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Athena,Minerva,Sulis The Many Aspects

By Judi Singleton

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Although She is only One, She appears as many forms or goddesses. Each goddess emphasizes an attribute of the one Divine Mother. This is an easy concept to understand when we consider our own earthly mothers. She is the mother of the hearth when she is cooking and feeding us.

She is the warrior mother when someone attacks us and she is protecting us. She is the muse mother when she is inspiring us to do our best. She is the healer when we are sick. Each of perspective are only

one of the aspects she wears in the drama of life for all eternity.

Athena is the Greek virgin goddess of reason, intelligent activity, arts and literature. She sprang full grown from Zeus' head.

She is Zeus' favorite and is allowed to use his weapons including his thunderbolt. She wore a helmet and carrying a spear and shield, the magic aegis, a goatskin breastplate, fringed with snakes, that produced thunderbolts when shaken.

Athena was different from Ares; she represented the intellectual and civilized side of war. She was a wise and prudent adviser.

Sacred to her are the olive, serpent, owl, lance, and crow.

Although Minerva, the Roman Goddess of war and wisdom, is usually portrayed as equivalent to the Greek goddess Athena, she was originally an Etruscan goddess of dawn. She is revered as a goddess of wisdom, for the light of dawn typifies knowledge. She guides heroes in war and is patroness of all arts, crafts, guilds, and medicine. Called by Ovid "the goddess of a thousands works", she was inventor of musical instruments, numbers, and many crafts, including weaving.

The serpent and the owl were sacred to her. The serpent is an emblem of life energy and the creative impulse. The owl the symbol of death and wisdom, and thus Minerva, a goddess of the dawn and of wisdom, is also a goddess of death and transformation. Minerva is an incarnation of wisdom in human form, an affirmation that we can use our knowledge and wisdom in the pursuit of any goal we choose.

Minerva was the Roman goddess of war, wisdom and the crafts.

In Britain at the turn of the 1st millennium CE, Minerva was depicted throughout Celtic Britain in both purely Roman fashion and in the more abstract Celtic style

But in Bath, at the temple of Aquae Sulis she becomes "fully equated with a Celtic goddess, Sulis". (1)

So as you see as with our earthly Mother according to the aspect we are calling on we call on the name that matches that aspect of the Great Mother. Of The Great Goddess

So call her name when you need protection from the warrior mother or wise counsel. Call her by yet another name when you need healing. You can call on her when you need inspiration and a muse to create. She is the great mother the female side of God.

References:

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3. Celt and Greek: Celts in the Hellenic World, Peter B. Ellis, Constable, 1997, ISBN#: 0–09–475580–9, p. 50

About the author: Judi Singleton is the publisher of Jassmine's Journal you can subscribe to one or all of her ezines at <http://www.motherearthpublishing.com>

Greek goddess Athena

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Greek goddess Athena (A–theen–uh)

later called Minerva by

the Romans, was the goddess of wisdom, battle, and certain crafts, and was the protector of the concept of cities. The olive tree was sacred to her, and her sacred bird was the owl (which is why wisdom is associated with owls). Poseidon, the god of the Sea, and Athena were in competition to become the patron of a new city. Poseidon, as a bribe, gave the first horses to the people, but Athena struck the ground with a rod and up sprang the first olive tree, olives became an agricultural staple for the Greeks. She was chosen as the patron goddess of the city which was called Athens, in her honor.

Athena was born from the head of Zeus, the chief Olympian god. Zeus had a headache which was growing worse and worse until he finally had the craftsman god, Hephaestus, split his head open with an axe, and out sprang Athena, fully grown and in full armor. This sounds like a rather silly myth, but symbolically this shows the goddess of wisdom coming from the head of the chief god. Some of the more practical Greeks decided that Zeus had swallowed his first wife Metis (a Titan goddess of wisdom) and she had given birth to Athena within Zeus. Athena then moved to Zeus's head in order to make her grand entrance.

Her name is also spelled Athene. She is identified often in mythology as grey-eyed or flashing-eyed Athena, and is sometimes called Pallas Athena because she accidentally killed Pallas, a daughter of the sea god, Triton. Another explanation for the name, Pallas Athena, is that she took the name when she killed the giant, Pallas, during the battle between the Gigantes and the Olympians. She is identified as Athena Nike and is usually depicted with wings when she is the goddess of victorious battle. She is also called Athena Parthenos, to honor her virtue. Parthenos means virgin.

Athena's sacred temple on the acropolis in Athens, Greece is called the Parthenon (temple of the virgin) because she was

one of the three virgin Olympian goddesses. The Parthenon is considered by some to be the most perfect building ever built.

Light is shed on the attitude the Greeks had toward war and battle by the characterization of the god of war, Ares, and the goddess of battle, Athena. The Greeks hated the god of war and depicted him as a bully and a coward, while showing Athena as glorious and virtuous. Unlike the Romans, who glorified Mars (the Roman name for Ares) because they intended to conquer the world, the Greeks had no desire to control the world; but neither would they lose their freedom. Thus they despised the god of war and loved the goddess of battle.

This is a fitting Goddess for me to pray to tonight as the courts try to control spam and about put all ezine publishers out of business. There is a war between people who want to market to everyone and those who want privacy.

Well, personally I think that I will continue to publish my ezines and just cut out the ads for now. All ads will just go online.

I pray to Athena to help me by advising me on this war.

Judi Singleton is the webmistress of [Motherearthpublishing.com](http://www.motherearthpublishing.com) Join her ezines today.<http://www.motherearthpublishing.com>



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