

DRAGON & PEARL

By Ani Williams

Lyrics and Origins of the Songs

On the Mediterranean coast of Catalonia at a site called Empuries, once existed a group of ancient temples. What impresses the visitor, is the proximity of temples dedicated to the Mother Goddess. Most are within walking distance, and are dedicated to Isis, Venus-Aphrodite, Artemis, Hygeia and Asklepius. These sanctuaries built between 800-200 BCE, were places of healing and refuge, located in sites of spectacular beauty. The songs on this album were inspired by the rich layers of feminine history, and tell a story of her Mediterranean temple traditions:

Aphrodite's Sea enchantment—The healing temple of **Hygeia**—The circling **Draco's Turning** round in the heavens above--A lively ritual **Dance of Artemis**—**Santa Coloma's** path of love, and **Dragon and Pearl's** journey of awakening. These temples existed during an era of history when the Sacred Feminine was honored and remembered.

This music is offered as a healing balm for a world in transition, and with a prayer for Her return.



THE SONGS:

1. Orphic Hymn to Hygeia

(In five movements)

Aphrodite's Sea

Temple Dance

Calling Hygeia

Soul Dreaming

Temple Healing

2. Draco's Turning

3. Dance of Artemis

4. Coloma--Way of the Dove

5. Dragon and Pearl

THE LYRICS

The music for **DRAGON & PEARL** was inspired by the timeless traditions of Greece and Egypt that migrated across the sea to Gaul and Iberia. Join in this journey to ancient temples brought to life in new music, a healing balm for our time. These songs are an integral accompaniment, a Camino de Canciones, a Path of Songs for Ani's book 'A Dragon Path—Feminine Footprints Across the Pyrenes' due to be released in 2021.

ORPHIC HYMN TO HYGEIA

Lyrics are adapted from an ancient Greek Orphic Hymn to Hygeia. Music and arrangement by Ani, inspired by numerous visits to an Asklepius-Hygeia temple of healing at Empuries, Catalonia.



Hygeia was the partner or daughter of Asklepius, and the root of our word 'hygiene'. Her symbol of healing still appears today on pharmacies across Europe with her cup and wise serpent of healing, a reminder of a time when healing was wholistic in nature.

During the era of Asklepiian medicine, hundreds of healing temples were built around the entire Mediterranean region, beyond Greece as far west as Iberia. Asklepiian healing traditions included not only treating the physical body, but also ones emotional, mental and spiritual aspects. Dream incubation was an important process in the healing sanctuaries.

During many years of guiding spiritual pilgrimages to this region, I brought groups to this ancient temple and participants could call for their own healing dream. It was during this time that the presence of Hygeia made herself known through this song. During our current era, when humanity is in great need of healing, my wish is that her song can bring remembering and renewal. One can ask for a personal healing dream at any time or place, since our intentions inform the universe of our wishes and needs.



The song begins with **Aphrodite's Sea** enchantment, the gentle waves washing on the shore with harp and pipes, and the echo of tropical birds surrounding the temple. **Temple Dance** calls all those in need of rest and renewal to enter the sanctuary. Come, join the dance as temple musicians playing lyres and pipes softly chant, invoking the healing goddess with **Calling Hygeia**. As the Orphic Hymns resounded from temples in the past, we are calling for a restoration of humanity in our time. In Asklepius-Hygeia temple tradition, the patient would undergo a 'dream incubation', remaining at the temple as long as needed, until they received a clear message regarding their healing, a **Soul Dreaming**. Often the dream contained guidance about life changes needed for their soul's wholeness and well-being. This could consist of releasing or adjusting a relationship, altering one's life path, or simple dietary changes, and a healing formula for the cure. After drinking from Hygeia's Cup of Remembering and receiving clarity for the recommended therapy, the **Temple Healing** is complete.



Image above: Hygeia carved in ivory, late Roman.

