



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

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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 history, but its original cornerstone?

In *The Forgotten Mother Goddess*, acclaimed scholar **Dilşa Deniz** reclaims the long-silenced legacy of the Mother Goddess—a singular, monotheistic feminine deity venerated across continents for millennia. Spanning from the valleys of India and Iran to the mountains of Anatolia and Mesopotamia, **Deniz** uncovers the shared mythological and spiritual threads that unite figures like the Kurdish Shâmaran, Assyrian Shamurammât, Hindu Shakti, Slavic Zhiva, and others under one ancient divine lineage.

Drawing on her pioneering methodology of mytho-ethnography, **Deniz** explores how the sacred feminine was gradually erased or fragmented by patriarchal monotheism and colonial historiography. With precision and poetic insight, this book restores the voice, presence, and centrality of the Mother Goddess in the spiritual consciousness of diverse civilizations, challenging deeply entrenched narratives about religious origins and identity.

Ideal for students, scholars, and readers in Goddess Studies, Gender Studies, Religious History, Near Eastern and Middle Eastern Studies, as well as anyone interested in decolonial approaches to mythology and spiritual heritage.

**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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