in our joint female-male history. We lost the Yin-factor and the Yang started to dominate. Now the Yin is growing strong again, it has to find a balance with a healthy, vital and strong Yang.

2. From Egalitarian cultures to Dominator cultures to new Partnership cultures

The Land of the Mothers, our Motherland. You can compare this summer meadow with our Motherland; the land where egalitarian societies blossomed. There was an abundance of goods and food; there was peace and harmony between the female Yin and the male Yang, between genders and generations, humans and nature. People did not make or have weapons yet. Graves from Neolithic times do not contain arms and art does not show arms. In the Motherland the mother is central; people speak a language of symbols; these symbols prove that the feminine is honored and revered in these early societies.

But we have forgotten this ancient language of the Mother or MA, a language of images, pictures and symbols. We have to remember and to relearn it again. Old symbols of balance are leading us. For example: the Yin/Yang symbol; the Yab/Yum-symbol and ‘the Star of David’-symbol: the two triangles in the circle, one triangle facing upwards and one facing downwards, which is much older than Jewish tradition.

The land of our Fathers. Winter came. Neolithic egalitarian societies of balance were crushed by dominator-cultures during Bronze and Iron Ages. Autocratic monarchies were formed. After a lot of fighting huge empires were formed. Professional armies fought the whole year through. State and religion worked together; religion was used for political means.

The world saw world empires rising. In these empires specific word religions emerged from the 6th century BC onwards, the so-called axial age. They were rooted in more ancient egalitarian societies or matriarchies but they developed in a very patriarchal direction. A thick blanket of androcentric and gynophobic interpretations of Buddhism, Confucianism, Neoconfucianism and catholic and protestant Christianity covered the global Motherland and brought the world into the patriarchal
phase I now call the ‘Fatherland’. People have forgotten the language of symbols: their mother tongue.

**Modern Patriarchy.** Riane Eisler, author of *The Chalice and the Blade* (1987) maintains that because capitalist society emphasizes individual competitiveness, greed and hierarchism (class structure) and continues to rely on violence in for example colonial wars, it remains fundamentally androcratic. Most of the world’s women still live in misery. The solution of all these global problems lies in the replacement of the dominator social model.

**The revision of history.** The existing textbooks on world history start with the beginnings of patriarchal his-story and see the earlier periods as primitive and uncivilized. In this traditional view on history the earliest human ‘civilization’ appeared in ancient Egypt around 3000 BC and in Sumeria around 2500 BC. This picture is revised by findings of Paleolithic and Neolithic periods dated by means of the C-14 method. Now we can reconstruct global ancient egalitarian cultures from the Neolithic period.

**New partnership cultures.** Now the time has come to give you back some of these ancient flowers, to regain them on our His-Story and help to transform His-Story into Our-Story. I am giving you back some of them in this lecture.

**Removing the blanket.** How are we going to do this? Which method do I use? First we have to deconstruct the patriarchal worldview. It is necessary to show that patriarchy is not an eternal but relatively short period in our His/Her-Story. The future is open. We can move into a new egalitarian society on the basis of old patterns of social behavior which show that human beings are not aggressive in nature and inclined to sin. In the beginning they were social, loving and kind to each other. They had an open heart and that is what we have to find back again. Not to remain resentful and angry because of all the bad things which happened to humankind in patriarchy, but to move on into a new stage interconnection and cooperation. This can only be reached if we can reconstruct the social, cultural, political, economic and spiritual knowledge of peaceful, egalitarian societies, which once were called matriarchies. I define matriarchies as peaceful, egalitarian societies where the mother is central.

**3. How to deconstruct our patriarchal past: peeling the onion**

Western patriarchal culture had two major roots: the Judaism/Christianity and ancient classical culture of the Greeks and Romans. Before this Europe and other continents had egalitarian cultures. There was peace, harmony and economic prosperity and a flourishing culture, this era is symbolized by the *chalice*. The patriarchal one by the *blade*. There were weapons in the hands of patriarchal male warriors: violence, war, suppression and destruction emerged. It lasted about 5 millennia. It covered up the ancient egalitarian culture. We have to reconstruct the older layer. But how?

**1. The first deconstruction** we have to make is realizing that evolution is not developing itself from low to high in one single upward line. In some way it is the other way round: from high to low. It depends on which standard of civilization you use... the one of aggression and war or of harmony and peace!

