

**Presentation by Francine Caumel-Dauphin,  
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Special Features of Female Gurus:  
Are there any??**

Overall, I had doubts about the what this question could raise – in her role as a guru, she does not have any special features in comparison to her male “colleagues”, BUT, SHE IS A WOMAN and it changes things a little.

To introduce this subject, I will refer to a bright author from France in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries: Abbot GREGOIRE. Jean-Baptiste GREGOIRE (1750-1831) wrote a History of Religious Cults founded by women. GREGOIRE noted common points that some of them share – they were founded on a vision, ecstasy and “used practices that the exaltation of ideas and the illumination of the senses frequently gave them a trend more or less characterised by debauchery.”

He already noted that the devotion of women “holds closer to the heart, men to the mind”. Men are driven by “conviction, daughter of reason”, while women “are governed by persuasion, daughter of feeling.”

He refers to medical literature from the period, which noted that woman’s nervous system was weaker, more subject to exaltation, more inclined to mysticism, ecstasy, to prophetic visions, thus fanaticism. Women are naturally more devoted, but their conduct is characterised by “earthly affections”.

GREGOIRE developed these ideas: “With women, almost everything is reduced to love for pleasure and power; but their most energetic passion is commonly that of exercising real authority or opinion over others (...) this miserable propensity already troubled MARY, MOSES’ sister when she spread rumours about her brother, which caused her to be covered by leprosy and sent “out of the camp” for seven days.

The murky centuries of the Middle Ages saw Marguerite PORRETE and a hundred other women associating devotion to lubricity, with crowds of followers tagging along after them.

Naturally inclined to dominate, women often manifested this propensity by meddling in the ecclesiastic ministry. Not being able to reach it, they try to damage it by influencing the conduct of the members. Certain even crossed the high barrier between them and sanctuary, such as Guillemette LA MILANESE, who, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century preached, used sacerdotal clothing and gave tonsure to women of the cult. But, certain movements gave women an equal place to that of men:

- The Brownists, near the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, granted women equality. In this cult, each member was free to serve the general good of society, without be accountable for their actions before a superior.
- The Quakers or Religious Society of Friends, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century had a clear sense of spiritual equality, in particular the equality of sexes. Men and women had the same right to speak during services.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, GREGOIRE highlighted the importance of lettered women who formed groups spreading revolutionary ideas, a forerunner of the feminist movement. The Order of Victims, founded around 1755 by Jacqueline-Aimée BROHON, was organised as follows:

- The Apostolic College was made up of half men and half women;
- Women had the honour of starting the new mission:
  - Because of the effect of the love of Jesus Christ for the Holy Mother;
  - To compensate their loyalty to Jesus Christ during this mortal life and the Passion;
  - To humiliate the masculine sex which had abused its superiority.

We can also find female prophets where their exaltation was fed by the events of the Revolution: Catherine THEOT, called “the Mother of God”. She was a former maid at the Miramaines Convent, and became a soothsayer. She said she was invested with a spiritual mission and brought many disciples to her, waiting for the arrival of a messiah.

GREGOIRE, while not totally approving of their actions, saw these women as a sort of revelation of the modern values of religion. He was very receptive to the aspirations of democratic modernity that they promoted:

- The liberty of conscience and expression;
- The evangelical moral;
- Criticisms of the ecclesiastical hierarchy.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these female prophets joined illuminated and philanthropic movements, such as the Baroness Barbara Juliane VON KRÜDENER, who was sent to Russia, from brigade to brigade, because she had prayed with the people, because she had predicted the day of the last judgement and because she had fed the starving. Suzette LABROUSSE would predict the fall of the temporal power of the Pope (she said she was the Wife of the Apocalypse).

