



ANIMA MUNDI (WORLD SOUL) FOCUSSED ON THE INCA TEACHINGS.

According to the "Oxford companion to philosophy" anima mundi, Latin for world soul, is an idea that stems from Plato's Timaeus, where the world is an organism, endowed with a soul by the Demiurge. It explains the harmonious celestial motions and is a model for the restoration of harmony in the human soul."

My first awareness of the concept of "anima mundi" was in 1999, when I was doing a higher professional education to become a paranormal therapist.

During the philosophy course, my teacher was very enthusiastic about the subject. When I was looking for a subject for my thesis two years later I discovered that "anima mundi" took hold of me. I asked the philosophy teacher to become my thesis supervisor and, for me, it became the story of my life in a nutshell.

Today, I am very happy to tell you the story of a woman, beginning to discover her attachment to nature and her awareness of anima mundi, which, probably, started a long time ago...

I was born in Suriname, a tropical country on the North-Eastern Coast of South America. A beautiful country in which, due to colonization by different European countries, the population is multi-cultural. People with roots in Asia (China, India, Indonesia) live next to people with roots in Africa (Ghana, Gambia). There are European people (mostly Dutch), people from the Lebanon, Jewish people and last but not least different tribes of Indians. As a child this was normal to me. Nothing strange in a friend who could speak Dutch, Hindustani and the Creole language of Suriname, taki taki. Or, my neighbour friend, who had to go to take Hebrew lessons every Saturday morning. The Suriname kitchen is an exquisite mix of cooking from all over the world, put together.

When I went to sleep at night I had shivers, looking at the shadow of the papaya leaves on the wall of the bedroom, moving like big hands, waiting to get me. It was a childhood full of wonders. When I was ill, and that was very often, these silver coloured dwarfs were circling my bed. I was so scared, that I always dived under my blanket and there was nobody I could talk to about them or ask for an explanation about their presence, afraid they would call me crazy.

Looking back over this period, in which I was formed, this community impressed me irrevocably, although I was not a happy child. I was rather withdrawn.

I consider this time of my life as the basis of what anima mundi means to me. That is.. being in contact with nature, the softness and threat of it, as a human being taking part in its every move. Of course you can try to resist it, but your surroundings are priceless and everyone and everything has the right to her own spot.

When I was 16 I was sent to the Netherlands where I lived with an uncle and an aunt. I went to school, studied here and went back to Suriname. I really felt lost in a world where it seemed nobody understood me, where I could not find a haven. I went back and forth from Suriname to Holland, only to settle down when I found my husband. We have two beautiful children and I have a granddaughter now.



When I was forty I started studying again, realizing that my path in life was to become very different, than it had been so far.

I became a therapist. The paranormal talents that were hidden inside me were starting to bloom. I denied them, only to discover about ten years later, there was no denying possible anymore.

In daily life, meeting people and in my practice I discovered that lots of people feel no connection anymore with nature. We do not depend on climate and seasons like our ancestors and most of the rituals in which the bond between man and Earth were expressed have disappeared. Our early ancestors felt instinctively that behind the material reality a spiritual power was present. To them Earth was a living creature with a soul, like man had a soul. In ancient times the relationship between man and nature was especially tangible in the elements. Spirituality was an expression of respect to Earth ...

Thomas Moore, a present-day theologian speaks of loss of soul when he describes the main disease of today. When the soul is neglected, it doesn't disappear just like that. It manifests itself in the form of obsessions, addictions, violence and loss of meaning. It is tempting to isolate these symptoms, or to try to banish them one at a time. The real problem, however, is that we have lost our wisdom and even our interest towards soul. Moore even poses that it is impossible to give an exact definition of soul. Making definitions is in any case an intellectual enterprise and soul likes to use imagination.

Johan Pameijer, a Dutch free Catholic priest, describes how Plato describes the descending of the soul as loss of wings. Residing in a human body the soul loses its original abilities and possibilities, and can only be reclaimed by personal effort. The soul is imprisoned in the body, but it does have the ability to let the body ascend so it really becomes the instrument of the soul.

