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Claudia Ruiz-Gustafon: Anima

In the primal lands,
a shapeless shadow
of ancient archetypes

*I am the utterance
of my own name,*
she claims

Cast away,
she dwells inside a castle
in an island of mirrors

*I am the whore and the
holy one,*
she says

Through the mountains,
past the blood moon
under the flowing waves

*I am the honored one
and the scorned one,*
she screams

Named and unnamed,
in legends and tales
in music and myths

*I am the silence that is
incomprehensible,
she whispers*

Unknown to us all,
until the rain comes down
like thunder.

This poem quotes portions from a Coptic tractate entitled “Thunder” of unknown author, circa 2nd century AD. This tractate was found in a cave in Egypt in 1945. It is now part of the Nag Hammadi library



Claudia Ruiz-Gustafson is a Massachusetts-based artist and writer. She grew up in the bohemian seacoast town of Barranco in Lima, Perú. Claudia is fascinated by ancient philosophy and mythology. She regards visual art and poetry as magical mediums for exploring her inner world and the spiritual realm.

Claudia studied Communications at Universidad de Lima. Her art has been exhibited in several local museums and galleries, among them the Griffin Museum of Photography, Danforth Art Museum, Sohn Fine Art Gallery, U-Forge Gallery, Fountain Street Gallery, the Providence Center for Photographic Arts, and at the Cambridge Art Association Galleries.