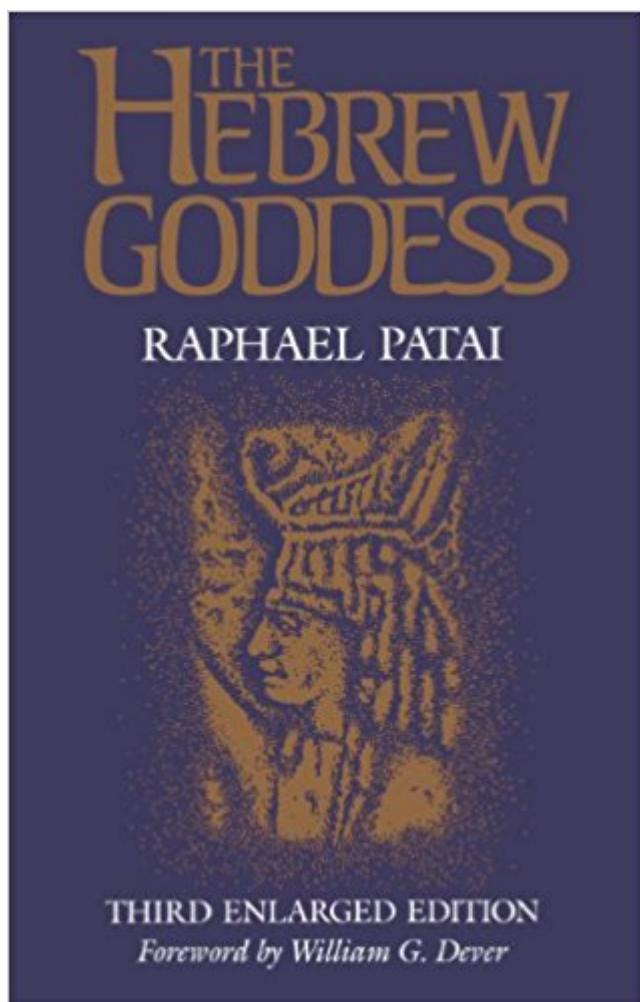


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The Hebrew Goddess (Raphael Patai Series In Jewish Folklore And Anthropology)



Synopsis

The Hebrew Goddess demonstrates that the Jewish religion, far from being pure monotheism, contained from earliest times strong polytheistic elements, chief of which was the cult of the mother goddess. Lucidly written and richly illustrated, this third edition contains new chapters of the Shekhina.

Book Information

File Size: 2761 KB

Print Length: 408 pages

Publisher: Wayne State University Press; 3 edition (September 1, 1990)

Publication Date: September 1, 1990

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00KB4E21I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #369,745 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #75

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Jewish Life #130

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Religion > Judaism #236 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Theology

Customer Reviews

This is probably one of the best academic books of all time. The area of Hebrew beliefs is not really tackled by even the most hardcore of Mesopotamian scholars. I always recommend this book to people who study Hebrew, Canaanite, and Mesopotamian beliefs as well as the people interested in goddess worship of the Ancient Near East and even those who are very critical of Judaism or Christianity. The book covers a plethora of goddesses and even has a chapter on the demon Lilith, with really good references to the demon Naamah and Tubal Cain. So its a plus for Jewish feminists and Goddess worshipers whom concern themselves with the modern image of Lilith. Patai is very excellent translator of the Hebrew language and his notes in other Hebrew translations (Such as his translations of the Zohar) are worth looking into to explain the translation for the lay people who

know little Hebrew. There is a lot that the English language fails to grasp concerning translating Hebrew. I only have a few problems with it. For example, some of his more controversial assertions don't hold up to modern scholarship where archeology is concerned. The Burney relief is thought with great academic consensus to be Ishtar rather than Lilith. Jacobsen, a very renowned Mesopotamian scholar, suggested this was a form of Ishtar in her Ninna (Lady Owl) form. Patai uses Kramer, whom makes great translations from Sumerian, but is outdated concerning that archeology bit and some theories. However, Patai does cite Jacobsen several times over on other things. He seemed to cite Jacobsen more than Kramer... Well, this is a minor problem, really. The other thing, which is also very minor, is that the book isn't written so flowingly sometimes. It seems to just kind of go dry. You may find yourself not really paying attention. But this is something that is so overshadowed by the fact that the book contains eye opening and jaw dropping information about Yahweh. I found the book, overall, to be written in such a understandable way that no lay person should have problems understanding it. All and all this is my favorite book on ancient Hebrew beliefs, and though it's been along time since it was written, I highly recommend it for anybody interested in Hebrew and Jewish myths, as well as Israelite worship and the concept of God.

Great book on information about Lilith. It came quickly and in really good condition. I found it well worth my time and money

Interesting read. Enjoyed it.

I purchased this book in order to research Lilith and I discovered a wealth of information beyond my original quest. "The Hebrew Goddess" is well written, informative, and easy to understand. I recommend this to college professors who need to teach undergrad level courses because the material will not be over their head. I also recommend the book to anyone who is interested in Judeo-Christian Lore.

Since I am researching the Goddess concept for a book that I'm writing this has been a very good research tool for me.

Very much enjoyed this book. I was pleasantly surprised to find support for the concept that God the Father has a wife. The idea of the Cherubim being in human form - male and female - was another

impressive item. While not supported directly, Cherubim in the form of man and women appears to support the idea of God having a wife. This along with Dever's work with Asherah and Margaret Barker's work with the Queen of Heaven and how Josiah had Her (And the Tree of Life) removed from the temple in the 6th century is a fascinating concept. I highly recommend this book.

I am using this book as a reference for a job that I have accepted. This book gives a lot of insight to many of the stories told in ancient times.

Written for scholars, this isn't one for the casual read. Beautifully documented and presented. A must for the serious Judaic or Christian scholar. I am enjoying the book, but then again, am used to scholarly writing. Magnificent work!

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