



Woman as Healer

Jeanne Achterberg

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This groundbreaking work examines the role of women in the Western healing traditions. Drawing on the disciplines of history, anthropology, botany, archaeology, and the behavioral sciences, Jeanne Achterberg discusses the ancient cultures in which women worked as independent and honored healers; the persecution of women healers in the witch hunts of the Middle Ages; the development of midwifery and nursing as women's professions in the nineteenth century; and the current role of women and the state of the healing arts, as a time of crisis in the health-care professions coincides with the reemergence of feminine values.

Woman as Healer Details

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Author : Jeanne Achterberg

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Mary says

This isn't? my type of book, but it seemed comprehensive.

Alison says

Interesting, and well-researched historical survey of women as healers in various European cultures to their modern (1990s) role in medicine.

ADelicate says

This book looks historically at how the elimination of women in healing positions and practices as well as the eradication of feminine goddesses in a variety of cultures has resulted in greater war and greater restrictions on women in general, which has in turn impacted societies in a negative way. Her argument is that when female goddesses were worshiped and women were valued as healers, than those societies generally were more peaceful and prosperous.

Preston says

If you are having issues where western medicine seems myopic and are interested in a more complete picture of what it is that is going on around here but you aren't quite sure what it is then this is as good a place as any for you to start.

Cynda says

Great descriptions:

1. How Goddess holds power in Human imagination, how it loses it, how God gains and holds ascendancy.
2. What God's ascendancy means for Worldview and Medicine.
3. How human spirit benefit when Goddess and God merge to create a whole, androgynous worldview, Medicine benefits.

This book was published in 1999. I first read it about 2005. Reading this book again in 2017, I am glad to know that Medicine is becoming more androgynous, more balanced. For many years, I only liked having female doctors because we can generally understand each other at various levels. In 2017, I have some male doctors that I love, such as my caring ENT and caring dermatologist.

I have seen more and more Nurse Practitioners who are usually, not always, female who bring the traditional care to their medical practice.

The traditional care of nursing becomes incorporated in primary care providers. (In US, nurse practitioners can provide primary care.)

I am grateful for the changes that are being made in Medicine.

Leesa Wilson says

This book has been on my book shelf for so long! It is one I refer to often. There are penciled in notes on almost every page.

Ipek says

I'm almost completely sure that the cause of my disappointment is the quality of the translation because the subject is interesting enough. At some point, I started to think that perusing a manual from IKEA would be more stimulating. I'd love to find a copy of the original text but it seems like nowhere restocks this book anymore.