**What is civilization?** What is civilization? Evolution and civilization were defined from a Eurocentric or Anglo-American perspective. From this perspective male scholars did not see and were not open to the contribution of the feminine to evolution. Androcentric scholars thought: the bigger the
influence of women, the less civilized was society. His-Story was divided in the periods which had to do with metals to make war: bronze and iron.

Is a nation ‘civilized’ when the male rules the female and makes war on a permanent and endemic base; when many people suffer, are enslaved and are ruled by an elite? When the nation is divided in a social hierarchy of casts or classes with the dominating light-skinned and richest at the top and the overruled darkest skinned and poorest at the bottom of society? Or is civilization measured by the level of peace and well being of the whole group? Which standard do you prefer?

2. The second deconstruction. Handbooks of archaeology, cultural anthropology, political science, medical science, religious study, psychology, were all written by male scholars of the first generation of scholarship in these fields. Women were only allowed to enter university two generations ago, which is very recent. Young women do not realize this. Women are inclined to adapt to patriarchal standards and patriarchalize themselves only to find out that they are not accepted in the Old Boys Network. Even women studies have been infected by this one-sided illness of rational, measuring and highly materialistic thought. There is no respect for inner wisdom, inner soul-things and spiritual insights of the worldwide wisdom-tradition. This lecture shows we have to reconnect to our ancient past in order to find a balance between the Yang-side and Yin-side in ourselves and in our history.

4. Relearning the Language of the Mother
I use an interdisciplinary method in the reconstruction work. We use new insights in several scientific disciplines; archaeology, anthropology, art history, mythology, sacral geography, landscape mythology, ethnology, linguistics, religious studies, psychology and alchemy.

4.1 Archaeology. Archaeology found graves, grave goods, longhouses and clan centers. A lot of female Venuses were found (figurines, statuettes and statues). We use the symbols on excavated items. But the problem is: how to interpret them? Symbolic anthropology studies the symbols on these relics of ancient times. Anthropological archaeology studies the social implications of these ancient societies and the role of gender in it.

When you find female figurines and statues – which are globally found in large quantities in Neolithic societies and modern egalitarian societies – can you derive from this that the female had an important position in an egalitarian society?

Important studies on archaeology and gender
Global with a lot of new information about non-western-cultures or in Judy Fosters words: ‘Hidden and new Worlds: Africa, India, China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, Oceania, the Americas’:
archaeology and gender
*Judy Foster, Invisible Women of Prehistory. Three million years of peace, six thousand years of war, Melbourne, 2013.
Academic anthropological archaeology and archaeology and gender
*Sarah Milledge Nelson, Shamans, Queens and Figurines. The Development of Gender Archaeology, Walnut Creek California, 2015.
Goddess Movement
*Max Dashu: www.suppressedhistoriesarchives.com see literature list

4.2 Modern anthropology is doing research in modern societies in balance. They do field work in modern hunter-gatherer and agricultural cultures, egalitarian cultures. We link modern data to understand ancient egalitarian cultures better. With these data we reconstruct their economic, political, social, cultural and spiritual level.

Important studies on egalitarian societies (anthropology and gender)
4.3 **Art history.** The evolution of female Venus Art shows a degeneration of the female image; after 1960th modern female artists developed a more positive female image.


*Old Europe: several books of prof. dr Marija Gimbutas see literature list. *Max Dashu, ‘Icons of the Matrix’, and ‘Lady Shaman’ with several other articles on www.supressedhistoriesarchives.com

**4.4. Mythology.** From mythology we use *origin myths* as indicators for gender-relations in Neolithic societies. When they transformed into dominator-cultures, the male in the myths started to dominate.

Origin myths are related to original places in the landscape. Myths often have a core of historical truth. Oral tradition transmitted them before they were written down in a patriarchal way.


**4.4.1 We use landscape mythology** when we look for the geographic origin of the myth in the landscape. We can use certain elements in the landscape: mountain, rivers, trees and caves. 

*Landscape-mythology* is connecting myth with certain places in the landscape; in Korea for example queens are connected with myths of goddesses of the Mountains.


See literature only in German and not in English yet of Heide Göttner-Abendroth and Kurt Derungs.
See also in German literature on ‘Geomantie’ of Geomancy (Feng Shui). In French about Géo-biologie.

