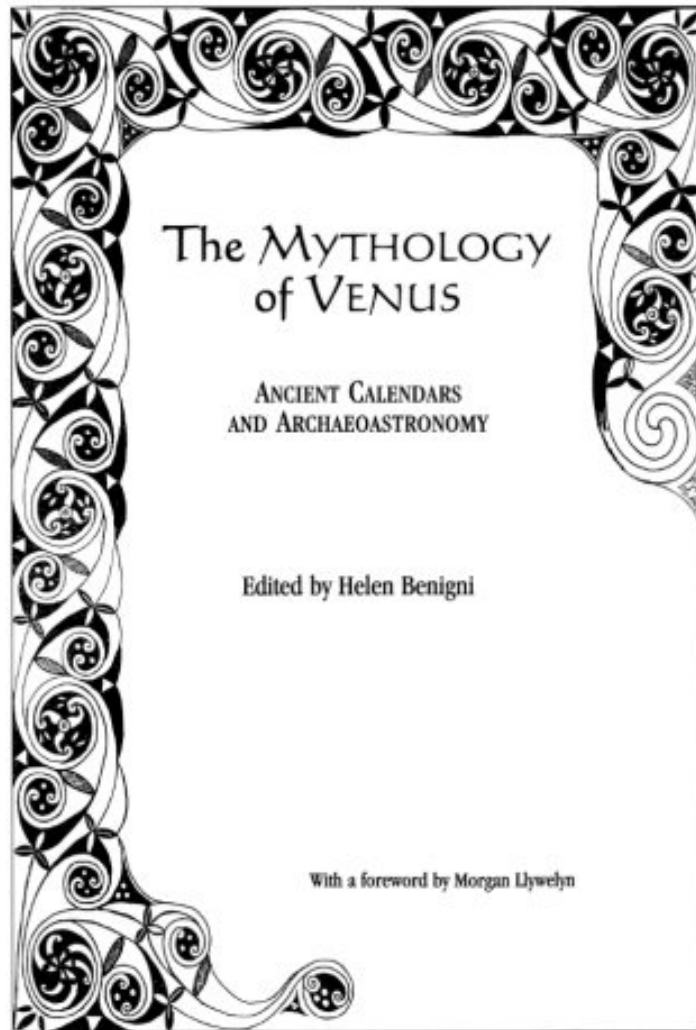


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The Mythology of Venus: Ancient Calendars and Archaeoastronomy

Helen Benigni

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The Mythology of Venus is a collection of essays that summarizes the archaeoastronomy, calendar associations, religious and cultural icons, and myths identified with the planet Venus. The book concentrates on Western Europe, the Mediterranean, the Near East, and the East from the Paleolithic Age to the Iron Age. It reveals the archetype of a goddess associated with the planet Venus who is identified with transformation, spiritual resurrection, and enlightenment. The characteristics of the goddess are steeped in sexual metaphors which contain images of birth and re-birth, and they reveal a pattern of symbols that follows the journey of the planet Venus through its cycles in the night sky. Moreover, the journey of Venus and the corresponding icons associated with the goddess are part of an intricate pattern of symbolic language that is seen on ancient monuments and on the ancient calendars of several cultures. Temples from France and Ireland to Greece and Malta trace the journey of the planet Venus and the story of the goddess of Venus.

The Mythology of Venus admirably succeeds in presenting a complex yet stimulating overview of Venus as primordial archetype, complete with astronomical signposts and well-justified water associations. The female principal which has played a central role in human development is traced from its earliest recognition offering students of history, mythology or psychology much to think about. (Morgan Llywelyn) About the Author Helen Benigni graduated with a Ph.D. in English from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1989. She is a professor at Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia, where she teaches comparative mythology, composition, and literature. Her other works include *The Myth of the Year: Returning to the Origin of the Druid Calendar* (2003) and *The Goddess and the Bull: A Study in Minoan-Mycenaean Mythology* (2007).