WISDOM OF THE ANCESTORS:
MOTHER OF LIFE, DEATH, REGENERATION
“The main theme of Goddess symbolism is the mystery of birth and death and the renewal of life, not only human but all life on earth and indeed in the whole cosmos.”

Marija Gimbutas
The Language of the Goddess

“In this earlier mythology the earth out of which all creatures have been born is not dust but alive, as the Goddess Creator Herself.”

Joseph Campbell
The Language of the Goddess
In the beginning was chaos, the numinous deity who gave birth to the universe. At the core of every major religion is a Divine Mother—the dark Mother. She is not “void.” She is pregnant possibility who gives birth from herself and receives all unto herself in divine ebb and flow. Our ancestors have left us messages that we have not listened to for over 5000 years. It is time we do.
Yemaya, Africa

Prehistoric cave painting, India

Kali, India

Auset, Mother of the "Perfect Black", Kemet

Black Madonna
The “internal” dark mother

The dark Mother is found at the very core of existence reflected in the mathematics of the sacred geometry of Nature, as seen in the fractal of the Mandlebrot Set. I call it the “womb fractal” of creation.

The fractal womb: a woman gives birth, her daughter gives birth, her daughter gives birth and so on.
PREHISTORY: REVELATIONS OF ARCHEOMYTHOLOGY

“The Latin word matrix originally meant “womb,” from the same Indo-European root that gives mother, mater, meter, matr, mat’ and other equivalents. Matrix also encompasses a sense of kinship systems based on “mother-right,” that are matrilineal, matrilocal, and egalitarian. The social sense of “matrix”...is a life-support network within the maternal kindreds, which are cooperative and communal.”

Max Dashu

Monica Sjoo
The Paleolithic
Womb caves, abode of the Great Mother

Game Pass Shelter, Africa

Hohle Fels, Germany 42,000 bce

Chauvet, France 35,000 bce

Cueva del Buxu, Spain c. 16,000-11,500 bp
Paleolithic Great Mother

Hohle Fels, Germany 42,000 bce

Willendorf Matrika, Austria 25000 bce

Acheullian Matrika, Israel, 232,000-800,000 bce

Lespugue Matrika, France 21,000 bce

Laussel Matrika, France 20,000 bce

Dolni Vestonice, Moravia 24,000 bce
Neolithic Great Mother

- Bird Goddess, Achilleion 5900-5800 bce
- Snake Matrika, Crete 6000 - 5700 bce
- Nile River Goddess, Egypt 4000 bce
- Minoan Snake Priestess, Crete 1700 bce
- Great Mother, Catal Huyuk 7000 bce
Death and Regeneration

“The Goddess of Death and Regeneration is also the Bird Goddess, the nocturnal aspect of the lifegiver. Caves and tombs are interchangeable with womb, egg, and uterus symbolism.”

Marija Gimbutas
The Language of the Goddess

“The use of red ochre throughout time--this red trail of menstrual blood, the blood of life--reveals a thread of continuity in the imaginary realm of early humanity regarding life and death.”

Leslène della-Madre
Midwifing Death
“Vital essence is invoked by painting the matrikas with red ochre, the blood of Earth. Many ancient peoples also painted the bones of their dead with this sign of life-bearing blood. The matrikas themselves were commonly buried with the dead, as signs of rebirth.”

Max Dashu
Paleolithic and Neolithic Symbols of Regeneration and Renewal

The pubic triangle is often shown as a numinous force field rendered with outlines, hatchmarks, swirls and, especially, dot patterns.
Death was not always something to be feared in ancient cultures because regeneration provides the insight that from death comes life.
The Neolithic Habitations of the Great Mother: Environment as reflection of regeneration

Egg-shaped houses, Israel

Shelter with womb altar, Lepenski Vir

Temple in shape of female, Orkney Islands

Temple in shape of female, Malta

Pregnant Goddess Silbury Hill, England,
In other cultures, the vulture in Egyptian hieroglyphs means “mother” and the word for “vulture” for the Siberian Yakuts equals “mother.”
LISTENING TO THE ANCESTORS:
BRINGING FORTH THE DIVINE
MOTHER WOMB WISDOM

Beauty before you,
Beauty behind you,
Beauty above you,
Beauty below you,
Beauty within you.
Walk now with Beauty
And your way will be Beautiful.

*Navajo prayer*
Midwifing Death
Mothering the dying

The Beauty Field

We are birthed from beauty and we return to beauty. Beauty is our true nature. Beauty is the way of the feminine. Bringing a beauty path to the bedside of the dying helps to alleviate fear and brings space for serenity and peace. There are many ways to create a beauty field, whether at home or in the hospital. The energy at death and birth is the same and needs to be treated as sacred at both portals.
Michele was involved with her dying process from beginning to end. She designed her coffin (a cardboard one for cremation) and had it resting in the room with her on the floor near her bed. It was a beautiful Egyptian style “boat” that was going to carry her to the other shore. She also designed her entire funeral process. She was a full participant in her death as she was in her life.
Florence’s whole family was involved in her home death. They embraced her passing as a celebration.
Florence’s 12 year old granddaughter decorating her casket lid
Vera’s altar
Monica Sjoo
3 hours after her passing at home
Returning to the Cosmic Womb
“Aspects of Women’s Spirituality in Tending to the Dying”

www.midiwifingdeath.com