4.5 We study ethnology and folk traditions because the traditions of the conquered peoples survived under the thick patriarchal blanket in folklore and folk customs, habits, folk stories and folk religion. In Korea in shamanism or Wuism; in China in Daoism; in Japan in Shintoism; in European countries in pre-Christian paganism.

We can use the patterns in weaving, on ceramic, in jewelry, on the ornaments in traditional costume. They open ancient doors of perception to egalitarian times in balance. Mary Kelly is an artist and professor of art who documented folk textiles all over the world. She discovered that globally they had certain symbols in common: the tree of life, the goddess as tree of life or the goddess in human form (anthropomorphic form), animals like the bird, snake and deer. She discovered that during patriarchy when women married into small nuclear patriarchal families which were controlled by the ‘pater familias’ and by the state and the church, they handed on in their dowry very old textiles and symbols from ancestral mothers, grandmothers and great-great-grandmothers. You should take a look in their wardrobes, which were not controlled, to find these ancient symbols. This was their way of secret communication through images. These patterns form a new and very interesting source of research to reconstruct matriarchal times with their global impact and appearance. This brings us to the consciousness from which these symbols and patterns were created.

Archeology and weaving

Etnology

Literature on Jangseung (pairs of female/male totem poles) and bird poles in Korea

4.6 We use linguistics to uncover the older languages of egalitarian cultures, languages from before the time they were overruled.


* Annine van der Meer, *Van Venus tot Madonna*, The Hague, 2006 ch 3.7 (Egypt) and 3.16 (Greece) on the animosity of antique philosophers and lawmakers against women.


### 4.8 Religious studies search in world religions for their roots in older egalitarian cultures. We see how goddesses developed from deified clan mothers into goddesses before gods and heroes came to the fore.

*World religions* suppress what in their eyes is nothing more than simple and primitive superstition, the older matriarchal worldview. But they could not suppress the longing of the folk people and peasants for Mother Earth, for her blessings and happiness. That is why they transformed clan mothers and goddesses in female and male bodhisattva’s and buddha’s, but in many more male Buddhist saints than female ones; Christianity transformed pagan idols into Christian female and male saints, but into many more male saints than female ones. Old religious habits were transformed into allowable customs. Much of the female heritage from the period before the world religions was demonized: female shamans, priestesses and goddesses became either holy immaculate virgins or prostitutes and witches. Female shamans became witches and female priests who celebrated the Sacred Marriage were written down into His-Story as courtesans and prostitutes. The real subject has to do with *tantra*. With balancing the Yin and Yang forces in the body and achieving balance, unity and one-ness. When body and soul are balanced the heart opens itself. Then one becomes connected with earth and heaven and enters an enlarged consciousness.

### Global religions after patriarchy


### Hinduism


**Tantra**


**Buddhism**


**Taoism**


**Judaism**

See bibliography for the many books of dr. Margaret Barker.

**Christianity, Gnostic**

See bibliography for the (Dutch) books of Annine van der Meer.

See also Annine’s, *The language of MA the primal Mother*, 2013 with the latest refindings of Wisdom, The Great Mother of Israel after removing the corrections of the scribes ‘Alphabetcial list of images used’, p. 578 for Israel and index 585.

**Psychology.** We use new insights in *psychology* to uncover the *mindset* of female friendly egalitarian societies. This has to do with the cycle of nature: birth, death and rebirth. In traditional (and patriarchal) archaeology these cyclic goddesses are called ‘fertility’ goddesses. In the language of the Mother they are Goddess of Birth, Death and Rebirth. These rituals are often about entering caves, going downwards into the dark and coming back upwards into the light. These global cave-rituals during menstruation have to do with the dark side of the moon and the dark side of the year, during autumn and winter. During darker times females enter the darker of right side of their brain and shamanize. What happens when they drum, play the flute, the cymbal or ring the bell? Making rhythmic sounds and movements in circle dance? These questions will be answered when we deal with *evolutionary psychology*.

4.9.1 We use evolutionary psychology to see a development in human consciousness: humanity develops from living in We-cultures into living in I-cultures where the ego predominates.

4.9.2 We use neuropsychology to see how the female and male brains function and how heart and brain are interconnected. How females used their brain capacity in ancient times and how females were forces into (patriarchal) logic and rational thinking in patriarchal times. Now is the time to find back the Middle Way.

