

Section 6 – Devolution of the Goddess

Anthropomorphic Inanna

Although Inanna is a manifestation of the transcendent Goddess, she is anthropomorphic and thus comprehensible to the human mind. As the Queen of Heaven, she can walk in the world and commune with people and at the same time intercede on their behalf with the other deities. She lives amongst them, in the ‘Temple of Heaven’ which is her home. The form that she takes is that of the most beautiful, desirable, fecund young woman imaginable. It is significant to note that Inanna is a form of the Goddess designed to appeal to men.

Because she is a deity initially conceived while women had real power, Inanna is extreme. As goddess of fertility, love, protection, fate, sex, hunting, storms and war, her mood swings are ferocious. She can be a ruthless killer and a spectacular lover. She holds all other authority in contempt and refuses even to be guided by male deities, much less controlled by them. She is so brave and haughty as to enter the Underworld herself, and so vindictive as to send her husband Dumuzi there when she discovers he had not mourned her while she was dead. She can be imperious and demanding, wayward and hard on her lovers, unafraid of her sexuality and sexual power. She can be loyal and supportive too, and refuses to allow her loved ones to come to harm. She is multifaceted and complex; a super-woman, indeed, but ‘just’ a woman.