*O come now Blessed Goddess,
To the seekers of mystic healing;
O come now O Hygeia
To the temple of mystic healing.*

*Born from the heart of Asklepius
Your serpent's touch brings healing;
We drink from your cup of remembering,
Come to these seekers of soul dreaming,
Mystic healing, temple dreaming.*

Background chorus chanting Hygeia in Greek: Υγεία

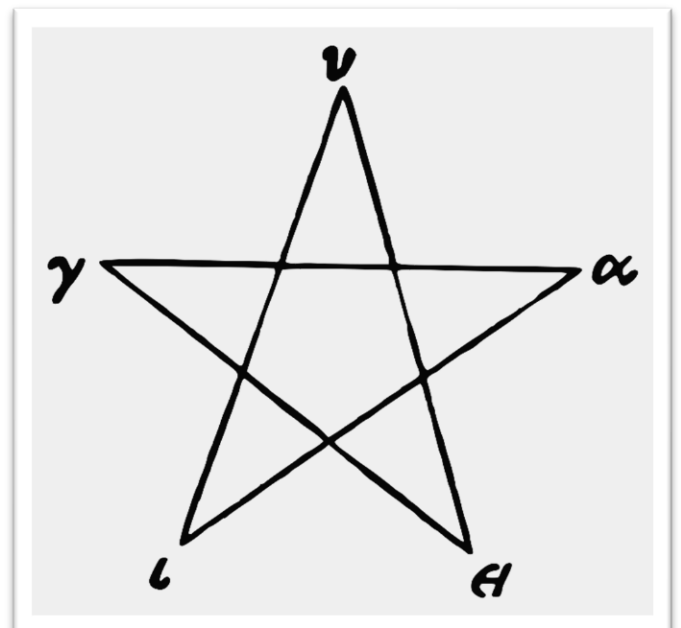


Image right: Greek Pythagorean symbol for health and healing with Hygeia spelled out at the five points.

DRACO'S TURNING

Instrumental piece composed on Mary Magdalene's Feast Day, 22 July, 2019 in Southern France.

From about 3000-2000 BCE, the constellation Draco (The Dragon) was holding the center still point at the northern axis of our earth with the polestar Thuban. Draco was the guiding North Star for navigating the seas and the orientation for building the pyramids in Egypt and numerous megalithic standing stone sites in Spain and France and of course around the world.

Draco is one of the constellations which never sets in northern hemisphere, along with Ursa Major, Minor, Lyra and Cygnus. The stars in these constellations were termed the 'Imperishable Stars' by the ancient Egyptians, the constant dance of the heavenly turning, the Axis Mundi, the center around which our planet spins.

As above, so below is the theme once again: As the Dragon circles above, the dragon currents move in the earth's meridians below. Dragons as inner meridians of energy flow through the inner landscapes of the human energy system, described in the ancient Vedic and Taoist Kundalini traditions. Guardians guard the gate of awakening consciousness.

