



The Feminine Mystique: An Analysis of Female Protagonists in Paulo Coelho's Select Works from the Perspective of Simon de Beauvoir's Feminist Theory

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Abstract

The paper entitled 'The Feminine Mystique: An Analysis of Female Protagonists in Paulo Coelho's Select Works from the Perspective of Simon de Beauvoir's Feminist Theory' is a research paper on female lead characters of the novels *Brida* and *The Witch of Portobello*. Simon de Beauvoir in her masterpiece *The Second Sex* marks the second wave feminism. She vindicates for the rights of women and the gender equity in the society. The objective of the paper is to redefine the power and identity of the protagonists *Brida* and *Athena* in terms of life journey, characteristics, pathway, societal pressures and goal. It is noted that *Athena*, the protagonist of *The Witch of Portobello* is determined and resilient in fighting against the society in reviving the Great Mother. Societal pressures stand as a major barrier in women's life to reach their goals. In the case of *Athena*'s her mission is to spread the message of Great Mother. On the other hand, *Brida* doesn't undergo societal pressures like *Athena* than the internal conflicts in achieving her goal. But *Athena* has to fight her internal traumas as well as the patriarchal society to preach the knowledge of the Great Mother. The research paper highlights that Paulo Coelho uses strong and independent female characters in his novels to spread philosophy and spiritual knowledge in the society.

Keywords: female identity, great mother, witchcraft, philosophy, love, gipsy, goal

Introduction

Paulo Coelho, a Brazilian author, is known for his popular work *The Alchemist*. Coelho's significant works are *The Pilgrimage*, *Brida*, *Veronica Decides to Die*, *The Zahir*, *Aleph*, and so on. Coelho writes on the quest for knowledge, philosophy of life, self-discovery, spirituality, and love in his works. This research paper focuses on the female protagonists of *Brida* and *The Witch of Portobello*. *Brida* and *The Witch of Portobello*, both novels by Paulo Coelho, stand as epitomes of witchcraft and occult tradition. The protagonists *Brida* and *Athena* are strong female

characters in Coelho's works who want to become witches, and they follow rituals and traditions for the initiations. Coelho's writings generally focus on the female characters and their strong desire to attain their specific goals. Coelho introduces the characters as fragile, surrounded by societal pressures and personal struggles. The transformation of the characters from the fragile state to the powerful force stands as a key narrative in Coelho's works.

Both *Brida* and *The Witch of Portobello* have similarities like female power, spiritual journeys, and self-discovery. The narrative styles (witness



narratives) of the two novels differ. The novel *Brida* focuses on spiritual practices and self-discovery, while the work *The Witch of Portobello* projects the mysterious story of a woman's life. Paulo Coelho is an impressive writer who expresses the human emotions with personal experiences. This combination of personal experiences and fantasy connects with the reader's inner self. His experimental writing impels the readers to relate to the major characters in the novel. In all his novels, he connects his personal life with the storyline. He believes that the role of an artist or a writer is to share their experiences in the society. His easygoing writing style breaks the complex ideas of life into a simple yet meaningful way. This simple form of writing has inspired readers all over the world. The wisdom of Coelho's writing style has created magic in the lives of his readers. Readers who take up the book become hooked on it until they finish.

Literature Review

The research article *Relationship between Masculinity and Femininity Depicted in Paulo Coelho's Brida* focuses on the gender exploration in the novel. The author has represented the gender identities through the tradition of the moon and the tradition of the sun. The tradition of the sun represents masculinity, and the tradition of the moon represents femininity. In the novel *Brida*, the characters take on feminine traits like care, wisdom, and connecting with nature. It asserts that women should maintain harmony and emotional well-being within their families and community.

The paper *Archetypes Symbolizing Athena's Personality Development in The Witch of Portobello* is a practical experiment to assess the personality of the protagonist using archetypes as literary devices. The researchers analyzed the symbols in the novel using a library study approach. A total of six archetypes were represented in Athena. First, the initial personality archetypes include the virgin, the martyr, Pallas Athena, and the saint, which represent the initial stage of the character development. The second stage involves the development of personality archetypes such as the saint and the witch, and Hagia

Sophia represents the latter stages of Athena's personality. The research paper focuses on the character development from a simple to complex identity as the plot proceeds.

