

DETROIT

NATIVE SUN

The soil affects the Seed

By Evelyn M. Bingham
SUN COLUMNIST



I recently heard a phrase spoken in conversation, from a young man who was a gang member, and confessed murderer by the age of sixteen, who stated after reflecting upon his own life, *the soil affects the*

seed. He has since become a multi-degreed college graduate and author, who is using his life's experiences to rectify and amend for his many past wrongs to himself, and society. My imagination began making different analogies regarding synonyms and anonyms for the word soil, and how that could relate to us, as humans today.

We as a people and as parents or caregivers, must be aware and value our role in developing these precious little seeds, our children, which we have produced, nurtured and loved! If the seeds have been embedded into rich and healthy soil, then their chances of survival into a strong and healthy person will more likely be assured. We must be aware and remember that children are *nourished* by what they eat, see, feel and hear!

After we, as parents and caregivers have instilled our best knowledge, love, interest and nurturing into our children, they must eventually leave our tender care, and enter into a reality which may treat them totally different, than when they were solely within our controlled environment and influence. This most difficult part of parenting, is unavoidable, but totally necessary if we are to raise a healthy, well adjusted child who is of value to themselves, their family and society in general. That difficult task becomes a reality, when we are forced to relinquish our children to the uncertainties of society. We are fearful and pray for their safety when they must depart from us, for our efforts could either be *depleted, erased, or enriched!*

If the soil, *the home and parental influence*, through whatever reason, is depleted soil, lacking in nutrients, *necessary tools for healthy childrearing*, the child or children may, in cases of severe and obvious neglect or sincere inability, be removed from that soil, either temporarily or permanently, and transplanted to richer soil or an alternate intervention of fertilizing in home or in place, *in lieu of removal.* Some parents, *can be mentored* into an active, engaged and educated pursuance of parenthood, through being tutored by the wise example of some interested parties or organizations. We should *never give up* on someone who is *trying and motivated!*

This topic is universal, far reaching, and affects us all. Our seed, *our child*, comes here to earth totally innocent and blemish free. Any imperfections, in utero, perceived by us, *are not to be defined or determined* by us, for we, are as human and *often as fragile* as our little newborn. Many parents and adults today are suffering from *some area of arrested development!!*

The young man I mentioned earlier, was *not* born into a family whose soil was rich and fertile, so he sought to *transplant himself* into a more cohesive one, that of gang life, which proved to be so detrimental to his development, that he committed murder at age sixteen. Mario, was charged and convicted as an adult, spending three years in solitary before age 22. He served nineteen years in sixteen different adult prisons, being kicked out of nine prisons and classified as incorrigible. Eventually, through the maturation process and his parents nurturing, he found his purpose, *to help others avoid a life of crime through education and self improvement.* He was released from prison in 2014, and graduated Wayne State in 2016, he later authored a book about his life and formed his non-profit corporation, *Luck Inc.*, through which he employs certified, formerly incarcerated men, to train and mentor at risk youth and *returning citizens to society* in an attempt to safeguard as well as enrich the community.

Spiritual maturity is like...

By Evangelist B. Colbert-Brooks
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When peeling an onion, you begin with one onion of various colors, yellow, red, purple, or white. You hold it firmly in one hand and a well sharpened knife in the other. Then

you begin to peel, layer after layer. The first layer is usually thin and transparent, and removes rather easily, shedding at the slightest touch, crumbling and sprinkling about in little pieces. That is the Believer, newly transported from the world, wearing all sorts of disguises and masks, bearing all kinds of burdens. Yet the Father grasps him firmly in His hands and begins to slowly and gently peel.

In the beginning the breakdown is without resistance, ready to shed all the unclean remnants from the world, desperately wanting to cast out the old and quickly usher in the new. So, the peeling continues. As the Father delves further, the skin becomes tougher, and the onion becomes smaller and smaller. Yet, though smaller, it becomes increasingly rigid and to continue to peel, He must begin to pierce the skin and go well beneath the surface. So be it, as the Believer begins to mature and mesh deeper with the Lord, the more he sees inside himself, the more he discovers what scars embedded and thrived beneath those many layers of skin. The deeper God goes, the stronger the spirit

grows, and the smaller the man himself becomes.