So, after this historical overview, let’s look at the current situation. We find women who are somewhat driven in their acts by mystical rather than scientific delirium: Françoise DERCLE, for example, said she was evolving in a 3<sup>rd</sup> dimension and believed in the power of the mind. Maud PINSON who declared she was the reincarnation of the Virgin of the Apocalypse. Eliane DESCHAMPS who received messages from Christ’s Virgin. They often have brilliant minds. One was an English teacher, they hold degrees from universities (of course some were totally fake). They created structures (Maud PINSON founded the Psychoanalytic Research Institute). They have a keen sense of seduction and communication. They are very skilled psychologists (they often present themselves as such) and great speakers, admirably using their charisma. These last elements are common in both women and men, as well as the megalomaniac tendencies which pushes them to create groups to dominate, impose a doctrine, control knowledge.

As with men, female gurus are pathological personalities which stems from their narcissistic perversity. But, if 25% of identified narcissistic perverts in the general population are women, this proportion is much higher in the cult domain.

There is frequently attention paid to the importance of the body. They are grand seductresses who know how get attention in society through their beauty, their charm and/or their

magnetism. They often have eating disorders, either being bulimic or anorexic. This category of women has a deep hatred for men, though well hidden beneath their charming and seductive aspects. They often play the role of the “ideal mother”, passing almost as saints. We can find them in narcissistically gratifying professions which provides power over others: health professions, teaching, upper management, etc.

These people surprise because we don't expect that type of pathology on the part of a woman. The time they take to approach their target is longer. They take more time to study their target to discover elements that will allow them to solidify their manipulation. They use sex as a means of control. Men more often use pleasure to make the other dependant.

Overall, they can go farther and be more dangerous than narcissistic perverts who are men, but their influence and manipulation are just as Machiavellic.

This pathology, that we also find in every day life, adds to the myth of persecution and they are often very paranoid. Maud PISON, Yvonne TRUBERT who was the guru for the IVI (Initiation to Life) Cult. They show an almost permanent aggression and subsequently become serious tormenters. Françoise DERCLE, for example, controlled all correspondence, forced hard work, promoted telling on others in writing, sexually humiliated her followers. They have an unlimited imagination. For example, Eliane DESCHAMPS, known as the “Petite Servante” and founder of the “Amour et Miséricorde” cult, described the appearance of the Virgin every year during the night of August 15-16. A certain number of them do not hesitate to practice exorcism, such as MELINE J., called “Mother”, an important Voodoo Priestess in the Paris region. She would spray her followers with blood from sacrificed animals, would whip them and humiliate them. The case is currently before the courts.

If male gurus are often the reincarnation of a spiritual leader, women can too, but they frequently work in the field of prayers and direct groups such as the IVI which I noted above, or “Mary, door to heaven”, which was led by a couple in Reunion, Cécile and Augustin VALENCOURT (former policeman). The movement Charismatic Renewal is, currently still, led by Anne MERLO, who promotes the unity of Christians and an activist for a New Eve using widely distributed DVDs. Grete HAÜSLER created the Circle of Friends of Bruno GRÖNING (CABG) in order to perpetuate the influence of the Master over minds. Spirituality is a field mainly occupied by women with modern supports. Mélanie DEMIR, for example, runs a cybergroup with the name “I am the path, the truth and life”.

The field of wellbeing is also a perfect area for exploitation. Gabrielle FRECHETTE created the Centre Reine de la Paix. She believes that a spirit occupied her body and speaks through her. She calls herself Séréna and declares her self a Shaman. In the centre, the sudation experience is practiced, called “consciously dying” and in 2007 a follower experienced it for real. The case is still before the courts.

It is important to highlight that cults led by women do not end their existence through violence of arms, in contrast to some led by men. There are no collective suicides.

## CONCLUSION

Do women gurus have special traits?

My answer is yes, even if many of the traits are shared with male gurus.

Some are in the incarnation of the Virgin or a saint (Saint-Theresa for example), but most are in contact with the beyond, with parallel worlds, or directly with God, Jesus Christ or the Virgin. They principally personify mysticism while men personify more strength and power. But they are also about power, but it is power masked by mystery that can only be decrypted by them. Because they are women, we trust them more, and it allows them to take more time to evaluate their prey, to get to know them and as such “hold” them more deeply and sustainably. I wouldn’t hesitate to consider them as more dangerous than their male counterparts!

Thank you for your time!