The article *Self-Awareness as Gyroscope in Paulo Coelho's The Witch of Portobello* discusses self-awareness as the main component of emotional intelligence. Understanding oneself and regulating emotions form the foundation for women in their personal lives. The researcher has used Philippe Rochat's frame of self-awareness, which consists of confusion, differentiation, identification, permanence, and meta-awareness. During her journey of self-discovery, Athena progresses through the various levels of self-awareness.

The literature review shows that both characters, *Brida* and *Athena*, are represented as bold and fragile in their own situational settings.

Methodology

The researchers have used qualitative research and descriptive-analytic method- collecting data from the texts and interpreting it to highlight the protagonists of the select novels. The author has used discussion mode to redefine the power and identity of the female protagonists using Simon de Beauvoir's feminist theory. The primary sources of the research are *Brida* and *The Witch of Portobello* by Paulo Coelho. The secondary sources are collected from various research articles, books, and internet data.

Discussion

Simon de Beauvoir was a French writer, feminist, social theorist, and existential philosopher. Her book *The Second Sex* marks the second wave of feminism across the globe. De Beauvoir authored and signed the "Manifesto of the 343" petition in 1971. This petition introduced a provocative concept regarding birth control and abortion in France, supported by the collective effort of 343 women. Simon de Beauvoir is considered one of the famous icons of the 20th century whose ideas of individual freedom and gender power played a major role in liberating women. 'The point is not for women simply to take power out of men's hands, since that wouldn't



change anything about the world. It's a question precisely of destroying that notion of power' (The Decision Lab, 2021). *The Second Sex* focuses on the issues of women's oppression and the outline foundation of feminism. The work is a 1000 page criticism on patriarchal society where women are considered less than men. The *L'âge d'Homme* (1931) by Michel Leiris inspired the idea of writing *The Second Sex*. Beauvoir self-criticizes herself as a woman and her situation to define the role of women in society.

Feminist theory is the extension of feminism where it focuses on power relations, gender politics, and sexuality. It mainly highlights women's rights and explores themes such as discrimination, stereotyping, objectification, oppression, and patriarchy. 'One is not born a woman but becomes one' (The Decision Lab, 2021), defines that gender is a social construct, not a biological identification. Simone de Beauvoir uses biblical references where women are tagged as the 'other' and secondary to men. Women are considered the weak and inferior side of humanity. Another point is that de Beauvoir points out the difficulties of women liberating themselves sexually, economically, and politically.

Simon de Beauvoir defines women as always considered the "other" of men. Although human existence is universal, men have been privileged as the superior gender, while women are viewed as inferior beings lacking creativity and responsibility. In her book *The Second Sex*, Beauvoir examines these unequal gender dynamics exposed in religion and myth. She also states that women's physiological experiences like pregnancy, lactation, and menstruation don't make a woman inferior to men in any way.

Simon de Beauvoir comes up with a question "what has it meant to me to be a woman?" brings her to the reality of masculinity power around her. She delves into the myths and philosophical reflections of women in the history which pins her to the core idea that woman is the other, man is the essential being" (Bergoffen & Burke, 2004). The second sex is considered as the foundation text in the field of feminist phenomenology. The book is an account of

narrative experiences of women which exposes the discrimination by masculine society.

The first edition of the novel *Brida* was released in the year 1990. Paulo Coelho has woven into this semi-autobiographical work the intriguing life experience of a 21-year-old Irish lady who is on a search for spiritual knowledge and self-discovery. The plot revolves around the protagonist's journey through witchcraft. The author's interaction with Brida O'Fern, the protagonist of the work, happens to take place during a pilgrimage to Rome. The author Coelho was interested in learning more about her talent, and it was this interest that inspired him to write this book. The story's narrative centers around the themes of love, spirituality, magic, passion, and mystery.

The year 2006 marked the publication of Paulo Coelho's novel *The Witch of Portobello*. Love for oneself and love for others are major themes in the novel, which revolves around spirituality. Unlike other novels, *The Witch of Portobello* presents its plots in vignettes. A young woman named Athena, who was born to a gypsy in Romania and was adopted by a family in Beirut who were educated and resided in London, is the protagonist of this particular story. Athena, who practices witchcraft, is searching for mystical abilities that originate from all corners of the universe. Topics, including love, spirituality, magic, witchcraft, and the concept of a Great Mother, contribute to the work's elegance. The novel also features strong feminine characteristics and revives the female part of religion, which is against Christianity in the patriarchal society.

