

Review of:

Goddess 2.0 — Advancing a New Path Forward
An Anthology by Karen Tate

Goddess 2.0: Advancing a New Path Forward, a recently released anthology of two dozen pieces by adept and knowledgeable contributors, brings Goddess Spirituality alive and up-to-date. The well-crafted pieces are poignant and provocative. Organized into two parts—Sacred Wisdom and Sacred Action—this guidebook toward a “new normal” is curated by the popular author, lecturer and ritualist Karen Tate, who hosts the long-running radio program *Voices of the Sacred Feminine*.

Providing support during tough times, this compilation, less than 200 pages, which feels good to hold, brings forth the best of an ancient movement. While reading this compact volume we felt we were participating in intimate conversations with a round table of individuals. **Starhawk, Riane Eisler, Carol Christ, Barbara Walker, and Christina Biaggi** among other clear thinkers all active in the Goddess Movement for decades take on key contemporary issues.

Addressing the challenges of the 21st century, themes range from caring economics, ethics, feminist theology, to mythology honoring living goddesses and the importance of telling our own stories. Reading these historical tidbits, fascinating insights, and reverence for the sacred feminine will transport you to a new world where Goddess energy infuses politics, culture, and activism.

As we face the reality of current conflicts, one way we can support one another is to hold discussion circles that build community and help each of us formulate our best next steps. This book supplies an ideal focus and stimulating jumping-off points for these gatherings. You can purchase this gem directly from Karen’s Goddess Gift Shop (www.karentate.com) at a special price or from Amazon in both kindle and paperback formats. This comforting companion in these troubled times is well worth the modest investment.

Here are tantalizing morsels from each essay. These ideas are just a sampling of what awaits you in *Goddess 2.0*.

Insights into the mythological elements of key images and stories are abundant. **Karen Tate** offers a sorely needed revision of the well-known Garden of Eden allegory, one of the earliest pieces of political propaganda. The varied forms of serpent symbolism are artfully explained by **Amy Peck** who experiences the serpent as a wise truth teller, nurturing both the common good and individual authenticity. **Andrew Gurevich** exposes the Goddess mythology underlying the United States of America, putting Her back in the position She deserves in American society. We learn statues of the Goddess Columbia are prominent on government buildings in Washington D.C., reminding us that empathy is a central national tenet. The fight against fascism and oppression in Greece and its relationship to the Dark Aphrodite who refused to play the role of the submissive wife, instead maintaining her freedom is explored by **Harita Meenee**.

The importance of gathering together in circles is highlighted. **Bob Gratrix** sees ritual as an empowering practice expressing love and trust which suits our time. For **M. Isadora Forrest** ritual is how we humans *do* religion using speech, dance, music, and intellectual effort. Worship is revering the Divine as well as honoring that which is sacred in others. **Trista Hendren** feels we Goddessians need more face time even if we don't see eye to eye on everything. She encourages us not to forget the wisdom and words we have at our disposal. **Linda Iles** harkens us to listen to the story of others as well as share our own story. She observes that Goddess spirituality recognizes the value of diversity, preserving and caring for the cultural richness of humankind.

Science also appears. **Delphine DeMore** presents biological evidence behind two mindsets – the liberal “tend and befriend” verses the conservative “fight or flight.” She finds women are inclined to connect with others, more frequently exhibiting empathic engagement and are not as reflexively fearful. **Anne Baring** focuses on awakening the soul which demands a new planetary consciousness utilizing the deepest instincts of the heart to safeguard, protect and serve the biological well-being of Planet Earth.

Well-known voices in the Goddess-honoring movement give us core insights. **Carol Christ** advocates for Societies of Peace, sharing her vision depicting a goddess-centered society. **Riane Eisler** introduces her work on *Caring Economics*, providing fresh wealth indicators. In one of two essays, **Starhawk** points out the

need for rituals to process feelings about abortion. Her second piece considers the shape of a moral economy that is rooted in ecological well-being and interconnection. **Christina Biaggi** beckons us to lose any fear we may have of death. She recounts the recent *Celebration of Life* of Lydia Ruyle that occurred just days before she passed. A well-loved educator and creator of gorgeous multicultural Goddess banners, Lydia's friends and colleagues gathered to honor her while she was still alive, proclaiming death a final passage back to the Great Mother.

Four Unitarian Universalists who contributed to the movement to incorporate Goddess spirituality and activism into this mainstream religious organization reflect on how Goddess theology has informed their own eclectic journeys. Coming of age in the 1960s, **Bob Fisher** tells how the Goddess has been active in his life from an early age, encouraging his intuitive side that supports non-hierarchy, interdependence, and nurturing. **Elizabeth Fisher** believes we model our actions and thoughts on the imagery we see in art, novels, movies and religions. In her visualization *Lilith Meets the Green Man*, she offers a story of partnership, tying this story into efforts on a global level to shift humanity away from misogyny. **Nancy Vedder-Shults** tells of her use of oracles which facilitate sacred encounters, preparing her for transforming engagement in the world. For **Shirley Ranck** the re-emerging Goddess is grounded in the natural world and inner life. She reveals philosophical threads that parallel the rhythms of nature and relates the impact she received from the original image of our blue-green Earth as seen from the moon.

This volume also presents varied approaches to life decisions including: the perspective that veganism is an antidote to the dominator paradigm by **Charlotte Cressey**; and seeing science and reasoning abilities rather than deities as the source of our *Power* by **Barbara Walker**. **Patricia Iolana** discusses polydoxy which means 'many ways of knowing.' She fills us in on the growing presence of Goddess inclusive spiritual traditions at the Parliament of Religions and the willingness to hold interfaith dialogues. For **Tabby Biddle** stories featuring the female divine help us understand prevailing culture patterns. These tales honor feminine authority and leadership.

This collection demonstrates we do have an alternative to patriarchy and Goddess 2.0 shows us the New Path forward to a more sustainable and egalitarian future!

Elizabeth and Bob Fisher

(831) 920-2731

lizfisher@RiseUpandCallHerName.com