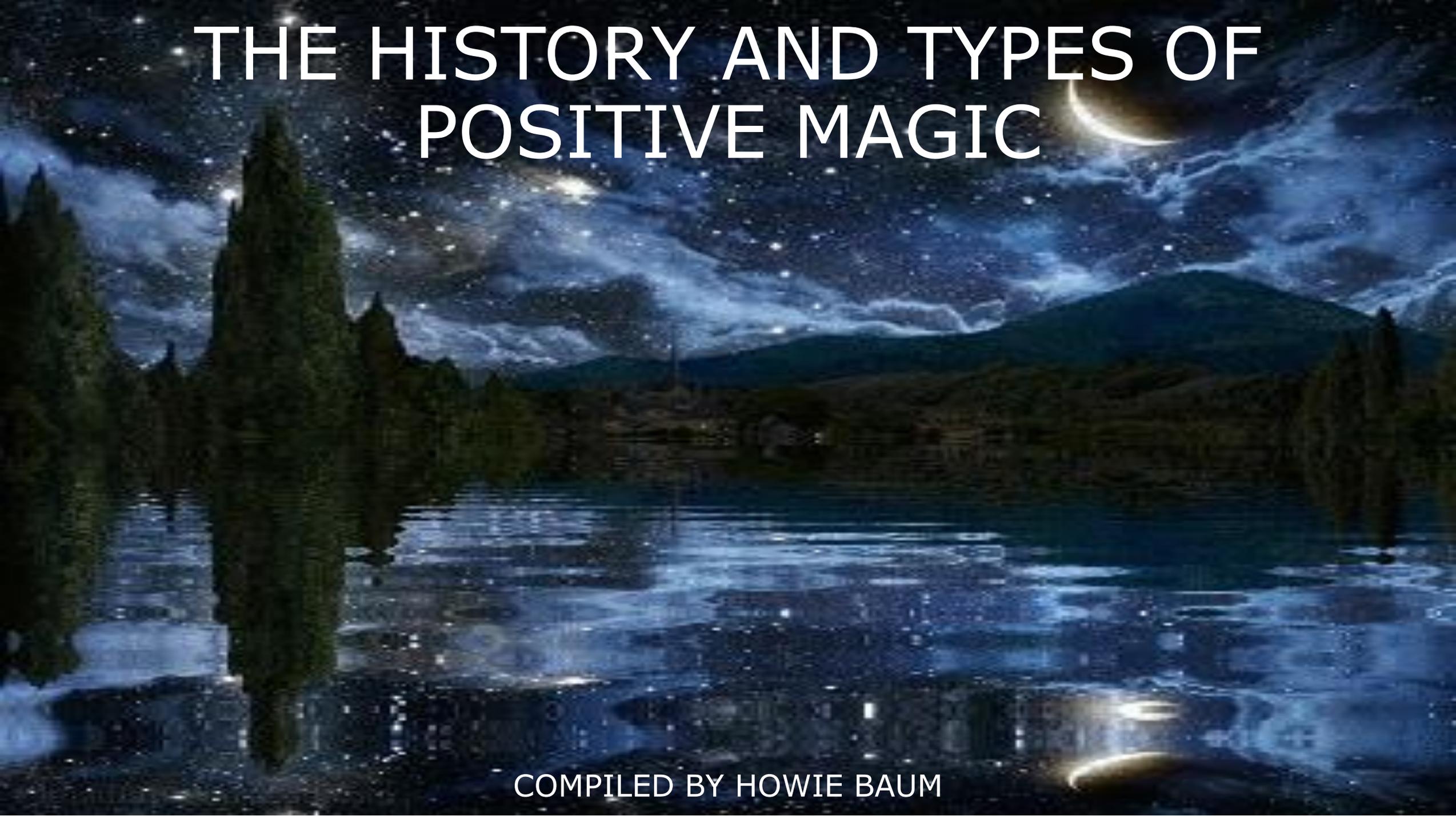




THE HISTORY AND TYPES OF POSITIVE MAGIC

A night landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the sky. The sky is filled with stars and a crescent moon. In the background, there are dark, silhouetted mountains and several tall, thin evergreen trees on the left side. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and blacks, with the white text providing a stark contrast.

COMPILED BY HOWIE BAUM

WHAT IS MAGIC ?

•**Magic:** It uses supernatural forces to potentially achieve any effect one desires.

Persons are able to use rituals, symbols, action, gestures, language, etc., to utilize mysterious and/or supernatural forces that don't work by conventional science or laws of reality, to achieve virtually any effect imaginable.

The Magi of ancient Persia, who were so skilled and famed for their effectiveness that their name came to mean what we today call "magic.





AN INTRODUCTION

Spells, rituals, and powers were used by the powerless to try to gain control, change things, or solve problems, so they could have a better life.

There has always been a role for those who believe they can mediate realms with spirits, ward off evil, and stand on the threshold between the seen world of humans and the unseen realms of the spiritual.

This is why magic has preoccupied people for centuries and continues to do so.

8 SUBJECTS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF MAGIC

1) What is Magic and what are the different main types ?

Ancient roots – Prehistory to 400 CE

2) Curse or Cure – 400 CE– 1500 CE

3) Scholars and Sabbats – 1500 – 1700

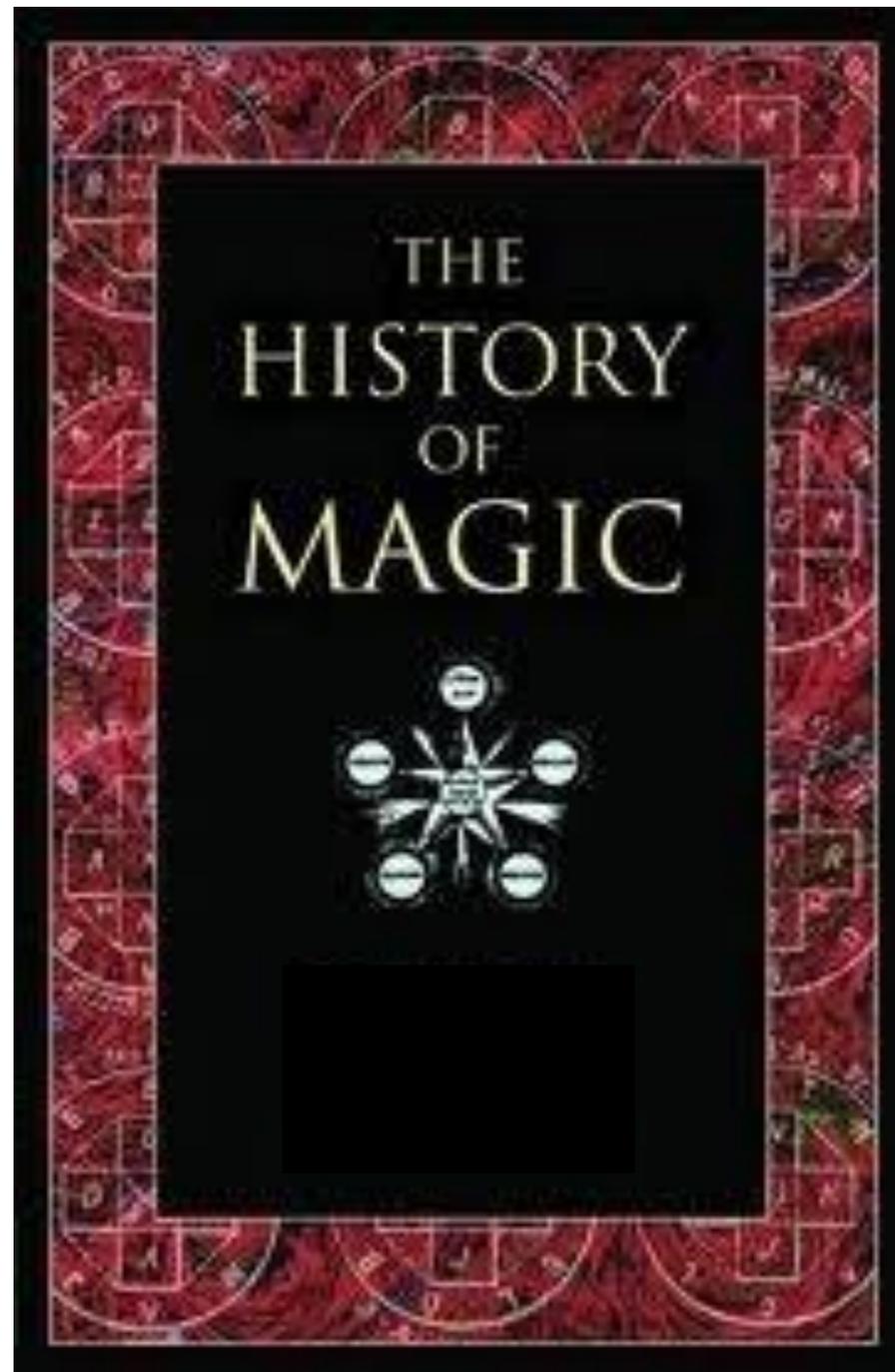
4) Secrecy and Ceremony – 1700 – 1900

5) Modern Magic – 1900 to the present

6) Ceremonial Magic – High Magic

7) Folk or Natural Magic – Low Magic

8) Performance Magic



MAGIC IS AS OLD AS HUMANKIND



Magic is a term that refers to non-scientific methods that are used to effect change in the physical world.

It ranges from:

- Trying to control ancient spirits
- Apply beliefs
- Do rituals
- Do actions to try to manipulate and change natural or supernatural beings and forces.
- It usually involves the use of an occult or secret body of knowledge.

MAGIC IS AS OLD AS HUMANKIND

**It is the use of means
(such as rituals)
believed to have
supernatural power over
natural forces.**

As soon as early people became aware of their environment, they believed it to be filled with spirits whose aid they invoked to control it

Either directly through shamans—who they thought could travel into the spirit world—or through art.



Timeline Abbreviations

- Today instead of BC and AD we mostly use CE and BCE.
- It is more considerate of historians and people of all religions.
- BCE = Before the Common Era
- CE = Common Era





As societies became more advanced, they brought hierarchy and order to spiritual life.

From around 4000 BCE, gods paralleled the rulers, priests, and nobility who held sway over **Sumerian** city-states or the ancient **Egyptian kingdom.**



Far more is known about these more official religions than ever can be about their Neolithic antecedents, because of the invention of writing.

THE 8 MAJOR SCHOOLS OF MAGIC

Abjuration : A collection of spells of a protective nature.

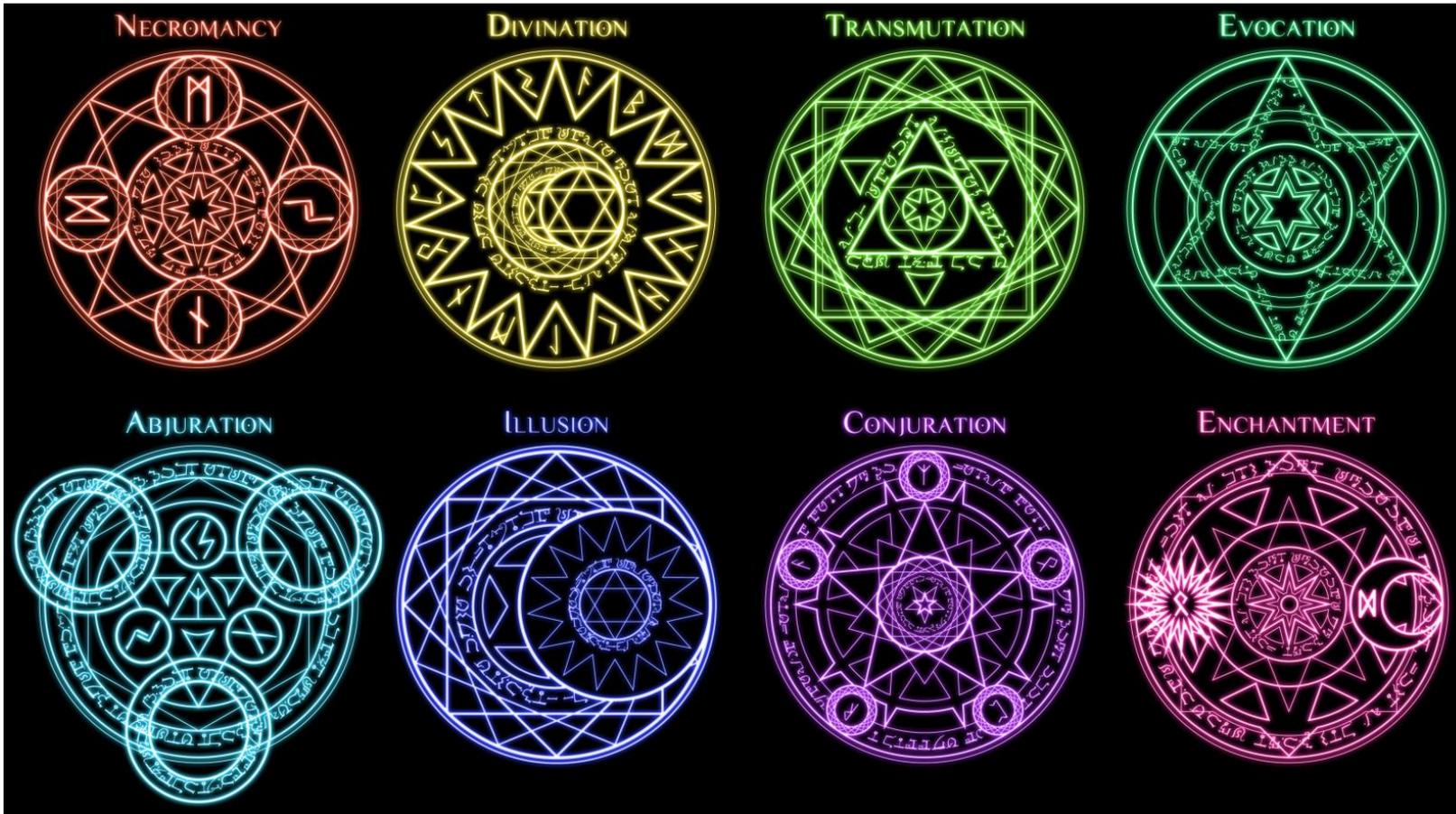
Transmutation : Formerly also known as alteration, these spells could transform the nature of the physical world or objects in it.

