

If anything, O'Malley Halley leaves the reader wanting more. Tantalizing tidbits from her interviews beg for more exposure as powerful teachers about the painful contradictions in mother's lives. Second, direct engagement with Bordo and Foucault is all but absent from the author's extensive case studies of adult-child touch. This leaves the reader wondering about their explicit connection outside of O'Malley Halley's use of "ideology," a term Foucault himself did not use as it implies that somewhere outside of ideology lies "truth." Further, while O'Malley Halley brilliantly exposes how the seemingly mundane choices mothers make are replete with complex histories and lived realities, it is only in her conclusion that she touches on the large questions cited above.

O'Malley Halley advocates mothering as a contingent and uncertain venture, one that involves complicated histories of power and difference and difficult choices that disrupt any truth or certainty about being human offered through the clarity of science. *Boundaries of Touch* gives mothers, activists, and scholars a stunning and thoroughly researched *must-read* that contributes to key political questions of the day around power/knowledge, embodiment, and the social control of mothering.

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

Jean Shinoda Bolen.
San Francisco: Conari Press, 2005.

Reviewed by Louise Gonsalvez

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a sparrow asked of a wild dove. "Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.

"In that case I must tell you a story, the sparrow said. "I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was 3,741,952. When the 3,741,953rd snowflake dropped onto the branch, nothing more than nothing, as you say, the branch broke off." Having said that, the sparrow flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself, "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world." (Bolen 142)

In *Urgent Message for Mother*, author Jean Shinoda Bolen calls for a solidarity movement that unites women to rise against the patriarchal-machine that is leading us towards environmental collapse, social chaos, and mass conflict. She believes the patriarchal model is fraught with false assumptions that humankind is founded on principles of hierarchy, domination, and subordination.

Like Malcolm Gladwell, Bolen notes that there are tipping points in the raising of human consciousness that can alter the course of history. She also reminds us that the human spirit is full of creative genius and the Sacred Feminine can offer us humane solutions to political, social, economic, and environmental entanglements. Bolen references numerous instances where courageous women leaders and bold women's movements have led to overwhelming social, economic, and/or environmental change.

Bolen argues convincingly for the advantages of a feminist perspective, praxis, and political leadership. She notes the gendered nature of many socio-economic and environmental issues (including domestic violence, political leadership, and poverty) and identifies the strengths of feminist approaches to real world problems (including collaboration, dialogue, and talking circles). She invokes the first day the people of the world saw the beautiful blue planet earth from space, and how that event catalyzed a paradigm shift: once again, Mother Earth was recognized as a living borderless entity.

Although Bolen's book lacks a strong theoretical framework, empirical tables, and comprehensive referencing, it is a compassionate and compelling call for peace, sustainability, and the resolution of the socio-economic issues that continue to choke and overheat our planet.