

Judith Dowling

## The Mysterious Union of Feminine and Masculine



Friday, November 5, 2021

7:00 - 9:00 PM

111 Superior St, Victoria BC

*Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.  
For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of  
the singing of birds is come.  
The Song of Solomon 2: 10-13*

Chagall – *Lovers among Lilacs*

Throughout the annals of time the mysterious union of masculine and feminine has inspired creative expression of its transcendent message. Variably described as the *sacred marriage*, the *hieros gamos*, or in alchemy the *coniunctio*, it portrays the uniting of what C.G. Jung described as “impossible” opposites (*Letters v. 2, October 15, 1957*), an event that finds its highest value in the embrace of the divine or royal couple. Depictions of this sacred mystery are suffused with erotic sensuality and are often accompanied by images of blossoming flowers.

Behind this transcendent experience of wholeness lies a dark suffering, experienced as a loss of soul. The exiled soul longs for reunion with consciousness, sometimes depicted as the Bride’s anguished yearning for the return of her Bridegroom. Jung has described the excruciating process toward the union of opposites as the “suffering of becoming conscious” (*C.W. 13 §456*).

To describe the *sacred marriage* presents a challenging task, for here, we are in the realm of the gods. Words of reason fail, yet the *experience* is real. Assisted by creative works as expressed through the ages, we will explore the meaning of this ineffable mystery, for each of us as individuals and for today’s soul-lost, polarized world.



Judith Dowling is a Zürich-trained Jungian Analyst with a private practice in Victoria, B.C. She has lectured in Canada and internationally. Her article: *Lost Voices of the Feminine: The Song of Miriam Arises* is published in the Spring, 2018 edition of the *Jung Journal: Culture and Psyche*.

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