Conjuration : This group of spells created or transported people, energy or objects.

Divination : This school had fewer spells than others, but it allowed the caster to see things that they normally would not be able to.

Enchantment : An area of arcane study that specialized in manipulating the minds of others.





Evocation/Invocation :

Although spells of this school seemingly created effects out of nothing, they drew raw power from out of the Weave.

Illusion : This school was almost a secret society prior to the Time of Troubles, even possessing their own language. Their spells were those that fooled the senses.

Necromancy : A dichotomous school that wielded positive energy into healing spells, and negative energy to effect both the dead and undead.

Universal : A small number of spells were not associated with any school but universally available, even to specialists.

Great-Plain Myths

Blackfoot
Pawnee
Lakota
Crow



Algonquian Myths

Anishinaabe
Leni Lenape
Abenaki
Cree



Subarctic Myths

Danezaa
Naskapi
Babine
Ojibwe
Ahtna



Celtic Mythology

Arthurian
Scottish
Gaulish
Welsh
Irish



Scandinavian Myths

Germanic
Finnish
Norse
Sami



Mediterranean Myths

Christian
Etruscan
Illyrian
Grecian
Roman
Balkan



Slavic Mythology

Russian
Balkan
Polish
Gypsy



North Western Asia

Nart Saga
Scythian
Vainakh
Finnic



Plateau-Basin Myths

Kwakiutl
Chinook
Lummi
Nootka



Pacific-West Myths

Kwakiutl
Nootka
Lummi
Halida



East-Atlantic Myths

Ho-Chunk
Cherokee
Choctaw
Iroquois
Seneca
Creek



Uto-Aztecan Myths

Tsimshian
Ohlone
Miwok
Salish
Hopi
Ute



Caribbean Myths

Yoruba
Arawak
Haitian
Kogi
Fon



Mesoamerican Myths

Teotihuacan
Monte-Alto
Olmec
Mayan
Aztec



Amazonian Myths

Achagua
Guarani
Wayuu
Pemon
Carib



Myths of the Andes

Mapuche
Aymara
Chilota
Witoto
Inca



Argentinean Myths

Quechua
Selknam
Nivaclé
Abipón
Wichi



Central-Africa

Bushongo
Bambu ti
Lugbara
Baluba



S. African Myths

Tumbuka
Malagasy
Khoikhoi
Zulu
Lozi



N. African Myth

Egyptian
Nubian
Berber
Shilluk



East-African Myths

Akamba
Lotuko
Somali
Masai
Dinka



Arabian / Semite Myth

Phoenician
Abrahamic
Canaanite
Amorite
Jewish



Mesopotamian Myths

Babylonian
Sumerian
Akkadian
Assyrian
Hittite



East Asian Myths

Mongolian
Japanese
Chinese
Korean



Persian Mythology

Zoroastrianism
Armenian
Ossetian
Kurdish
Islamic



Indian Mythology

Ayyavazhi
Buddhist
Hindu
Tamil



South-East Asia

Vietnamese
Indonesian
Philippine
Javanese
Malay



Oceanic Mythology

Micronesian
Polynesian
Melanesian
Aboriginal
Papuan
Maori

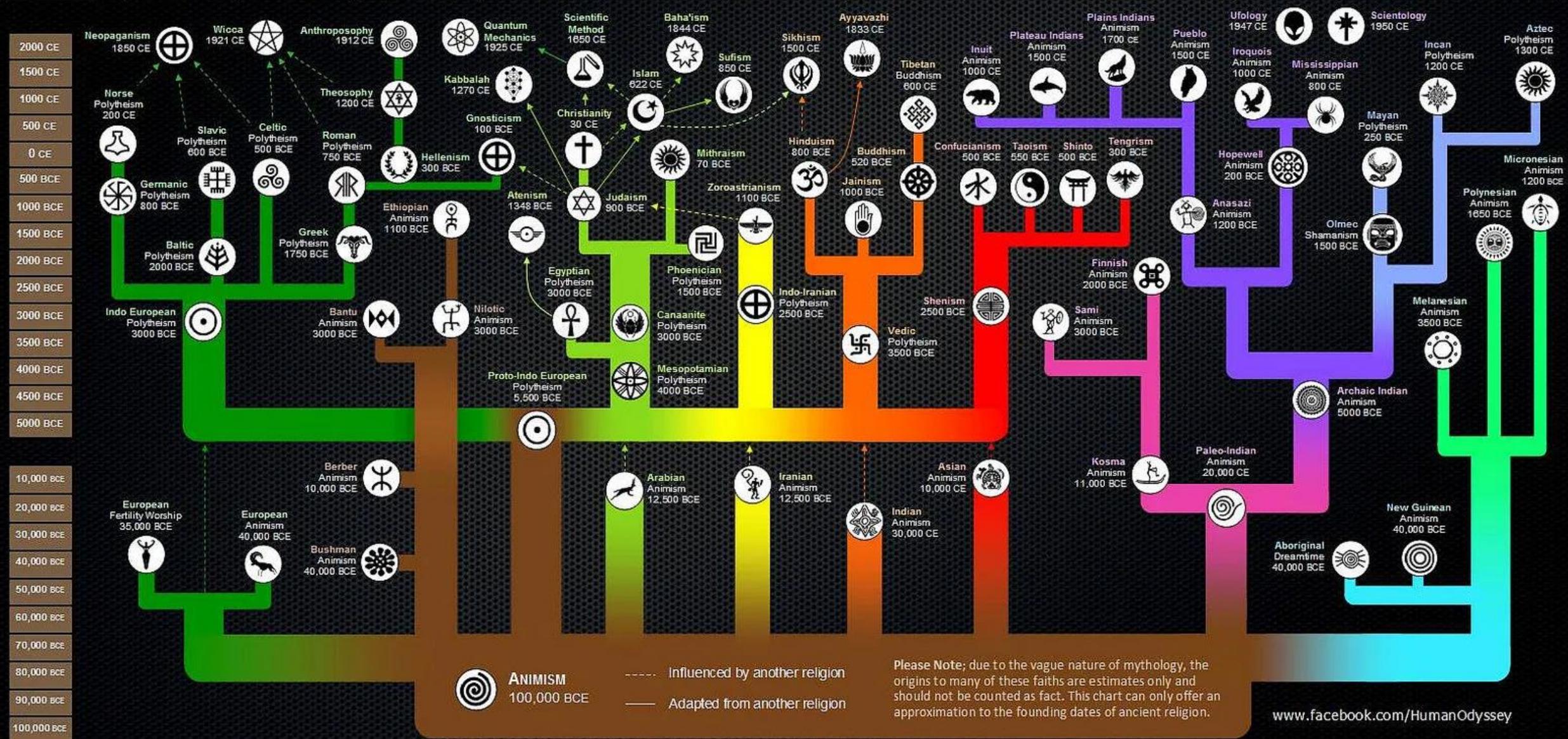




THE EVOLUTIONARY TREE OF MYTH & RELIGION v1.0

© Designed By Simon E. Davies

- European
- African
- Semitic
- Iranian
- Indian
- East Asian
- Arctic
- N. American
- S. American
- New Guinean / Australian
- Oceanic



Please Note; due to the vague nature of mythology, the origins to many of these faiths are estimates only and should not be counted as fact. This chart can only offer an approximation to the founding dates of ancient religion.



BIG HORN WHEEL
WYOMING



SERPENT MOUND
OHIO



NEWGRANGE
IRELAND



CARNAC STONES
FRANCE



STONEHENGE
ENGLAND



NOTRE DAME
FRANCE



THE PARTHENON
GREECE



HAGIA SOPHIA
TURKEY



DOME OF THE ROCK
PALESTINE



MOUNT NEMRUT
TURKEY



GÖBEKLI TEPE
TURKEY



AL-KHAZNEH
JORDAN



PUEBLO BONITO
NEW MEXICO



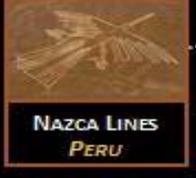
SHIP ROCK
NEW MEXICO



SUN PYRAMID
MEXICO STATE



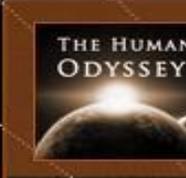
CHICHEN ITZA
MEXICO



NAZCA LINES
PERU



MAOI STATUES
RAPA NUI



THE HUMAN
ODYSSEY

SACRED SITES OF THE WORLD

FROM THE NEOLITHIC TO THE MODERN ERA

DESIGNED BY
SIMON E. DAVIES
VERSION 2.0



BOUDHANATH
NEPAL



TERRACOTTA ARMY
CHINA



PARO TAKTSANG
BHUTAN



MEIJI SHRINE
JAPAN



ANGKOR WAT
CAMBODIA

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uk.pinterest.com/HumanOdyssey

[Simon_E_Davies](https://twitter.com/Simon_E_Davies)



MACCHU PICCHU
PERU



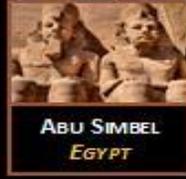
TIWANAKU
BOLIVIA



ĠGANTJIA
MALTA



GIZA PYRAMIDS
EGYPT



ABU SIMBEL
EGYPT



BETE GYORGIS
ETHIOPIA



BODHI TREE
INDIA



GOLDEN PAGODA
MYANMAR



BATU CAVES
MALAYSIA



ULURU
AUSTRALIA



BOROBUDUR
CETNRAJ JAVA

Different Types of Magic

Elemental Magic

Aether Magic

Mortality
Magic

Fire

Water

Earth

Air

Mental

Physical

Illusion

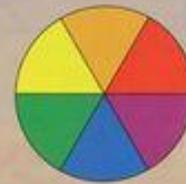
Alchemical

Death

Life



the COLOURS of MAGIK



(red, orange, yellow,
green, blue, violet,
brown, black & white)

-  Earth, permanence, protection
-  Darkness, removal, completion
-  Light, initiation, creation
-  Change, competition, sex
-  Travel, divination, study
-  Balance, encouragement, healing
-  Nature, love, friendship
-  Prosperity, thought, planning
-  Imagination, creativity, sleep



THE 68 MAIN TYPES OF MAGIC (all active links to each one)

A

[Abjuration](#)
[Aerokinesis](#)
[Ancestral Magic](#)
[Astral Projection](#)
[Ability](#)
[Atmokinesis](#)
[Aura Reading](#)

B

[Birth Sign Magic](#)
[Black Magic](#)

C

[Chaos Magic](#)
[Circle Magic](#)
[Clairvoyance](#)
[Common Magic](#)
[Conjuration](#)
[Cryokinesis](#)

D

[Dark Magic](#)
[Dark Sorcery](#)
[Deflection](#)
[Deity Magic](#)
[Category:Divination](#)
(15 types)

E

[Ectomancy](#)
[Ectopic Witchcraft](#)
[Electrokinesis](#)
[Empathy](#)
[Evocation](#)
[Expression](#)

F

[Faery Witchcraft](#)
[Forbidden Powers](#)
[Force Field](#)
[Generation](#)

G

[Geokinesis](#)
[Glamouring](#)
[Green Witchcraft](#)

H

[Hellfire](#)
[Hereditary Witch](#)
[Hereditary Witchcraft](#)
[Hoodoo](#)
[Hydrokinesis](#)
[Hydromancy](#)

I

[Illusion Casting](#)

K

[Kinetomancy](#)

M

[Mediumship](#)

N

[Natural magic](#)
[Necromancy](#)
[Neuromancy](#)

P

[Palmistry](#)
[Precognition](#)
[Psychomancy](#)
[Pyrokinesis](#)

S

[Scrying](#)
[Sea Witchcraft](#)
[Sensing](#)
[Solitary Witchcraft](#)
[Soulfire](#)
[Spell Casting](#)

[Spirit Magic](#)
[Spiritual magic](#)
[Suggestion](#)

T

[Tarot Cards](#)
[Telekinesis](#)
[Telepathy](#)
[Thaumaturgy](#)
[The Emperor \(Tarot\)](#)
[The Magic Eye](#)
[Thermokinesis](#)
[Traditional Magic](#)

V

[Verisimilomancy](#)
[Voodoo](#)

W

[White Magic](#)
[Witchcraft](#)

ANCIENT ROOTS

PREHISTORY TO 400 CE

- PREHISTORIC MAGIC
- MESOPOTAMIAN MAGIC
- EGYPTIAN MAGIC - SPELLS FOR THE AFTERLIFE
- ANCIENT HEBREW MAGIC
- ANCIENT PERSIAN MAGIC
- ANCIENT GREEK MAGIC AND MYTH
- ROMAN MAGIC AND ASTROLOGY
- MYSTERY CULTS
- HEALING PLANTS

- ANCIENT CHINESE MAGIC
- CHINESE DIVINATION
- ANCIENT JAPANESE MAGIC
- ANCIENT HINDU MAGIC
- MAYAN MAGIC



PREHISTORIC MAGIC



It is thought that early people modeled figurines and painted animals on cave walls in the belief that doing so would give them magical power over their world.

