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Joseph Campbell Foundation & OPUS Archives Research Grant Summary

As a doctoral candidate in the Pacifica Graduate Institute myth program, my subject of research is the Moon throughout various cultures, considering feminine and masculine interpretations of the lunar symbol and the way in which these have shaped traditions and male and female relations. The ideas that have been pulling me into this realm, like tide onto land, are particularly those regarding cultural associations of the lunar power with respect to feminine versus masculine energies. I think there are rich insights to be found by *exploring the moon*, so to speak.

I have a background in writing, and spent 16 years working with a foreign journalist. In this capacity I worked with transcriptions of interviews and often listened to taped discussions to check accuracy of quotes and sometimes to make my own transcriptions. I type about 80 wpm and I've taken several audio taped lectures for which transcripts didn't exist or which I couldn't get and made my own transcriptions in order to make it easier for me to quote sections in some of my papers for Pacifica. One transcript was of Hillman's lecture on "Silver and the White Earth," and another was Joseph Campbell's lecture on "Hermes, Alchemy and the Voyage of Ulysses." This was my idea of fun with value.

This summer (2006), to enrich my understanding of our course in European Sacred Traditions, I found a lecture by Joseph Campbell in the library at Pacifica on "Courtly Love and the Grail". Listening to this lecture I heard something that strongly resonated with the focus of my doctoral thesis. Campbell says,

Now when I was studying in the University of Paris with the French scholars, the greatest poet of the Middle Ages was Walter [von Eschenbach]. And it's a great thing to see the difference between the French interpretation of love and Walter's. The French poets are always celebrating a "lady of high degree." But Walter is just celebrating "women." He says in one of his lines, "The word 'woman' is of greater nobility than 'lady.'" And this is it—he just loved girls, that's all. And these delicious creatures ripple through his lines [...] The Germans are always, in their poetry and feeling, *closer to nature* than the French. [...] The two traditions have really separated, very early, and hold their style. It has something to do, I'm quite sure, with the mythology underlying the language where the moon, in German, is masculine and the sun feminine; whereas in French, the sun is masculine and the moon feminine. La Lune and Le Soleil, and Die Sonne and Der Monn. These represent different spiritual commitments, you might say. Really, really these myths do. And you can feel it right through the whole tradition.

"Courtly Love and the Grail" 1983.

In speaking with Richard Buchen, Pacifica's research librarian in charge of the Joseph Campbell archives, I found out that no transcriptions exist for the Campbell lecture series on the Great Goddess entitled "Myths and Mysteries of the Great Goddess," given in Santa Barbara April 6 through 8 in 1983. These are in the Audiotape Collection at Pacifica. Campbell's lectures on the Wasteland, the Grail, and Courtly Love, from around the same time period, 1982-1983, according to Richard, have not yet been transcribed.

It's important to have these lectures in a more readily accessible written form, and accuracy is a vital element to this project. I intend to do my best to provide the attention to detail that will contribute to accuracy. I'm sure you agree that such an important job shouldn't really be entrusted to someone who is primarily a typist or secretary. The background that I have in scholarship and research is essential in getting the result that the Joseph Campbell foundation undoubtedly wants to see as a result of such an important undertaking. These will be an extremely valuable resource for scholars doing research.

I am confident that doing the transcriptions will be valuable with respect to my own doctorate and will be an extremely valuable resource for scholars. I will provide copies of the transcriptions to the archives, and, as agreed, a copy of *whatever* is published as a result of my research. I'm considering the possibility of also producing a short book focusing on a theme which is richly presented, particularly with respect to lunar mythology and mythic images. Thank you again for this exciting opportunity.