Both Brida and Athena can be analysed through the feminist theory of Simon De Beauvoir based on five elements: their life journey, characteristics, path, societal pressures, and goal.

Journey of Life

I want to learn about magic, said the girl. The Magus looked at her. Faded jeans, T-shirt, the challenging look adopted by all shy people precisely when its least needed. 'I must be twice her age,' he thought. And despite this, he knew that he had met his Soulmate. (Coelho, 2008, p.9)



Every human being in this world travels different paths to reach their dream. The journey can be difficult or straightforward based on the individual's growth. In the novel *Brida*, a young girl named Brida is in search of magic and finding her purpose in the world. She works as a secretary and has a boyfriend named Lorens. To learn magic, she takes the risk of meeting Magus, the teacher of the Tradition of the Sun, and from him she finds her teacher, 'Wicca,' the teacher of the Tradition of the Moon. Upon acquiring the address of Wicca, the instructor of the Tradition of Moon from the antiquarian bookstore, Brida is eager to meet Wicca and learn about her journey. Brida had to endure a prolonged wait of several weeks before obtaining Wicca's consent to visit her. Upon receiving permission from Wicca, Brida uncovers an enigmatic structure that contains the instructor. The contemporary design of the property captivates her instantly. Her quest for a mentor in the realm of magic is realized, and Brida recognizes that Wicca is the appropriate one to satisfy her intellectual curiosity. The initial inquiry regarding soulmates ignites Brida's interest in embracing Wicca as her mentor. Subsequently, Brida endeavors to discover her soul partner throughout the story by following the tradition of the moon.

During the process, Brida self-discovers herself, falls into a dilemma, and loves, but her spiritual maturity shows her the right path. Wicca stands as a pillar to teach Brida the invisible world and how to cross from the visible to the invisible. Throughout Brida's spiritual journey, Wicca supports Brida in achieving her goal.

From very early on we discovered that she had a strong religious vocation-she spent all her time in the church and knew the gospels by heart; this was at once a blessing and a curse. In a world that was starting to be divided more and more along religious lines, I feared for my daughter's safety. It was then that Sherine began telling us, as if it were the most natural thing in the world, that she had a series of invisible friends-angels and saints whose images she was accustomed to seeing in the church we attended. (Coelho, 2007/2009, p.23)

Athena, born as a gypsy and adopted by an educated family in Beirut, has a spiritual vocation from an early age. Athena is abandoned by her birth mother. From a young age, Athena sees the visions of angels and Mother Mary. At the age of 16, she gets initiated by the Great Mother. With her adopted family, Athena moves to London and settles there. When she is barely 18, she decides to marry Lukas (her boyfriend) to have a child according to the wish of the Great Mother. Against the church rules, she gets married and conceives a boy child named Viorel. Both Athena and Lukas marry at an early age without proper financial support. This, in turn, led to quarrels and frustration between the partners. Therefore, Lukas decides to leave Athena and decides to pursue his career as an engineer. After divorcing Lukas, Athena, with her son, lives alone in an apartment. During this period she gets initiated by the flat owner to dance and liberate her soul. Deidre O'Neill, referred to as Edda, is Athena's instructor. Edda and Athena are both witches in the 21st century. Edda is a physician who integrates old methods with contemporary procedures to treat patients. Edda was 19 years old when she encountered the holy mother. Athena was similarly initiated at the age of 19. Pagan culture, which reveres nature as a deity, is the source of the allusion to the Great Mother. The novelist has incorporated references to pagan culture and worship in the narrative through the character of Athena and other prominent personalities. She uses the vertex theory and dance to connect her soul and starts reliving her life, which takes her to Dubai, Romania, and Portobello to make her a popular figure in society.

Characteristics

Moral and ethical values shape human behavior. A human being projects his or her character into society based on their social and cultural background. The character of an individual builds his/her social and personal circle to achieve their dream.

I am a strong, determined woman, she repeated to herself under her breath. She was privileged to be there with that man whom other people either loved or feared. She looked back on the evening they had



just spent together and recalled the moment when she had sensed a certain tenderness in his voice. (Coelho, 2008, p. 19)

Brida is soft and determined to become a witch. Initially she is afraid of choosing the path to be a witch, but after the dilemma, she chooses the Tradition of Moon to follow. Throughout the journey, she experiences emotional challenges such as understanding herself and her previous birth, grappling with the dilemma of choosing between Lorens and her soulmate Magus, embracing her identity in the modern world, gaining the confidence to accept her witchcraft initiation process, and navigating both the real and magical worlds together. She overcomes all these difficulties and wears the title of witch.

