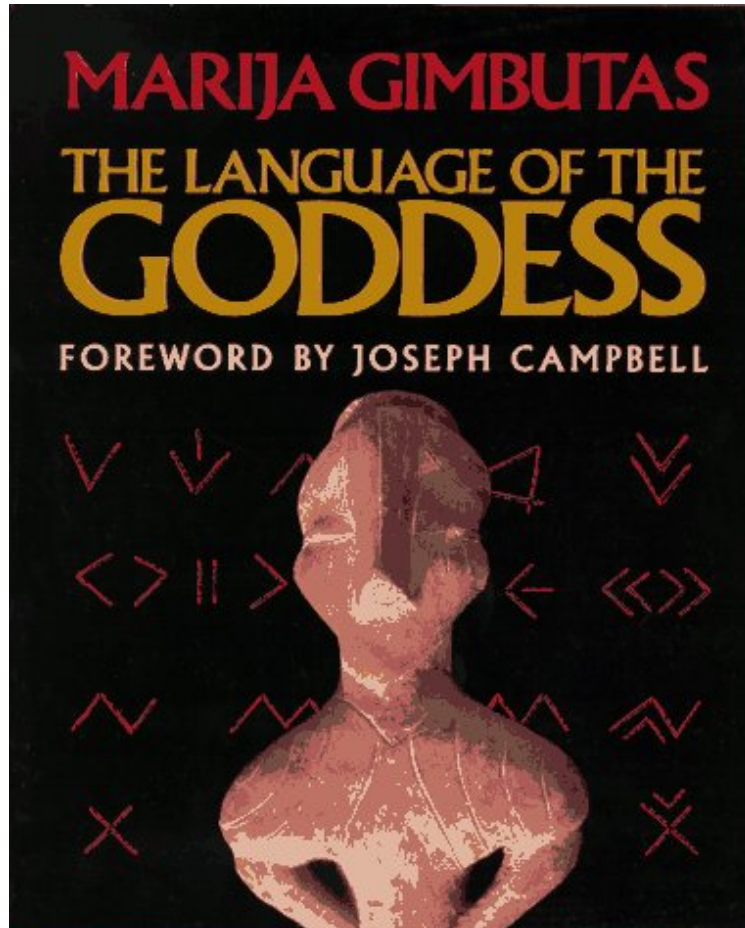


The Language of the Goddess

Marija Gimbutas

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Marija Gimbutas' masterpiece in a new, easily affordable paperback edition: "A dramatic story of paradise lost and

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From Library Journal Bringing together archaeological evidence, comparative mythology and folklore, and symbolic interpretations, Gimbutas's work asserts the existence in prehistoric Europe of a widespread culture centered on the Goddess, life-giver and sustainer, as well as death-wielder. Through the examination of hundreds of Paleolithic and mostly Neolithic pieces, the author traces cross-cultural and cross-chronological symbolic parallels, some of which are quite broad and open to several types of inference. The central and venerated position of women in the unconscious of early European people seems probable; this order of things changed with the incursions by Kurgan groups (4300-2800 B.C.) and the European world moved "from matrilineal to patrilineal." Whether or not one agrees with these archaeomythological interpretations, Gimbutas offers a thought-provoking symbolic reading of hundreds of selected pieces, beautifully reproduced in this sizeable compendium.- Winnie Lambrecht, Brown Univ., Providence, R.I. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A powerful magnum opus...visually rich and intellectually intriguing." -- -- San Francisco Chronicle Book "An indispensable reference work with a profoundly provocative text." -- -- Toronto Star "Rings with the belief that knowledge about a goddess-worshipping past can guide the world toward a sexually egalitarian, nonviolent, and 'earth-centered' future." -- -- New York Times "The first authoritative work on the ancient goddess culture." -- -- Boston Globe Magazine "[This] beautifully illustrated book will keep archaeology, religion, and classics departments the world over in a tizzy." -- -- Rita Mae Brown, Los Angeles Times About the Author Marija Gimbutas was professor of European archaeology at UCLA and wrote more than twenty books, including *The Civilization of the Goddess*.