

## **Monotheism and Polytheism**

- I prefer "Pagan" -- Comparing modern vs indigenous
- All large, institutionalized religions serve the state
- Monotheism & Patriarchy
- Linear time vs cyclical time
- Universal vs particular
- Mono allows for only a single creation myth = woman's guilt
- Mono leads to literalism, hierarchy and dogma
- Mono rejects paradox, diversity, ambiguity; limits the imagination
- Mono demands belief ("believe nothing; entertain possibilities")
- Mono reduces mystery to simplistic dualisms -- "Evil" vs "unripe"
- Mono is obsessed with evil and temptation, encourages puritanism
- Mono and science both dissociate, objectify nature (348)
- Mono demonizes difference – conversion/elimination/crusade
- Mono encourages both child sacrifice (Aqedah) and martyrdom (114)
- Mono has no place for the soul's plurality
- Mono's god is transcendent, distant
- Mainstream: form w/o content; fundamentalism: content w/o form
- Mono's god is model for the American hero
- Calvinism (mono's extreme): original sin, excluding the feminine
- Hillman: "We are each children of the Biblical God...the essential American fact."