Scientific Translation Date: 08, March, 2020

Fourth Stage – Morning Classes Time: 11:30 & 12:15

Lecturer: Farah A. Abo Al-Timen

**Inanna**

Inanna is the ancient [Sumerian](https://www.ancient.eu/Sumerian/) goddess of love, fertility, procreation, and also of [war](https://www.ancient.eu/war/). She later became identified by the Akkadians and Assyrians as the goddess [Ishtar](https://www.ancient.eu/ishtar/), and further with the [Hittite](https://www.ancient.eu/hittite/) [Sauska](https://www.ancient.eu/Sauska/), the Phoenician Astarte and the [Greek](https://www.ancient.eu/greek/) [Aphrodite](https://www.ancient.eu/Aphrodite/), among many others. She was also seen as the bright star of the morning and evening. Inanna is one of the candidates cited as the subject of the Burney Relief (better known as The Queen of the Night), a terracotta relief dating from the reign of [Hammurabi](https://www.ancient.eu/hammurabi/) of [Babylon](https://www.ancient.eu/babylon/) (1792-1750 BCE) although her sister [Ereshkigal](https://www.ancient.eu/Ereshkigal/) is the goddess most likely depicted.

**Inanna in Myth**

In some myths she is the daughter of [Enki](https://www.ancient.eu/Enki/), the god of wisdom, fresh water, magic and a number of other elements and aspects of life, while in others she appears as the daughter of [Nanna](https://www.ancient.eu/Nanna/), god of the moon and wisdom. As the daughter of Nanna, she was the twin sister of the sun god Utu/[Shamash](https://www.ancient.eu/shamash/). Her power and provocation is almost always a defining characteristic in any of the tales told of her. Through the work of the Akkadian poet and high priestess [Enheduanna](https://www.ancient.eu/Enheduanna/) (2285-2250 BCE), daughter of [Sargon of Akkad](https://www.ancient.eu/Sargon_of_Akkad/) (2334-2279 BCE), Inanna was notably identified with Ishtar and rose in prominence from a local vegetative deity of the Sumerian people to the Queen of Heaven and the most popular goddess in all of [Mesopotamia](https://www.ancient.eu/Mesopotamia/). The historian Gwendolyn Leick writes:

"Inanna was the foremost Sumerian goddess, patron deity of [Uruk](https://www.ancient.eu/uruk/). Her name was written with a sign that represents a reed stalk tied into a loop at the top. This appears in the very earliest written texts from the mid-fourth millenium B.C. She is also mentioned in all the early god lists among the four main deities, along with [Anu](https://www.ancient.eu/Anu/), Enki, and [Enlil](https://www.ancient.eu/Enlil/). In the royal inscriptions of the [early Dynastic](https://www.ancient.eu/Early_Dynastic/) Period, Inanna is often invoked as the special protectress of kings. [Sargon](https://www.ancient.eu/sargon/) of [Akkad](https://www.ancient.eu/akkad/) claimed her support in [battle](https://www.ancient.eu/battle/) and politics. It appears that it was during the third millenium that the goddess acquired martial aspects that may derive from a syncretism with the Semitic deity Ishtar. Inanna's main sanctuary was the Eanna (`House of Heaven') at Uruk, although she had temples or chapels in most [cities](https://www.ancient.eu/cities/)."

For further reading: <https://www.ancient.eu/Inanna/>