

*Soul* 

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*Connections*

**MILLENNIUM BABIES  
RESTORING SOUL TO CHILDBIRTH<sup>1</sup>**

*Through scientific understanding, our world has become dehumanised. Man feels himself isolated in the cosmos. He is no longer involved in nature and has lost his emotional participation in natural events, which hitherto had a symbolic meaning for him. Thunder is no longer the voice of a god, nor is lightning his avenging missile. No river contains a spirit, no tree means a man's life. No snake is the embodiment of wisdom, and no mountain still harbours a great demon. Neither do things speak to him nor can he speak to things, like stones, springs, plants and animals. He no longer has a bush- soul identifying him with a wild animal His immediate communication with nature is gone for ever, and the emotional energy it generated has sunk into the unconscious."*

(C G Jung CW18)

In this beautifully descriptive piece of writing, Jung brings home to us how deep is our alienation from nature. He is writing about the lost feminine, or the loss of connection with our feeling natures, part of the general repression of feminine consciousness in our modern world. In my book ***Songs from the Womb - Healing the Wounded Mother*** (Collins,1998), I addressed the loss of soul encountered by many in the experience of childbirth which results from the medical management of birth, and which in itself forms part of a general soul hunger in modern living. As Jung wrote, modern man is in search of his soul.

At the dawn of the new millennium, we wonder what we have learnt in the last 100 years. We may be proud of our achievements, our technological advances are undoubted, but many of us know in our hearts that we have also failed, and failed badly. For though modern life offers us practically everything we desire, it doesn't fulfil our deepest desires, those of the human heart. Why, in an age of material 'plenty' are so many seeking help in counselling, therapy, new age healing methods and spirituality? Though Jung was writing in the earlier half of the last century, fifty years on, our sense of soul loss is even greater. Despite our 'advanced' technology we are hungry. Starved of soul food we rush to our nearest mind/body/spirit bookstore, Reiki practitioner or spiritual healer to be healed from a soul wound we cannot identify. Here in Ireland we are enjoying one of the fastest growing economies in Western Europe, but also an escalating suicide rate amongst young men. In the western world, normal childbirth has become almost eradicated in a mass of technological advancement where not only caesarean sections have become a matter of choice of birth, but babies have become commodities. Babies are now being technologically

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<sup>1</sup> Article published in Source Magazine

## **SOUL CONNECTIONS** is the creation of BENIG MAUGER

- 2 -

created to meet consumer demand. Sperm and egg as well as wombs have become objects detached from their human homes. Human beings are being fabricated in jars and then implanted in wombs that have become mere growing mediums. Women are leasing their wombs by the nine month period to the highest bidders. Mothers are having their son's babies, and women are being inseminated anonymously.

Modern technology has its place. Many of us, including myself may well not be here were it not for the life-saving practices of modern medicine. And for those who cannot by their own natural means conceive a child, medical technology can offer them that chance. But is there a cost? The use of disembodied sperm for example means that there is a growing generation of children who do not and may not ever know their father as anything other than donor sperm. One wonders how the father archetype will become incarnated in these children. Many women are hurt and disempowered by our modern way of birth. This is why I felt compelled to write the book. I saw and felt the pain of women and their babies after a difficult birth experience, usually in modern hospitals where technology had replaced nature. Fear and the suspicion of nature, fear of pain has caused birth to be shrouded in a cloud of anaesthesia and sometimes violent and invasive practices which rob us of soul.

And it is not only women and children who suffer, men do too. With the huge increase in single parent families, the vast majority of which are headed by women, many men are I believe, suffering a disempowerment at this time. Could this in part account for the alarming increase in suicides amongst young men? Has the turning upside down of traditional roles gradually eroded the confidence of men to be lovers to their women and fathers to their children? With the huge increase in marriage breakdown, fathers frequently become marginalised. Stripped of their material possessions, their homes and sometimes their children, many broken fathers simply close the shutters on life, on love. Soul loss is serious; as a therapist I encounter it everyday. My next book will be about men as fathers#, or rather about the masculine principle as a compliment to the feminine and the importance of the father in the life of a child. Something, which I believe, has been neglected.

Restoring soul to childbirth means reconnecting with nature and recognising the powerful spiritual significance of the birth experience. It means recovering the mother and father archetypes, it means getting back to basics. Honouring soul will reinstate the lost feminine and heal the soul wounds that have become so prevalent today.

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