4.10 We use inner alchemy to balance the male and the female inside of us: the other half of Woman is Man; the other half of Man is Woman. When we balance these energies, we open our heart. Now we find the Middle Way which our ancestresses knew. We understand their way of living with an enlarged consciousness. But we as modern females gained something more: a new individuality.

5. The application of the interdisciplinary method: relearning the language of symbols; relearning the Language of the Mother

I did a little research in East Asian history because I wanted to find out if the interdisciplinary method was successful in recovering East Asian egalitarian societies. I was testing the method. I found out that in this area there was much more material left than in western-Europe, the area where I come from. In my lecture I try to give a global picture, but like to give examples of East-Asia when available.

Working with symbols and interpreting them.

5.1 The ancestresses/goddesses of Honghsan, Neolithic China
5.2 Lady Hao, Bronze Age China
5.3 Queen Puban, Iron Age Korea
5.4 Jomon art of Japan: From the Palaeolithic to Iron Age

1. The ancestresses of Honghsan, Neolithic China.
   **Symbols:** two ceremonial centers: one of life and one of death/rebirth; ancestress/goddess Nü Wa
   a. Center of birth: small Venus art: pregnant women; pottery
   b. Center of death/rebirth: huge statues ancestress art; one red face, one big ear, grinding stone

2. Lady Hao, Bronze Age China
Cowrie shells, bells, mirrors, many jades in female form, bird goddess. Female shaman and MU, ancestress.

3. Queen Puban, Iron Age Korea

4. Jomon art, Japan: Paleolithic-Iron Age; enormous amount of female Venus art, stone circles, megalithic art.

Bio
Dr Annine E.G. van der Meer (1953) is a Dutch historian of religion and holds a PhD in theology from the University of Utrecht. She is a specialist in worldwide feminine symbolism. She is the author of several books. In 2013 she presented The Language of MA the primal Mother. The evolution of the female image in 40,000 years of global Venus Art, a book which has more than 1300 images of the Divine Female. She has travelled widely to retrace the universal hidden Mother in sacred art, symbols and texts.

She is founder and president of the Dutch PanSophia Academy, school of Wisdom in the 21st century (2008), where she also teaches. Since 2009 she represents the Netherlands in the digital international matriarchy studies network. Since 2009 she visited various international matriarchy- and gift economy conferences in Toronto (Canada, 2009), Hambach and Winzer (Germany, 2010), Rome (2009, 2015), and Sankt Gallen (Switzerland, 2011).

In July 2010 33 world-women were honoured in the 'Manifest Female Energy' among whom were Isabelle Allende, Karin Armstrong en Marianne Williamson. Annine van der Meer was one of six Dutch women to be decorated. According to the manifest, they have contributed to transformation processes in the world; a new world, in which feminine and masculine energies mutually inspire each other and are growing towards a new, powerful and creative world order.

Author’s website: www.anninevandermeer.nl
Author’s webshop: www.pansophia-press.nl
PanSophia Academy website: www.pansophia.nl

English Articles of Annine see www.anninevandermeer.nl under articles

Anne wrote an English book:

Anne wrote several Dutch books
* Annine van der Meer, Van Sophia tot Maria. De wedergeboorte van de verborgen Moeder in de 21e eeuw, Geesteren, 2008.
* Annine van der Meer, Venus is geen Vamp. Het vrouwenbeeld in 35.000 jaar Venuskunst, Geesteren, 2009.

Anne made 10 films of 20-40 minutes each on three DVD's in one DVD-box of the basic course of four afternoon sessions she gives about 40,000 years of Venus Art.

All books, the E-book and the DVD-box are available through the webshop www.pansophia-press.nl

6. General Bibliography (see downwards for literature East Asia)


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Religions after Patriarchy


**The Middle and Far East**

**Hinduism**


**Buddhism**


**China**


Göttner-Abendroth, Heide ed., *Matriarchal studies*, see several articles of scholars on East Asia.


**Japan**

**Korea**

**Africa**
See Heide Göttnner-Abendroth, *Matriarchal studies*, of for articles about Africa with references to Makilam (Malika Grasshof) and her books about the life of Berber Women and Bernedette Muthien about Khoi-San culture in South Africa.

**Tantra**

**Subtle Energy**
Annine wrote an English book

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Annine made **10 films** of 20-40 minutes each on three DVD’s in one DVD-box of the basic course of four afternoon sessions she gives about 40,000 years of Venus Art.

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