

THE CENTRE FOR GENDER PSYCHOLOGY

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presents

Awakening the Feminine Human Being: the Co-Creative Whole Woman

*An invitation to women ready to call in their authentic Power and Presence
22 – 27 September 2011, Øitangen Gård, Jomfruland, Telemark, Norway*



The girl and the woman, in their new, their own unfolding, will be but in passing imitators of masculine ways, good and bad, and repeaters of masculine professions. After the uncertainty of such transitions it will become apparent that women were only going through the profusion of those - often ridiculous - disguises in order to cleanse their nature of the distorting influences of the other sex. This humanity of women, borne it's full time in suffering and humiliation, will come to light when she will have stripped off the conventions of mere femininity in the mutations of her outward status, and those who do not yet feel it approaching today will be surprised and struck by it. Some day, and for this, particularly in the northern countries, reliable signs are already shining - there will be girls and women who will no longer signify merely an opposite of the masculine, but something in itself, something that makes one think, not of any complement and limit, but of life and existence: the Feminine Human Being."

Reiner Maria Rilke (1875-1926)



The Call

Many women today know - in their deepest being - what Rilke is referring to in the passage above. Since women began in earnest to protest the inequality of their status in society nearly a hundred years ago, we have come a long way. Yet, the feminists' call to equality has been slow to offer all encompassing change. Despite the many important and valuable social improvements and developments, the overall effects seem to have been cosmetic, focusing on the symptoms rather than the deep underlying causes.

Men and women are different. Yet, these differences are not the problem, just as trying to make us all the same, is not the solution. What needs addressing are the values attributed to the different genders, what we have learned to associate with feminine and masculine, with man and woman. These values are man-made and are no longer sustainable. They have conditioned us to split heart and head, to elevate rationality out of proportion while ignoring the value of emotional fluency and bodily knowing. To place one gender above the other is dangerous to everyone. It serves a value system which ultimately is disconnected, violent and demeaning to all humanity.

Until there is genuine understanding of both genders' unique qualities, we cannot expect to move beyond stereotypical gender roles and limiting attitudes. Being rooted in, and feeling supported by one's own *gender ground* fosters a deep sense of dignity and a natural respect for the opposite gender and equality between us.

As women we can no longer remain passive in our complaints against the patriarchy or the church's wrongdoings, embalmed in new age goddess ideas or withdrawn from the world at pleasure boot camps. We now stand at a threshold, with possibilities to transcend and evolve into a more conscious species, together creating something different and beyond what exists today. It is now the time for women to come out of the shadows, to take responsibility for our own power, wisdom and vision and act as midwives for the birthing of a new era for humanity. This is a huge challenge, and one that none of us can face alone.

This retreat is for women who recognise this calling and want to seek out other women to explore how to cooperate and add their unique contribution in these transitional times.

The Retreat

Through active group participation and theoretical exploration, provocative exercises, dance and movement, reflective time in nature, sharing, and story-telling we will attempt to address the following questions:

- *What is the significance of women's role in shaping the future of our world?*
- *How do we awaken our authentic feminine power and strength?*
- *What might the future of our liberation as women look like?*
- *How can we live and work in ways that express our authentic feminine values?*
- *What's the relationship between inner transformation and our power to change the world?*
- *Where should we give our energy and attention in order to have the greatest impact?*
- *How can we best work together and support each other fully in this process?*

Practical information

The principle language will be English, with clarifications in Norwegian if needed.

Times:

Starts 15.00 22 September, depart 27 morning.

Venue:

Øitangen Gård, on the stunning island of Jomfruland, (means Land of Virgins) Telemark, Norway close to Sandefjord Airport (Oslo-Torp) served by KLM, Widerøe, Ryanair and Wizz Air.

Facilitators:

Helena Løvendal-Duffell and Christine Arentz Schjetlein. For full bios see www.genderpsychology.com/about-us and www.transpersonligterapi.no

Course fees:

4,200.00 NOK (approx. £450) plus food and accommodation £320.

Application:

Please contact Helena, cgphelena@btinternet.com or Christine on christine@schjetlein.no or + 47 922 60 216 and request application form. More details and travel information on application.

"We are moving from unconscious evolution through natural selection to conscious evolution by choice. It's the first time in modern history that we can even begin to see the potential of the "feminine co-creator." We haven't seen this full-scale woman until now because, in our culture, women haven't been allowed to pursue this except in a very narrow way"