



The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power

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A probing account of the honored place of older women in ancient matriarchal societies restores to contemporary women an energizing symbol of self-value, power, and respect.

The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power Details

Date : Published February 24th 1988 by HarperOne (first published 1986)

ISBN : 9780062509345

Author : Barbara G. Walker

Format : Paperback 191 pages

Genre : Spirituality, Feminism, Nonfiction, Womens, History, Womens Studies

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From Reader Review The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power for online ebook

Rusty says

Walker does a most creditable job of covering woman's role throughout history. First and foremost this is feminist literature. Remembering the author's viewpoint, it is a fascinating depiction of women's place in society. From pagan priestesses to today's independent competitive worker, the reader finds much to support her own beliefs. She emphasizes, too, the different natures of females and males. Many men, may find the book troubling but it behooves us to read writing that supports admiration of the aging whether those individuals be female or male.

Taking that in consideration, one can read the author's comments, views and historical references with respect to one's own. I truly enjoyed the author's take on the "crone" and how its negative connotations may have evolved. However, I found the description of this book all too brief. If you recall: "A probing account of the honored place of older women in ancient matriarchal societies restores to contemporary women an energizing symbol of self-value, power, and respect." There is much more to examine including the history of the woman's role in our culture.

The author uses references from history, the Bible, and today's society as she defines the crone. She questions the existence of a God who gave his son so that man may be absolved of sin while the religion centered about him insists that no man is without sin and must strive to be absolved of it. Inconsistencies such as this are cited from various religions as she outlines how women are treated by those who often practice the religions.

Society today usually views the crone as an aged woman to be tossed aside failing to recognize that those who have lived so long have much wisdom and experience to share with younger people. Walker further urges women of the future to take their true place the world as equals along side men. I concur. Women are as skilled at living as men and I, too, urge women of today and the future to take their true place as equals along side men. I concur. Women are as skilled at living as men as their male counterparts and the crone has much to teach us. May we learn from her wisdom.

After reading this one, the term of crone has come to mean wise woman to me - one who has lived a long life with much experience to share with younger people - men and women alike.

Alison says

EXCELLENT BOOK. A must read for anyone interested in pre-Christian religions, the transition from a matriarchal to a patriarchal cosmogenic worldview, the persecution of half the human race (the "fairer" sex), and the reclamation of the value of woman beyond her "sexual and maternal functions". Walker is a true scholar and feminist. My mind was dazzled by her brilliance like diamonds; at once hard enough to cut the glass ceiling while infinitely illuminating. Dig in and discover a world that will not be delivered to your doorstep; one you must seek to find. Let Barbara Walker be your guide. She will provoke you, perhaps anger you, likely validate you, and certainly educate you. And if you don't believe her, check out her six page bibliography, fine print.

Pauline Curwen says

One of my favourite books and one I will keep. Im happy to be a Crone.

Kelsea Dawn Hume says

This was enjoyable and informative, though sometimes fell into a kind of gender essentialism which was more damaging than empowering. But, hey, it was written in the 80's?

J.T.K. Gibbs says

A book to savor, read, reread, and learn from over and over again. So much information and inspiration! I bought this when I was mothering 3 young children and learned much from it. Now, in my own Crone years, there is much more to learn and a new perspective.

John Hedrick says

I picked up this book hoping to read some inspiring observations concerning the forgotten and overlooked power of older women on society.

I was sorely disappointed.

Despite the description, "*A probing account of the honored place of older women in ancient matriarchal societies restores to contemporary women an energizing symbol of self-value, power, and respect.*", the first two chapters of the book spend more time ax-grinding against the church specifically and against men in general than it does saying anything empowering about women.

The text was littered with vague assertions and generalities, like this one: "*Many men still have the vague unconscious impression that if a husband dies, his wife's support system has somehow failed him, and she is to blame.*". (Seriously!? Most men secretly blame wives when their husbands die?)

I finally had to wonder if I ever did get to any passages about the true power of women, if they would be as equally nonacademic and insubstantial as the one above about men suggests.

Sorry, but I couldn't bring myself to finish this one.

Carla says

A book not to be read lightly.

All women, if they live long enough, become the Crone, The Wise Woman, who passes on Her knowledge and wisdom to those around her. Unlike the youth oriented society of today, past ages recognized the

importance of taking care of and listening to those older than ourselves. They learned and passed on the knowledge available to them from those who had lived it.

E_R says

L'essere Crone.

Il tema centrale di questo libro sono i passaggi del femminile, passaggi negati dalla costruzione sociale imperante nella quale la donna deve essere oggetto-immagine di giovinezza sempre altrimenti viene buttata via da chi l'ha resa oggetto e immagine.

La Walker si concentra sia sulla costruzione dell'eterna giovinezza che è un'illusione dolorosa e sacrificante il Femmineo Sacro Indomito della Dea, sia sulla Dea Anziana fase del suo ultimo passaggio materico (corpo).

