

# *Imagine a Woman I & II*

*by Patricia Lynn Reilly*

Imagine a woman who believes it is right and good she is a woman.

A woman who honors her experience and tells her stories.

Who refuses to carry the sins of others within her body and life.

Imagine a woman who trusts and respects herself.

A woman who listens to her needs and desires.

Who meets them with tenderness and grace.

Imagine a woman who acknowledges the past's influence on the present.

A woman who has walked through her past.

Who has healed into the present.

Imagine a woman who authors her own life.

A woman who exerts, initiates, and moves on her own behalf.

Who refuses to surrender except to her truest self and wisest voice.

Imagine a woman who names her own gods.

A woman who imagines the divine in her image and likeness.

Who designs a personal spirituality to inform her daily life.

Imagine a woman in love with her own body.

A woman who believes her body is enough, just as it is.

Who celebrates its rhythms and cycles as an exquisite resource.

Imagine a woman who honors the body of the Goddess in her changing body.

A woman who celebrates the accumulation of her years and her wisdom.

Who refuses to use her life-energy disguising the changes in her body and life.

Imagine a woman who values the women in her life.

A woman who sits in circles of women.

Who is reminded of the truth about herself when she forgets.

## *Imagine yourself as this woman.*

### II

Imagine a woman who is interested in her own life.  
A woman who embraces her life as teacher, healer, and challenge.  
Who is grateful for the ordinary moments of beauty and grace.

Imagine a woman who participates in her own life.  
A woman who meets each challenge with creativity.  
Who takes action on her own behalf with clarity and strength.

Imagine a woman who has crafted a fully-formed solitude.  
A woman who is available to herself.  
Who chooses friends and lovers with the capacity to respect her solitude.

Imagine a woman who acknowledges the full range of human emotion.  
A woman who expresses her feelings clearly and directly.  
Who allows them to pass through her as naturally as the breath.

Imagine a woman who tells the truth.  
A woman who trusts her experience of the world and expresses it.  
Who refuses to defer to the perceptions, thoughts, and responses of others.

Imagine a woman who follows her creative impulses.  
A woman who produces original creations.  
Who refuses to color inside someone else's lines.  
Imagine a woman who has relinquished the desire for intellectual approval.  
A woman who makes a powerful statement with every action she takes.  
Who asserts to herself the right to reorder the world.

Imagine a woman who has grown in knowledge and love of herself.  
A woman who has vowed faithfulness to her own life.  
Who remains loyal to herself. Regardless.

## *Imagine yourself as this woman.*

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