

Book Reviews

Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the Women, Save the World

Jean Shinoda Bolen.
York Beach, Maine: Conari Press, 2005.

Reviewed by Louise Gonsalvez

In *Urgent Message from Mother: Gather the Women, Save the World* author Jean Shinoda Bolen calls for women to rise collectively against the patriarchal machine that is leading us towards environmental collapse, social chaos, and mass conflict. She asserts that the patriarchal model is fraught with false assumptions about the nature of humankind and, like Malcolm Gladwell, believes there are tipping points in the raising of human consciousness that can alter the course of history.

Bolen's argument is convincing, compassionate, and compelling. She reminds us that the human spirit is full of creative genius and claims that the Sacred Feminine can offer humane solutions to political, social, economic, and environmental entanglements. To support her claim, she cites numerous accounts of successful women's movements and women leaders, whose acts of courage and resistance have given rise to overwhelming social, economic, and/or environmental change.

Bolen argues effectively for the advantages of feminist perspective, praxis, and political leadership. She notes the gendered nature of many socio-economic and environmental issues (for example, domestic violence, poverty, and political leadership) and identifies the advantages of bringing feminist approaches such as collaboration, dialogue, and talking circles to real world problems. She invokes the first time the people of the world saw the beautiful planet earth from space and how that event catalyzed a paradigm shift—at

once, Mother Earth was recognized as a living, borderless entity.

Bolen's work lacks a strong theoretical framework, comprehensive secondary references, and empirical tables, but *Urgent Message for Mother* conveys a powerful message that socio-economic issues must be addressed in the interest of peace and environmental sustainability.