Ironically Alienated by Patriarchy, but Healing:  
Discerning and Reclaiming the Sacred Masculine  
in a Post-Modern Christian-Normative America  
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In this paper, I argue that recovery and re-integration of a Sacred Masculine (both individually and institutionally) is necessary for a larger global reconciliation between races, work towards social justice, a power reconciliation between genders, and an internal psychological and spiritual reconciliation inside the fragmented selves of modern American men.

Paradoxically, while Christian, European, educated, land-owning, colonial, male-ness was busy hegemonically setting the parameters of normativity for the world under its influence, Christian spirituality was steadily growing more feminine in practice. Then, with the rise of post-modern critical theories in the 20th century (including feminism, womanism, critical pedagogy, and post-colonial critique, etc.), this Christian/Cartesian/Euroamerican/Modernist/male-centric reality construct began to be challenged, re-evaluated, and deconstructed. Many conspicuously marginalized groups began to organize and work towards their own liberation.

But what was the effect on the souls and minds of the common males? Where to go for healing when popular Christianities no longer addressed and formed Sacred Masculinity, but had also intentionally wiped out competing spiritualities and epistemologies? American men were now divided along racial lines, caricatured and burdened as either the “oppressor” or the “oppressed.” Normative structures had been subverted without a replacement spirituality offered to develop, make sense of, guide, and integrate them in functional healthy masculine development.

Out of this perilous condition, the United States saw a “men’s movement” emerge in the 1970s. Combining religion, mythology, ritual, spirituality, initiatory rites, psychological theory and method, indigenous healing practices, art, drama, and alternative therapies. Men began to discern and re-cover a Sacred Masculinity that sits at their core as an irreducible animating and guiding force.