The aroma of the onion is stimulating, invoking tears and a burning sensation. The only relief is the refreshing cool waters that soothe the sting and quench the thirst for more of Him, the One who is doing the piercing. He exposes and cleanses until the onion is nothing but a smooth, white pearl. No more fragile flakes, no more dead skin, no more covering. Fine, smooth and unblemished, ready to season and flavor all that it touches. Then finally, the onion is ready to be diced, sliced, chopped and added to a larger dish. Ready to be the salt of the world, the hope for the weary traveler. The onion adds zest and zeal to all it encounters. It has a unique savor that supersedes all other seasonings. The onion can make the difference between dull, bland and tasteless vs. brilliant, spicy and enticing.

The Believer is like the onion, God's divine ingredient in His recipe of redemption and everlasting life for a dying world. But as with the onion, the Believer himself must be rescued from the bushel, stripped of his psoriasis, crumbly and crusty, good for nothing, destined for the garbage heap. But when he is rescued and committed to the Hands of the Lord, peeled and perfected, exposed unblemished, he is ready to be used for a greater purpose as the salt of the world for all who have come face-to-face with spiritual bankruptcy and despair.

As the sinner saved by grace becomes purified by the Savior, he is divinely incorporated into God's exclusive recipe for Salvation. He is literally commanded to be the *"salt of the world"* that *"never loses its savor"* so that others may taste and see that the Lord is good and in Him one shall never hunger again!

Embracing the Goddess Within: Our spiritual Evolution is the Revolution

By Goddess Godis AKA Aldonna Smith
SUN COLUMNIST



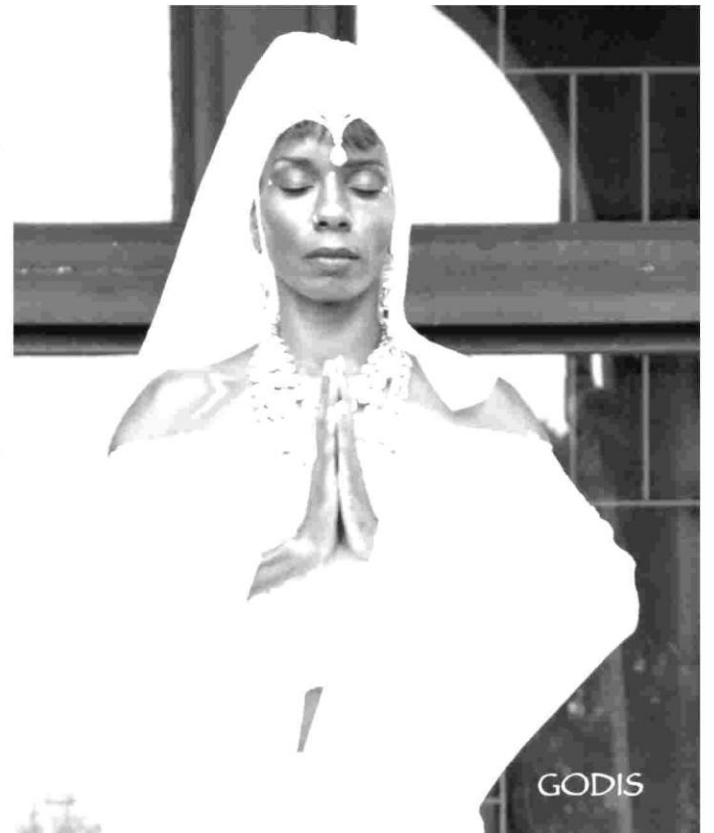
Our physical world is a reflection and projection of the level of spiritual growth and evolution of our spiritual self. To create real change in the world, it can only happen through our awakening, activation, commitment, and connection to our greatest resource our God mind.

There is a saying that goes, "free your mind and the rest will follow."

The God mind is the source of all of creation. It is what created us. It is the breath of life within us. It is the river of peace that flows within us. It is the embodiment of love within us. It is the voice of wisdom that instructs and teaches us. Its purpose is to uplift, empower, enlighten, and evolve us. It is the only thing that has the power and ability to free us from the darkness that seeks to envelop us and enslave us and dim the light within us. It is the most powerful force in the universe. To submit and surrender to its guidance, nurturing, and teachings is to discover the original blueprint of who we were created to be. It will give us access to

the creative gifts and spiritual power that we possess as one who has been created in the image and likeness of God. To create a revolution, the ultimate solution is to free ourselves from the limited thinking of the world and to become one with our God mind.

Rise goddess rise. Goddess GODIS is a Detroit Spiritual Artist who is dedicated to using her gifts as a photographer, garment designer, writer and speaker to document, celebrate and inspire the emergence of the Goddess within women of great spiritual beauty and wisdom who know that she is a daughter of God. She is in touch with her creative spirit. To contact GODIS email GODDESSGODIS@yahoo.com.



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