Transcription: Rabia Siddique on Sekhmet and Kali’s powers

I was really struck when looking at Sekhmet and Kali at how complex, how multidimensional, multifaceted these depictions of feminine power of goddesses, of deities were. They were the arbiters of justice, the peacemakers. But they were also goddesses capable of destroying, of wielding great force and rage in order to ensure fairness and order and justice.

It’s also really interesting when I note that most of these symbols and artwork were created by men, were revered by men, were collected by men. The same men over time that have fed, created, practised language, culture, policies, attitudes that have increasingly served to oppress women all over the world.

More and more in modern times we have been, as women, pigeon-holed as either angry and fierce or as compliant and oppressed. And I think what the universe and what the world with everything that’s going on around us now is calling upon us women and men to do, is to let that go. And to really once again embrace the full breadth and measure of our power in all of its multidimensions – to be willing and able to be life-givers, to be mothers, but also to be lionesses and warriors.