

The Mystery of the Fifth Nameless Goddess

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The Mystery of the Fifth Nameless Goddess is a unique practice designed and written for the Inner Temple/Inner Convocation groups in the 1990s, and is still practiced by many of our group members. From time to time I teach workshops on this practice, which has many implications for us in our time of profound change.

The Mystery of the Fifth Nameless Goddess can be understood initially as a further development of the use of telesms; through building the Mystery, we can attune to powerful forces of change. Are we merely subject to such forces, or is there a way in which we may consciously participate? One way is to embody the forces of change through a Mystery.

A Mystery is a sacromagical structure, combining ritual practice, imagery, meditation, and initiatory experiences that arise from all of the foregoing. The totality of any Mystery is a set of nested telesms, a Memory Theatre, within which spiritual forces may interact with us. It can also be likened to a vessel, within which the contents interact, and into and out of which they may flow. The modern equivalent of the Mysteries is the drama, the stage-play. During each performance a group of actors create a world, that of the play, which interacts with the audience. Historically theatre arose out of the pagan Mystery dramas, enacted either in public during civic or regional festivals, or in private and often secret, initiatory experiences, such as those famously described by Apuleius in his *Metamorphoses* (The Golden Ass).

In 1990 I explored the idea of creating a “Mystery” for our time. The development was slow, especially as most of the revival of magic, theurgy, paganism, or esoteric practice in general, was focussed on the past. Taking the root concept of the Inner Temples/Inner Convocation, declaring that simple telesms within a mnemonic structure greatly enhance our spiritual experience, I began in the most traditional manner, with a Story. Here it is:

The Story of the Fifth Nameless Goddess

There are Four Nameless Goddesses, who are behind and beyond all other deities. In each Direction of the Cosmos, one of the Nameless Goddesses may be found permeating All. As they have no names, they cannot be called upon or invoked in the usual manner, but may be found only by attuning to their natures. To meet them, we must go half-way, to the threshold between waking and sleep, life and death, being and un-being.

The Nameless Goddess of the East breathes Life in and Out. The Nameless Goddess of the South emits the Light of the Stars, and draws all light back into herself. The Nameless Goddess of the West pours forth Love into the Cosmos, and receives the tides of love returned to her through the affinity between all things. The Nameless Goddess of the North utters and holds the Laws of the Cosmos. Her face is veiled in darkness, with one hand she Destroys, but from the other her lightest touch brings Regeneration.

The Four Nameless Goddesses rule, without ruling, all other goddesses and gods that have been or will ever be, for all deities are expressions of their Fourfold Cycle of Being.

The whirling of the starry cosmos is the slow dance of the Goddesses, in a pattern that is repeated out of the stars into the orbiting planets, and from thence into all living beings in Nature. Where the Wind blows there is the Goddess of the East; where the Moon Sun and Star fires burn, even in the tiny flame of the ancestral hearth, there is the Goddess of the South; where the Tides pull, in the water, in the blood, there is the Goddess of the West; where all Form is created and destroyed, from towering volcanoes to microscopic creatures, there is the Nameless Goddess of the North. They permeate Birth, Growth, Maturity, and Death, be it of the Star or the seed, the immeasurable entity of Space or the invisible atom.

More potent than all the other deities, even these Four sense and feel the greater Being that issues from the Void, that whispers their identity into being

until it becomes the sound of galaxies. When Being utters the first whisper of Change, they know, and from knowing come to understand, and from understanding come to action.

One day the Four Nameless Goddesses sat in a cave on a remote planet, each one giving the most minute fragment of herself to this meeting, seated in the East, South, West, or North, according to the planetary poles and its rotation. As the galaxy that held the star that was the sun of this far-flung planet turned and moved through the cosmos, slow but vast inevitable change began to be felt, borne upon the subtle winds of the distant stars.

Thus the Nameless Goddess of the East, who is in every stellar wind and every whisper of breeze, spoke with the sound of a faint undeniable breath: “I declare a new thing, as yet unseen, unknown, and un-manifest”. The Nameless Goddess of the South, who is in every raging sun and faint glimmer of reflected light, spoke with the sound of a flickering flame: “I perceive a new thing, faintly seen, barely known, drawing towards manifestation”. The Nameless Goddess of the West, who is in the infinite ocean of time and space, and in the hidden last drop of water of creation, spoke with the sound of mist coalescing and blood pulsing: “I feel a new thing, just beginning to flow forth, building its tides toward the shore”. The Nameless Goddess of the North, who is in all substance known and unknown, in the dust of infinity and the aeons of aging of a single stone, spoke last. Her voice was as the singing of subtle fragments of creation, and as the grinding of planetary plates so low and deep that it was felt in places beyond hearing. “I touch a new thing, coming into form, protean mass of Being ready to take shape”

Togther they all said “Let Her arise in the Center, and let us each give her gifts as she arises...”

Here the mythic part of the story pauses, and the human part may begin:

Working with the Fifth Nameless Goddess

The mythic sequence is an allegory, describing spiritual powers that are typically beyond human awareness. Yet, by building a Mystery, we create an interface through which we may relate. By attuning to the Inner Temple telesm, and acknowledging the Four Nameless Goddesses, one in each direction, we seek to work consciously with the profound changes that we sense and feel in our world...with the nascent Fifth Nameless Goddess who rises in the center. Here is the method that has been taught to groups for the last twenty or more years:

- 1 Be Still, stilling Time Space and Movement.
- 2 Attune to the Directions: Above, Below, Within. East Before, West Behind, North Leftward, South Rightward.
- 3 Attune to the Inner Convocation, the Pillar of Light, and the Four Temples in the Directions.
- 4 Be Still, Stilling Time Space and Movement.
- 5 Sense see and feel the Four Nameless Goddesses, each within the respective Temple of Her innate Direction. Spend some time feeling their presence, sensing their pervasive power. Do not indulge in “invoking” or “evoking”. The Four Nameless Goddesses are ever present, and our task is to increasingly come into awareness of them.
- 6 Feel the Four Nameless Goddesses around you, and/or around the room or chosen space in which you work. Be Still, and feel their Presence.
- 7 Now let your awareness rest upon the Center. This will be Before you, in the center of the Directions. Sense see and feel the burgeoning Fifth Nameless Goddess in the Center.
- 8 Sense how the Four give Gifts (defined energy) to the Fifth. As you feel this build, reach out and give something of yourself to Her.

If humanity contributes to this Goddess, the forces of planetary change will become softer for us, as something of Humanity will be within Her. Thus we are contributing to the build of a new Telesm, that of the Fifth Nameless Goddess.