



The Mythology of

The Sorceress

The Sorceress archetype in Vinotok rises out of the experience of weaving worlds together. She identifies junctures of connection, sometimes threads from disparate realities, bringing them into a unified web of points.

The Sorceress is one of the ancient archetypes throughout human history, across a variety of cultures, that walks between worlds. Physically she is often an edge-dweller, retreating to the fringes of society and the wild. Here, animals, rocks and water have voices as much as humans do, and she puts her ear to the ground to listen to both. Her intimate relationship with nature is so porous, she is often a shapeshifter, seen in the forms of creatures such as birds and bears. She communicates easily with and travels to realms of spirits, deities and magical beings. Therefore, understanding the languages of many, she is a synthesizer, a translator, a communicator, bringing the more-than-human voices to the surface for civilization to hear.

Because of her ability to walk between worlds, the Sorceress can be a complicated container of the all. Yet, instead of dueling or oppositional forces, she represents the balance of both creation and destruction, light and dark, birth and death, in the transformative dance of the ever-evolving becoming towards the whole. Her lightness can be the creative pulse and life force of spring and flowering. Her demand for balance, and hence the destructive forces of nature, seen in the wrath of storms, disease, earthquakes, and drought. Ancient humans saw her as not one to be messed with.

The Sorceress has also been translated as healer and shaman. One might see her as the woman of herbal remedies, potions and spells. There is often magic in the Sorceresses' midst. Because of her power, the Sorceress archetype has often been misunderstood and demonized, but in truth she is a balancing force whose wise voice should be heeded.

The Sorceress archetype of Vinotok reminds us to put our own ears to the ground and listen to both the earth and the people. She encourages us to watch for the enchantment of the hawk, the elk and the wind alike, to hear their voices, and from this dedication of awareness, ever strive towards balance and harmony. What the Sorceress of Vinotok represents is inclusion. An understanding of the interweaving. She is the synergy and alchemy that occurs when all voices are harmoniously present.



Poem for the Sorceress

oh maiden long learned your craft, oh mother those who choose truth, oh crone of wild rapture

since time first began before blood was warm
the people call to unseen guardians
spirits derived from the depths of the past for
one to protect all and wield wisdom

a magic presence composed of control
by necessity plots on our behalf
and connects us to flora and fauna no
longer human more so a being

those who raise their gaze meet her piercing eyes
find dark strange provoking ancient power
bestowed by nature on her heartfelt soul
honor her cunning name her sorceress

oh maiden long learned your craft, oh mother those who choose truth, oh crone of wild rapture

Anna Claire, Wordsmythe