Brida's parents, Wicca and Magus, and her boyfriend, Lorens, play a vital role in supporting Brida as she reaches her desired goal. Wicca as teacher guides Brida during her low times and encourages her emotionally and professionally to follow her dream. Magus is the invisible backbone of Brida, who, from the first meeting, wants her to know her identity as a witch and attain it. Lorens, the boyfriend, who is unaware of the magical world, never stops Brida from achieving her dream in it. Her father's teachings stand as a supporting pillar whenever Brida fails in the rituals to bounce back with spirit and achieve it. Her mother instills in her the importance of accepting herself in this chaotic world while also creating beautiful memories of her life.

"No one is secure on this Earth, I replied. She still had a long future ahead of her; there was plenty of time for the miracle of creation to occur. However, Athena was determined" (Coelho, 2007/2009, p.41). Athena is a divorcee with a son when the novel opens up to the readers. Witness narratives script the novel's approach to Athena's murder case. Through the witness chapters, Athena's life comes to light. Dance and music invoke Athena to feel the presence of the Great Mother from an early age. Upon discovering her orphan status and her adoption by her educated parents, Athena

gracefully embraces reality without resorting to dramatization.

Lukas and Athena grew close during their time at university. Lukas began to understand himself and was enlightened by Athena's discourse and presence. Athena posits that God resides within all individuals, regardless of gender, community, or ethnicity. The divine essence exists within every soul, and all humans are interconnected with the universe. Athena feels connected with the spiritual powers, and the same spark guides her to bear a child. She is also guided by the divine spirit throughout her journey. The concept of philosophy strengthens the pagan religion. This idea honors nature and treats humanity with equality. When her husband Lukas decides to leave her because of financial pressure and the breaking of marriage, Athena accepts the separation in silence. To tackle the financial crunches, she gets into a bank job as a clerk by setting back her dream of being a saint; she accepts the reality with courage.

During the journey of inculcating the Great Mother and feeling Hagia Sofia in her, she becomes a popular figure in preaching worldly knowledge to the people, which was against the institutional Christian norms. The church community attacks her. She remains determined and resilient in following the words of Hagia Sofia. When the court decides to separate her son from her to put her down in front of her followers, she goes into hiding to protect her son, who is the symbol of her love. To live a peaceful life, avoiding the dramas of society, she fakes her murder yet continues her preaching in smaller groups in Scotland.

Pathway

Everyone has a dream, and to achieve it, they choose paths based on their skills and opportunities. To reach a goal, choosing the correct direction is crucial in attaining it. Both Brida and Athena are witches in the modern era with different background settings. When it comes to Brida, she follows the occult tradition of the Moon to follow her dream to be a witch. Wicca as her teacher, she executes certain rituals like reading tarot cards, travelling in the past to know her previous birth tasks, worshipping nature,



and conducting prayers in the forest with other witches. She embarks on a sexual union with Lorens to finalize the initiation process. Finally, she completes the Equinox initiation, becoming a complete witch. Here Brida uses rituals, prayers, and dancing to the rhythms of nature to liberate her soul and follow the path of witchcraft.

I could have explained that she was following the classic path of the witch, who, through her individual persona, seeks contact with the upper and lower world, but always ends up destroying her own life- she serves others, gives out energy, but receives nothing in return.(Coelho, 2007/2009, p.121)

Athena, on the other hand, wants to revive witchcraft in the 21st century and undergoes several tasks, sacrificing her life to revive the Great Mother in the world. The concept of the Great Mother was once followed in the community, forgotten by the people as modernity seeped in, and gods like Zeus and Apollo replaced the place of the feminine goddess. Athena is a witch in the modern world who invokes the Hagia Sophia through dance and music. She goes into a trance state to let Hagia Sophia speak through her mouth.

