

# Thoughts on the 'Warrior Woman'

BY NIJEL BINNS

As the world comes to recognize and honor the tremendous contributions of women and the accomplishments that they have achieved in societies far and wide, we reflect upon one portrayal of womanhood in particular, that being the image of the woman as warrior.

For most of us, we don't think twice about seeing a woman as a warrior. We know that a woman is more than capable of utilizing "forceful energy." However, it can be argued that "forceful energy" is not the same type of energy as "aggressive energy." They are not motivated by the same agenda.

Therefore, the term "warrior woman" and the images that form in one's mind is really a term that has been problematic for both men and women since the rise of Western thought and ideology. The trap is that ancient men who disconnected themselves from the feminine principle have created a fantasy about women that modern women have also bought into. To illustrate this point, for the most part, when we broach the subject of a warrior woman, we invariably revert back to ancient Greece and envision a muscular, athletic woman clad in armor, fighting with sword and shield, and dispatching with their male counterparts in an unceremonious fashion.

Thanks to ancient Greek literature of men such as Homer, modern films, television shows, and the modern mythology of comics, the two words have been reduced to the concept of a "wonder woman," and "amazon." However, it may be

surprising for most people to learn that much has been lost in the corruption of this very word.

At the heart of the word "amazon" is the root word "ama" or "ma," which, in many languages around the world both ancient and modern, means quite simply ... "mother." The "Zon" half of the word means "sun."

So how did we get from the creative and loving principle of a mother to the aggressive and destructive concept of a warrior?

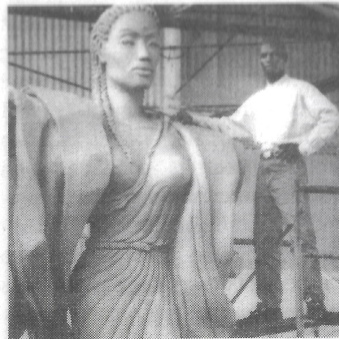
As used today, the word "amazon" has truly become a gross simplification and corruption of the title of motherhood. In many ways this oversimplification has become a convenient shield for a society bred on male dominance.

It is a projection of one part of society's negative traits — in this case, an inclination toward aggression and destruction — onto another.

We have been misled to believe that an ama, or mother, whose breasts are designed by nature to suckle her young, would then cut off that breast to engage in a masculinized pastime such as skewering a person on the tip of an arrow.

That is not to say that a woman or mother will not exhibit forceful energy in the defense of her family or her children. Quite the opposite; it is a fact that the power and energy exhibited by a woman in the defense of her young is unmatched in the human or animal population. Yet, this is not the same thing as war.

Masculine aggressive energy has had a long and terrible history of being used for dominance, destruc-



Nijel Binns posing with his sculpture, "Mother of Humanity."

tion and acquisition. Despite moments in history of women engaging in warfare, since ancient times the tools and tactics employed in the practice of warfare have been envisioned, created and engineered, for the most part, by men.

Today we see the weapons of war being used primarily on women, children and civilian populations in conflicts around the world. It is significant that today, in certain regions of the world such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, the act of rape has been added to the arsenal as a weapon of war.

In many cases, a woman's reproductive system is destroyed in the vicious act as a further tactic of war. Can anyone imagine this situation if it were reversed? Can we imagine if women were the aggressors who raped and mutilated a man as an act of war?

To bring about a true healing and an appreciation for each other, we must see beyond the imbalance in our language and in a thinking that gives rise to the practice of war

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and the mythologizing of the woman as an agent of destruction.

We must seek to create a balance within ourselves. Then collectively, our human species can move into a new time in history. It will be a time where many things of the past will have been questioned and analyzed.

We will know the truth, restore balance and elevate our consciousness toward a future that celebrates us all as aspects of the One Divine Source.

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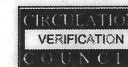
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