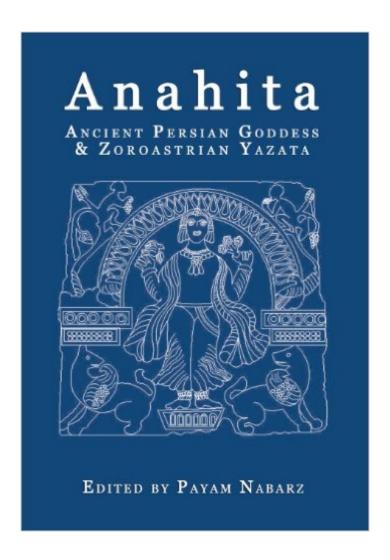
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# Anahita: Ancient Persian Goddess And Zoroastrian Yazata





## 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 MahĕyÄ•na Buddhism, in addition to an examination of the Sassanid stucco discovered in the Barz-e-gawela 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 Méndez, 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 Sadrudin 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.

# **Book Information**

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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 Mazdeanreligion Anahita found herself fluctuating in importance depending on thereligio-politics of the time. Despite the fact that Iran is a Muslim country traces of Anahita's reverence canstill 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 Mesopatamian Ishtar or Inanna. She is a goddess oflove and war. Her symbols include the eight pointed star, Lions, beaver pelt andsword sheath hanging from her side.Like Aphrodite and Venus she is also a goddess of water. Being most likely ariver goddess, many shrines were dedicated to her that were right beside riversand hot springs. The hot springs with there varying Radon and mineral contentwere often used for hydrotherapy. Her planet is Venus so Anahita is a Venusiangoddess .Zarathustra came up with Zoroastrianism . Zoroastrianism is the monotheisticversion if Mazdeanism. Ahura Mazda is the head god while Ahriman is like thedevil. Such religious ideology had a massive impact on monotheistic religionlike Judaism. Even with the elimination of many gods Anahita found herself at the second placeif the trinity. She is the virgin mother of Mithras. Bestower of sovereignty bybequeathing the sword and rings of power. Reading through this book you will see the Iranian influences if Iran on WesternPagsnism, Christianty and Far Eastern Buddhism. Lady Anahita is the lady and Mithras is The Lord.

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