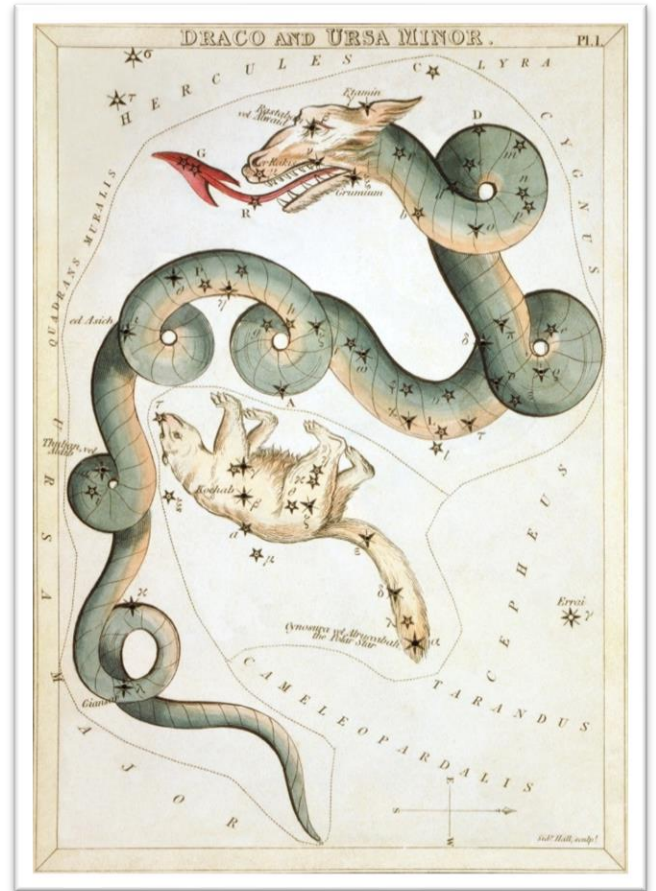
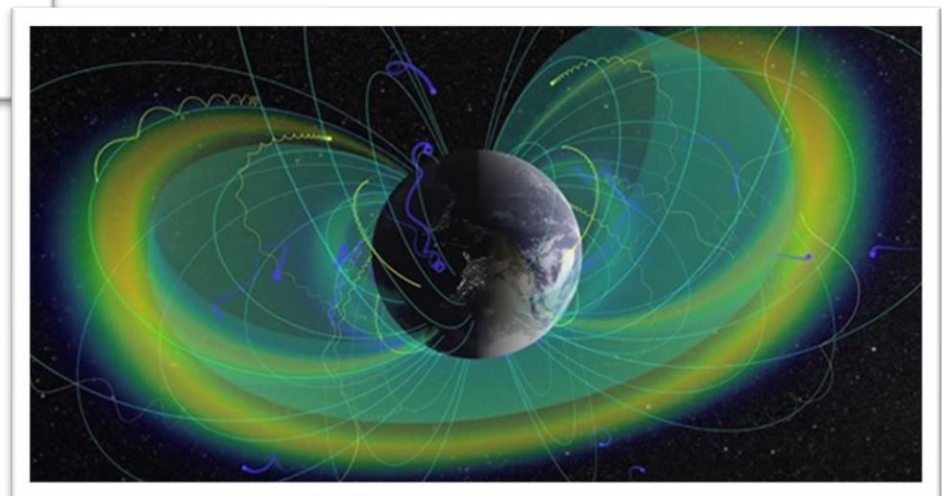
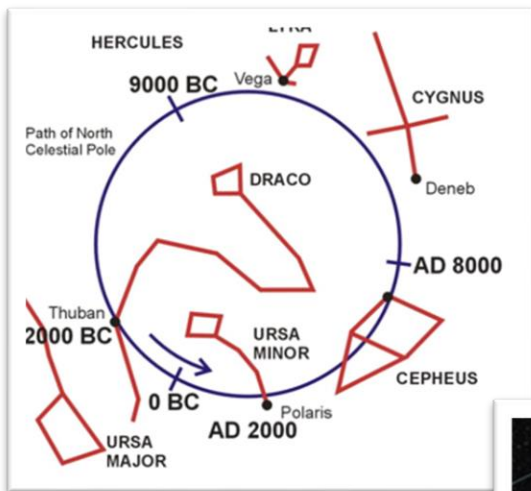


Image above from Urania's Mirror Zodiac series.

Image left shows the pole star during the last epocs.

Image below from NASA shows north pole magnetic fields of the earth.



DANCE OF ARTEMIS



The lyrics of this piece tell the story of this Great Mother Goddess' many attributes and a few of the teachings she shared with me in dreams and visions. Artemis of Ephesus in the image to the left, is black, like the Black Madonna. She is decorated with bees, zodiac symbols and is many-breasted. These breasts are shaped like bee cocoons and speak of her connection with the ancient Bee Priestesses and oracular traditions. And because of the 'Ar' root of her name, she is related to the ancient bear traditions in the word ar, urs, ursa, as in the bear constellations. Ar-Themis links her with Themis, one of the oldest known goddesses of higher spiritual justice, similar to Egyptian Maat. As the Great Bear Mother, she could be seen in the heavens as Ursa Major, circling around the center point of the seasonal turnings.

During one of our pilgrimages to the site of the Artemis Temple at Empuries, Catalonia, we gathered on the beach below the old temple site and played, sang and danced for Artemis, our feet pounding the earth, as the women did in temples thousands of years ago. One of our group wore the horns of Artemis, representing this Great Mother's guardianship of animals and wild places of beauty. This song remembers the circle dances performed with the stomping of feet and ankle bells in the Artemis temples of Greece, ancient Gaul and Iberia.

