

The Nightcat from the North:

A Matriarchal Journey to the Deep Feminine

Foreword

“The Nightcat initiates us into asking the right questions,” writes Dr. Barbara Helen Miller in her introduction to Evelien van Leeuwen’s mythic tale. This initiation mirrors the essence of matriarchal wisdom: a return to the intuitive, the cyclical, and the deeply relational aspects of life. As Heide Göttner-Abendroth’s research into matriarchal societies illustrates, these cultures honor the interconnectedness of life and the sacred flow of nature. Evelien’s *The Nightcat from the North* becomes both an archetypal and deeply personal story that embodies these principles.

A Myth for Our Time

Evelien’s tale begins in the “silent spaces” of the North, where the girl learns to “commune with the Web of Life.” This innate connection to the earth and its rhythms is at the heart of matriarchal living, where survival and spirituality are intertwined. The girl’s ability to read the signs of snow and water reflects an ancient wisdom passed through generations—a wisdom that Heide Göttner-Abendroth identifies as essential to maintaining balance between humanity and nature.

Yet the Wheel of Time turns, and with the encroachment of a destructive force, the girl’s homeland is torn apart. She is thrust into a foreign world of “tall buildings” and “haste,” a place devoid of the sacred connection she once knew. In this fragmented landscape, she loses her voice, her identity consumed by a culture that values speed and competition over harmony and depth.

This mirrors the historical suppression of matriarchal systems by hierarchical, patriarchal structures. The girl’s silence symbolizes the loss of feminine wisdom, the voice of the earth, and the stories that once tethered humanity to the Great Origin.

Initiation and Rebirth

The narrative shifts when the girl encounters the feisty Firespirit which leads her to the Nightcat, a mysterious guardian who embodies the essence of the deep feminine. The Nightcat serves as a psychopomp, guiding the girl through the dark forests and tundras of her soul. Her journey, with the Firespirit at her side, is grueling and transformative, leading her to the round house at the far northern edge of existence.

From here, she is taken to the place ‘Where all begins..’, the girl meets the Three Keepers of the Deep Waters. These figures—the maiden, the mother, and the crone—represent life’s cyclical nature. Their presence evokes Göttner-Abendroth’s trinity structures, which celebrate the sacred interconnectedness of birth, life, and death. In the Keepers’ circle, the girl drinks from the sacred well and begins to reconnect with the wisdom of her ancestors.

The act of drinking from the well is deeply symbolic. In matriarchal cultures, water often represents life’s source, a flow that sustains and heals. The girl’s communion with the well marks her return to the essence of being, the place where “All That Is has its source.”

Through the Keepers’ song, she learns of the Great Origin, a cosmology that resonates with matriarchal traditions. These cultures view life as a continual flow, nourished by the feminine principles of receptivity, intuition, and creativity.

The Role of the Nightcat

The Nightcat is not just a guide; she is an initiator who facilitates the girl’s rebirth. As the girl rides the Nightcat into the unknown, she is taken to a place beyond time, where she encounters the truths of her being. The Nightcat’s dual nature—both guardian and trickster—aligns her with archetypes like Baba Yaga, Freya, and Urd. These figures embody the deep feminine as protectors of the mysterious, the intuitive, and the instinctive.

The Nightcat’s teachings are subtle yet profound. She reminds us that what we seek is not outside of us but within. She carries the “Hollow Bone Medicine,” teaching the girl—and us—to become vessels through which life can flow freely. This medicine, rooted in trust and surrender, is a cornerstone of matriarchal wisdom.

Restoring the Web of Life

The girl’s transformation culminates in her regaining her voice—a luminous, authentic expression of her essence. Described as “fresh as a drop of dew” and “spun gold,” her voice becomes a gift for the world. She emerges as the Keeper of the Well, a figure who heals by guiding others to their own Deep Waters.

This restoration reflects the healing work of matriarchal cultures, where storytelling, ritual, and shared wisdom sustain the web of life. Evelien’s story concludes with the spreading of light: each individual, touched by the Keeper’s wisdom, finds their voice and reconnects with their Motherland.

The tale emphasizes the matriarchal principle of relationality. As each person reclaims their connection to the web of life, the collective heals. This mirrors Göttner-Abendroth's vision of societies where every thread in the web is valued, and life flows in balance and abundance.

Call to Remember

In her epilogue, Evelien distills the Nightcat's teachings into four keys:

- Allowing what wants to come through.
- Attending to what is present.
- Expressing what is true in us.
- Listening to the feedback from the Web.

These teachings are portals to a new way of being, rooted in ancient wisdom. They challenge us to honor the deep feminine, the source of life's flow, and to trust the process of becoming. Evelien's *Teachings of the Nightcat* mystery program expands on these principles, offering a pathway for seekers to dive deeper into the transformative power of these teachings.

The program invites participants to reconnect with their inner wisdom, rediscover their voices, and align with the timeless rhythms of the Web of Life. By engaging in storytelling, deep listening, and shared rituals, students learn to embody the Nightcat's medicine and become keepers of their own sacred wells.

As Evelien's work demonstrates, the Nightcat's teachings are not just about personal healing but about restoring the collective. In a world longing for reconnection, these mystery teachings serve as a guiding light, reminding us that "to find our voice is to find our thread in the Great Web of Life."

A Myth for Healing

The Nightcat from the North is not just a story; it is a mirror reflecting our collective need for healing. It invites us to return to the sacred, to listen deeply, and to reconnect with the rhythms of the earth. Evelien's tale, woven with matriarchal wisdom and archetypal power, offers a vision for a future rooted in balance, creativity, and connection.

In the words of the Nightcat:

"Follow your thread. Attach to Life, attach to others. Listen for the feedback. Look in the mirror of Life. Trust Life. Your story is your own."

By following this wisdom, we can restore the Great Web of Life, one voice, one thread at a time.

