

**22nd World Congress of Poets on “World Brotherhood and Peace through Poetry”
June 29-July 3, 2011-Larissa**

CONSTANCE DIMA

Dear poet friends, good evening.

I'll start my presentation with one of my poems entitled “**Still seeking**”.

*She's grown tired.
Of gnawing rapidly.
At her despair.*

*She was born a refugee. And is still seeking. In the holes of the world.
The womb of the universe.*

Yes, I was born a refugee and in my childhood I had already turned my eyes to the universe to seek for answers. Accompanied by mourning for my mother's absence, I sought for her to actually find her in the bright moonlight.

I remember

My hesitations when penetrating the secrets kept in our Mother-Earth's womb.

I remember

The emotions I'd felt when distinguishing the magic of her breasts in the silver moonlight.

I remember

The cry I made: “I am a part of her beating heart. All of us are!” (This thought has been with me ever since).

Having grown up in an environment of companionship, but still bearing the wound of war that wouldn't heal, brotherhood and peace in my mind had grown to such an extent that these two notions gave me the insight to search for the causes of war. As a child victimized by war, I'm frightened by the fact that the world is yet again moving towards a world war. And I fear that children will be massively sacrificed in war fields, as they were during the Greek civil war and as they always are in periods of crises.

Love (Eros) has also played a major role in my poetic prose both because it was one of the most important ancient gods (among the three gods that created the world in Hesiod's Theogony) and because it has always been the most subversive and thus the most decisive, thus providing highly valuable answers to our questions. Eros has the power to bring out our brightest and darkest sides. Distress caused by love can either kill us or

teach us and make us wiser. Let me excerpt one of my poems "Solitude is Azure". (soon to be published in Paris) that most accurately embodies my thoughts on Love (Eros) and another profound query.

Her soul stopped suffering. Eros made peace with her with Aphrodite's, his mother's, blessings.

Harmony, born by the unity of love and hate, was on the alert beside her.

She was grateful to her ancient ancestors who had asked Zeus to mediate and have Mars and Aphrodite consent to their daughter's marriage to Cosmos, filling people's with tranquility.

She stopped cursing naughty Eros for the pleasure he found in making war like his father, Mars, and being forever tied to and surrendering to his mother's, Aphrodite's, wills.

She also stopped holding a grudge against Harmony for being so fragile. And how could she not, living under the threat of war and hunted by Love's arrows.

In tranquility, she made the thought: life is a constant struggle between opposing forces. Between the male and female elements of nature. Balance is difficult while War is easy. A war you can only win or lose.

As much as I appreciate the male mind and soul, I cannot ignore the fact that there's a female soul behind every genius. I wonder more and more each day: what is our world? Was it not actually built upon values imposed by men? What is our civilization? Is it not exclusively based on men's philosophical thought? Even the holy triad is dominated by males. I cannot be relieved from the thought that the church and our education are to be held responsible for man's plagues. They both instilled a sperm of male and patriarchal sperm into our world, thus directing our society to violence and corruption. It's high time the fight between the two genders stopped. It's high time we eventually recognized our Great Mother's vital contribution to the human being.

What is our attitude to Mother Earth? We are certainly far from being proud of it. My conscience as a poet dictates that we find our lost identity and restore the order we have disturbed.

Throughout my life, in the course of which I've moved to several places and have been exposed to my fellow people's and cosmic elements' hatred, I've realized that it's no wonder I've settled in Amnissos, the ancient port of Knossos, where civilization had reached its peak thanks to the balance between the male and female elements. To put it simply, as we are well aware of, the two typical symbols of Minoan Crete were the goddess of snakes and the bull. The goddess of snakes stands for the Earth and the Moon, i.e. the female element, while the bull stands for Uranus and the Sun, i.e. the male element. In essence, they symbolize the two sides of the world. These two sides, usually

quite contrastive, were in absolute harmony in Minoan Crete. This is why civilization flourished there.

The snake, a very important symbol of the Moon and, consequently, nature's female side, is considered to give fertility and knowledge. Recently we've witnessed world changing events. The crisis we are experiencing is not merely economic. In my view, it is mainly cultural and most of all educational. Unfortunately, we haven't realized yet how important education is and how corrupted it is nowadays. Nonetheless, the world is changing radically and will change radically in the near future. This change that will subvert everything is due to the ever present female figure. It is the female voice, also existing in males, that makes people respectful in the stability and faith of Love (agape) and the free expression of Eros. The female voice fights war and competition with peace and cooperation. The female voice also fights for fair allocation of work and material goods, both inside and outside the household. Sooner or later, the destiny of the Feminine Principle will be made clear from within the woman carrying the sperm of our Great, Universal Mother. Her blessed contribution to humanity is her potential to understand and love, thus reminding us of Eliphaz Levi's words: "a man is love in a genius; a woman is a genius in love".

Please allow me to add that, as both celestial bodies-the Sun and the Moon- are of vital importance {in Greek mythology they symbolized the twins Diana and Apollo}, we should take into consideration the female viewpoint to the universal truth, if we want to live in a balanced society.

For me there is no doubt that a woman's destination is to stand by her husband and not against him; a mother's destination is to embrace all her children and not send them to war, as they've even made us believe about the Spartan society where the female element was more respectful, honorable and liberated than ever. A woman's position in ancient Sparta was similar to that in the Minoan Crete. However, the humankind has a long way to go to learn not to destroy the places of female worship, not to distort historical truth about women and to study free of prejudice. This is as far as I'm willing to go on Sparta; let the historians do their duty. I speak as a poet and my intuition as such tells me that the order has been disturbed to take us into a new path we will inevitably have to follow. The world hasn't realized yet that the changes we are experiencing will bring the balance between the male and female elements of nature. The notion of balance is rising again. Its complete manifestation will lead us to brotherhood and, as a consequence, to world peace. Unfortunately, we haven't reached the level of cognition to be able to love our Great Mother's dimensions in order to be united by the bonds of brotherhood. Nor have we acquired the knowledge necessary to assume the role of constant activists beyond action, so that we can follow natural movements submissive to universal laws: the only prerequisite of balance in nature and world peace.

To cut a long story short, the world is changing and people have to give these changes the right direction. They have to learn to love and think wise and this can only be achieved through education; an education where women are to play the most decisive role.

And, as a woman,

Dum spiro spero

*WITH CHANCES BLURRED
BUT WITH EYES
THAT ARE THIRSTY FOR LIGHT
WITH A HEART THAT IS
CRAVING FOR
BROTHERHOOD AND PEACE
I DREAM AND I HOPE.*

Translated into English by **EVANGELIA MICHAIL**