In the ancient world, chaos and death were never very far away and the desire to stave these off, if only for a short period, meant that magic was ever-present.

As early as 95,000 years ago Neanderthals carefully buried a small child in a cave in Iraq, with a reverence that suggests belief in an afterlife.



The building, around 2500 BCE, of stone circles—such as Stonehenge.

The 3,000 Carnac stones stretch for more than a mile in Brittany, northwest France.

They were erected 6,000 years ago and are thought to have had some religious significance.

Both places were aligned to the sun's rising or setting at certain times of year, which points to an increasingly sophisticated and religious world view.

With religion came magic.





PREHISTORIC MAGIC AND EARLY RELIGION

Early people learned to control the environment by inventing tools and using fire.

These skills gave them limited power but at the same time made them aware of just how vast the forces were that were out of humankind's control.



To understand such mysteries as the sun's rising and setting, birth and death, and the daily struggle to hunt for food for survival, our earliest ancestors conceived of spirit forces that they could invoke, to gain an advantage.

POWER AND SURVIVAL

Hunting was essential for the survival of early human communities.

From around 17,000 years ago people adorned barely accessible caves, such as Lascaux in France, with paintings of people hunting wild animals including stags, horses, bison, cattle, and bears.

These paintings may have been connected with rituals to make hunting expeditions more successful or have been intended to appease the animals' spirits.





RIVER DEITY PROTECTING FISHERMEN

This is one of a series of more than 50 monumental sandstone heads set up in front of the hearths of a Neolithic fishing village called Lepenski Vir beside the Danube in Serbia.

The heads may represent guardian river deities.

MAGIC OF THE DEAD

Perhaps more potent than hunting, fertility, or the earth's mysteries was the fear of death.

Formal burials have been found, dating from as early as 60,000 BCE, containing bones scattered with red ochre (a red clay mineral), possibly to sanctify the burial of the person.

Some burials also included flowers or necklaces to accompany the deceased into the next life.





ANIMISM AND TOTEMS

Prehistoric religion is thought to have been animistic—imbuing the natural world, including the landscape and the animals that inhabited it, with magical or supernatural powers.

A series of rock formations at Nyero in Uganda (possibly dating as far back as 12,000 years), became shrines.

They were adorned with geometric paintings and visited by early peoples to make offerings to the spirits believed to be there.



SPIRIT WORLD

Maintaining good relations with the many spirits who inhabited the world was vital for early peoples.

Shamans emerged to communicate with the spirits and try to influence them.

Shamans could seemingly transport themselves to the realms of the spirits through trances

A headdress made of stag antlers found in the 11,000-year-old site of Star Carr in Yorkshire, may have been part of a shaman's ritual attire.





This fish-horse hybrid amber pendant comes from 5th-century BCE Italy.

AMBER

It is the fossilized resin of prehistoric pine trees and was treasured even in Neolithic times.

The ancient Greeks believed that it was the solidified rays of the sun.

With its distinctive color and translucency, it became highly prized.

It is electrostatic (it gives off sparks when rubbed), which also gave it a reputation for warding off danger.

It came to be regarded as a healing stone.

The background of the image is a solid teal color with a complex, wavy, and textured pattern that resembles a close-up of a leaf or a piece of fabric with intricate folds and ridges. The pattern is organic and flows across the entire frame.

MAGIC IN MESOPOTAMIA

MESOPOTAMIA

The Sumerians and Akkadians (including Assyrians and Babylonians) dominated Mesopotamia from the beginning of written history - 3100 BC to the fall of Babylon in 539 BC, when it was conquered by the Achaemenid Empire.

It is located within the Tigris–Euphrates river system, in the northern part of the Fertile Crescent.

Today, it occupies modern Iraq.



DEITIES IN MESOPOTAMIA



Akkadian cylinder seal dating to 2,300 BC, depicting the deities Inanna, Utu, Enki, and Isimud.

They had over 3,000 Deities which were in different forms of people.

They were thought to possess extraordinary powers and were often envisioned as being of tremendous physical size.

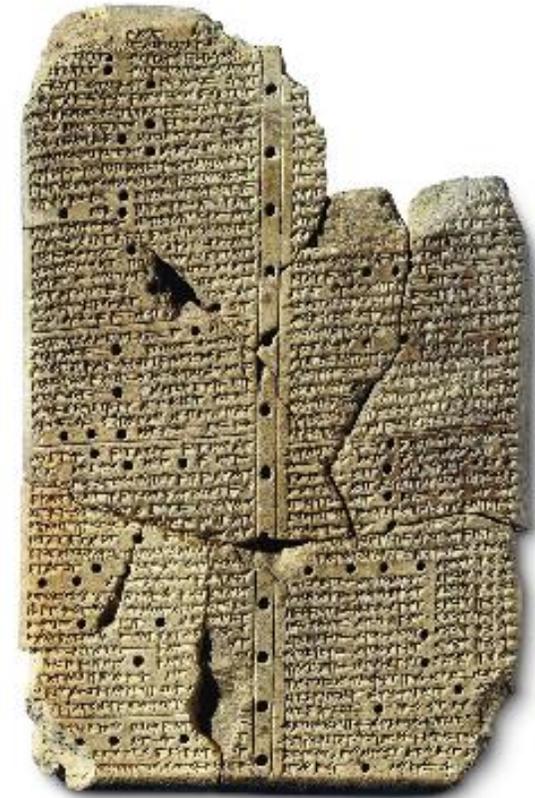
Deities were almost always depicted wearing horned caps and were also depicted wearing clothes with elaborate decorative gold and silver ornaments sewn into them.

The ancient Mesopotamians believed that their deities lived in Heaven, but that a god's statue was a physical embodiment of the god himself.

MESOPOTAMIAN MAGIC

Sumerians, Assyrians, and Babylonians all sought help from exorcists and omen-interpreters, to gain protection from bad supernatural entities and discover the future.

From the time of the Sumerians, who founded the first cities around 4,000 BCE, to that of the Babylonians over 3,000 years later, Mesopotamia was a land in which magic was part of everyday life.



Maqlu (burning) tablet

Dating from around 700 BCE, this is the seventh of nine tablets.

It contains chants for an ashipu (exorcist) to use to drive out witches who may have cursed a victim.

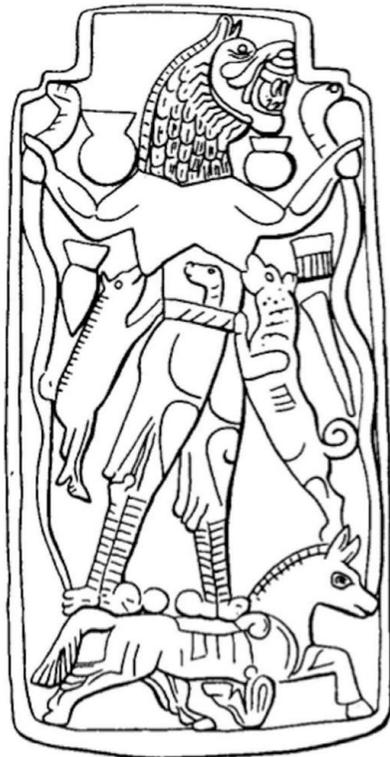


Beneath the official pantheon, including the likes of **Enlil**, the Assyrian sky god, and **Ea**, the god of wisdom, was a slayer of demons.

Such as **Lamashtu**, who threatened pregnant women, and **Namtaru**, the plague-demon, who needed to be mollified.

Natural phenomena such as floods and lightning, or epidemic diseases, were not understood, so people preferred supernatural explanations.

Disasters were believed to be caused by **mamitu (curses)** laid by witches, by victims committing offenses (sometimes unknowingly) against the gods, or through unintentionally ignoring divine signs.



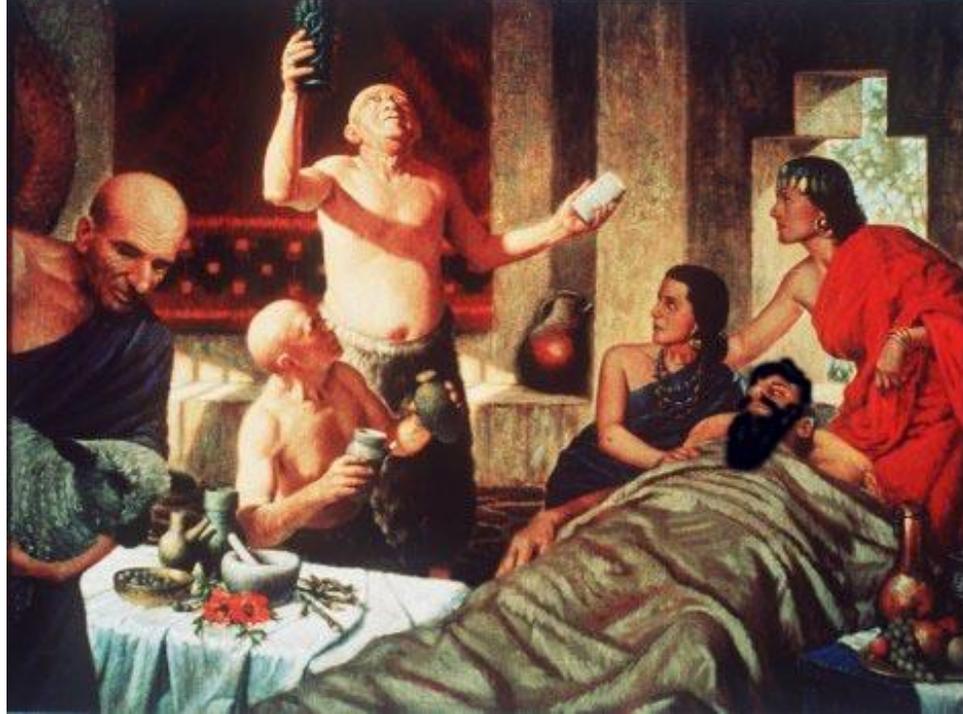


This plaque depicts **Pazuzu**, king of the wind demons and lord of the southwest winds from the desert, which brought famine and locusts. It was crafted to provide protection from Pazuzu himself and to co-opt his aid in driving away another demon, **Lamashtu**.

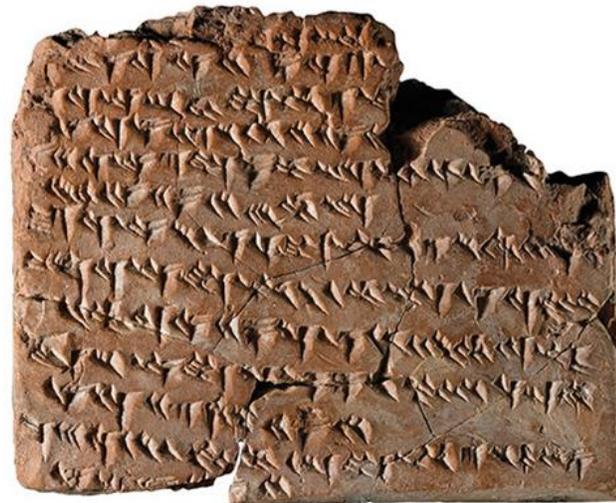
Kings guarded against these occurrences by consulting temple priests, in particular **Ashipu** (exorcists), who performed magical rituals, and **Baru**, who interpreted omens.

Ordinary people also called on the services of **Ashipu** to cast protective spells and used amulets and enchanted figurines to dispel evil spirits.

Palace archives were stocked with collections of clay cuneiform tablets containing spells, incantations, and omens.



ASHIPU, BARU, ASU - DOCTORS IN MESOPOTAMIA.





INCANTATION BOWL

A very late example of the Mesopotamian magical tradition, this bowl, from the 5–7th centuries CE, contains an incantation in Aramaic and depicts a demon in the center.