Il Potere Sciamanico Femmineo è quello che si acquisisce facendo fluire le fasi cicliche come la Terra insegna senza dogmi, per cui il Femmineo Anziano è la Sciamana Compiuta nella sua Essenza più sottile e di potere appunto, un potere che non ha nulla a che fare con il concetto dello stesso profuso da una dottrina della dominazione in ogni aspetto dell'esistente ovvero col patriarcato.

Il libro è lieve, come la Piuma della Dea Maat, e leggerlo è un piacere, per me lo è stato, e da tale piacere ricostruttivo dell'Anima e quindi del Sentire emerge questa recensione/non recensione.

Raven Tiger {Paint me like one of your 19th century gothic heroines!} says

Rating: 3.5

This book was really interesting. It expresses and supports the view of graceful and natural aging in women.

Claire says

This book had some good points to make, but the pervasive "males are the enemy" attitude was off-putting. Also some of the scholarship was outdated, like the nine million Burning Times figure. However, the psychology of the fear of death and the ways people have evolved to address it was fascinating. I'm glad I read it, but I probably won't read it again.

Allyson Shaw says

Essential reading for all who walk an esoteric path, self-proclaimed witches or anyone seeking a feminist perspective on the new witch-wave. Of course this predates the current wave by a good 30 years, but much of the writing here seems almost prophetic. The breadth-less scholarship is not without some faults, and the urgency must be understood in the context of thousands of years of silencing of women's spirituality, wisdom and experience. There is much essentialist gender stuff here that is a product of its time, but it reveals to me why so many young women are now working with ancient symbols, reviving them in the

(popular) imagination. It is important work. As an emerging crone, I am grateful this work was written so I understand my role as a resistant visionary in this patriarchal culture.

Julia Price says

An incredibly powerful and empowering read about woman's true nature in the universe. It's not about letting ego get in the way, but about replacing our male-dominated warmongering leaders with a more instinctive, peaceful, earth-centric and intelligent way of living. I get where some might think it's a bit of a male-basher. But instead of looking at it in this way, see it as a reminder of how we as women can find our voice and hold a stronger presence in the peace and truth of this world.

Karen says

I applaud Walker for the extensive reading she's done in anthropology, archetype psychology and history, but I find her arguments too extreme. Even the most basic reciting of facts are put into a narrative that is extremely negative towards all men through all history. While I do agree that societies benefit when the power of women is acknowledged and celebrated, I don't want an inversion of the hierarchy.

Take for example the following paragraph that lists strengths mature women possess but only as embedded in a narrative of how these strengths are extinguished:

"Patriarchal men wishes woman to continue playing the part of the unpaid, but tirelessly devoted, nurturer, long after its biological foundation has crumbled, and after he ceases to grant her even the specious significance of a sex object. One reason is that patriarchal man must deny woman the essential later-life functions she naturally assumed in pre-patriarchal societies: healer, judge, wise-woman, arbiter of ethical and moral law, owner of the sacred lore, mediator between the realms of flesh and spirit, and--most of all--the functions of the Crone: funerary priestess and Death Mother, controlling the circumstances of death as she controlled those of birth. In their anxiety to deny the Crone archetype through religious imagery, patriarchal societies even denies the fact of death itself" (p. 32).

Reading this book was making me want to kick my husband and son out of the house. I had to stop reading it. I wish it gave even a TINY bit of space to a vision of co-operation between the genders.

I would have enjoyed the book more if I had received more description of these roles (healer, judge, wise-woman, etc.) and less description on how and why men throughout each era have suppressed these gifts. Ironically, the book suppresses them too by using the "language of the father" by doing a ton of scholarly argument about their absence. I learn much more about crone wisdom from storytelling. I read 3 chapters in their entirety and skimmed the rest. I'll read some folktales that feature strong women as a way to learn more about the powers of the crone.

Here are the chapter titles:

Introduction (a lot about the distortion and suppression of the triple goddess: mother, maiden and crone).

The Lost Crone (an overview of how society is missing out)

The Wise Crone (specific cultural examples of goddesses and other wise archetypes and how patriarchies suppressed them)

The Terrible Crone

The Crone and the Cauldron
The Crone Turns Witch
The Doomsday Crone
The Future Crone
Notes
Bibliography

Stephanie Sicard says

This was a great read with a lot of interesting points. One has to ignore the dated use of "primitive" when the author describes other cultures. I found a used copy in a new age store, and read it within a few days. The author may be a bit repetitive at times, but overall it is an empowering read about age and wisdom among women.

Elizabeth says

c1985

from Wikipedia:

Barbara G. Walker (born July 2, 1930, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) is a U.S. author and feminist. She writes about religion, cultural anthropology, spirituality, and mythology from the viewpoint of Pre-Indo-European neolithic matriarchies. She often uses the imagery of the Mother Goddess to discuss these Neolithic Matriarchies. Her most important book is *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* (1983).
