

PART ONE: AQUAMATER – A GENEALOGY OF WATER IN NINE BREAKS

The earth's galaxy is named the Milky Way, and even the word galaxy is from the Greek/ Latin, gala, meaning mother's milk.

– Alison Bartlett, 2005

The Goddess's star milk ... formed curds to create worlds and creatures.

– Barbara G. Walker, 1983



Orphic Fragment photograph by Shé Hawke, sourced from Sigrí in Greece, artist unknown

I. EUKOSMIA

Mother of Gods, great nurse of all, draw near
Divinely honor'd, and regard my pray'r ...
From thee at first both Gods and men arose
From thee the sea and ev'ry river flows

Orphic Hymn XXVI to the Mother of the Gods

– Thomas Taylor Translation, 1792:151²

In a beginning ...
from a cryptic darkness
born of time, space and necessity
came the first liquescent soak
sprayed forth in wide array
venerated parthenogenetic
Creatrix of All
who would trouble Gods and poets
and men in times to come
few would give the triple deity her due.
Her holy moist Metisian fragments
imagined galaxies
 leaked stars, seas, earths
creatures and sexes to life
a sovereign orb atomised by cosmic mayhem
wed to intention
her vapours everywhere present.

This Aquamater milk-producing bosom of life
invites us home to the sacred covenant
to re-member our moist beginnings
the original feminine divine
through Erikapaios, Phanes and Metis
the intrinsic numinousity

of the fragmented
aqua trinitarian doxology:

mother
daughter
holy spirit

II. APOSTASY – THE FALL OF WATER

For Zeus at the start of his long theological assault,
had taken as his first wife Metis ...

Infinitely wise ... knew more than all the Gods .

– Joseph Campbell, 1991:149

Zeus craftily deceived her ... put her in his belly.

– Hesiod's *Theogony*, 143-145

Time passes.

Zeus of the fifth reign of Olympus
in a consuming sweep of greed
knowledge and power
becomes the All.³

Intelligent progenic ultra-sexed water
descended from the First Cause
replaced now by intellectual air
the greatest trick of all time
drinks the pregnant Metis
who has assumed her ordinary water form to evade him.
She disappears from common vulgar myth
once Hephaestus breaks her waters
and Zeus declares their daughter Athena un mothered
born from his hydro-cephalic head
his best idea.

Matricidal plagiarist.
How very dare you!

Athena spawned full grown and wise
stolen from the homage of the divine

chora

arrogated by phallic logos
even still.

The sacramental tears of this genesis
weep Thalassa into teeming life
hold Zeus to account for irreverent disavowal
of water and maternity both.
Metis finds refuge
in the amniotic sea of her creation
receptacle of an infinite kind
files his fall from grace for aeons
in the deep aquamorphic abyss.

As ruler of clefts and fissures
cousin of the Oceanids and Nereids
fifth reign descendent of herself
Metis sets traps for Poseidon and lesser gods
who would claim ownership of the waters
fight the first water wars.

And she waits
patiently she waits
with Tethys and Oceanus
and their 3,000 aquagenies
for un-secreted time
waits for her transfiguration
the overdue recognition
of her phylogenetic labours
the partitioned veil.

chora chora chora

trans-parent waters
first milk displaced

III. FROM HOLY TO DEMI-GOD

Language is an Orphic fragment.

– Percy Bysshe Shelley

Eurydice was not meant
for long mortal life
this Orpheus had other work to do.
Singing miracles
a string magician
just a cover
for a first order holy of holies
masquerading as man
and she ... who danced the naiads dance
waiting in the deep
for her curtain call...

The fret of the Orphic lyre
is un fingered now
as dipping head
navigates restless sea.

Decapitation brought him sympathy
from the Lesvian nursery
Orphykian maids
who would eventually enrapture themselves
with an other song.
Cursed by Apollo
who ordered the lilt of his lips to silence
(jealous father figure tantrum, Orphic complex – forget
Oedipus)

overlooked by Sappho
in later aeons
... oh woe

And with the split of head and heart
sinew and bone
his spirit wafted
 re-joined the
sparkled
Milky Way
of Metisian creation
 apostasy in reverse
for a royal adept
who sings and summons,
yet
profaned by mortal expectations
and the temptation of Eurydice
who remained virtuous
and paid the virgin goddess price
in common story
 another woman out of the way.

He succumbed to maenad orgiastic lust
in this incarnation anyway
wasn't expecting an actual mind body split
so harsh a representation
haunts the earth and its emissaries still
 stitched up
by common concerns
just dramatic enough
to free him
so his soul could seep
 into the aether
left to weather

and decree
... a whistling wind
while Eurydice
poor Eurydice ventured beneath
to hum a lonely song
in one telling
hostage and martyr
to a dark god
whose ills and wills
were assigned
by some other gods fall from grace.

Homer denies it
Hesiod murmurs it
and Eleusis and Bacchus
chant its masked duplicity
while the first Orpheus calls the world to pray

the first word
the first prayer
of a holy order

IV. AQUAGENESIS

For more than 2.5 billion years in the history of life on Earth, all living things on Earth were underwater.

– Richard Ellis, 2001:17

The blue planet
oddly called Earth
sits in a galaxy like a drop in the ocean
75 per cent water
as the Aquamater decreed her replication should be
 water
foundational element
deity
source.
Bacchic fury and Eleusinian sprite
erupt into new constellations
that science called the Big Bang.
Creationism versus Evolutionism
the same and different persuasion.
Yet human and non-human
are of the waters born
necessary elemental mingling with solids
endless cyclic revolutions
amphimictic flux
of retention and expulsion
crest and crash
 ineffable mother substance
gesticulating.

For all he voyaged on the sea
young Darwin misplaced
woman's rank in evolution
her waters and the aquatic ape
overlaid by terra firma
and the Tarzan school of zoology

aqua nullius

hermaphroditic barnacles
oursin and solen
in Darwin's early foreshore Eden
like women and scant known Metis
a cameo presence
cast as an understudy in her own cause
barely named
and only for limitation
confined now
contained
repressed
misunderstood as passive
as all powerful men and Gods
assume centre stage.

Water-inhabiting endoparasites
living in
then on
the mammal
– Mater
Matrix
Maat –
air-breathing ectoparasites
feeding off wet
corporeal benevolence
the Great Love of the Arché

gill-breathing salamanders
our ancestors
lung-breathing children
our progeny
like the fish out of water they are.

Metisian aqueducts
swollen with life
water made flesh