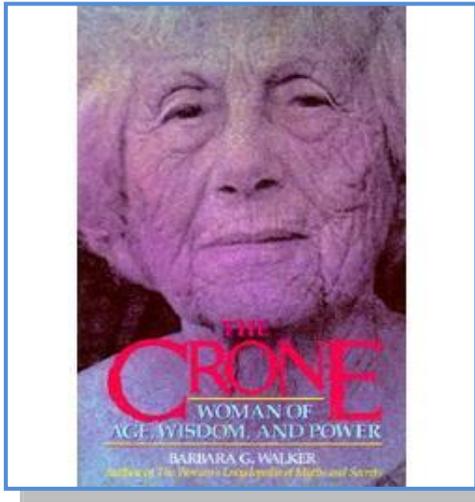


## The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power by Barbara G. Walker



The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power by Barbara G. Walker, is a book that celebrates women as they learn more about each other and the male-dominated world they live in. "Few men have tried to understand the real causes of man's inhumanity to women" (Walker 133).

Crone is the power, passion, and principle of ancient female wisdom. The Crone was linked to the word crown and she represented the power of the ancient tribal matriarch who made the moral and legal decisions for her patients and ancestors. The word Crone went from being a compliment to an insult as well as a stereotype of a diabolic old woman. The meaning of the word changed because of the transformation of wise women into witches. Hence, many women turned against faith and preferred to gather in each other's homes to discuss current studies on pre-patriarchal Goddess worship. In addition, they engaged in certain rituals together. This movement gave women strength and power as they joined together in gatherings, circles, covens, groups, or conferences (Walker, 1). Hence, because the rituals were done privately, they were unknown to the public eye. Later, the popular press called it "witchcraft". This allowed women to share their knowledge on food, feelings, communication, ideas and accomplishments. Therefore, the gatherings empowered women together, without the domination of a man. In addition, the gatherings helped women

to form trustworthy relationships that allowed them to have mutual support in their common needs and life experiences.

Unfortunately, men believe that women should be worshiped for their abilities to reproduce, nurture, and care for others. In addition, they believe that women's talk has nothing to do with the real world. Controlling men rarely paid attention to what women had to say. Walker explains that the fate of women, children and their world lies on the men that corrupt women in many ways. Patriarchy established for women what is called "busywork". Busywork is a harmless and commercially unviable job for women to perform. Hence, this way, women were not recognized in a powerful working area. In other words, women worked together to support men's institutions and the patriarchal society such as the family, the church or the government. For instance, the churches exploited women's unpaid labour to worship God. Hence, these women were seen as pure and good, whereas women who lost their faith and called themselves witches and Goddess worshipers were seen as diabolic and dirty.



Walker's provoking novel encourages women to gain power over patriarchy. The author attempts to recover the history and lives of those women. The novel explains the past in order to change the present. She explains the punishment and denial of wisdom of "aging women" in history. Walker celebrates this wisdom and believes that it is vital for women to have it in order to survive in a patriarchal society.

Barbara, Walker. The Crone: Woman of Age, Wisdom, and Power, Harperone, 1988.

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