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**How did a Macho, Misogynistic  
Thug become a Feminine  
Postulant?**





This was the question posed to me by my first wife after I sent her one of my Future Masculine workshop flyers:

“How did a macho, misogynistic thug become a feminine postulant?”

I chuckled to myself as I responded to her email:

“Well, it took sixty-five years... Better late than never.”

My first wife was talking about the man she knew thirty years ago, the macho man who was entitled to have as many women as he could find, feel, fuck and forget. Whether I was married or not. I counted women as notches on my pistol. I stopped counting at about a hundred. These were the male mantra’s I grew up with. The misogynistic man, who loves women, yet treats them as objects. The misogynistic man who believes he’s entitled to sex because he’s a man.

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**Women owe me sex; after all, I am a man.**

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She remembers the thug who didn't believe in holding down a regular job, who believed that lying, cheating, and being slick were the keys to success. The thug who liked to fight, looked for fights was always ready for a fight.

I had a pretty good idea what macho meant but I had to go to the dictionary for some help with the others.

**Misogyny: (noun) "hatred of women" "hatred, dislike, or mistrust of women."**

Parts of that definition fit me like a tailored suit, though I feel some shame admitting it. How about You?

**Postulant: (noun) "somebody who applies to join a religious order or somebody who submits a request for something."**

For sure, the pursuit of personal wholeness is a spiritual quest, though for me no religion is required and all are welcome. I definitely am submitting a request to myself and to all men to ask us ourselves:

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**Does my masculinity need to be transformed?**

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**Is this a part of the journey toward the reimagining of our current notion of gender altogether?**

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**In what ways can I change so that I can more fully realize myself without hurting others?**

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**From where did I get my ideas about masculinity and from whom?**

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# 2

## Power and Peace

**“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.”**

*– Jimi Hendrix*



From where did I get my ideas about masculinity and from whom?

Of course, we learned from our fathers, those present and absent, from our peers and from stories in books and on television.

During the twenty years since our divorce, I have, explored, discovered and received teachings from many women and men, this is how I got turned around and inside out and into a “Feminine Postulant.”

Feminine to me means an energy, as well as a reference to gender. It is inclusive and beyond gender. It is primarily an energy, like yin: soft, tender, intuitive, nurturing, caring, and compassionate. The opposite of yang: hard, coarse, direct, aggressive, and self-focused. Both are needed, and both are available.

My sexual beliefs now sound like: I love sex! I love it a lot! But I am not more or less of a man because of the nature of my sexual exploits. Also, can we stop pretending that the be all, end all of life is “scoring” (read: with women or with men). Healthy, positive sexuality must be one that divorces masculinity from virility. Man, that’s a big one!

Part of me, maybe my Ego, wanted to share with her my laundry list of seminars, classes, workshops and trainings I have attended or facilitated. I thought about the years of Multicultural Training I have experienced, the dozens of workshops, the weekend retreats. Trainings and Learning’s like: The “Landmark Forum.”

The “Winning with Your Inner Coach”, “The Mankind Project”, The “Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotic Anonymous, Sex Addicts Anonymous” rooms, The Sacred Rituals, The “Indigenous African Spiritual technologies of Malidoma Some.

My time with men and boys, from the West Side of Chicago to Clayton County Georgia, to the six weeks in Liberia I spent with child soldiers, to teaching young Black soldiers at The United States Army Disciplinary Barracks, and to inmates at Pontiac State Prison, all of these images flooded my consciousness as I pondered that question. She knows me, as I was then and not who I am now.

Racism, sexism, homophobia, misogyny, transphobia, the policing of other men’s gender expression – for far too long these tools of division have been used to create “fraternity.”

For me now, there is really only one fraternity, the human fraternity: male or female, both existing within.

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**“This is a time for martyr’s now and if I am going to be a martyr, let it be in the name of Brotherhood.”**

**– El Hajj Malik El Shabazz**

# 3

## What if God is a Woman?

**“Have you ever seen a man that didn’t come from a womb?  
Ever see one that didn’t end up in a tomb?”**

*– Anthony N. Johnson*



I recall a recent gathering where I heard a wise and insightful man ask a conscious man a question. The wise and insightful man smiled and the conversation segued to other topics. I sat in fascination and in a

search for some understanding of the conscious man. The question wouldn't go away and played ping-pong in my mind's eye.

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**The Muslims say  
God has no gender,  
not tough, not  
tender, maybe both,  
maybe neither...**

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**-Anthony N. Johnson**



The question the wise man asked was this:

“Why did you use the gender ‘He’ to describe God?”

The conscious man answered, “It’s an androgynous ‘He’...”

Finally I asked, the conscious man: “Do you think there could ever be an androgynous ‘She’?” The conscious man never answered me...

At the close of the gathering, I received the most wonderful hug from the gathering’s hostess. She thanked me for my question. As my wife Lydia and I drove home she also reflected upon my question. She was grateful for my speaking up and out. Lydia turns to me and says; “what if god is a woman?! Honey, that’s your poem!”

# What if God Is a Woman?

What if God Is a Woman? And she's coming soon?  
Have you ever seen a man that didn't come from a womb?  
Ever see one that didn't end up in a tomb? Of some kind?  
Me, I'm a child of the commode...I see all behind.  
And I listen with my eyes...I see her, in skin of black lacquer, Pipe in her mouth, full of wondrous laughter  
Calling her out of her gender all these years, no wonder Feminine Energy sheds so many tears,  
Can you imagine what it would feel like if God were always referred to as an eel?  
How could a gorilla relate?  
Somebody better call Darwin, the hours getting late...  
The Muslims say God has no gender, not tough, not tender, maybe both maybe neither...  
We can't conceive it. Hard even to believe it...Listen...  
I don't know do you? A tribute to Sekou..."time for a New Blue Haiku"...  
Me, I'm too sinister to be a Minister...eat too much ham to be an Imam  
too full of yeast to be a Priest  
Too frail to find the Holy Grail  
Didn't go to school long enough to be called a Doc...  
But sometimes I can feel it, that space between the Tick and the Tock...  
What if God Is a Woman? And she's coming soon?  
To a theater near you....  
Good night, Good doubt, and I'm out.

