

Musings...

Let the Muse take each of us through the fires of Awakening, Transformation, and Purification...

By Bronwen Gates

It was just before the Millennium that I became consciously aware of the Muse. Before that I hadn't paid much attention. I thought they only worked with Men Who Were Brilliant Poets, since this was the only context in which I'd heard of them (forgive my ignorance), which was not exactly an image I had of myself. Then something woke me up – probably the Muse herself, since the first trinity of these Nine Maidens Magic is the Muse of Awakening. I now realize they were in my life always and it is to them that I am indebted for so much pleasure.

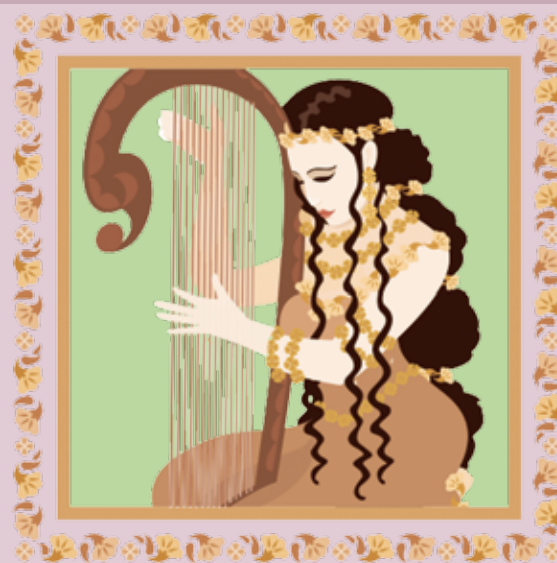
So who are the Muse? The Maidens of the Flame, Source of all Inspiration, Passion's Progenitors and Playmates (that last one came from them – they often like to interject when I'm writing, and with quite a bit of sylph sparkle thrown in for good measure.) They are a Unity, since they can never be separated – where does one flame end and another begin? – yet within this Unity we call the Muse there are nine distinct energies that can be constellated around the names they were given by the Greeks – Thalia, Clio, Calliope; Terpsichore, Melpomene, Erato; Euterpe, Polyhymnia, Urania. The Muse have borne a multiplicity of names for they are universal, and known to the hearts of many. In the absence of a classical education (or even with one), you are unlikely to call this energy that accompanies some of your most inspired moments 'Calliope' or 'Polyhymnia.' Instead we may give this feeling-sense a name of intimacy, probably of mutual choosing.

One of my favorite ways to access the Muse is through Bride, Brigid, the 'Mary of the Gaels', whom the Greeks called Mnemosyne, Mother of the Muse. She holds the Gates of Memory – for we have to free the Muse from the pasts and futures we have imposed upon them to really get to know them. Mnemosyne teaches me to listen and hear with my heart, lets me touch Cosmic Memory, and then I hear their Siren-sweet song - for it is irresistible. Thank goodness for that, for the Muse initiate and effect transformation that takes us to transcendent states we cannot imagine this side of the transformation.

Right now I am deeply engaged with the one who has been called Euterpe, who invites us to the distillation of Music, of What Really Matters. She can be the most misunderstood of the Muse when we project compliance and silence onto the feminine, and women in general. She opens the door to challenge, not of domination, but of invitation – the invitation to release outmoded yet still cherished misunderstandings of our past and our future, and move into the high delight of Truth. When we refuse to engage, we hear her music as discord, as noise – the noise of battle; when we allow ourselves to open our hearts to her invitation, we find the music that lies at the heart of challenge, the complexity of the harmony that our impure understandings hide from us. So often it is our refusal to engage the music that keeps us in judgment and fear of Newness, keeps us choosing to see as faulty and flawed what we do not understand of the new that is being birthed. Too often we give our fealty to the past.

The invitation of the Muse, the challenge of Euterpe, is not for the faint-hearted, though we all are made of the metal that can be forged into the instrument that is perfectly tuned to our Soul Song. The Muse are superior smith-workers – metal smiths, silver and gold smiths, wordsmiths – alchemists of Joy. Whatever your current relationship to the Muse might be, you are invited to claim deeper, richer, more conscious intimacy with them. Let the Muse take each of us through the fires of Awakening, Transformation, and Purification to create and reveal a more brilliant, brighter, stronger self – a transcendent Self. Accept the Invitation.

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New Issues Poetry & Prose

Kerrytown BookFest 2010

Sunday, September 12th, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kerrytown BookFest 2010,
315 Detroit St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.kerrytownbookfest.org

Visit the New Issues booth for book signings by Michigan poets and to peruse the latest small press poetry titles.

1:30 / Khaled Mattawa, *Tocqueville*
2:00 / Josie Kearns, *New Numbers*
2:30 / Deanne Lundin, *The Ginseng Hunter's Notebook*
3:00 / John Rybicki, *Traveling at High Speeds*
3:30 / Linda Nemeč Foster, *Talking Diamonds*
4:00 / Mary Ann Samyn, *Beauty Breaks In*

Poetry Reading at Crazy Wisdom

Sunday, September 12th, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
at the Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and Tea Room



Khaled Mattawa, Linda Nemeč Foster, Deanne Lundin,
Josie Kearns, John Rybicki, and Mary Ann Samyn

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