

***The Feminine Genius***

***A talent or intelligence specific to women, something she has by virtue of her specific difference with respect to a man.***

**Receptivity**

**Maternity**

**Generosity**

**Sensitivity**

The Fallout from the Fall

1. Shame: Rupture within the human being: concupiscence = inclination to sin

2. Fear: Rupture between Man and God - “I was naked and afraid.”

3. Conflict: **Rupture in human relationships** - manipulation, blame, domination

4. Labor: Rupture between Man and Created World

Queen of Heaven and Earth

*The Church sees in Mary the highest expression of the "feminine genius"* and she finds in her a source of constant inspiration. Mary called herself the "handmaid of the Lord" (*Lk* 1:38). Through obedience to the Word of God she accepted her lofty yet not easy vocation as wife and mother in the family of Nazareth. Putting herself at God's service, she also put herself at the service of others: a *service of love.* Precisely through this service Mary was able to experience in her life a mysterious, but authentic “reign.” It is not by chance that she is invoked as "Queen of heaven and earth.” *For her, "to reign" is to serve! Her service is "to reign!”*

Eve- Mary

*Mary* means, in a sense, a going beyond the limit spoken of in the Book of Genesis (3: 16) and a return to that "beginning" in which one finds the "woman" as she was intended to be in *creation,* and therefore in the eternal mind of God: in the bosom of the Most Holy Trinity. Mary is "the new beginning" of the *dignity and vocation of women,* of each and every woman

“Ironically, the most powerful woman in the world did very little that people would consider important. Her secret was to unite herself to God in order that she might become more while doing less. Mary’s power, then, is in her perfect surrender to God....Her strength is in her capacity to get her will out of the way and allow the will of her beloved Father to shine through her.” -- *The Anti-Mary Exposed – Rescuing the Culture from Toxic Femininity* by Carrie Gress

Motherhood

“Motherhood implies from the beginning (before original sin) a special openness to the new person. In this openness the woman discovers herself through a sincere gift of self. Motherhood is linked to the personal structure of the woman and to the personal dimension of the gift.”

According to the Bible, the conception and birth of a new human being are accompanied by the following words of the woman: "I *have brought a man into being with the help of the Lord" (Gen* 4:1).This exclamation of Eve, the "mother of all the living" is repeated every time a new human being comes into the world. It expresses the woman's joy and awareness that she is sharing in the great mystery of eternal generation. The spouses share in the creative power of God!

Masculinization of Women

In the name of liberation from male "domination," women must not appropriate to themselves male characteristics contrary to their own feminine "originality."

There is a well-founded fear that if they take this path, women will not "reach fulfilment," but instead will deform and lose what constitutes their essential richness.

**Satan’s Strategies to Destroy the Feminine Genius**

*Discovering the Feminine Genius* by Katrina Zeno

**Inferiority**

**Counterfeit-Union**

**Objectification of the Body**

**Freedom-from vs. Freedom-to**

Embracing the Sexual Difference

Authentic liberation for women depends on a healthy complementarity, whereby men and women both commit to making a gift of self that honors their shared dignity and need for love.

10 Virtues of Mary

Profound humility

Lively faith

Blind obedience

Continual prayer

Universal mortification

Divine purity

Ardent charity

Heroic patience