Such bowls were often buried at the corners of rooms for protection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1q8PJsNZBU> 3 min



HUMAN-HEADED LION

This lamassu guarded a palace door.

The horned cap and wings indicate its divinity, and the belt its power.

The sculptor gave the figure five legs, so it looks as if it is standing firmly from the front but striding off from the side.

AMULETS WERE WORN TO WARD OFF EVIL

Wearing amulets was another part of protective magic, and they often portrayed the spirit they were supposed to ward off.

For instance, Pazuzu, the king of the wind demons, would be depicted as a creature with a bird's chest and talons.



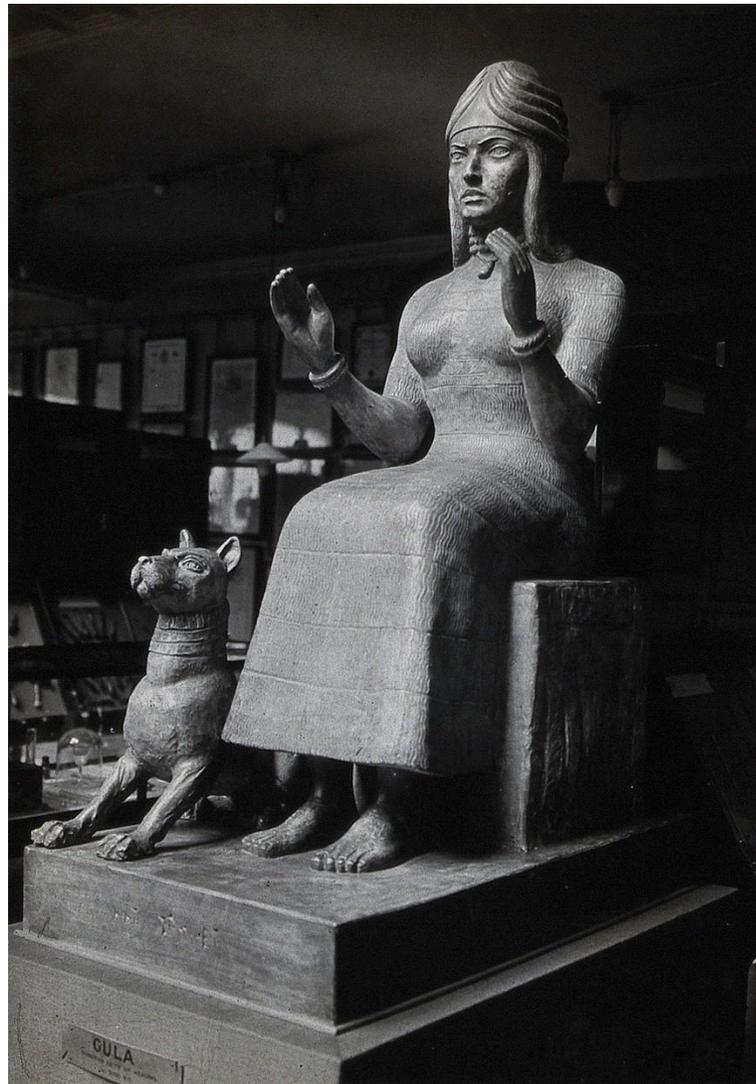
DOG FIGURINES

This terra-cotta fragment of **Gula's dog** is part of a larger sculpture or temple decoration.

Gula, the healing goddess, was frequently depicted with a dog seated at her feet, and so clay or bronze dog figurines were used to invoke her aid.

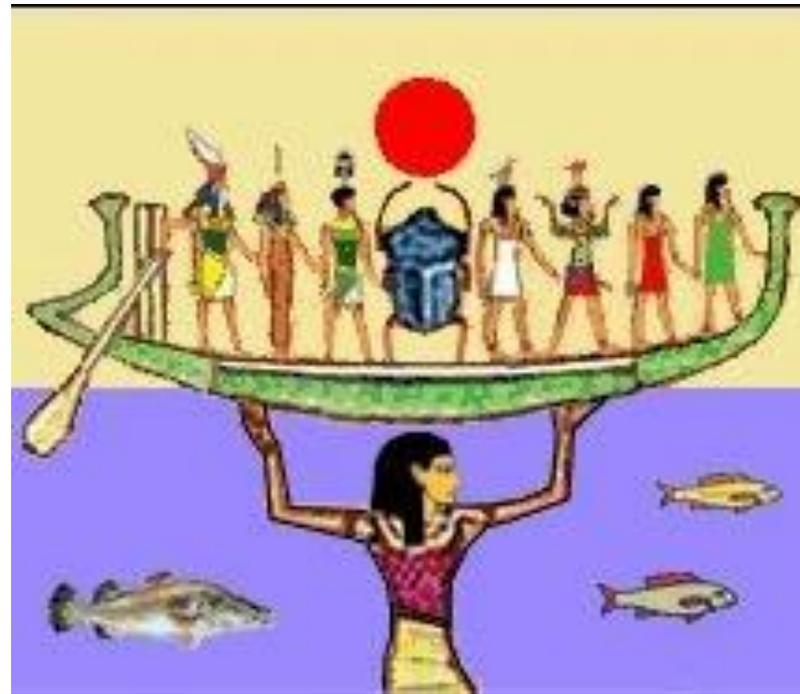
Buried at thresholds or other places vulnerable to the infiltration of magic, they acted as mystical guard dogs, keeping out disease or other misfortunes.

They often had names carved on them, such as "Loud of bark" or "Catcher of the enemy," to give them added potency.



MAGIC IN ANCIENT EGYPT





EGYPTIAN MAGIC

Heka (magic) was already at the heart of Egyptian beliefs by 4,000 BCE.

Creator deities such as Nu (the watery abyss) were said to have used **Heka** to bring the world into existence from primordial chaos.

In doing so, they subdued the forces of chaos, but the forces constantly sought to return and could only be stopped by **Heka**.



GOD OF MAGIC HEKA

The personification of heka (magic), is shown with Pharaoh Thutmose III, who ruled in the 15th century BCE, and the ram-headed Nile god Khnum in this relief from the great hall of Khnum's temple at Esna.



PRESERVING COSMIC HARMONY

The ancient Egyptians also believed in another form of magic power called **Akhu**, which was malign and closely associated with beings of the underworld.

To protect against **Akhu** magical practitioners such as priests, scribes in the “Houses of Life”—which held the manuscript collections of Egyptian temples—*sunu* (doctors), and *sau* (amulet-makers) employed **Heka** spells, rituals, and magical objects.

**HEKA, THE EGYPTIAN
GOD OF MAGIC !**





WAND OF POWER

Curved wands of hippopotamus ivory carved with protective symbols were believed to protect children and pregnant women.

This one has an inscription on the front reading "protection of day" and "protection of night."



HIPPOPOTAMUS GODDESS TAWERET

The figure is shown on this steatite jar, was believed to aid women during childbirth.

The jar may have held a small papyrus with a magic spell to protect the mother and child.

Kemet (Ancient Egyptian) Gods & Goddesses



ANUBIS



ATUM



BASTET



HORUS



TEFNUT



KHNUM



KHONSU



HATHOR



MERETSEGER



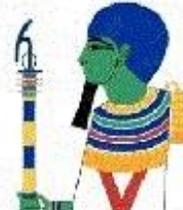
OSIRIS



ISIS



ANUKET



PTAH



THOTH



MUT



KHEPRI



SESHAT



SET

THE GODS AND GODDESSES OF ANCIENT EGYPT

“The numerous gods of Egypt were the focal points of the nation's cultic rites and personal religious practices.

They also played a part in the great mortuary rituals and in the Egyptian belief in posthumous eternal bliss.”

By Historian Margaret Bunson

The **1,500** different gods evolved from an animistic belief system to one which was highly anthropomorphic (human-like) and imbued with magic.

HUMAN AND SEMI-HUMAN FORMS OF SOME OF THE CHIEF EGYPTIAN DEITIES:

- 1) **Horus**, son of Osiris, a sky god closely connected with the king.
- 2) **Set**, enemy of Horus and Osiris, god of storms and disorder.
- 3) **Thoth**, a moon deity and god of writing, counting and wisdom.
- 4) **Khnum**, a ram god who shapes men and their ka's on his potter's wheel.
- 5) **Hathor**, goddess of love birth and death.
- 6) **Sobek**, the crocodile god, Lord of the Faiyum.

(The Faiyum Oasis was a region of ancient Egypt known **for its fertility and the abundance of plant and animal life.**)



7) **Ra**, the sun god in his many forms.

8) **Amon**, a creator god often linked with Ra.

9) **Ptah**, another creator god and the patron of craftsmen.

10) **Anubis**, god of mummification.

11) **Osiris**, god of agriculture and ruler of the dead.

12) **Isis**, wife of Osiris, mother of Horus and Mistress of Magic.



GODDESS MAAT AND GOD HORUS

The central value of the Egyptian **culture** was **ma'at** - harmony and balance.

It was represented by the goddess of the same name and her white ostrich feather.

To the ancient Egyptians, the king was a godlike being, closely identified with the all-powerful god **Horus**.



SPELLS FOR THE AFTERLIFE

In ancient Egyptian belief, the **Ba** (the element of the soul that contained the personality of the deceased) faced a series of trials on its journey to the underworld.

Failing these trials would mean a second death—obliterating earthly memory of the deceased, who would wander as a ghost forever.

To avoid this second death, the Egyptians covered the walls of their tombs with **The Book of the Dead**, texts containing spells for the soul's protection.



THOTH - HOLDER OF MAGIC SECRETS

Thoth, the god of wisdom and writing, was strongly associated with magic.

Depicted with the head of a baboon or an ibis (as here), he was said to have invented the hieroglyphic script, which he used to write 42 secret books of wisdom that were kept in temples.



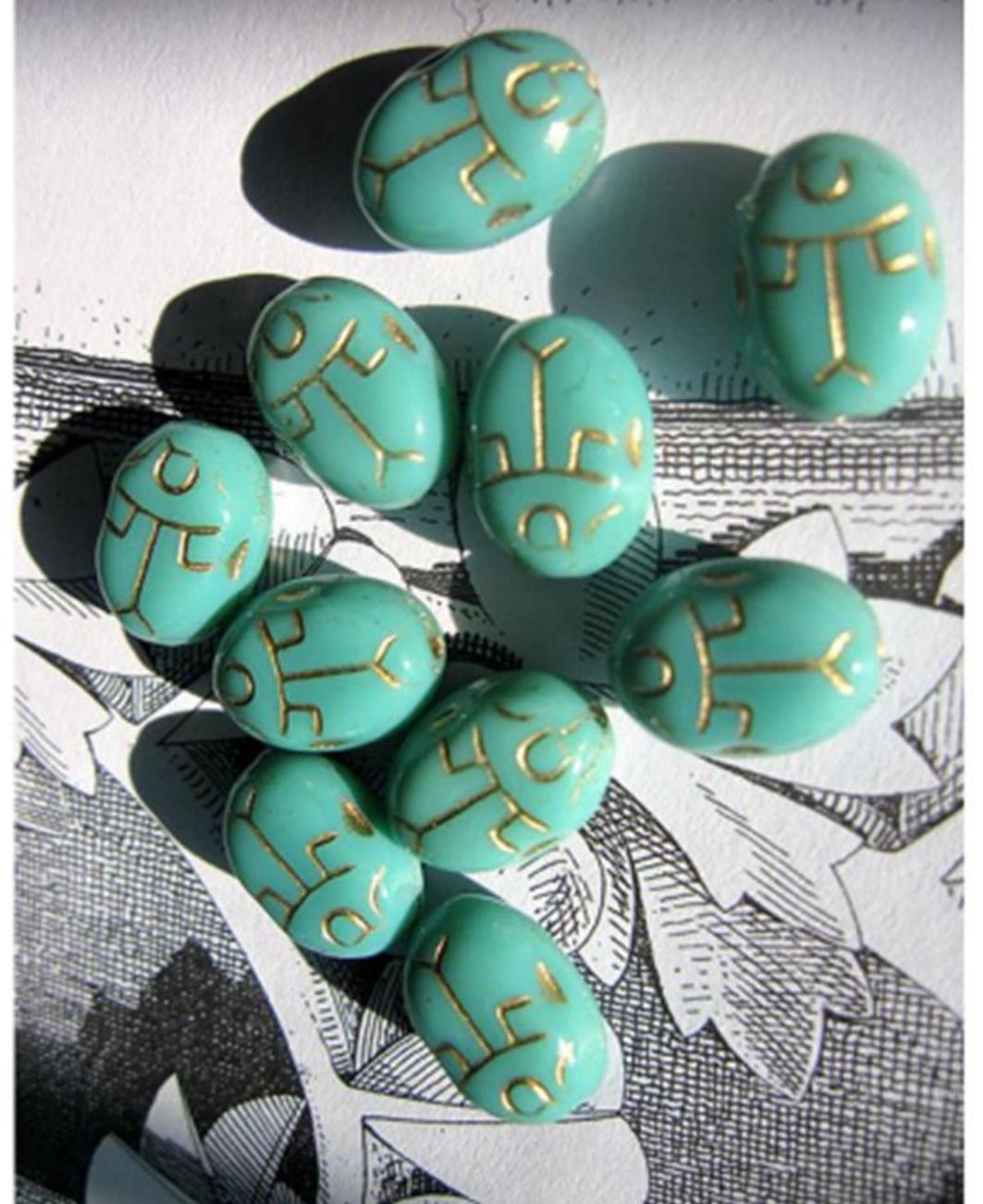


EGYPTIAN EYE OF HORUS AMULETS, PTOLEMAIC, 323-30 BC

The Eye of Horus or wedjat-eye is an ancient Egyptian symbol of protection, royal power and good health.