Artemis Lady of the Wilds

Dance in us—your wild-heartedness

Artemis of the Crescent Moon

Fearless Amazon, Mother Earth renewing,

Wild and free, Dance in me

Artemis Lady of the Bees

Prophetess teaching us to see

Artemis golden nectar dripping

Honey-voiced siren, enchant the stars to sing

Wild and free, sing in me

Artemis Great Bear Mother turning

Ursa Major high above us turning

Artemis round the Pole Star turning

Spinning, spinning, round the center humming

Sing in me your magical turning

Dance in me, celestial turning.

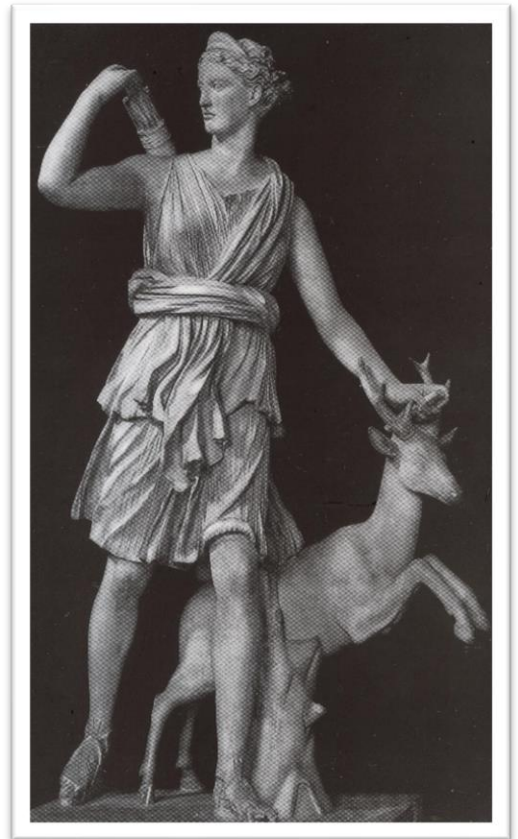


Image: Artemis-Diana as Amazon

COLOMA—WAY OF THE DOVE



This song was inspired by Santa Coloma, Saint Dove, who appears in churches across Spain. Santa Coloma is found the 11th and 12th century AD chapels deep in the Pyrenees, where she is depicted holding a chalice of flame. This Flaming Grail is a medieval theme in several remote churches in the regions of Andorra, Cerdanya and eastern Aragon.

This fiery cup can symbolize the chrism, the healing anointing oil, the Holy Balm, Sainte Baume. It is Holy Spirit, wisdom which is also represented by the Dove descending to Mary and Jesus — The descent of Holy Sophianic Wisdom at Pentecost. This Holy Spirit, termed Ruach Ha Kodesh in Hebrew, is present in our breath and all around us. All we need to do is be receptive to receive and breathe deeply the spirit that abides in all things and all beings.

Coloma is an echo of the ancient mother goddess traditions of the Near East who are often depicted with doves. Saint Coloma is also the symbol of peace and ever-present love of the medieval Cathars of this region, the Church of Love.

During my journeys of exploration of sites dedicated to Santa Coloma, I was constantly guided by the presence of physical doves. Sitting after a day's adventures, writing about Coloma, doves would fly so close to my penning hand, that I could feel the breath of their wings. They guided my steps in both the music and writing their stories.

Image above: Chapel at monastery of St. Joan de Abadesses, Catalonia.

Image right: Descent of the Dove, Holy Spirit. Museu Nacional d'Arte de Catalunya, Barcelona.



*Murmuring wind
Breath of your wings
I feel your touch
The message you bring
To follow your way*

*Santa Coloma-Coloma-Coloma
Touch of the Dove
Pathway of Love
Santa Coloma-Coloma-Coloma
Beso de alas de la Paloma*

*(English translation of Spanish:
Kiss of the wings of the Dove)*

*Kiss of your wing
The message you bring*

*Santa Coloma-
Coloma-Coloma
Touch of the dove
Beso de alas de la paloma
Pathway of love*

*Whispering winds
Singing your song
I feel your touch
The kiss of your wing
Message of love*

