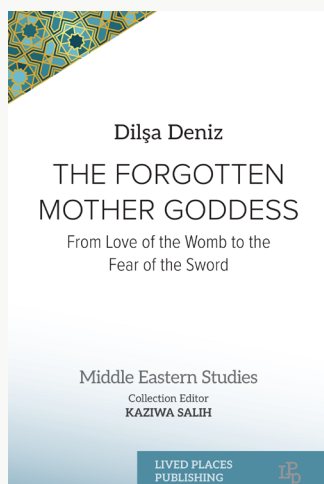




The Forgotten Mother Goddess: From Love of the Womb to the Fear of the Sword

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COLLECTION EDITED BY Kaziwa Salih

COLLECTION

Middle Eastern Studies

EDITION

1st edition

MARKET

College/higher education
and Professional and
Scholarly

This course reading...

- Reclaims the legacy of the Mother Goddess, revealing her monotheistic roots across a vast region from India to Anatolia and Mesopotamia.
- Challenges colonial and patriarchal narratives by decolonizing the history of the feminine divine and restoring her centrality in ancient spiritual traditions.
- Introduces a unique methodology of mytho-ethnography, using myth as a lens to understand cultural and religious history through a gendered perspective.
- Explores a wide range of diverse cultures, from Kurdish and Assyrian to Hindu, Slavic, and Scythian, uncovering shared reverence for the feminine divine across geographical and cultural boundaries.
- Ideal for students and scholars in Goddess Studies, Gender Studies, Religious History, Near Eastern and Middle Eastern Studies, and those interested in decolonial approaches to mythology and spirituality.

What if the divine feminine was not a side note in religious history, but one of its original foundations?

This interdisciplinary volume brings together scholars exploring the Mother Goddess, matriarchy, the Great Mother, and the Feminine Divine from the Neolithic era to the present. Tracing mythological, linguistic, and spiritual connections across Iran, India, Europe, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and beyond, the contributors examine the possibility that diverse goddesses represent culturally distinct manifestations of a shared ancient divine presence—from Shâmaran, Shamurammât, Shakti, and Zhiva to Indigenous cosmologies and women's spiritual traditions.

Bringing together perspectives from Gender Studies, Goddess Studies, Kurdish and Near Eastern Studies, Religious History, Mytho-Ethnography, and Decolonial Studies, the volume challenges patriarchal and colonial narratives of religious origins and opens new avenues for research into the forgotten histories of the sacred feminine and monotheism.

The volume seeks to open a new path of inquiry into a feminine single-divine tradition—coined here as “monotheism,” meaning a faith centered on a single goddess—that may have endured for millennia yet has been obscured or marginalized by patriarchal interpretations of monotheism within academia. By introducing and critically examining the concept of monotheism, the volume invites further research into how categories of religious history have shaped our understanding of the ancient past.

Dilşa Deniz is a Kurdish Alevi scholar specializing in marginalized ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, with a Ph.D. in socio-cultural anthropology and a focus on decolonial, gendered approaches to Kurdish and Near Eastern religious history.

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