

# Uncovering the Face of the Feminine in Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love



## Julian of Norwich: The Showings: Uncovering the Face of the Feminine in Revelations of Divine Love

by Mirabai Starr

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In a tumultuous era marked by war, plague, and societal upheaval, a profound voice emerged from the depths of a humble English anchoress, Julian of Norwich. Her seminal work, "Revelations of Divine Love," penned in the late 14th century, has transcended time to become a beacon of spiritual insight, offering a unique and deeply personal perspective on the nature of the divine.

Central to Julian's mystical experiences was the unveiling of a compassionate and profoundly feminine aspect of God. Through a series of vivid visions, she beheld a loving and nurturing Mother-God, a tender and protective figure who embraced humanity with boundless love.

## **The Mother-God: A Nurturing and Protective Divine**

Julian's visions defied the prevailing patriarchal norms of her time. She described God not as a distant, wrathful patriarch, but as a compassionate Mother, a source of sustenance and comfort. In one of her most well-known revelations, she heard a voice saying, "I am the ground of your being, and I will be your food and your healer, and your clothing and your dwelling, and your true friend."

This intimate and maternal imagery shattered the traditional male-dominated view of God. Julian's Mother-God was not a remote and judgmental ruler, but a gentle and loving presence, ever present in the hearts of those who sought her.

## **The Feminine Attributes of God**

Beyond the nurturing Mother-God, Julian also revealed other feminine attributes of the divine. She spoke of God's "motherhood," a boundless love that encompasses all creation. She saw God as a "teacher," imparting wisdom and guidance to those who listened. And she experienced God as a "friend," a constant companion on the path of life.

These feminine qualities challenged the narrow and restrictive view of God that had dominated Christian theology for centuries. Julian's revelations expanded our understanding of the divine, embracing a more inclusive and compassionate vision of Godhead.

## **The Transformative Power of Divine Love**

Julian's encounters with the feminine face of the divine had a profound impact on her life and spirituality. She believed that the love of God was the driving force behind all creation and the key to human fulfillment. Through

her visions, she gained an unwavering trust in the goodness and mercy of God, even in the midst of suffering and uncertainty.

Julian's experiences offer a transformative path for contemporary spirituality. Her message of divine love encourages us to open our hearts to the feminine aspects of the divine, to experience the nurturing, protective, and compassionate nature of God. By embracing the fullness of the divine, we can deepen our connection to our own feminine essence and find solace, inspiration, and healing in all aspects of our lives.

### **Relevance for Contemporary Spirituality**

In an era marked by fragmentation and uncertainty, Julian of Norwich's insights on the feminine face of the divine offer a timely and transformative message. Her revelations can help us:

- Reclaim the lost feminine voice in spirituality
- Foster a more inclusive and compassionate understanding of God
- Experience the transformative power of divine love
- Heal the soul's wounds and find solace in uncertain times
- Embark on a path of spiritual growth and personal transformation

Julian of Norwich's "Revelations of Divine Love" stands as a testament to the enduring power of the feminine in spirituality. Her mystical visions offer a profound glimpse into the nature of God and inspire us to embrace the fullness of our own humanity. By uncovering the face of the feminine in the divine, we can cultivate a more loving, compassionate, and inclusive world.

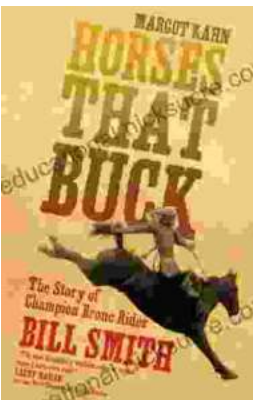


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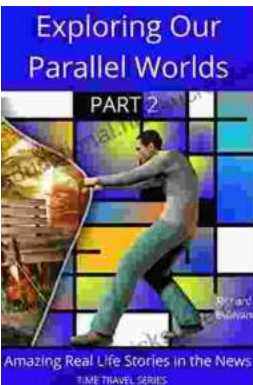
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