



# **Artemis: Virgin Goddess of the Sun & Moon--A Comprehensive Guide to the Greek Goddess of the Hunt, Her Myths, Powers & Mysteries**

*Sorita d'Este*

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## **Artemis: Virgin Goddess of the Sun & Moon--A Comprehensive Guide to the Greek Goddess of the Hunt, Her Myths, Powers & Mysteries Sorita d'Este**

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 by Sorita D'Este, 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. ----- About the Author Sorita D'Este is a writer and researcher who lives and works in London, UK. She has a passion for the mysteries and gods of the western world and much of her work is focused on the spiritual and magical practices of ancient Greece, Rome and Britain. She is the co-author of The Guises of the Morrigan and Circle of Fire. Additionally she is a regular contributor to magazines, part works and journals, including DeAgostini's Enhancing your Mind Body & Spirit and Llewellyn's Annuals.

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# **From Reader Review Artemis: Virgin Goddess of the Sun & Moon-- A Comprehensive Guide to the Greek Goddess of the Hunt, Her Myths, Powers & Mysteries for online ebook**

## **Rachel says**

Very helpful and informative resource for researching the goddess Artemis.

Like Sorita's books about Hekate, (in particular Hekate: Liminal Rites) this book is well-annotated, cited, and has a treasure trove of a bibliography.

The focus of this book is not on Artemis within modern pagan religion. You will not find any ready-to-perform rituals or recipes anywhere in its pages. What this book will reveal is how Artemis was honored and worshiped in the ancient world by the Greeks and neighboring lands. This is a good starting point for anyone interested in forming a relationship with the goddess as a devotee. Ancient practices can (and should) be reviewed and adapted for modern-day use.

The essays, coupled with the references in the bibliography, provide a solid beginning for practitioners to research, explore, and understand Artemis through doing the work themselves. I recommend this book wholeheartedly, since it has been extremely helpful to me.

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## **Merissa (Archaeolibrarian) says**

If you are a lover of myths, following a Greek Pagan Path or "just" a lover of history then I think that you will enjoy this book as it unravels the tale of Artemis and how she is more than just a Maiden Moon Goddess.

Sorita D'este has pulled together a number of sources to write her book, all of which are referenced so if you would like to study further, it is simple enough to do so.

The only negative that I can think of is that there are some paragraphs that are repeated over and again. Now if you are just using this as a reference book then I don't see the problem but if you are going to sit and read this in one session (as I did) then it gets a tad monotonous.

On the whole, this book is very informative, written in an easy, flowing style, with references galore should you want them.

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## **Mark says**

I found this to be a very good survey of Artemis. It is good for providing a glimpse into ancient Greek and Roman culture and religion through the filter of Artemis and elements associated with this goddess.

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## **Emma Folkes says**

### **Artemis Alive**

The book itself is an interesting read and I would like to read more of Sorita's work. Definitely has stars from me but I can also see why some people would find it hard to read (as expected lots of ancient Greek names).

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### **Lori Schiele says**

This book covers all aspects of Artemis, the virgin huntress and goddess of the sun and moon of Greek mythology. It discusses her attributes, her numerous names and titles, and stories connected to her.

Artemis is my patron goddess and this book helped me to connect more fully with Her. A fabulous book.

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### **Heather turner says**

i really liked this book easy to read and informative

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### **Zoran Zekovi? says**

It is a very informative book. It brings no superficial thought to minds. However, Sorita D'este doesn't seem to be aware of the fact that Artemis is somewhat similar to the Indo-Iranian Anahita.

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### **Tessa says**

so far it's interesting. i've noticed a few places where it almost seems like the author cut & paste a couple paragraphs over again, but it's a nice way to get me started on my study of artemis.

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### **Diane says**

Boring and scholarly.

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### **Steve Cran says**

Sorita d' Este has a knack for writing informative books about her subject and making it both enjoyable, easy to understand and read. I breezed through it yesterday morning and after having learned a lot about Artmenis I was still wanting more. Damn good book if you ask me. Then again all of Sorita's books are damn good.

Artemis is the virgin huntress who roams the night time hills in search of animals to hunt like stags, boars and fish. She is the the daughter of Zeus and the Titaness Leto. Her twin brother is Apollo, the sun god and

the poet. Zeus, her father, is rather lusty and tends to father lots of children with goddesses, Titans and humans. Hera gets rather jealous. In a fit of jealousy she sends out a mighty python to pursue Leto. She gets no rest until she arrives on the island of Delos which was set up by Zeus. Artemis has an easy birth but Apollo's birth is rather difficult. So Artemis helps. Hence she is the Goddess of unmarried virgins, midwife of the gods and the moon goddess.

Artemis has no need for love she never wants to get married or have relations. Those who choose to follow her must remain virgins as well. That goes for the priests at her temples too. Artemis is always surrounded by nymphs who are shorter than her. The maidens that choose to follow her make an enticing target for mortals and men I guess they want a taste of the forbidden fruit. Two things happen when the maidens are pursued. If the man is successful and achieves his goal either through rape or seduction, Artemis kills or banishes the deflowered nymph or maiden. If a follower is running from a man they can count on being turned into a spring, river or reed instrument. Artemis can be rather vindictive and vengeful as is Nike.

Upon being born one of the first assignments given to Apollo and Artemis is to slay the python who pursued Leto. They kill the python and Apollo gets the Python's old temple and prophecies are issued forth from there. Anyone who insults Artemis or any of her colleagues can be sure to experience her wrath. King Agamemnon boasted he could kill more animals than she could. His fleet of ships was held up from an invasion until he made amends. He also had to sacrifice his daughter because a pregnant animal was killed in his kingdom he had to sacrifice his daughter. She would later become a priestess and then steal one of her wooden statues. Perhaps most famous is her incident with Orion who was unlucky enough to view her bathing naked in a stream. He was turned into a deer and had his own hounds set upon him. Other versions of the story have Apollo tricking her into shooting an arrow at him when he swims in the Ocean. Adonis the one who loved Aphrodite was killed for boasting against her as well. This would make Artemis an enemy of Aphrodite.

Artemis like all the Greek deities had her share of friends and enemies. Most notable would be Aphrodite and on this I could go into more detail but I will let you read the book. She has a love-hate relationship with Zeus's wife where in one time she saves Hera and in another two times she is defeated by Hera. She has alliances with Ares, Dionysus, Pan and Hecate. Once again if you want to find out more read the book. There are two other virgin goddesses, Hestia and Athena.

Her favorite animals are the bear, boar, dog and deer among others. You can hunt them but do not kill her. A dancing bear or one of the females will have to take its place. The story at Sparta is heavy. Two Spartans one time had a fight at one of her abandoned shrines and for a certain time after that live sacrifices were required then the sentence was lowered to whipping a boy prior to the onset of adulthood and smearing the altar with blood. This carried on until Roman times.

There is more to tell for sure but dear reader you must take that journey yourself. I just wish the book was a bit longer. Perhaps if there is ever a reprint she could throw in a sample ritual. Sorita is awesome. There is a great bibliography in the back and everything is well footnoted.

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