In my research I found many well-known philosophers who have said similar things about anima mundi. Carl Gustav Jung and Rupert Sheldrake, both, note the concept of the collective unconscious. A pattern in which everything has its own place and is connected. A Dutch philosopher, prof. Van Praag has developed a theory on anima mundi and introduced the concept of culture codes. Within the culture codes everything seems to be connected by the mystical aspect which is the connection with anima mundi.

I shall only mention the shamanistic code in which man participates in the creative process of the magical events of life. For the shaman everything is endowed with soul, is part of a big web of life that keeps everything together in harmony. Men, animals, plants, trees, stones, stars, rivers, everything has a soul, so has awareness. From this holistic vision, nothing happens accidentally, but all events are part of a meaningful whole. Because everything in the visible world has a soul, it seems clear this produces an invisible spirit world. This is called the middle world, because two other spirit worlds can be distinguished, the upper and underworld, based on experiences of shamans all over the world.



Anima mundi according to me.

Hella Haasse, a Dutch writer once wrote " education or training decides our culture code. And with the culture code the way in which we approach and look at the world and reality. Where you are born and raised, never lets you go. You always carry it with you."

To me this statement is appropriate, because I was born and raised in Suriname, a country that used to be full of magic. The awareness keeps growing that I am a human being from two worlds. A holiday to Suriname in 2003 made clear to me that a major part of my inspiration comes from there. The spiritual influence of the Amazon jungle made me experience a spiritual fierceness I had never experienced before, strengthening the power of the anima mundi.

Two months later in Holland I could feel the connection of the woods here in Holland, in a place called Stoutenburg, with my anima mundi place in the Amazon jungle in Suriname. I had even a more profound experience than in Suriname. It was truly a connection with those woods and I could hear the whispering of the Amazon jungle as it melted with the Stoutenburg woods. To me it was a great gift, because my experience in Suriname had been so overwhelming, I thought I had lost something forever by returning to Holland

Last April (2006) I did three workshops on the Inca tradition with Elizabeth Jenkins. My Pacha mamma is the Amazon jungle of South East Suriname, and my Mamma Qocha is the Suriname river. I have connected with them at least once daily, since then.

In the night of 5 to 6 May 2006, due to heavy rainfall, the exact part of the jungle, which I consider my Pacha Mamma location was flooded. The same story goes for my Mamma Qocha, the Surinam river.

I heard the news on saturday night.

That saturday morning, I was on my way to Utrecht, but, I had to return home after being en route for 15 minutes. I had a very strange feeling and was rather off balance and very very sad and full of fear. The fear part, I could let go the next day, but the sadness remained.

It was only after 5 days that I realized the connection. Until then there was so much desperation in my system, it was difficult for me to handle. Most propably I have picked up emotions of the people living in that region, because when I finally asked Pacha Mamma, full of sadness what was going on, the answer I received was, "don't worry, after the water has gone I will be more fertile."

Since I wrote my thesis I am much more aware of what is going on with me in a spiritual way. To me, the anima mundi feeling is very similar to the way of the Inca teachings.

My spirituality has been deepening very fast since the Inca workshops. It feels just like all the things I have been doing in my practice till recently, have been getting an extra dimension, or extra hands and feet.



J.J. van 't Hul - Moll

The feeling of "coming home", of being on the right track, is getting stronger and stronger. In my practice I am working with the principle of eating hoocha and receiving sami through and for my patients and it works wonderfully well.

Is it not wonderful, that when Elizabeth is coming for her next workshops in September, she will be teaching in the same place where I had my anima mundi experience in Holland three years ago, the castle of Stoutenburg?

I like to end my story with a verse by Chief Seattle, upon surrendering his Tribal lands in 1856.

*This we know: all things are connected
Like the blood which unites one family.
All things are connected.
Whatever befalls the earth
Befalls the sons of the earth.
Man did not weave the web of life.
He is merely a strand in it.
Whatever he does to the web.
He does to himself.*