

Twelve Women of the Chalice



In 2002, Unity minister Rev. Leddy Hammock introduced to the greater Unity movement an important addition to Fillmore's teaching of the twelve powers—The Twelve Women of the Chalice, as published in *Runes of the Twelve Women of the Chalice*. She wrote:

In a movement of religious thought wherein women have always served and shone as co-equal partners in spirituality with men, it is time for us to acknowledge that there were female representatives of the twelve powers of humanity to be found in the Bible, our basic text. (Hammock, 2002, p. 61)

It may come as a surprise to Unity students that it took so long for the feminine side of the Twelve Powers to be acknowledged. In the April 1921 edition of *Unity Magazine*, Unity published the "Statement of Faith," thirty-two points of Unity theology presumably crafted by Unity co-founder Charles Fillmore. No individual author is named, though Fillmore was leading Unity at the time. The "Statement" contained many ideas that were no doubt considered radical at the time—and some still are! —especially coming out of Kansas City, Missouri. One of them was point 16 which read: *We believe that the Holy Mother, the Divine Feminine, is now being restored to her righteousness, and that she will reign equal with Jehovah in the heavens and the earth* (Fillmore, 1921). Hammock's work seems to align with point 16.

Addressing Fillmore's concept of regeneration, Rev. Hammock deduced:

Just as both male and female are required for the generation of humanity, it follows that a corresponding interaction of both the divine feminine and divine masculine would be required for the mystical Regeneration of humanity. Therefore, as both male and female elements must be present for conception to take place in the physical, so also, both masculine and feminine spiritual faculties must be in full expression in consciousness in order for the Immaculate Conception, the birth of the Christ, to take place in the mystical or spiritual. (Hammock, 2002, p. 13)

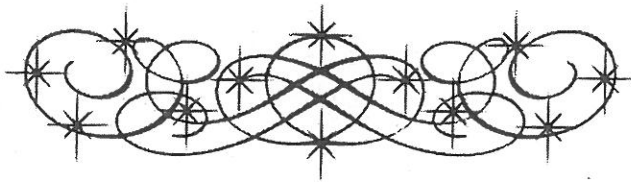
Hammock searched the Bible in order to assign a suitable female to each of the twelve powers. Ultimately, she used "logic and spiritual intuition (as did Charles Fillmore in aligning the name of each disciple to a particular spiritual faculty)" (Hammock, 2002, p. 3) to complete this task. Her discernment led her to the following determination of which women represented which power as noted here:

So, in summary, our criterion, based on the Gospels, is threefold: a.) (five) women noted in the genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth in chapter one of the Book of Matthew; b.) (three) women named as related to Jesus or His disciples; and c.) (four) women named who openly declared to Jesus His spiritual leadership. The total, then, is twelve - a number that is highly symbolic to us of spiritual fulfillment. (Hammock, 2002, p. 3)

Hammock's text, *Runes of the Twelve Women of the Chalice* has a lengthy subtitle that articulates the purpose of the brief, 26 page pamphlet: *A method of contemplation based on ancient symbols and timeless spiritual teachings, designed to empower the Divine Feminine within everyone.* In the following sections of weekly study, students will integrate contemplation of the archetypal twelve powers of woman—and man—with the seven chakras.

12 Women of the Chalice

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|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ✦ Anna | ✦ Mary Magdalene |
| ✦ Bathsheba | ✦ Mary (wife of Alphaeus) |
| ✦ Elizabeth | ✦ Rahab |
| ✦ Martha | ✦ Ruth |
| ✦ Mary | ✦ Salome |
| ✦ Mary of Bethany | ✦ Tamar |



12 WOMEN CLOSELY RELATED TO JESUS CHRIST AND HIS MINISTRY:

12 INTUITIONAL POWERS OF HUMANITY

(The order of the first two groups of women selected given here is the order in which they are mentioned in the Gospels; the order of the third group is the order given in the Gospels of their declarations concerning the spiritual leadership of Jesus Christ.)

5 women noted in the genealogy of Jesus:

Tamar - light green - strength - as in the disciple, Andrew

Rahab - red - new life - as in the disciple, Judas

(who was replaced by Matthias "wholly given over to Jehovah")

Ruth - orange - zeal or passion - as in the disciple, Simon, the Zealot

Bathsheba - release (cleansing, renunciation) - russet - as in the disciple, Thaddeus

Mary of Nazareth - pink - love - as in the disciple, John "whom Jesus loved."

3 women named in the Gospels as related to Jesus or to at least one of His disciples:

Elizabeth - blue - faith - as in the disciple, Simon Peter

"The other Mary" - green - order - as in the disciple James, son of Alphaeus (her son)

Salome - decision (judgment, discernment) - yellow - as in the disciple, James, son of Salome and Zebedee

4 women named in the Gospels as giving verbal acknowledgment of Jesus as the Christ (Lord, Redeemer, Teacher):

Anna the Prophetess - imagination - light blue - as in the disciple, Bartholomew (also called Nathaneal)

Martha of Bethany - will - silver - as in the disciple, Matthew (also called Levi)

Mary of Bethany - understanding - gold - as in the disciple Thomas

Mary Magdalene - power - purple - as in the disciple, Philip