

DETROIT

Don't be Deterred

NATIVE SUN

Sonia and Billie: Legend to Legend

By Evelyn M. Bingham
SUN COLUMNIST



How many of us have had our hopes and dreams dashed, discouraged, and destroyed by the lack of encouragement and assistance, especially as we were growing up. Quite a few of us, I'm

sure.

As you continue to pursue your goals and dreams, keep the *other* components of success in the forefront. In addition to *Hope*, include those of *Faith*, and *Love and Work!*

Don't be too afraid or apprehensive to try out an idea or a thought. *It takes a good idea to help motivate forward action, with invested interests, sufficient to accomplish the goal!*

To most people, the *thought* of failing or the *actuality* of it happening, is extremely disappointing and has devastating effects. When failure, *becomes a part of*

Embracing the Goddess Within: Relationships are mirrors

By Adonna Smith AKA Goddess Godis
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If you lived on an island by yourself you would not be able to truly see, know or experience yourself.

It is through your interaction and your relationship with others that

that you come in to the knowledge and awareness of self. Relationships are a powerful tool for inner growth and transformation. They allow you to see and experience the beauty as well as the shadows within yourself - the places where you are not loving, as well as the places where you are weak and need to be strengthened or changed.

Your relationships are your mirrors. You draw to you in your relationships people who will reflect back to you the qualities and the attitudes you love, as well as the attitudes and qualities that you need to look and change within yourself.

What you **STRONGLY** and **EMOTIONALLY** dislike or react to in others is a reflection of something you need to look at and change within yourself.

As you change what you see and what you experience in your relationships, change. Real change happens from the inside out not outside in. If we want our lives to be better, we have to become bet-

ter. With help from God real change is possible.

your life, it is difficult to see *how* there can be any recovery or turn around. When your focus, is temporarily clouded or obscured, it makes the possibility of winning or achieving a goal inconceivable. Achieving at *anything*, no matter *how* elusive or impossible the goal, *can be* achieved to personal satisfaction, through strong determined perseverance, listening to wise counsel, not being afraid to put shoulder to the wheel and forging straight ahead with your eyes on the prize!! Remember, that the dream or goal is *yours*, that it must be nurtured and protected by *you*, and that *you* are ultimately responsible for its success, and nothing reaches a successful completion or conclusion, without so called failures along the journey or road. Success, could be *failure on fire*, or, Success, could be *failure turned inside out*, or the dark clouds *silver lining*, where once *there was doubt!!*

Failures and disappointments and set backs, are all parts of the lessons we *must learn* to conquer, as we matriculate through the curriculums in *The School of Life*. Let us all press forward to *our personal* achievements of success, and try *never*, to be deterred!

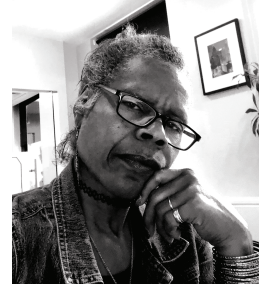
ter. With help from God real change is possible.

Goddess GODIS is a Detroit Spiritual Artist who is dedicated to using her gifts as a photographer, garment designer, writer and speaker to document, celebrate and inspire the emergence of the Goddess within women of great spiritual beauty and wisdom who knows that she is a daughter of God. She is in touch with her creative spirit. To contact GODIS email GODDESSGODIS@yahoo.com.



GODIS

By Evangelist B. Colbert Brooks
SUN COLUMNIST



Sonia Sanchez was an African American poet, writer, and professor. She is noted for authoring over a dozen articles, books of poetry, short stories, critical essays, plays, and children's books.

In the 1960s, Sanchez released poems in periodicals targeted towards African-American audiences, and published her debut collection, *Homecoming*, in 1969. In 1993, she received the Pew Fellowship in the Arts, and in 2001 was awarded the Robert Frost Medal for her contributions to the canon of American poetry.

Sanchez earned a BA degree in political science in 1955 from Hunter College and pursued post-graduate studies at New York University. She has taught as a professor at eight universities and has lectured at more than 500 college campuses across the US, including Howard University. She was also a leader in the effort to establish the discipline of Black Studies at the university level. In 1966, while teaching at San Francisco State University, she introduced Black Studies courses. She was the first to create and teach a course based on Black Women and literature in the United States, taught at a predominantly white university. Sanchez was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University in Philadelphia in 1977. She has read her poetry in Africa, the Caribbean, China, Australia, Europe, Nicaragua, and Canada. Sanchez supported the National Black United Front and was a very influential part of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Arts Movement whose aim was to promote a renewal of black will, insight, energy, and awareness. She gained a reputation as an important voice in the *Black Arts Movement* after publishing the book of poems *Home-*

coming in 1969. This collection and her second in 1970, titled *We a BaddDDD People*, demonstrated her use of experimental poetic forms to discuss the development of black nationalism and identity.

I personally salute Sonia Sanchez above all else because of her soulful lament to the legendary blues singer, Billie Holiday. Sanchez was not only a woman who achieved profound honor and success in the literary arena, she possessed a keen sense of awareness and compassion for those who struggled battling their own personal demons. She opened her heart, put pen to paper and paid tribute to another legend, who may not have been one in her own time, but was to become one nevertheless. For Billie Holiday, Sonia penned "*For Our Lady*". A depiction of the battles of Lady Day from the inside out. Expressing in ground level prose and guttural slang, So-

For Our Lady

yeh. Billie.
If someone had loved u like u
shud have been loved
ain't no tellen what kinds of songs
u wud have swung
gainst this country's wite mind.
or what kinds of lyrics
wud have pushed us from our blue
nites. yeh. Billie.
if some blk man had reallee
made u feel permanentlee warm.
ain't no tellen where the jazz of yo
Songs wud have led us.

nia wrote plain and simple no holds barred, no frills or flowers, how she felt the Lady Day's pain and sorrow;

With that, I say farewell to two great women in history. Sonia Sanchez, a woman extraordinary in so many ways and an outstanding master of the literary arts, and Billie Holiday, a legend whose story was told up close and personal by that great master. May they both rest in peace as their memories never cease to linger on.

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