



Artemis : Virgin Goddess of the Sun, Moon & Hunt

By Sorita d'Este

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The goddess Artemis is best known today as a goddess of the hunt and of the new moon, yet to those who worshipped at her ancient temples and sanctuaries she was far more than just that.

To them she was a powerful and complex goddess whose influence spread far and wide throughout the ancient world. She was worshipped and celebrated as a goddess of childbirth, women, song, dance and of wild animals. As the daughter of the Titan goddess Leto by the Olympian Father god Zeus, Artemis would prove herself from the moment of her own birth, by assisting her mother with the birth of her own twin brother, Apollo. Zeus, who fathered children with many other goddesses and mortals, had a special affection for Artemis from the start and gave her all the gifts she asked for and more, making her one of the most powerful of the Olympian goddesses.

Artemis, Virgin Goddess of the Sun & Moon explores the myths, powers and worship of this beautiful goddess. It is a thorough study with details of her temples and sanctuaries, the festivals which were held in honour of her, the roles she fulfilled in the myths, animals which were sacred to her, her relationship with her virgin attendants and other deities, as well as the many titles which were bestowed upon her. This groundbreaking book provides the most comprehensive study of this enduring goddess to date.

In Artemis we see combined the fruition of the early Minoan Lady of the Beasts with the fertile power of the early goddesses of Ephesus. Artemis brought together the powers of life and death, aiding childbirth and hunting wild animals, the joy of song and dance with the wildness of nature untamed. Worshipped by young girls and warriors alike, Artemis spread her net of beauty and might through every level of Greek society.

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