Before I read that poem in performance, I always set it up with the request to just ponder the question: "What if God was a Woman?" just "What If?..." What comes up for you when you read this poem? [Drop me a line, and let's discuss it. I look forward to hearing your answer.](#)

# 4

## Sacred Masculine & Divine Feminine

“The coming together will be the medicine...”

– Rumi



### What is the Sacred or Divine Masculine and Divine feminine?

One definition of the Sacred or Divine Masculine is that it represents an archetypal ideal, the most inspiring,

uplifting, and restorative aspects of masculine expression and energy in the universe. Archetypes including, The Lover, The Warrior, The Magician and The King.

The Divine Masculine is not a distant, angry, jealous and vengeful male deity. The Divine Masculine acts as a shining mirror of the Self, revealing aspects that need compassionate attention and support to become one's highest potential.

One definition of the Divine Feminine is the goddess principle in all traditions, and has been since the beginning of time. These traditions are a mystical, magical, powerful, part of primal Mother Earth. They symbolize balance and healing, renewal and restoration.

Whatever your beliefs and choice of traditions are, whether She appears to you as Ishtar or Yemeyna, Gaia or Quan Yin, as the great Mother Mary or Magdalene, or as one of the pantheon of goddesses from Africa, ancient Egypt or Greece or Rome, or the Middle East, to the cults of the Black Madonna, or whether she is spun from one of the archetypes of the world's indigenous tribes, the Divine Feminine is the primordial She who creates from a central source.

Each one of us, male and female, carries within our psyche both Divine Masculine and Divine Feminine archetype energies. A male gendered body does not mean that only masculine energy is present. Gender

(genitals, body) and the archetypal composition of the psyche are independent of each other.

I mentioned the "Mankind Project" in my earlier list of trainings. It deserves further mentioning. It was here that I first heard the phrase "Sacred Masculine". I was initiated into this international men's organization in November of 1995. It was a gathering I shall never forget. I loved it so much I gifted my father with the training on his seventieth birthday. Though I've been on sabbatical for five years, the more than a dozen weekend staffings resonate as if they happened yesterday.

The MKP website states:

**"The Mankind Project helps men discover and live personal missions of service in the world; working with youth, with women and children, with prisoners, with veterans ... and so much more."**

# 5

## Back to the Future Masculine

“Humankind did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.”

– Chief Seattle



In the beginning I made the statement that maybe “you might want to become a Feminine Postulant, too.” My truth is, I have contemplated, researched and tried just about everything else and it seems to

me that the embracing of the Feminine Principle of life is our only hope of survival as a species. Yes, I have come to believe and feel, that compassion, receptivity, cooperation, the subtle, the invisible, all

attributes of the Feminine, is the salve for our souls. Both Male and Female souls.

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**“This means that the most important and valued attributes of the human heart and mind should never be included in the construction of gender difference. All that is courageous, tender, temperate, virtuous, compassionate, just and wise, all that stands at the heart of our attempts to live well, all that is the very lifeblood of the human spirit’s striving for excellence is never masculine or feminine. It is human. When concepts of gender identity incorporate such qualities, or incorporate secondary attributes and functions that are derived from or dependent upon such qualities, they degenerate into simplistic projections that service society’s need for order over the human need for excellence in understanding.”**

**– Max Maxwell**

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What if there were “no real” differences except the one’s we made up? And of course, the one’s we were taught, the one’s we bought and those we simply caught.

There are two moving moments that have made my journey a little clearer. I was honored to be invited to participate in the 2013 International Tele-conversations

Series “Our Men who Dare to Dance with the Moon.” an international tele-seminar series presented by ‘Women of Spirit’. I was one of a group of men invited to share in the honoring and celebration of the Divine Feminine. I was also invited to be one of six men chosen to sit in on one of Allison Armstrong’s women gatherings. It was here, in the presence of several hundred women, that I learned that for many, if not all women, the one overriding and ever-present concern is their safety. That’s another big one!

I use the terms Yin and Yang to refer to the Masculine and the Feminine because there seems to be less gender attachment to these words. When we hear the word Masculine, automatic images of gender assault our psyche, when we hear the word Feminine, immediate gender images flood our psyche. This is not a bad thing; I submit that it is a partial thing. Yin and Yang remind me that Masculine and Feminine energies are present in both genders and refer to energetic attributes present in each of us.

# The Future Masculine Pledge

Future Masculine works to build a more humane masculinity, one that values people of all genders in their identities, in their expressions.

I pledge to embrace the Future Masculine.

I will listen more.

I will show more love and affection.

I will have the courage to ask other men and women to hold me accountable.



**Learn More.  
Become More.  
Embody the Man You were Born to Be.**

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# **The Future Masculine Retreat & Toolshop Conference**

**Creating a Healthy Balance for the Planet**

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**Limited to 30 seats. Reserve your spot Today:**

**[www.futuremasculine.com](http://www.futuremasculine.com)**

**“Happiness is a journey, not a destination.**

**Work like you don’t need money.**

**Love like you’ve never been hurt.**

**And dance like no one’s looking.”**

**– Dali Lama**