The eye is personified in the goddess Wadjet. It is also known as "The Eye of Ra."

They were worn for everyday wear or tucked among mummy wrappings, as they were believed to be an effective source of protection and a symbol of strength and perfection.

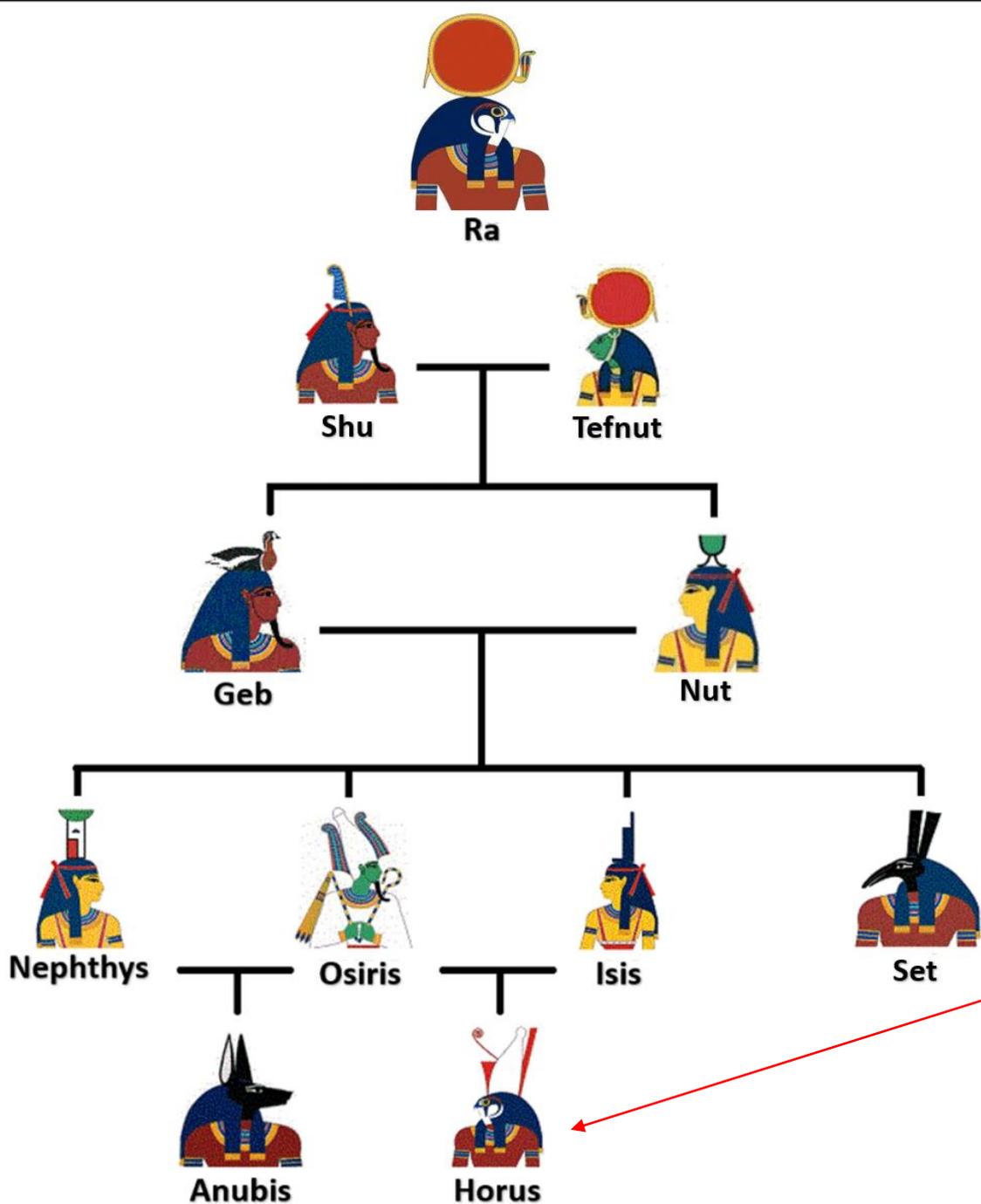


TURQUOISE SCARABS

EGYPTIAN PROTECTIVE JEWELRY AND AMULETS



1336-1327 348 PHARAOSHS OF EGYPT - Ceremonial Jewelry from the Tomb of TUTANKHAMUN, Egyptian Museum Cairo, photo Hans Ollermann 2015.



THE EYE OF HORUS

It is also called the Wedjat eye or Udjat eye and is a concept and symbol in the ancient Egyptian religion that **represents well-being, healing, and protection.**

It derives from the mythical conflict between the god **Set** with his rival **Horus.**

The Eye of Horus symbol, a stylized eye with distinctive markings, was **believed to have protective magical power and appeared frequently in ancient Egyptian art.**

It was one of the most common motifs for amulets, remaining in use from the Old Kingdom (2686–2181 BCE), to the Roman period (30 BCE – 641 CE).

Today, many people use this symbol in their jewelry to protect themselves, against the ill will of those around them.



The eye of Horus, a magical and divine relic that allows to its owner to see beyond the visible, such as into the future.





Wedjat eyes on the sarcophagus of Irinimenpu, 20th to the 17th century BCE.

They were marked there, so the deceased spirit, could look out.



Amulet from the tomb of Tutankhamun, 14th century BCE, incorporating the Eye of Horus beneath a disk and crescent symbol representing the moon.



A hanging Hamsa in Tunisia.



THE HAMSA

The hamsa is a palm-shaped amulet popular throughout North Africa and in the Middle East, commonly used in jewelry and wall hangings.

Depicting the open right hand, the image is recognized and used as a sign of protection many times throughout history.

Traditionally, it is believed to provide defense against the evil eye.



ANCIENT HEBREW MAGIC



ANCIENT HEBREW MAGIC

There are many references to the supernatural in the Torah (sometimes called the Tanakh or the Old Testament)

Although priests of the Jewish religion sanction most of these allusions, nods to earlier beliefs and ritual practices are also included, which are regarded as forbidden magic in Judaism.

HEAVEN-SENT INSIGHT

In this illustration, the prophet Ezekiel is flanked by an angel and shown in Heaven.





A BELIEF IN MIRACLES

A passage describes how the **Prophet Elijah's** prayers were answered and rain fell to end a prolonged drought that had blighted the land of Israel.

The biblical patriarchs themselves performed miracles, acting as instruments of God's power.



During the captivity of Israelites in Egypt, **Moses' brother Aaron engaged in a duel with the pharaoh's magicians**, who transformed their staffs into serpents.

Aaron then changed his own rod into a larger snake, that devoured them all.

JUDAISM AND THE PRACTICE OF MAGIC

Prophecy was an authorized way of revealing the future.

References to telling the future are plentiful in the Old Testament:

- The consultation of seers to interpret dreams such as Joseph's about lean cattle, which predicted famine in Egypt
- The shaking of arrows in a sacred quiver
- Official divination, probably by casting lots.

All of these divinatory activities were said to channel God's will, rather than invoke magic to enforce action upon him.



This Italian fresco shows the **prophet Elijah** being taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire, propelled skyward by a whirlwind.

As he departed the earth, **Elijah** dropped his cloak onto **Elisha**—a sign that he had chosen him to be his prophet successor.

ANCIENT PERSIAN MAGIC





This golden earring depicts Ahura Mazda, the supreme god of the Zoroastrian pantheon, surrounded by animals.



ANCIENT PERSIAN MAGIC

In Persia, from around the 6th century BCE, Zoroastrianism developed under the Achaemenid empire.

Its prophet Zoroaster (also known as Zarathustra) urged his followers to worship the supreme God Ahura Mazda.

- The **Magi** were hereditary priests and specialists in Zoroastrian ritual who performed public and private ceremonies.
- Duties of the **Magi** included rituals which ensured the ruler's well-being.
- Tending to the sacred flame—the symbol of **Spenta Mainyu**—which burned in fire temples throughout the empire.



READY FOR RITUAL

Embossed on a sheet of gold, a Magus bears in one hand a **cup of Haoma**, a mild intoxicant used in Zoroastrian rites.

In the other hand he holds a **barsom**, the ritual bundle of twigs that represented the bounty of the vegetable kingdom.



TENDING THE FIRE ALTAR

This Magus recites a ritual while standing before a fire altar.

Making sure that the flame did not go out, was his most sacred duty.

MAGI – THE ZOROASTRIAN MAGICIANS

The Magi or Magus were ancient Zoroastrian priests belonging to a tribe in North-western Iran known as the Medes.

The ancient Magi were well versed in matters of astronomy and astrology.

They were also healers who healed both, with the chanting of prayers, and mixing of various plants and herbs.

Thus, their powers were associated in the ancient world with magic.





Zoroaster, also called Zarathustra, was an ancient Persian prophet who founded the first world religion – Zoroastrianism.



This is a symbolic image of Zarathustra



The image is also used in front of Zoroastrian Temples

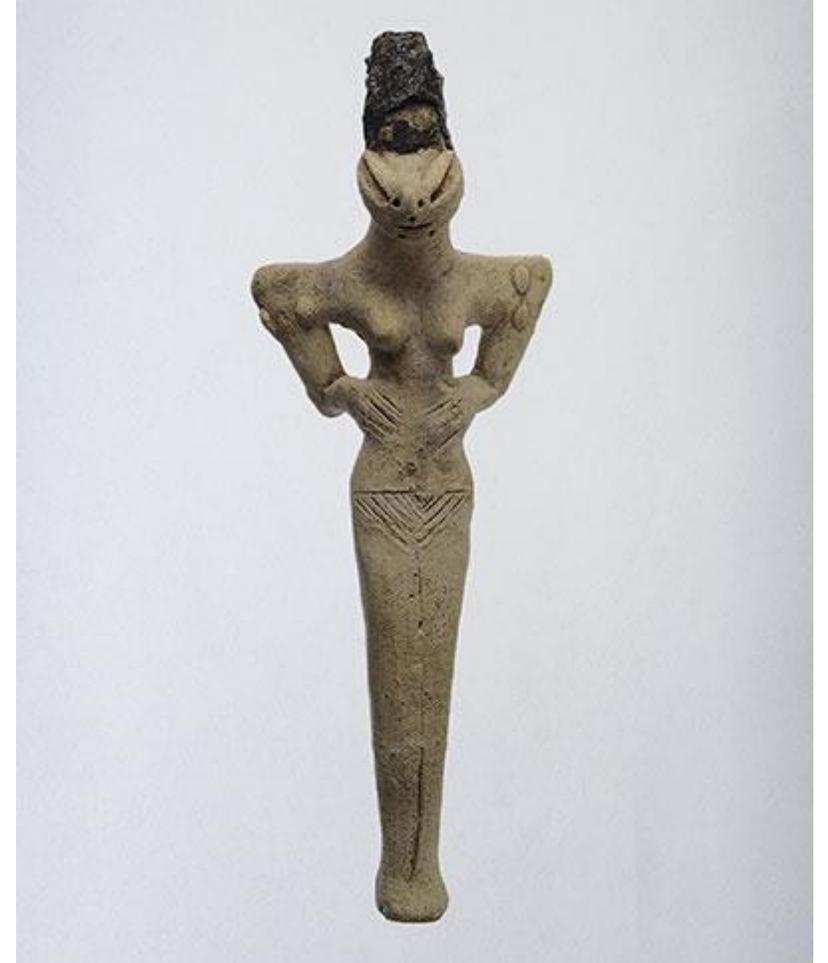


From the Royal Ur Cemetery

A goat rampant in a tree. Ancient Ur (now Iraq, from about 2450 BCE).



A Gold covered ostrich egg, from the Royal Cemetery in Ur



"lizard-headed" figurine from 4500 BCE, burial at Ur.

