



## A Hodgepodge

*Serenity is not freedom  
from the storm, but peace  
within the storm.*

\*\*\*

*It's easy to love  
Our acceptable selves,  
But those who misbehave  
and make poor  
choices  
Are actually more in  
in need of  
love.*

\*\*\*

*Acceptance is the  
way of the wise.*

\*\*\*

*Hooray, Hooray  
Sunny days  
Hung my hammock  
Catching rays!  
-- Susan Kraut*

\*\*\*

*Walking with wisdom  
Upon the face of  
Mother Earth  
Requires mindful  
commitment  
And a willingness  
to value  
Others as much as self.*

\*\*\*

*Consciously, or  
unconsciously  
we teach others how to  
treat us.*

\*\*\*

Dear Friends,

The ideas in this MuseLetter are ones I've been reflecting on for quite a while. Because the subject is a muse-in-progress, I'm hoping you will share any ideas and insights you have about the topic and, together, we can continue to play with the idea.

Sorry, men-who-read-the-MuseLetter, this one is really all about women.

### ***Expanding "Maiden, Mother, Crone"***

The topic I'm mulling over is the ancient symbology of **Maiden, Mother, and Crone**. Pre-Christian cultures viewed maiden, mother, and crone as the three faces of the Triple Goddess. Modern pop-psychology culture often uses the same three as shortcut explanations for the developmental stages of womankind. Three phases may have been sufficient when a woman's lifespan was short but seem woefully inadequate now that many of us live three or more decades between the end of day-to-day mothering and death.

Using only the three original faces of Maiden, Mother, and Crone suggests that women automatically attain the insight, wisdom, compassion, and beingness of Cronedom when the nest--metaphorically or actually--empties. That certainly wasn't the case for me. For years after the kids flew the coop, I was often more blind than insightful, confused rather than wise, competitive in lieu of compassionate, and heavily into *doing* rather than being.

Given our extended life spans and more abundant opportunities, what do you think would be appropriate additions to the Maiden, Mother, Crone triad?

I've come up with a couple of scenarios, but there are problems with both. One is easily understood but idiomatically awkward. The other flows trippingly off the tongue, as the Bard would say, but is open to misinterpretation. I'm hoping that, together, we can come up with something that makes sense *and* flows.

### **First Scenario: Easily Understood but Awkward Language**

#### ***Maiden, Mother, Wisdom Gatherer, Wise Woman, Crone***

\*\*\* The following definitions simply suggest the purposes and tasks of each phase and, as such, are by no means complete\*\*\*

#### Maiden

*Purposes (or Tasks) of Maiden stage*

- Maturing physically
- Gaining an education
- Becoming capable of "playing well with others"
- Learning to navigate the intricacies of society, family, knowledge, and self in constructive ways

#### Mother

*Purposes (Tasks) of Mother stage*

- Assuming responsibility and creating meaningful work
- Building a secure life-structure for self and others
- Becoming proficient at caring for others, procreating, nesting
- Healing and nurturing inner self as well as family
- Increasing emotional maturity

#### Wisdom Gatherer

*Purposes (Tasks) of Wisdom Gatherer stage*

- Gleaning, sorting, culling, changing, choosing
- Learning to know, understand, heal, and accept unique self
- Exploring what resonates with her own heart
- Becoming increasingly mindful of, and acting from, personal authenticity and genuineness

#### Wise Woman

*Purposes (Tasks) of Wise Woman stage*

- Letting go
- Radiating self-confidence
- Personifying soft power and open-heartedness
- Expressing creativity
- Acknowledging the Oneness of all and, as a result, emanating acceptance and compassion for all Beings

\*\*\* The following definition is a far cry from the [Dictionary.com](http://Dictionary.com) one of "...a withered, witchlike old woman." \*\*\*

#### Crone

*Crone stage is one of completion (or close-to-completion)*

- Attaining freedom
  - Feeling at peace
  - Being is her modus operandi
- Being available*  
*Being a model*  
*Being wisdom and loving-kindness*  
*Being completely at ease with herself*

- Has *become* what she *knows* and exemplifies it in attitude and action
- Embodies the essence of Love

### **Second Scenario: Great Alliteration but "Say, what?!"**

#### ***Maiden, Mother, Queen, Crone***

Because the term "queen" can send up red flags, I had decided not to include this foursome in the MuseLetter. Synchronistically, the day the decision was made, I received a note from my wise, long-time friend, Tamilou. The front of the card depicts a beautifully regal, dark skinned woman. The sentiment beside her reads *SHE IS THE QUEEN OF HER OWN HEART*. Inside, Tamilou said, *About 15 months ago you, Judith, and I had a chat about becoming a Queen of your own heart. It took me awhile to learn what that meant. Thank you. Seemed like a clear message that the great sounding Maiden, Mother, Queen, Crone wanted her space in this musing.*

#### Queen

Includes all the purposes and tasks of the Wisdom Gatherer and Wise Woman, and, in addition, stresses that:

**She is the sovereign of her own life, the queen of her own heart, and benevolent bestower of all things bountiful, beautiful, and good.**

### ***Let's Play Together***

I am really looking forward to hearing from you! As are Queenie and the other Wonderful Ones. To send ideas or comments, click on the *Visit Sue's website* link in the left column and write to me at the [Contact Sue](http://Contact Sue) page.

May the beauty of who you are bless your own and others' hearts,

