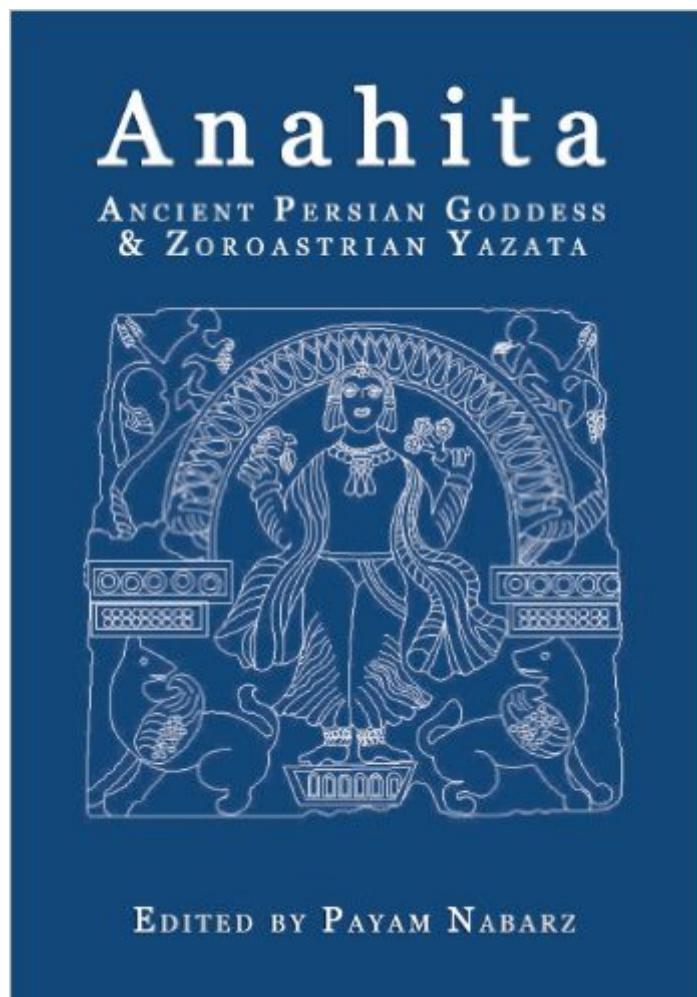


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# Anahita: Ancient Persian Goddess And Zoroastrian Yazata



## Synopsis

The Indo-Iranian Anahita is an ancient Persian Goddess, who became a Zoroastrian Yazata (or Angel) and is still part of contemporary Zoroastrianism. Described as a beautiful maiden, who is strong, tall and pure, she is depicted as wearing a mantle embroidered with gold and as holding the baresma (sacred plant) in her hand. She is the Goddess of all the waters upon the earth, her full title being Aredvi Sura Anahita which means moist, mighty and immaculate (pure), and she travels on her chariot pulled by four horses: Wind, Rain, Cloud and Sleet. Closely associated with the King's investiture she is a Goddess of Sovereignty, thought by some to be the Persian Aphrodite, who also has some remarkable similarities to numerous other ancient goddesses, including Ishtar, Venus, Nana and Isis. *Anahita: Ancient Persian Goddess and Zoroastrian Yazata* is a collection of papers, art and poetry celebrating this fascinating Goddess from more than 25 esteemed international academics, Zoroastrians, artists and writers. Each in turn share their research and insights leading the reader on a journey of discovery - from the Achaemenid Royal Inscriptions featuring Anahita and Mithra, to the possible relationships between Anahita and the Dame du Lac of Arthurian Legend, representations of her in Sassanian art, William Morris Hunt through to Anahita as the pre-Christian Virgin Mother of Mithra, as well as her role in purification and purity. Studies of the Sassanian rock reliefs, hot mineral springs, and her water ritual in Mahāyāna Buddhism, in addition to an examination of the Sassanid stucco discovered in the Barz-e-qawela in Lorestan province of Iran and women in ancient Elam are all brought together illustrating the significance of Anahita throughout Persian and Middle Eastern history. This book is the most extensive study of the figure of Anahita in recent years, and includes new and never published before research. *Anahita: Ancient Persian Goddess and Zoroastrian Yazata* is essential reading for all those interested not just in this Goddess and her history, but also all those interested in Persian and Middle Eastern history. Contributors include: Dr. Israel Campos Mández, Dr. Kaveh Farrokh, Dr. Matteo Compareti, Sheda Vasseghi, D.M. Murdock, Dr. Sam Kerr, Rahele Koulabadi, Dr. Seyyed Rasool Mousavi Haji, Morteza Ataie, Seyed Mehdi Mousavi Kouhpar, Seyyed Sadruddin Mosavi Jashni, Farhang Khademi Nadooshan, Hassan Nia, Masoud Sabzali, Dr. Masato Tojo, Behzad Mahmoudi, Amir Mansouri, Dr Kamyar Abdi, Dr Gholamreza Karamian, Maryam Zour, Saman Farzin, Babak Aryanpour, Reza MehrAfarin, Akashanath, Shapour Suren-Pahlav, Ana C. Jones, Katherine Sutherland, and Dr. Payam Nabarz.

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## Customer Reviews

Payam Nabarz has compiled a nice size collection of authors and essays about the Mazdean Goddess Anahita. Starting out as the head goddess in the Iranian Mazdean religion Anahita found herself fluctuating in importance depending on the religio-politics of the time. Despite the fact that Iran is a Muslim country traces of Anahita's reverence can still be seen. Pregnant women go to her shrines for a safe and easy delivery. Female saints are bit thin disguises of who she is. Often times compared to the Mesopotamian Ishtar or Inanna. She is a goddess of love and war. Her symbols include the eight pointed star, Lions, beaver pelt and sword sheath hanging from her side. Like Aphrodite and Venus she is also a goddess of water. Being most likely a river goddess, many shrines were dedicated to her that were right beside rivers and hot springs. The hot springs with their varying Radon and mineral content were often used for hydrotherapy. Her planet is Venus so Anahita is a Venusian goddess. Zarathustra came up with Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrianism is the monotheistic version of Mazdeanism. Ahura Mazda is the head god while Ahriman is like the devil. Such religious ideology had a massive impact on monotheistic religions like Judaism. Even with the elimination of many gods Anahita found herself at the second place if the trinity. She is the virgin mother of Mithras. Bestower of sovereignty by bequeathing the sword and rings of power. Reading through this book you will see the Iranian influences of Iran on Western Paganism, Christianity and Far Eastern Buddhism. Lady Anahita is the lady and Mithras is The Lord.

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