Spiritual/Cultural Art & Stories

Fa' afafina: Samoan/This is the respectful word the Samoan culture calls boys that are girls. Fa'afafina are known for their hard work and dedication to the family.

Current

Guan Yin: Chinese Buddhism/some people believe that Guan Yin is both man and woman (or perhaps neither). Images that display attributes of both genders are believed to be in accordance with the Lotus Sutra, where Avalokitesvara has the supernatural power of assuming any form required to relieve suffering.

1800s-1900s

African Statue: Africa/This African statue illustrates a typical Dogon concept: the male contains the female who also contains the male.

Cupid: ancient mythology/Romans know Cupid as the god/dess of love, the Greeks know Cupid as Eros. The legend of Cupid/Eros, child of Hermes and Aphrodite, was the root of the now outdated term "*hermaphrodite.*" Happy Valentines!

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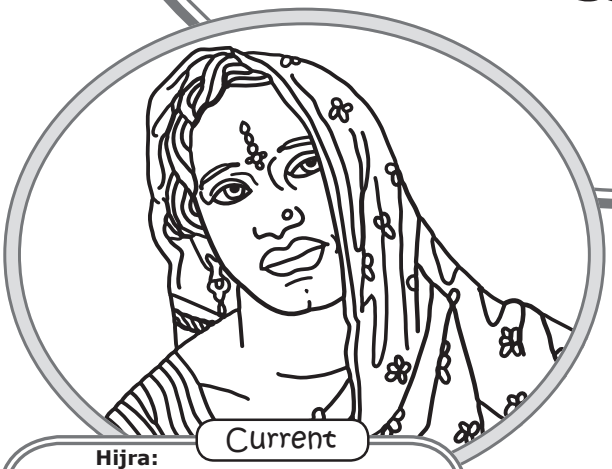
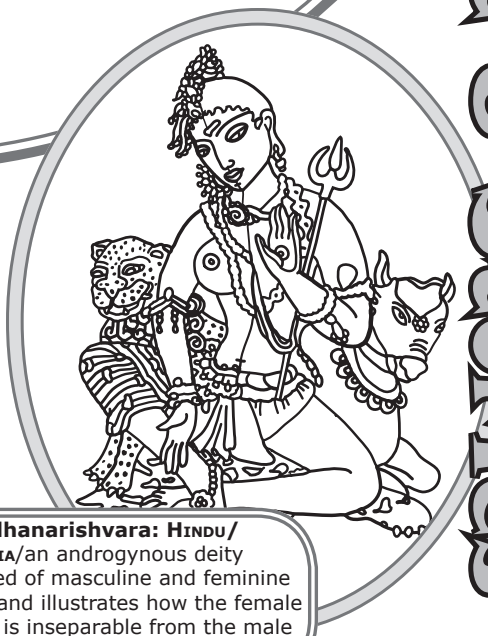
Ometeotl: Meso-American Era/ a dual Aztec divinity, Ometeotl's male aspect is Ometecutli, his/her female aspect is Omecihuatl. S/he is also known as "Owner of the Near and Far", "The Inventor of Himself" and "The Giver of Life".



Current

Hijra: Southeast Asia/ Hijras are born with boy bodies and grow up to live as women. They have a long recorded history throughout India and Pakistan. Hijras bond together and create communities to live and work in.



Ardhanarishvara: Hindu/ India/an androgynous deity composed of masculine and feminine energies and illustrates how the female principle is inseparable from the male principle.

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