

Module 6/18.

The Sacred Serpent Mystery School.

This module's content has two parts:

Part 1

The Sacred Serpent Mystery initiation video.

For part 1, please watch the video on the content page without having read any content or explanations.

Part 2:

The Delphic Mysteries

Read the short text below about the Delphic mysteries.

Part 3

The Sacred Serpent Mystery initiation video.

Watch the same video again, but this time with new cognitive understandings.

The Delphic Mysteries

The deep honouring of the serpent wisdom



Located 160 kilometers from Athens, the sacred site of Delphi is recognised as one of the primary and most important Mystery Schools of ancient Greece. It has reportedly been used to conduct ceremonies and resurrection rituals since prehistoric times and has served many civilisations across time. In more recent years, important figures in ancient Greece, like Socrates, Plato and Confucius were known to be initiates to the Delphic Mysteries, visiting the site in search of wisdom and guidance.

The temple was initially built as a shrine to Gaia, the goddess of Earth and originally bore the name, "Temples of Pytho". Pytho refers to the serpent Python, who, in the legend, was the child of Gaia and who was said to have emerged from muddy waters following the Great Deluge. Python's job was to guard the site of the Goddess of the Earth.

In later years, the temple was overtaken by the God Apollo, when Zeus, Apollo's father, (known as the God of all Gods), decreed the Delphic site as the centre of the Earth.

There are many legends about how that was decided. In one of the legends, it was said that Zeus asked the heavens above to tell him where the centre of the Earth was when soon after, a meteorite launched and landed right at the site of Delphi.

In another legend, it was said that Zeus had set two birds free, one on either side of the Earth. He decided that wherever the two birds would meet would be the centre of the Earth. The legend continued to tell the tale that the two birds met at Delphi.

When he recognised the site as the centre of the Earth, the legend tells it that Zeus then sent his son Apollo to overtake the oracle, requiring him to conquer and kill the serpent Python. Many interpretations across Greek mythology attempt to explain how the site later came to be referred to as Delphi.

In one of them, the site was said to be named after Delphyne, which was one of the names of the sacred Python serpent, the child of Gaia.

In this interpretation it's said that Delphi refers to Delfini, which is the Greek word for dolphin. Apollo, after slaying the serpent, realised he had done Gaia wrong and headed to the island of Crete to purify himself. He then turned himself into a dolphin to lure sailors and high priests to follow him back to Delphi and help him rebuild the site with the knowledge and wisdom he had now encountered.

Both of these interpretations, while different, are somewhat interesting for they both speak of honouring the serpent after initially attempting to destroy it. As a result of this, the sites are now known for honouring the serpent's wisdom, and not by its other type, where the serpent is seen as a dangerous and deadly force. The serpent in all its glory is celebrated here as a wise voice of guidance, protection and support.

I also find it significant that it was Zeus, the god of all gods, who sent Apollo to overtake the temple from Gaia. Assuming he is an all-knowing over-arching power, why would he instigate actions that would trigger conflict? Especially as he probably knew that Apollo would end up bowing down and surrendering? I believe that Zeus, in this story is showing us the part of ourselves that is connected to something greater, that knows it holds all the power yet, instigates drama and conflict willingly because we know this is how things need to take form. Growth often requires chaos to manifest for it to take place. We humans also need to transcend this chaos and conflict in a fully-formed way in order to fully play our part in the evolution of the universe and our species.

The Delphic Oracle

Delphi became famously known as the leading oracle site of the Mediterranean. But how does a site actually become an Oracle?

It's helpful to understand how the ancient Greeks came about creating sacred sites in the first place. This process behind the creation of a sacred site would always follow the same steps. The first of which is where they would ask a greater guidance to show them where a sacred site should be built. Once they reached the designated land, they would then ask to be shown confirmation that this land was the rightful home for the sacred site. Once they had established that the site was indeed sacred, they would then ask to be shown which God or deity this land was destined to honour or represent. Upon connecting to the land, they would be shown specific qualities and attributes which would then decide the God or Deity that would best represent these attributes. The site would therefore be dedicated to this God.

The next steps would be to build a monument or shrine in dedication to the appropriate God using specifically chosen design elements. These monuments would allow an initiate or student to connect deeply to the site. The path of the initiate would be one that when visiting the site, one would find themselves awakening and embodying the very qualities and attributes represented by this chosen God. The initiates' path would then be to visit all of the sacred sites he/she would need to awaken the fullness of who they truly were.