FREDDIE MERCURY – AKA FARROKH BULSARA

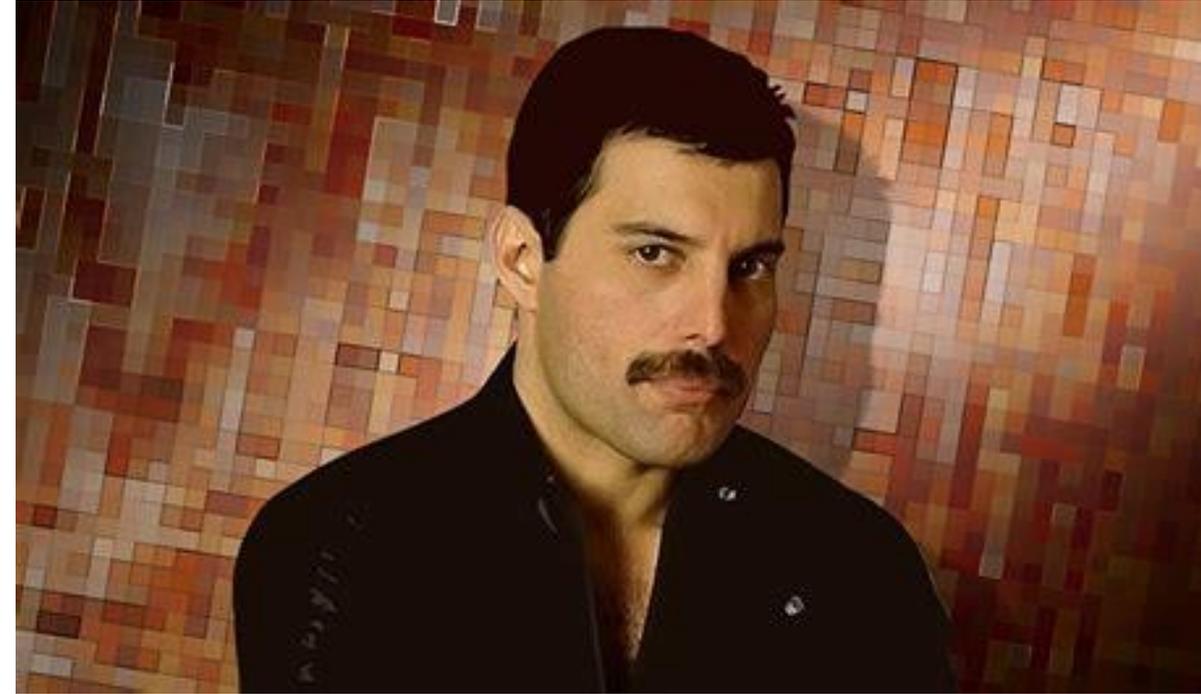
It might come as a surprise to some that Freddie Mercury – the main vocalist with the Rock group Queen, was born Farrokh Bulsara.

He came from a Parsi family that had roots in India and he was a Zoroastrian by faith.

Like his ancestors, Freddie Mercury integrated into a new culture. He changed his name and became a Western pop icon.

Yet through it all, he remained immensely proud of his heritage.

“I think what his Zoroastrian faith gave him,” his sister Kashmira Cooke explained in 2014, “was to work hard, to persevere, and to follow your dreams.”



ANCIENT GREEK MAGIC



ANCIENT GREEK MAGIC

From Homer's Iliad in the Bronze Age to the wider Hellenistic world of the early centuries CE, spell books, amulets, literary accounts, and inscriptions bear witness to the pervasiveness of mageia (magic).

As with many old belief systems, formal religion and magic were interlinked.

Divine influence suffused the whole world, and those empowered to communicate with the Gods included priests, philosophers, physicians, and poets.



CIRCE OFFERING THE CUP TO ODYSSEUS'

by John William Waterhouse, 1891, via Wikipedia

GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Circe, the sorceress daughter of Helios who was expert in magical herbs and potions and who helped Odysseus summon the ghosts from Hades.

Greek amulet asking Apollo for help





SACRIFICIAL SHEEP

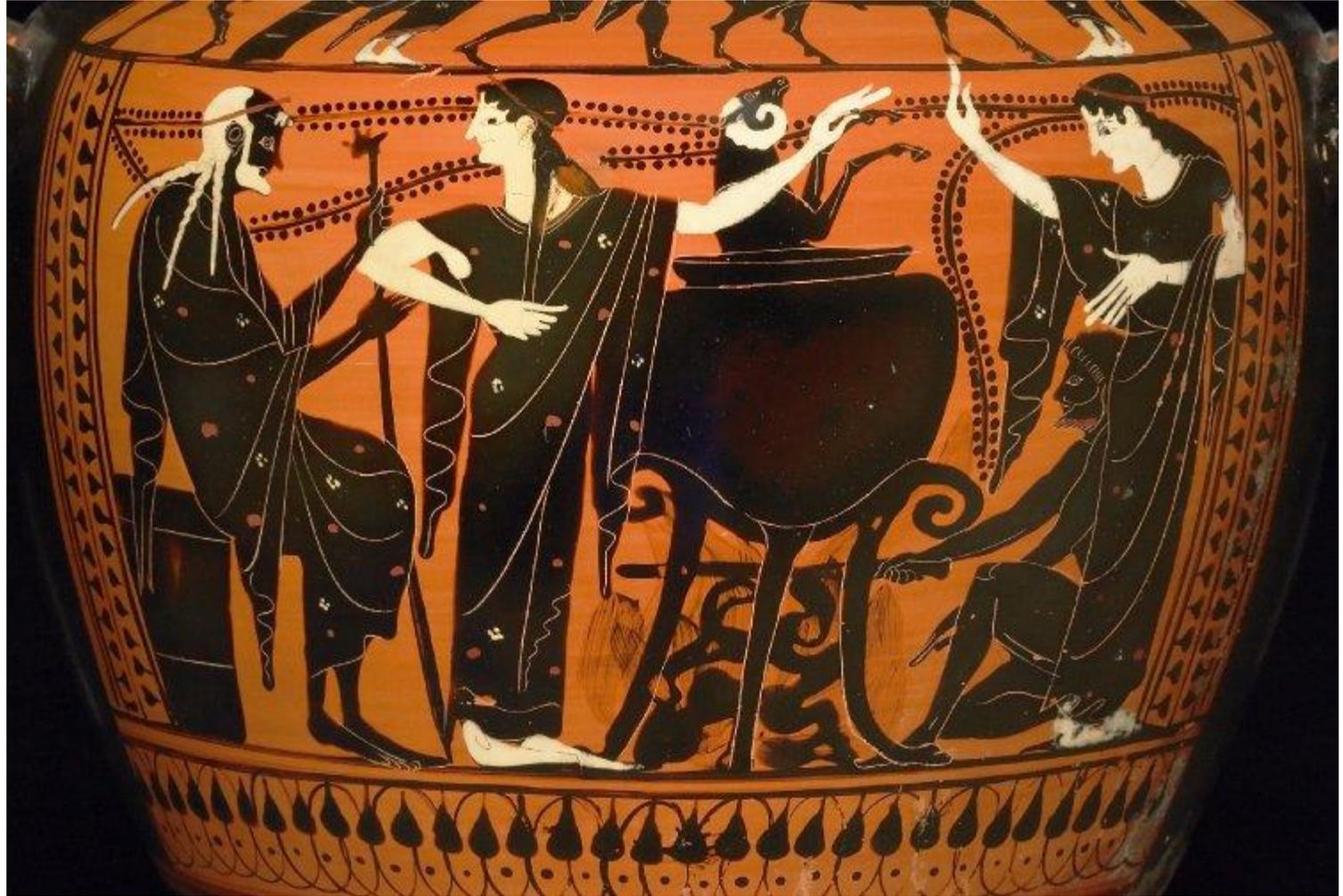
Animal sacrifice was a common way of appeasing the gods.

This 6th-century BCE votive panel from Pitsa in Greece, depicts celebrants offering a sheep to the nymphs to whom the area was sacred.

Formal religion in ancient Greece was a public affair of sacrifice and prayer, festivals and temples.

Magic was a more hidden and transgressive form of appeal to the gods, often used for personal gain or to affect others.

Although temple priests could perform ritual magic, personal requests were more often carried out by itinerant magicians and soothsayers, and others on the margins of society,



GREEK MAGICAL PAPYRI

This collection of texts was written in Egypt between the 1st century BCE and 4th century CE, and contains spells for love, divination, and healing.





TOOLS OF MAGIC

Certain stones were believed to possess magical powers, such as **hematite (bloodstone)**, thought to protect unborn babies, and **light- green jasper**, used to cure stomach infections.

These were set into amulets of wood, bone, or stone that the supplicant could wear.



Sailors about to embark on a hazardous voyage might have made use of a protective pendant depicting Poseidon (god of the sea), trident in hand and foot on a dolphin

"MAGIC" GEM STONES

							
SODALITE Communication Self-Expression Truth	CLEAR QUARTZ Awareness Amplifying Energy Clarity	ROSE QUARTZ Unconditional Love Emotional Healing Compassion	AVENTURINE Prosperity Well-Being Good Luck	HOWLITE Calming Compromise Sleep	BLUE GOLDSTONE Inspiration Optimism Dreaming	RHODONITE Forgiveness Relationships Overcoming	FLUORITE Renewal Harmony Energizing
							
RED JASPER Strength Honesty Stability	SNOWFLAKE OBSIDIAN Spiritual Protection Transmutation Acceptance	CITRINE Brightness Positive Energy Clearing	AMETHYST Intuition Balance Higher Wisdom	PYRITE Shielding Success Money Magick	SUNSTONE Leadership Generosity Blessings	BLUE AVENTURINE Hope Clear Speech Empathy	SELENITE Purification Peace Enlightenment
							
AMAZONITE Confidence Self-Love Creative Expression	TIGER'S EYE Willpower Warrior's Spirit Self-Motivation	BLACK TOURMALINE Protection Banishing Security	CARNELIAN Passion Sexual Energy Creativity	PREHNITE Psychic Awareness Self-Care Discernment	MOSS AGATE Contentment Connection with Nature Abundance	RED GOLDSTONE Happiness Ingenuity Boldness	GARNET Self-Esteem Victory Eternal Love
							
HEMATITE Courage Inner Strength Grounding	MALACHITE Wealth Beauty Individuality	DALMATIAN STONE Loyalty Family Bonds Connection with Animals	ANGELITE Divine Love Gentleness Healing	MOONSTONE Intuition Sensuality Safe Travel	LEOPARDSKIN JASPER Adaptability Shamanic Journeys Animal Magick	APATITE Energetic Clearing Psychic Attunement Authenticity	BLUE CALCITE Serenity Restoration Releasing Stress
							
LEPIDOLITE Emotional Balance Stress Relief Spiritual Growth	LAPIS LAZULI Psychic Vision Celestial Energy Nobility	SERPENTINE Hidden Mysteries Observation Instinct	BLACK ONYX Blocking Negativity Patience Determination	RUBY FUCHSITE Integration Friendship Trust	MAHOGANY OBSIDIAN Earth Energy Personal Power Integrity	LABRADORITE Awakening Joy Interdimensional Travel Innovation	UNAKITE Attraction Resolving Conflict Healing the Past

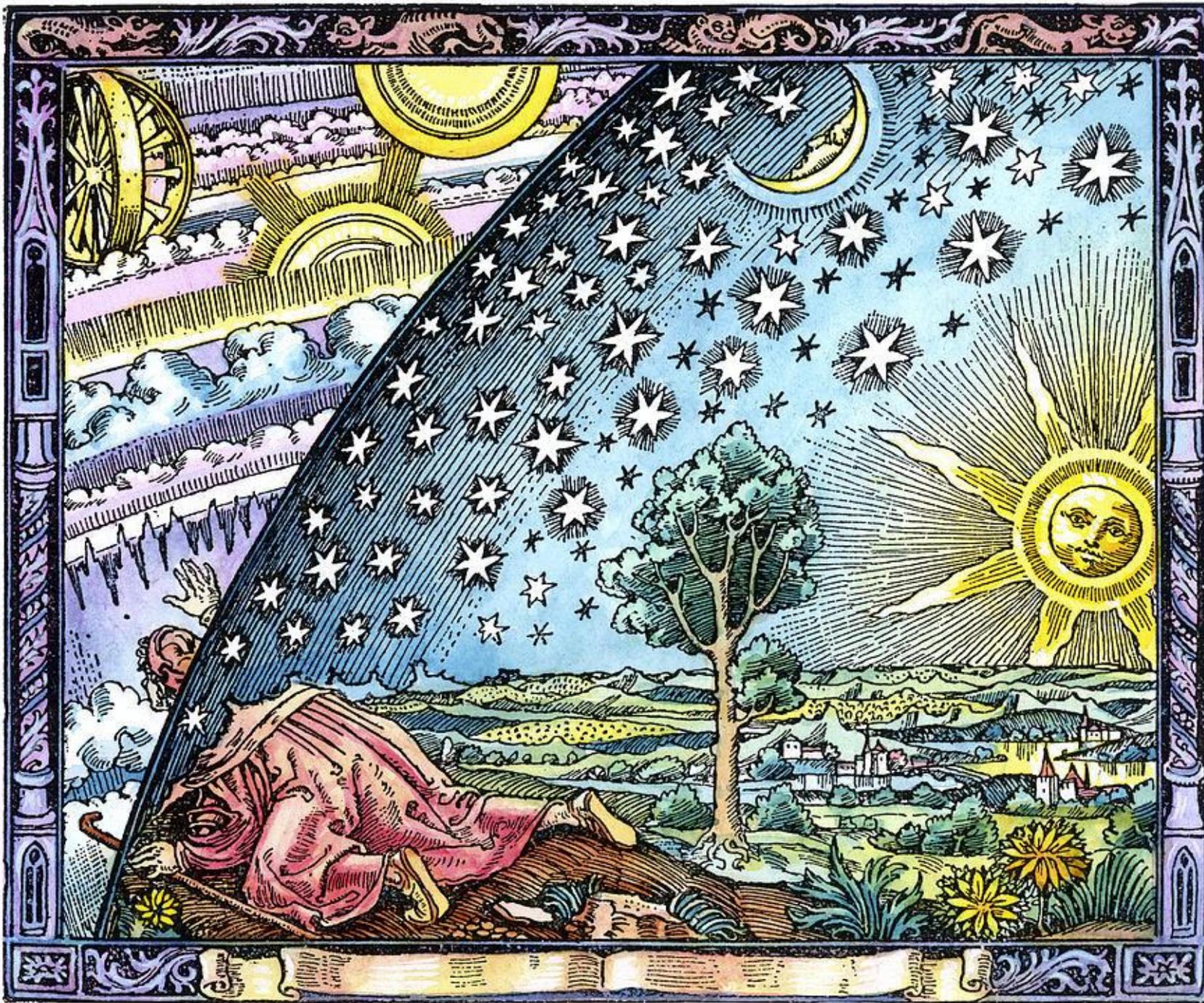
Originally an oral tradition, magic entered the written Greek record in the 6th century BCE.