Image: Cathar Memorial Montsegur, France



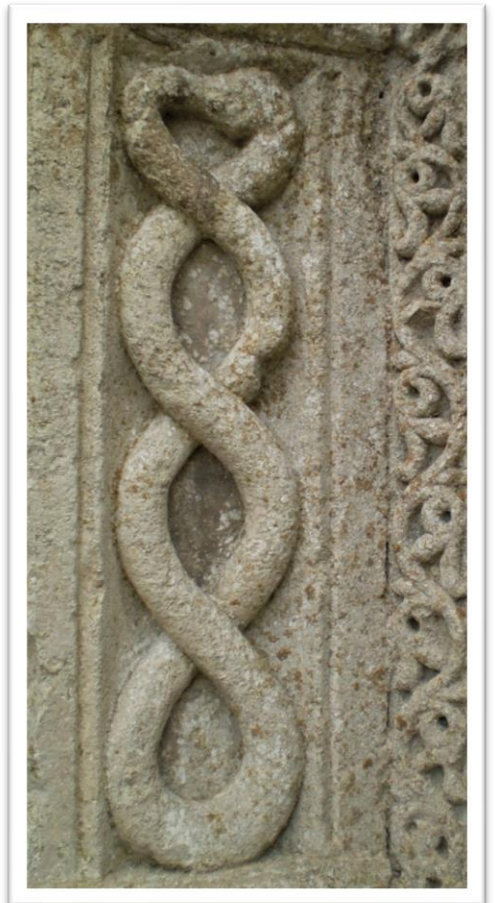
Stained-glass window in church Quillan, France



DRAGON AND PEARL

The title track speaks of the quest for awakening humanity—the current planetary changes, the winds of change, and the need to find the pearl of pure wisdom in our own numinous mind. Sleeping deep within, dragons are arising once again.

The lyrics are also inspired by an allegorical Gnostic text called Hymn of the Pearl, a journey of initiation. In this story, a young Palestinian prince is sent to Egypt to find the Pearl of Great Price. After wandering for some time, he finally remembers the purpose of the quest. He finds the secret cave, in which a Dragon guards the precious Pearl of Illumination.



The pearl is mentioned in Vedic texts as a symbol of an awakened mind or consciousness. Swami Muktananda, who I met in the 1970s, spoke about finding the Blue Pearl of enlightenment. A sleeping dragon can be found at the root of each human energy system, known as Kundalini, the coiled serpent.

Lord Vishnu of the Hindu tradition rests on a couch of dragons. Kwan Yin always has her guardian dragon next to her. These traditions were adopted by the Catholic Church, in which we find Mary standing on a serpent or dragon. The Grail cup of Saint John the Evangelist contains a serpent or dragon, representing the wisdom traditions.

Dragons have always existed—as guardians of sacred landscapes, the as guardians of temples and coiled at the root our own body temples.

Image above: St. John the Evangelist, Museu Episcopal de Vic, Catalonia

Image above right: Balinese dragon & pearl.

Image right: Caduceus, Church of St. Lasarre, Avallon, France.

*Earth moves under our feet,
Thunder cracks open the sky;
Winds-of-change leaving no thing
And no one unchanged.*

*The pearl shall be revealed,
In the numinous cave of your mind;
A dragon guards-the-path,
To a treasure you may find.*

*Countries like ships on the sea,
Stars dance the circling dragon,
In luminous sky;
Sleepers awaken
To magic long denied.*

*Secret Dragon and Pearl
Sleeping deep within
Follow the golden path
Of your breath to begin*



*Image above right: Mary and serpent fire, St. Radegonde, Rodez, France
Image below right: Mary with Dove and Dragon, Lyon Church. Photo by
Azra and Seren Berend*

THE TEMPLES

To give an example of the proximity of temples at the Greek ruins at Empuries, Catalonia, I used a beautiful Flower of Life mosaic as the center of the temple landscape. This 2nd century BCE mosaic measuring 12 feet in diameter, was found embedded in the floor of a Roman villa. The villa is within the Roman city located adjacent to the Greek city. From the center of this mosaic, the following temple sites are all within less than half a mile, only a short 4-10- minute walk. To add to this impressive gathering of feminine temples, we also find a 5th century chapel dedicated to Maria Magdalena. The temples at Empuries are:



THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS ruins were built circa 800-600 BCE, were discovered at the Greco-Iberian site of Paleapolis (meaning old city), the current village of Sant Marti. This temple of Artemis was one of many sites dedicated to Artemis dotting the coast of Gaul and Iberia. Ornately carved temple stones can be seen under the current Christian church in Sant Marti. The image to the left is from a stone sculpture of Artemis discovered in Catalonia and on display at the Vic Episcopal Museum north of Barcelona. Being at the Artemis temple site, one can imagine the glorious columned temple overlooking the turquoise Mediterranean Sea below. There would have been temple musicians and dances celebrating this Great Mother of Wisdom, the sacred music washing the cliffs in luminous beauty.