Dance and music play a significant role in evoking the goddess. The historian Antoine Loca Dur gives a brief idea of how dance and music were part of pagan worship and connected nature and humans. From an early age, Athena uses dance to connect her soul to the universe. To communicate with the supreme power, dance acts as an intermediary; it is said that during dance, the body comes to a vertex position, balancing the body to the center of the earth. This connectivity aligns to the supreme power. Pavel Podbielski owns the flat where Athena and her son resided following her divorce from her first husband, Lukas. It is Pavel; the old man ignites the spark of divinity in her life again. Athena is mentored in dance, enabling her to harmonize with the movements of the cosmos, by the flat owner. He recounts the origin of dance and music and how the forefathers harmonized with the rhythms of nature to the group. The forefathers, while residing in caves, were originally apprehensive of the sounds and motions of nature; however, they

eventually embraced that this was nature's method of connecting with humanity. They used the movements and sounds of nature to pay respect to the pagan deity.

Athena uses Bible verses to preach the philosophy of life, which is against the institutionalized church norms. Thus, she puts the church superiors and their faith in society at risk. The pressure from the church befalls in the path of Athena in protecting the faith of the goddess mother. Edda is the teacher of Athena, who is a witch and doctor by profession. Edda teaches Athena to calm her restless soul, which is always in vibration with the universe. Through the teachings and guidance of Edda, Athena becomes a teacher and starts preaching to others. Though initially Athena had difficulty teaching others and opening up her inner powers, with the guidance and support of Edda, she overcame the obstacles and became a brilliant teacher, controlling a mass through her preaching.

In Dubai, Nabil teaches her calligraphy so she knows her blank spaces in life. By learning calligraphy, Athena knows to concentrate on specific aspects of her life and control her soul's restlessness. By mastering the art of calligraphy, Athena embarks on a quest to find her birth mother and understand why she abandoned her. After meeting her birth mother and her roots in gipsy, she gains confidence in leading her life as a witch. Liliana affirms that God is devoid of gender; hence, the supreme power that safeguards the earth, leads humanity, and embodies infinite love. Thus the supreme power is referred to as 'Goddess' or 'Mother' instead of 'Him.' The execution of quotidian activities with affection and exuberance, manifests divinity. Self-awareness is essential to perceive the presence of the divine feminine. The goddess is likened to a mother who safeguards her family, nurtures her loved ones, and sacrifices her life for the sake of future generations. Liliana also provides comments on specific herbs and their natural treatments for people. She indicates a juvenile plant and asserts that its proximity alleviates fever. She determines that she belongs to the Gypsy community and derives enjoyment from those who share her beliefs and opinions.



As a teacher, Athena starts with a small theatrical group with uncertainty. Within a short period, she gains confidence in teaching the group with the presence of Great Mother. She learns to control her state of trance and reality and heal others. From a small group to a mass gathering, Athena started preaching general moral ethics to the people, unlike the church, which forced the people to worship their ideas.

Societal Pressures

People face constant pressure to achieve a position in this competitive world. The issue can be personal or social based on the task held by the individual. Brida appears to be immune to societal pressures. Brida, as an independent woman, takes up the Tradition of Moon to follow the path of magic. Following the path only reveals Brida's internal dilemmas. With the support of her parents, Wicca, and other characters, Brida overcomes the internal conflicts and achieves her goal.

According to Rev.Buck, a group of suspicious individuals have been keeping the neighborhood awake every Monday night for the last six months, Monday being their chosen night for invoking the devil. The ceremonies are led by a Lebanese woman, Sherine H. Khalil, who calls herself Athena, after the Goddess of wisdom.(Coelho, 2007/2009, p.269)

In *The Witch of Portobello*, Athena, a divorced and independent woman with her son, wants to follow the path of the Great Mother. She is a witch in the 21st century who has the sparkle of spreading love and wisdom to the people. Despite being born as a gypsy and being adopted into an educated family due to her unique behavior, she has always maintained a distance from her peers. When she started teaching a small theatrical group, the theater director restrained Athena from teaching abnormal rituals to his artists. Thus, Athena had to start teaching in her home with her son. The small theatrical group quickly transformed into a large gathering. She needed to find a shared space to deliver the mass sermon. As the number of mass attendees increased, the church and its members faced the risk of losing their institutional beliefs. As

Athena was reviving the pagan worship and female part of God, people were moving towards the Great Mother and leaving the church. To control this situation, the church officials filed a case against Athena to stop the gatherings. But Athena discards the warnings and proceeds with the gatherings. Therefore, the orthodox church people gather in front of the meeting building and protest against Athena, even attacking her. Eventually, they file a child protection case to separate Athena from her son. This legal attack creates a panic in Athena, whose life is around her son. To protect her son, she stops the meetings and goes into hiding. To avoid people and press following her, Athena and her boyfriend (inspector) fake the murder of Athena. When the murder news opens up, the church people and the crowd calm down. Athena as a public figure vanishes from society and the press. Though these social pressures stopped Athena, she continues her preaching to smaller close groups in Scotland without attracting the enemies.