This was when ideas of magic were filtering westward from the Persian empire (and magicians were sometimes called "Chaldeans," from a Persian province bordering Babylonia).

A large number of **spells** survive from the 4th century BCE, and there was another upsurge in the 1st century BCE, typified by the Greek Magical Papyri found in Egypt.

These cover many topics, including spells for healing, evading evil, and others.





CELESTIAL MECHANICS

A medieval pilgrim looking out from the sky (blue) to see the mechanics of the heavens (upper left). Cogs (yellow) can be seen in the left corner, with tracks that the Sun, moon and stars move along.

This is an example of the classical geocentric (Ptolemaic) worldview that dates back to Ancient Greek times.



DELPHIC ORACLE

In this fresco from a vase fragment, the god Apollo speaks to the priestess, the Pythia, at Delphi.

DIVINATION IN ANCIENT GREECE

The ancient Greeks constantly sought to understand the will of the gods by reading signs in natural events, animals, or objects, or by attempting to communicate directly with them.

In a world where it seemed all too easy to anger the gods and for terrible punishments to befall mortals who did, Greeks were anxious to divine the intentions of the gods and learn how to win their favor.

DIVINERS AND ORACLES

The practice of divination was first recorded in the **Iliad**, a poem about the Trojan War.

In it, the hero Achilles suggests consulting a “reader of dreams” to learn why the god Apollo was angry with the Greeks.

Closer contact with the gods could be obtained by interpreting the dreams of someone sleeping.



INTERPRETING DREAMS

Like almost all other cultures, some Romans firmly believed in the idea that dreams could forecast the future.

In the second century AD, Artemidorus of Daldis wrote a work named **The Interpretation of Dreams, compiled in five books.**

Some of the ways in which he interpreted the meaning of dreams are both specific and strange.





The most direct approach to the gods was through oracles (godly advice, usually via a priestess).

At shrines throughout the Greek world, priestesses delivered answers to a petitioner's questions, often while in a divine frenzy (the mania that gave Greek divination its name, mantike).



The most famous shrine was at Delphi, where the Pythia, priestess of Apollo, gave advice while in an ecstasy inspired by fumes from an underground cave.

GREEK MYTHOLOGY

It is the set of myths about the gods, goddesses, heroes and rituals of Ancient Greece.

It was part of the religion in Ancient Greece.

These stories concern the origin and nature of the world, the lives and activities of deities, heroes, and mythological creatures, and the origins and significance of the ancient Greeks' own cult and ritual practices

The most popular Greek Mythology figures include Greek Gods like Zeus, Poseidon & Apollo, Greek Goddesses like Aphrodite, Hera & Athena and Titans like Atlas.



SCENES FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY DEPICTED IN ANCIENT ART.

Left-to-right, top-to-bottom:

- The birth of Aphrodite
- A revel with Dionysus and Silenus
- Adonis playing the kithara for Aphrodite
- Heracles slaying the Lernaean Hydra
- The Colchian dragon regurgitating Jason in the presence of Athena
- Hermes with his mother Maia
- The Trojan Horse
- Odysseus's ship sailing past the island of the sirens



ANCIENT ROMAN MAGIC



MS 1700
Greek capitals, Greece, 5th c. BC

ANCIENT SPELLCASTING



**ROMAN MAGIC INTAGLIO OF A HECATAION
1ST - 3RD CENTURY AD**

The carving is of an apotropaic, magical subject (as is common on stone amulets from this period): the Hecataion, a statue of Hecate, composed of three figures: the first, facing forward, is the only one that is completely visible.



ETRUSCAN GOLD BULLAE, DEPICTING ICARUS

Bullae were pendants worn by boys to ward off evil spirits and simultaneously proclaim their status as freeborn children.

The Romans adopted the practice of wearing bullae from the Etruscans. Both cultures saw children as especially vulnerable and in need of protection.

As well as having their own magical beliefs, the Romans inherited from the ancient Greeks a sense that magic was a means to gain agency over the gods.

Yet under Roman rule, the division between official religion and magic hardened, and there was outright persecution for practitioners of magic.

A lot of Roman magic was inherited from the people who lived in ancient Italy before them.



Engraving of Hermes or Mercurius Trismegistus.



A STATUE OF ARTEMIS OF EPHEBUS

The Ephesia Grammata were a special type of amulet used by the Greeks and Romans.

They originated as a mysterious set of letters, with no grammatical meaning, allegedly engraved on the cult statue of Artemis of Ephesus.

People wore objects engraved with the letters to protect themselves from evil spirits as well as plagues.

Some athletes also had the letters stitched into their clothing or leather sandals to improve their chances of victory.



RARE ROMAN HERMANUBIS MAGIC AMULET, 2ND-3RD CENTURY AD

This is a carved hematite gemstone depicting Hermanubis in a tunic with the head of a jackal, like the Egyptian god Anubis.

He holds a caduceus and wears winged shoes like the Greek god Hermes.

In his other hand he holds a situla (bucket).

He is surrounded by letters with a star above.



Hundreds of techniques to foretell the future are recorded in ancient Roman documents.

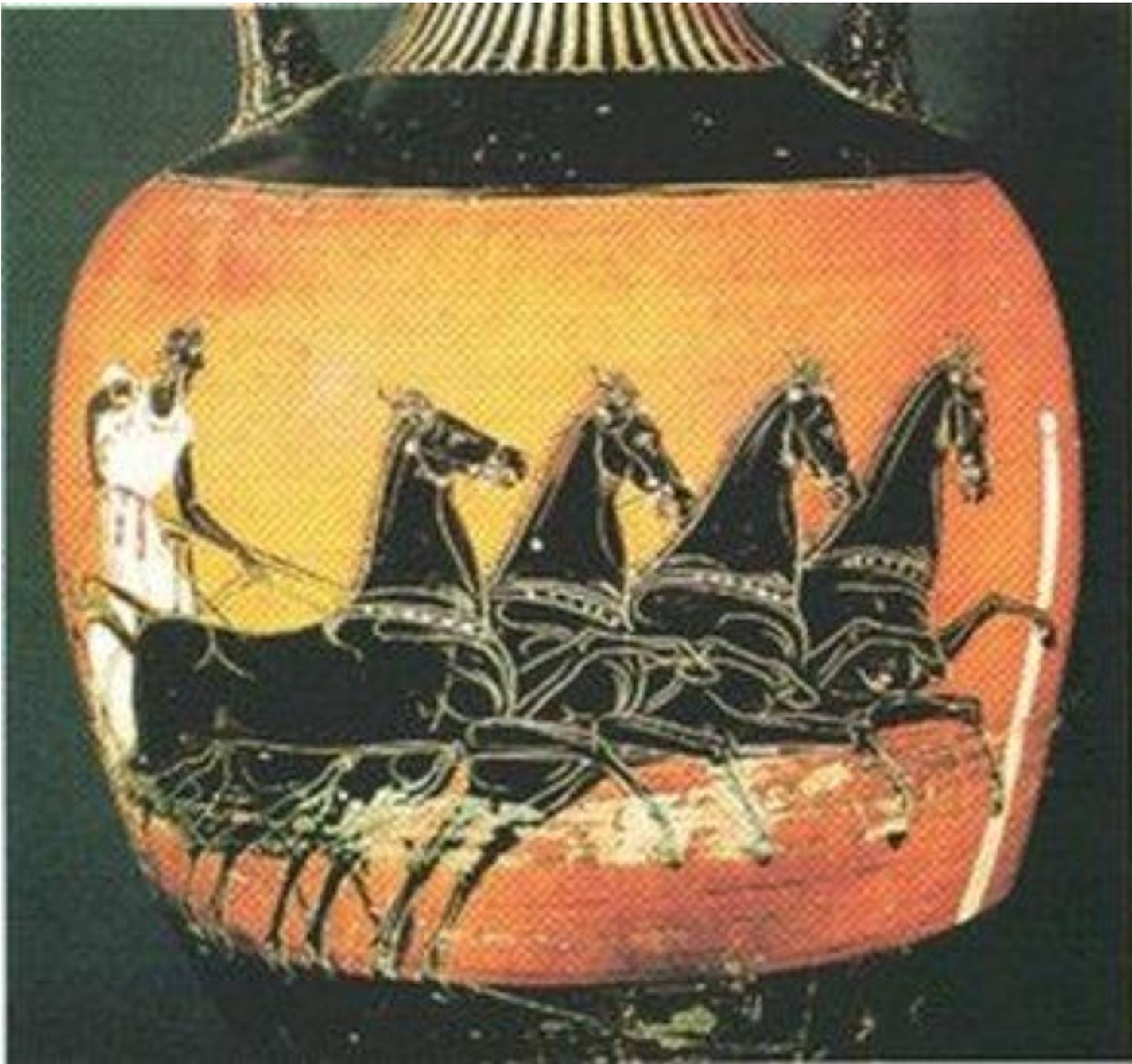
We know, for example, that sacrificing animals and trying to read the future by interpreting their entrails was practiced not only in ancient Rome, but also in many other cultures

MAGIC FOR BETTING ON A WINNER, AT CHARIOT RACING

Everyone from the emperor down to the lowest slave, loved chariot racing.

Gambling was widespread at these races, with many Romans prepared to bet everything they owned, in the hopes of a big win.

Roman gamblers used magic to improve their chances by consulting with persons who did this, who set up a tent at each of the races.



COIN OF AUGUSTUS

Although Emperor Augustus expelled astrologers from Rome, he still put Capricorn (the ruling sign of his own horoscope) on coins as a symbol of his renewal of the Roman state

(just as Capricorn marks the return of the sun following the winter solstice).





Michelangelo's painting of the Erythraean Sibyl



THE SIBYLLINE BOOKS

At times of crisis, Roman emperors consulted the Sibylline Books, a collection of predictions said to have been acquired in around 520 BCE from the Sibyl, a prophetess who lived in a cave at Cumae, near Naples.

The Books were well respected and well guarded, for a very long time.

They were kept in the temple of Capitoline Jupiter.

The Mythology of Greece continued on, into Roman times, even though there was 1,000 years between the 2 civilisations !!

THE PANTHEON OF OLYMPUS

Greek Name	Roman Name	Divine Realm
Aphrodite	Venus	Love, beauty, fertility
Apollo	Apollo	Archery, music, prophecy, healing, light
Ares	Mars	War
Artemis	Diana	Hunting, the moon
Athena	Minerva	Wisdom, war
Demeter	Ceres	The harvest, grain, corn
Dionysus	Bacchus	Wine, festivity
Eros	Cupid	Love, sexual desire
Hades	Pluto	The underworld, the dead
Hephaestus	Vulcan	Fire, the forge, smithery
Hera	Juno	Marriage, queen of immortals
Hermes	Mercury	Messenger, commerce, science, doctors
Hestia	Vesta	The hearth
Pan	Pan	Wild beasts, the forest
Persephone	Proserpine	Queen of the underworld
Poseidon	Neptune	The sea
Zeus	Jupiter	Thunder, the heavens, king of immortals

ASTROLOGY AND STUDYING THE STARS

Trying to predict events based on the position of the celestial bodies was also widely practiced in the Roman world.

Some Roman emperors, including Tiberius, Domitian, and Hadrian, believed in divination and astrology and even had some degree of training in these arts.

Some people believed in Astrology but others did not.



POPULAR MAGIC AND ASTROLOGY

Magic merged with philosophy and mystery cults as an interest in special belief systems grew among well-heeled Romans.

On the teeming streets of Rome, which had about 1 million inhabitants under the early empire in the 1st century CE, other forms of magic also thrived.





