ForeWord Reviews

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

The Goddess in the Gospels: Reclaiming the Sacred Feminine
Margaret Starbird
978-1-879181-55-7
(October 1998)

Author of the controversial *The Woman with the Alabaster Jar*, Starbird dives into one of the most compelling issues of modern times—the reclaiming of the sacred feminine and the "Sacred Marriage" of Christ and Mary Magdalene.

An early and devoted Catholic, Starbird comes well qualified with a master's degree, studies at Christian Albrechts Universität in Kiel, Germany, and further studies at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. Her dedication and research are not easily dismissed, even as she draws heretical conclusions to material that has been looked at, but not seen. Her personal journey weaves a path that makes the ordinary extraordinary. Drawn to a close-knit group of charismatic Catholics (The Community Emmanuel), she met often for intense prayer and revelations which the group was guided to record, along with locutions (words spoken to the heart), timely scriptural passages and synchronicity (meaningful coincidences). The Challenger explosion and the eruption of Mount St. Helens carried special messages.

As part of her unfolding quest, Starbird read the controversial Holy Blood, Holy Grail and In God's Name which brought about disillusionment, loss of a whole system of reality and ultimately, a nervous breakdown. Following these events, Starbird embarked on a solemn quest for the truth concerning the Holy Grail. Examining medieval art works and literature, earliest Grail legends, rituals of Freemasonry, myths and symbols, she accrued a mountain of circumstantial evidence to support the emergence of Mary Magdalene as the bride of Jesus who came to France after the crucifixion. Research intensified Starbird's personal role in restoring the bride to Christianity and the partnership paradigm that was the cornerstone of ancient civilizations and the archetypal blueprint not only for the Temple of Solomon, but for the human psyche as well.

Prayer, synchronicity, gematria (scripture which could be described as feminine modes of "knowing") predominantly feature in this book, backed secondarily by extensive research. Perfect for her subject, and her personal search, she combines both ways of "knowing" in this heretical and institution-challenging work. A well-written personal journey challenging traditional beliefs and offering enlightening tenets. Not for faint hearted and rigid thinkers, but

thought provoking for those willing to re-examine beliefs and existing evidence.