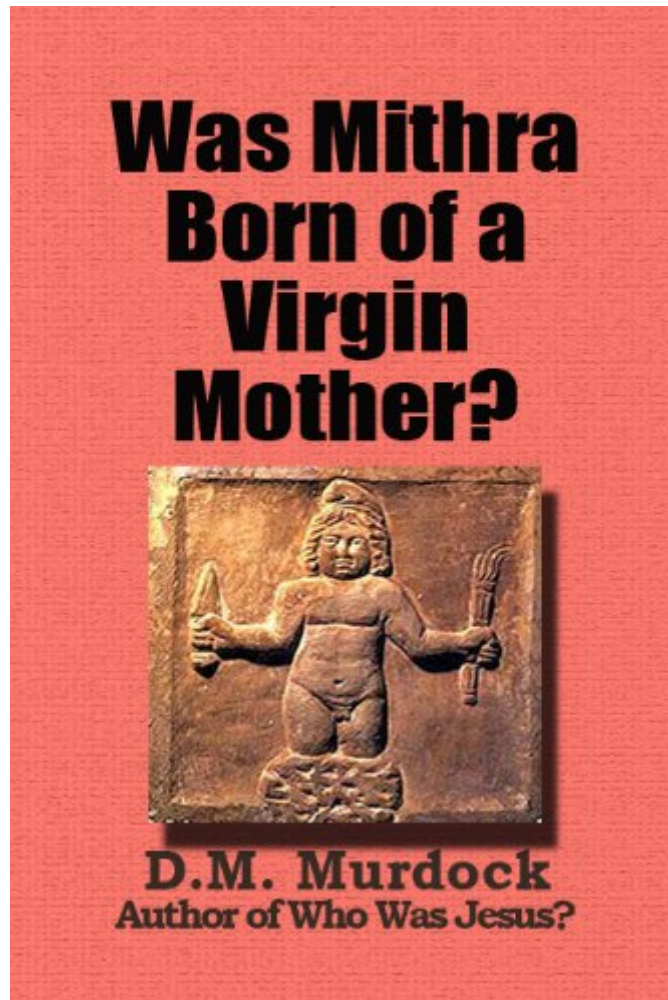


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Was Mithra Born Of A Virgin Mother?



Synopsis

This paper provides evidence that the pre-Christian Persian, Armenian and Asian Minor goddess Anahita was considered both a virgin and a mother, at some point viewed as having given birth parthenogenetically to the Perso-Armenian god Mithra. For evidence the author draws upon ancient texts and traditions, often preceding the common era by centuries to millennia, as well as the opinions of credentialed modern authorities. The thesis presented here also demonstrates that certain motifs and traditions found within Christianity in reality predate that faith and possibly served as a source thereof.

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Customer Reviews

The ancient goddess, Anahita has been attributed to being the virgin mother of the ancient pagan

Persian God, Mithra or Mithras as he was known in Rome. She may have come down to us in undisturbed lineage via the very ancient paleolithic "Venus" fertility figurines found at various cave excavations throughout Europe and Southern France, dating back some 25,000 years BP. Anahita has been attached to Zoroastrian beliefs as a popular add on who could not be relinquished in patriarchal societies of Persia and Iran. Anahita may have influenced the ancient Greek goddess beliefs of Venus and Aphrodite in also a patriarchal society. Acharya S., in her book, *Was Mithra Born of a Virgin Mother?*, explores these possibilities. I found them intriguing and possible.

This is an important contribution to the story of Mithra. I found it enlightening and informative and also interesting. I read it through in one sitting. I recommend it to anyone interested in studying ancient beliefs.

Although not necessarily original (but what is), this book provides an excellent introduction into the history of Near Eastern religious thought as expressed through the mystery cults. The author provides a scholarly and factual basis for the cultural institutions that influenced later Judeo-Christian thought.

Virgin Birth! What a concept. It was a very popular theme in many, if not most, of the early religious traditions, and Christians picked up on it.

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