For every aristocratic scholar of the occult there were hundreds of **female soothsayers** who sold love potions and performed simple healing rituals as well as persons trained as astrologers.

Astrology straddled the divide between popular and aristocratic magic.

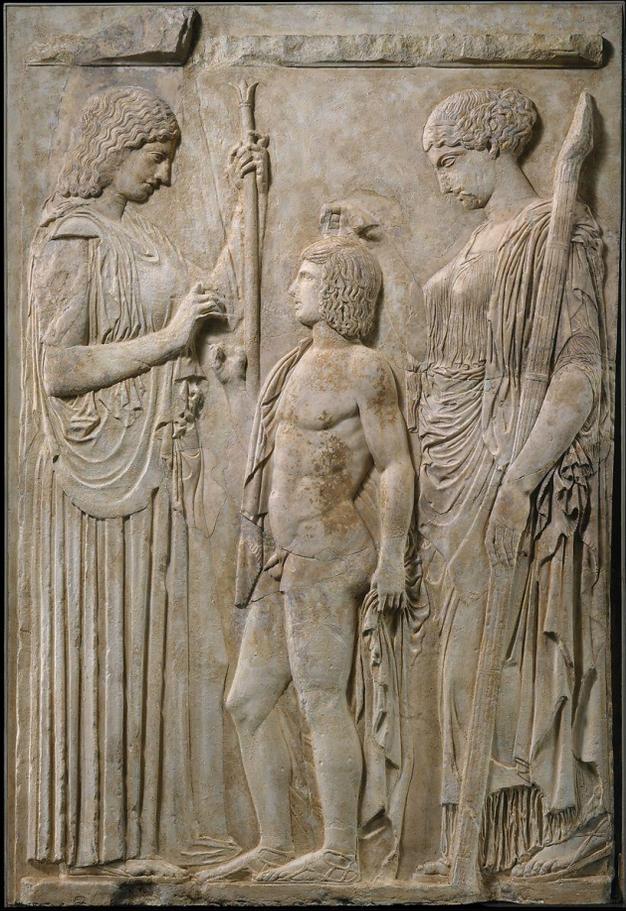
A special book on Egyptian astrology was written, which was at the root of many Roman practices.

Even the eminent astronomer Claudius Ptolemy pointed out that just as the tides were affected by the moon, so the motion of the planets would influence the behavior of people.

 <p>The Nile Jan 1-7 & Jun 19-28 Sep 1-7 & Nov 18-26</p>	 <p>Amon-Ra Jan 8-21 & Feb 1-11</p>	 <p>Mut Jan 22-31 & Sep 8-22</p>	 <p>Geb Feb 12-29 & Aug 20-31</p>
 <p>Sekhmet Jul 29-Aug 11 & Oct 30-Nov 7</p>	<h1>EGYPTIAN ASTROLOGY</h1>  <p>pharaohs-closet.com</p>		 <p>Osiris Mar 1-10 & Nov 27-Dec 18</p>
 <p>Bastet Jul 14-28 & Sep 23-27 & Oct 3-17</p>			 <p>Isis Mar 11-31 & Oct 18-29 & Dec 19-31</p>
 <p>Seth May 28- Jun 18 & Sep 28-Oct 2</p>	 <p>Anubis May 8-27 & Jun 29-Jul 13</p>	 <p>Horus Apr 20-May 7 & Aug 12-19</p>	 <p>Thoth Apr 1-19 & Nov 8-17</p>

MYSTERY CULTS





Commoners of the ancient Roman world were denied participation in the public temple rituals, so many turned to mystery cults—unofficial religions that would accept them.

Mystery cults offered a direct relationship with the gods, the hope of a better afterlife, and social bonds.



Mystery cults thrived in part because the Romans were unusually open to foreign religions.

Their main quality was secrecy, both around initiation into the cult, which acted as a mystical rebirth, and its rituals.

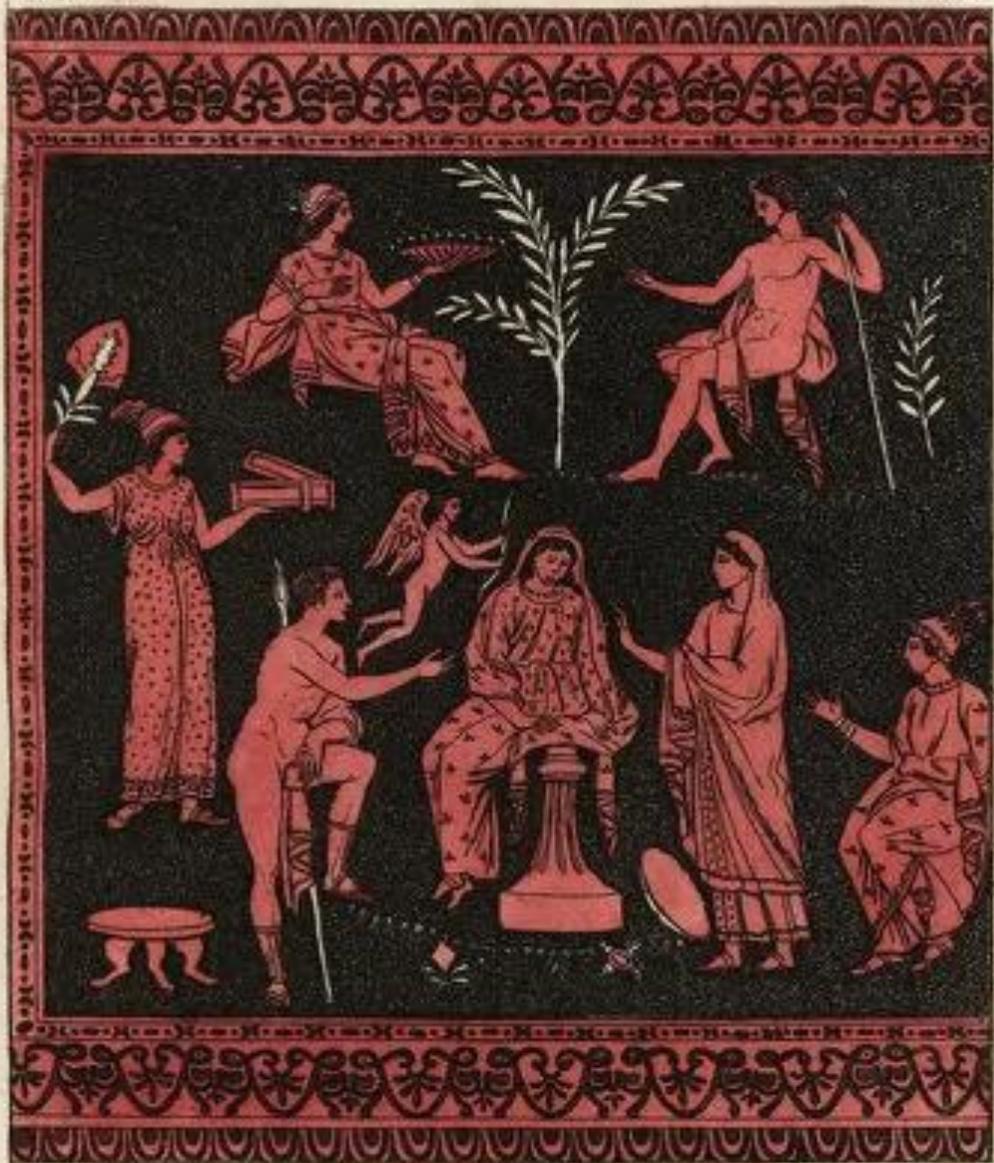
THE ELUSINIAN MYSTERIES

It was the most desired cult which honored Demeter, the goddess of harvest, fertility, and cycles of life and death.

The Mysteries centered on the town of Eleusis, near Athens.

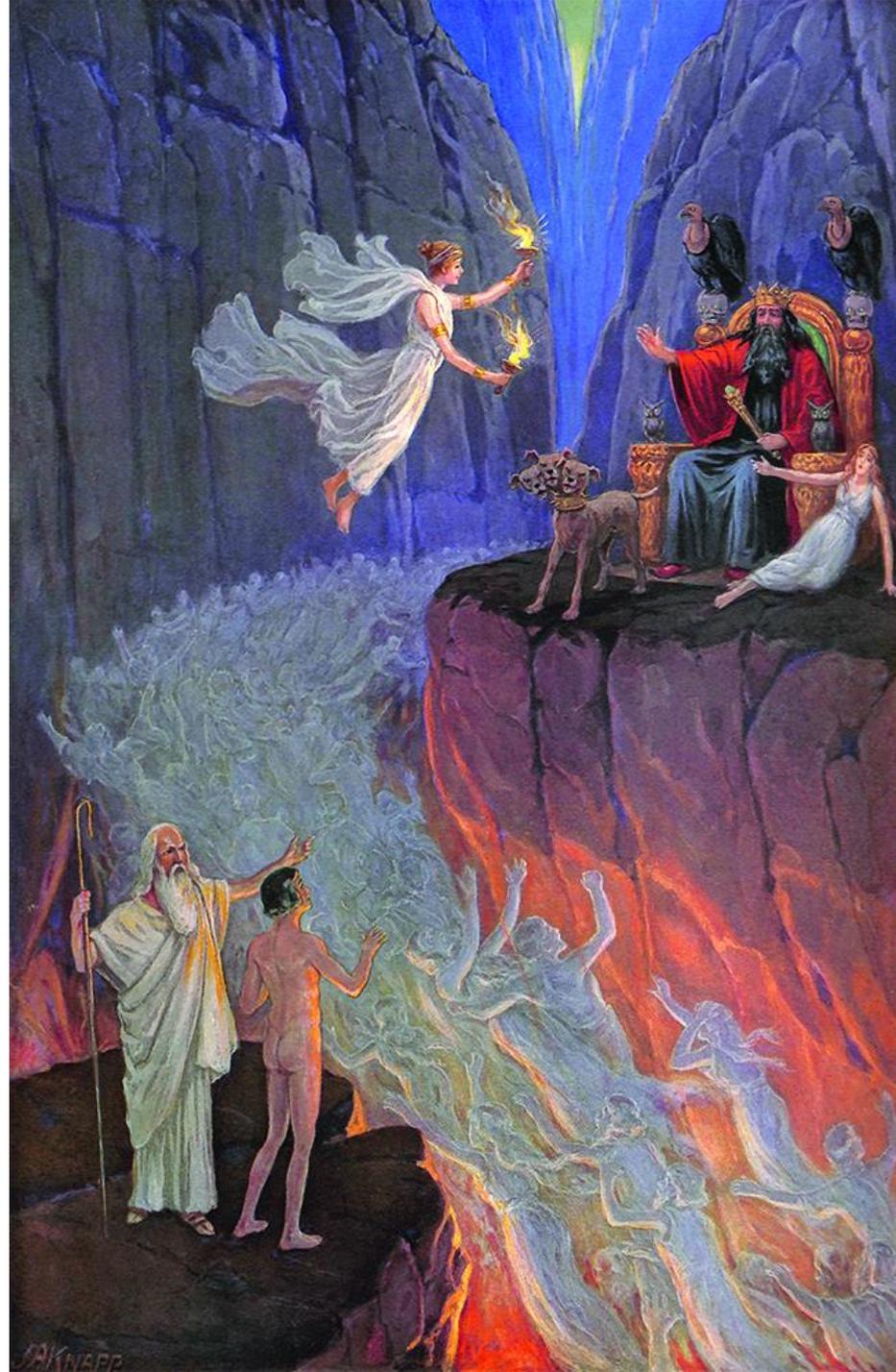
Their main ceremony was the annual eight-day festival during which would-be initiates engaged in a simulated descent into Hades (the underworld) through a dark wood, from which they were rescued by priests with torches.





Haragall del.

Cerimonie Eleusine



AKNAPP



THE GODDESS CYBELE

She is also called Magna Mater (great mother) and is shown on this votive plaque.



She holds a cymbal and has two lions with her, symbols of her links to the wildness of nature and the noisy frenzy of her worship.



CYBELE



THE ITALIAN CULT OF DIONYSUS, THE GREEK GOD OF WINE.

While drinking wine, they did teletai, rituals involving ecstatic dancing and singing, while carrying thyrsos, fennel wands wrapped in ivy and topped with pinecones.

The cult's activities particularly concerned the Roman authorities, who in 186 BCE tried to ban it.

Similar worries were expressed about the Cult of Magna Mater, for the Goddess Cybele.



PERCUSSION AND SACRIFICE

The cult of the Egyptian goddess Isis had its own temple in Rome by 65 CE.

Its priests valued ritual purity highly, shaving their heads and dressing in linen, although they, too, engaged in noisy rites using the sistrum, a percussion instrument.



Most widespread and secretive of all was the cult of Mithras.

Emerging in the 1st century CE, it derived indirectly from Persian beliefs.



Mithraism

It flourished throughout the Roman Empire, but it, along with all the other mystery cults, was suppressed when the Empire became Christian in the 4th century.

THE END

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