

The Moon : A Celestial Gardener. Cosmogonies, poetry and present implications as collective memory of human kind

Paola Antolini

1. Introduction : The Moon between Traditional knowledge and Science

Since the beginning of time, human imagination has populated the Moon. All over the planet, ancient peoples have attempted to decipher the Moon. From the top of the trees to the home of the gods, they loaded the Moon with a mass of symbols, myth and legends, making it an integral aspect of the history of the world.

But the Moon has long been discreet and secretive. Since the time of Galileo, however, and with the increasing sophistication of astronomical knowledge, popular lore and beliefs surrounding the Moon, have steadily declined in the face of science.

Now that the advances made by science are so spectacular and broadcasting of discoveries is instantaneous and almost universal, and now that textbooks and schools are replacing the oral wisdom of village elders, the great Lunar myths and their images have lost their validity as fact, but the grandeur of the imagination they represent will remain with us always.

2. Mistress of time, mistress of fate

Long before they knew how to write, humans knew the phases of the Moon, which formed the basis of the first calendars. As a guardian of time, the Moon marks out the twelve months of the year (historical and comparative references). The Moon, then, offers a concrete, living time that passes. A Babylonian tradition asserts that man was created at the time of the full moon. The fact that creation and rebirth coincide guarantees that the created beings will continue to grow in sync with the Moon.

3. The Moon as the Mistress of the Waters

Ancient peoples saw the Moon as reigning over the waters from above. (Some people still believe today that the rain goes away or returns with the new moon...). From very early times people noticed that the sea rises and falls in relation to the moon, and for once, the appropriateness of the analogy has not been disproved by scientific progress. Many tales and legends describe the Moon's connection with waters (historical and comparative references).

4. Moon-Gods

In Babylon, seventeen centuries before Christ, was produced the first literary work recorded in the history of humanity - an account of the creation of the world known as Enouma Elish: homage was paid above all to the Moon - God, the Supreme Guarantor of Cosmic Order (historical and comparative references).

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5. Poetry and Music inspired by the Moon

6. The Man on the Moon

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