THE TEMPLE OF ASKLEPIUS AND HYGEIA ruins are located within the Greek city of Empuries, built circa 600-300 BCE. A large marble statue of Asklepius was found in the temple ruins and visible on the upper level in the image to the right.

Asklepius was the Greek God of Medicine from about 1500 BCE. Although no statue of Hygeia was found, archaeologists believe her temple was here, as it was in many other Greek Asklepiian temple sites across the Mediterranean region. Hygeia is the goddess of healing and her song reminds us of the holistic nature of ancient medicine which integrated the mental, emotional and spiritual states as the source of physical ailments.



THE TEMPLES OF ISIS AND SERAPIS are also located at the Greek city of Empuries and

were constructed circa 200 BCE. This site (image left) is also on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and one can imagine the striking beauty of the temples during their peak era.

During Egypt's Ptolemaic era we find a temple of Serapis located next to the Library of Alexandria, as a late development of the Osirian mysteries. Temples of Isis often appear next to temples of Serapis throughout the Greek and Roman sites in the western Mediterranean. Isis was a guardian of ships crossing the sea to Iberia and traders brought her cult into the west. Isis continued to be honored in Gaul and Iberia until c. 400 AD, when Christianity consumed the greater European region.



CHAPELS OF SANTA MAGDALENA AND SANTA MARGARITA

are located just a 5-minute walk from the Empuries temple complex. The Santa Magdalena site (below) includes a significant burial site dated to 400 AD. It was stunning to discover a Magdalena chapel so close to the temples dedicated to Artemis, Isis and Hygeia. The proximity of Artemis and Magdalena here at Empuries mirrors sites to both found on the eastern and western sides of the Jordan River in Palestine. These traditions found their way across the sea to Iberia. Although there is not a new song dedicated to beloved Magdalena on this album, there are many recorded on Ani's previous releases.



Credits:

The Muses:

Ani Williams—*Harp, vocals, crystal bowls*

Claudia Tulip—*Flutes, ocarinas, panpipes*

Allen Ames—*Violin*

Maryanne Kremer-Ames—*Guitar*

Tina Reichow—*Percussion*

Gina Machovina—*Bass*

Photos in Lyrics and Origins booklet by Ani Williams unless otherwise noted.

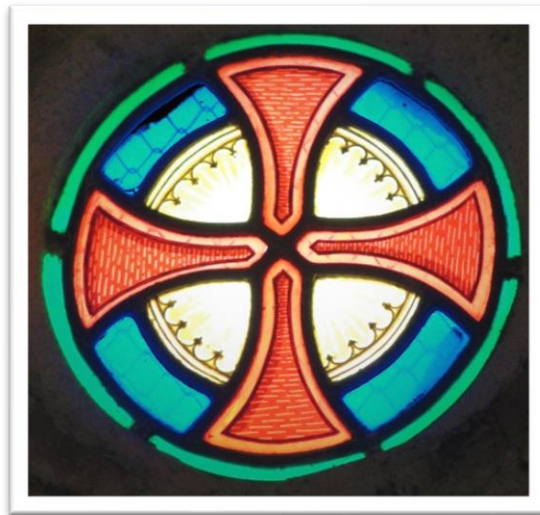
Music recording, mixing, mastering by Kenny Star, Star Tracks Studio, Cottonwood, Arizona.
CD cover photo on sea and at Asklepius-Hygeia temple at Empuries, Catalonia by Dani Valdès.

Inside cover photo by Ani Williams, Empuries, Catalonia.

Cover design by Rupert Soskin.

All original music ©2020 Ani Williams.

*Thank you to all the talented people who added their important flavor to this project
and to the wisdom teachers throughout time eternal!*



All text and photos in Dragon and Pearl Lyrics and Origins ©2020 Ani Williams

Songaia Sound Productions LLC

2675 W. State Route 89-A #1081, Sedona, AZ 86336

www.aniwilliams.com