The site of the Delphic Mysteries was used as a Mystery School site which, like most others, was built on a sacred energy power spot. Delphi's energy power spot is located on an energy channel that connects various sacred sites from Ireland to Israel, moving through to France, Italy and Greece. At the time of its construction, it was not only considered a powerful stand-alone site, but the power also lay in its link to a network, a chain of other sites bearing high intensity.

Structures were then created on the site, using powerful stones and patterns of sacred geometry. For example, the temple of Apollo was created in a circular shape to represent the navel of the earth and the meteorite rock that had landed there. The circular structure was there to represent the earth's navel, a place allowing us to connect to higher wisdom via a connection to Gaia. The circular nature of the site also related to people gathering together in ceremony and circles, to collectively share the energy of the site. As they harnessed it, it would expand and be radiated and shared beyond the site in order to spread far and wide and impact the soul of the greater collective of people.

Delphi and the sacred feminine were important connectors to Gaia in ancient Greece and the site was recognised for attracting many priestesses and female mediums. At the time, women were recognised for having a stronger connection to deep intuitive knowing and would therefore gather at the site to hold ceremonies and rituals during which the knowledge of the oracle would be accessed. After a purification process, they would engage in ceremonies and reach ecstatic trance states during which they channeled knowledge that was downloaded through prayers and chants. These were then translated by men into poetry and fables and shared with a broader audience who would visit the site.

It was later found that the ecstatic effects would be reached partially because of sweet gas emissions that would cause these numinous effects. A study conducted in 1990 found that there are indeed ethylene vapors emanating from the land due to the movement of tectonic plates causing friction in the limestone under the site. While studies have shown that large quantities of ethylene can cause a person to completely pass out, it can help us achieve a numinous effect in smaller amounts, allowing us to access visions and higher information. The site became dedicated to Apollo in 1000 BC and gained most of its fame around 700 BC due to the widely known oracle sessions which happened there.

Key figures in ancient Greece, like Pythagoras, Plato, Socrates and Confucius were known to visit the site in pilgrimage, seeking knowledge, guidance and wisdom.

The last oracle was held in AD 362. The site was ordered to be destroyed in AD 393 when a Christian emperor decided it was time for its society to evolve from polytheist thinking to monotheist philosophies. Then as these methods and rituals of accessing the mystical realms were abandoned, the temple was left to fall into ruins. However, it was reported that until the 1860s, local Greeks were still known for using the site for rituals and ceremonies to access wisdom and knowledge.

We can learn a lot from this site and its mythology which is meaningful still for our times. For example, Apollo fighting the snake, the protector of Gaia is symbolic of the masculine overtaking the feminine. As the site was then rebuilt to honour the snake, it symbolised the return of worshipping the sacred feminine, a concept abandoned long ago.

The serpent also represented the energy currents of the earth. In its meaning, the story unfolds to tell the tale of man attempting to control the energy of the earth and then eventually surrendering to it. Caves and a freshwater spring can still be found at the site which would have been used for purification as well as practices of live resurrection, which, as we know, were a central part of the mystery practices.

The honouring of the serpent, which is intrinsic to the site, was also a significant symbol regarding the mystery rites and live resurrections which happened at the site. The visual of the serpent emerging from the muddy waters following the Great Deluge refers to the wisdom that emerged following the collapse of Atlantis. The philosopher Plato theorised this is what would have brought about the mystery practices in the first place.

The serpent was also, of course, an important symbol of death/birth and for that reason was often found at the mystery sites. Two of the most prominent symbols we find are the ouroboros, the snake eating its tail, and the two serpents intertwined, representing the serpent of life and the serpent of death.

The live resurrection process often involved snake handling, whereby the initiate would be bitten by a snake so that the venom could overtake their body. The initiate would either fight against it, in which case they would often die, or they would surrender to it and move with it, in which case they

would “resurrect” and reach a place of self-actualisation. It was said that those who didn't survive, would return in a future incarnation to attempt the process again.

Those who survived thrived.

Thereafter, the successful initiates would live a life guided by the greater wisdom of the serpent that they now embodied.

Life for the initiate would then become effortless, inspired by wisdom and guided by the greater knowledge; that which they were seeking in the first instance. These men and women, when whole, would become guides and demonstrators, effortlessly guiding others on a process of deep transformation.

In later society, these practices were shut down. Fortunately the processes began to take place in other ways, allowing initiates who were ready and seeking the experience of transformation...