Goal

Reaching one's goal is an individual satisfaction level. When an individual overcomes obstacles, fears, and criticism to achieve their desired goal, their soul finds fulfillment in understanding their purpose. Both *Brida* and *The Witch of Portobello* talk about spirituality, witchcraft, and love as the central themes. "Now she knew that she was a witch. She had learned the art of witchcraft over many centuries and was back where she should be. From that night on, Wisdom and Knowledge would be the most important things in her life" (Coelho, 2008, p.258). Brida wants to be a witch and self-discover her identity. After going through the hard rituals, she finally becomes the witch and finds her partner for life. She accepts the reality of her identity in the modern world and knows how to help others through magic.

After millennia of male domination, we are returning to the cult of the great mother. The Greeks called her Gaia, and according to the myth she was born out of chaos, the void that existed before the universe. With her came Eros, the God of love, and



then she gave birth to the sea and the sky. (Coelho, 2007/2009, p.178)

In Andrea's testimony, she provides information regarding the emergence of the Great Mother in society. She orchestrates the transition from a patriarchal culture to a matriarchy. The resurgence of the Great Mother is referred to as Gaia by the Greeks, who accompanied her with Eros, the deity of love. The author has derived this connection from mythology, where the ancients venerated the Great Mother. The author elucidates the concept of immaculate conception, wherein the Great Mother birthed the sea and the sky devoid of male dominance. All gods originated from Gaia, who was then overshadowed and supplanted by Zeus, Ares, and Apollo.

Athena was fully aware that once the meetings at the warehouse became the focus of local gossip, her mission would be ruined for good. There was no point standing up in front of the crowd and denying that she was a queen, a witch, a divine manifestation, because people choose to follow the powerful and they give power to whomever they wish. And that would go against everything she preached freedom to choose, to consecrate your own bread, to awaken your particular gifts, with no help from guides or shepherds. (Coelho, 2007/2009, p.318)

In *The Witch of Portobello*, Athena's goal is to identify her roots and be a saint. She finds her birth mother and knows her gypsy roots. Once she embraces her gypsy identity, she senses a surge of love filling her empty spaces. With Edda's guidance, Athena steps into teaching and becomes a popular image among the people. She spreads the messages of the Great Mother and love to the people. Though Athena doesn't become a saint, she forms the meditator in spreading the Great Mother's message and reviving her in the patriarchal worship of the modern world.

Table 1 The below table shows the elements used to analysis the select novels in a nutshell

Elements	Brida	Athena
Journey of life	Brida finds a teacher, follows the	Athena born as a gipsy undergoes

	rituals and becomes a witch in the 21 st century.	personal and societal pressures to fulfil her mission of spreading the messashe of Hagia Sofia in the 21 st century.
Characteristics	Brida is fragile and confused in choosing the path of tradition. Determined and resilient in attaining her witchhood.	Strong headed, courageous and wild enough to chase her mission.
Pathway	Brida follows the path of occult tradition to become a witch.	Athena thrives to revive the feminine part of Great Mother in the present.
Societal pressures	Brida is prone to psychological dilemmas than societal pressures in her path.	Athena being a divorcee and a young mother faces societal constraints from the christain communities.
Goal	Brida accomplishes the occult tradition rituals and becomes a witch.	Athena succeeds in spreading the message of Great mother in the society.

Conclusion

'When women act like women, they are accused of being inferior. When women act like human beings, they are accused of behaving like men' (The Decision Lab, 2021). Both Brida and Athena want to self-discover their identities in the modern world, where magic is lost and taboo. Brida and Athena are witches with different background settings; though both of them had undergone different hardships to self-discover themselves, it is Athena who is seen as more determined and resilient in facing the society and pressures of life. Athena had to sacrifice her life in order to revive the Great Mother in the modern era. Athena had to face hatred, attacks, and criticism from the patriarchal society in order to revive the



feminine worship of God. The research found that both protagonists are strong in their backgrounds, but Athena is stronger than Brida.

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