

LEGEND AND FOLKLORE SYMBOLS:

QUEEN INANNA

Inanna, queen of heaven, was the main goddess of the Sumerian pantheon and the patron goddess of the city of Uruk – the modern day Warka, Iraq.

The first recorded literature was dedicated to Inanna, around 2300BC, in Mesopotamia – or modern-day Iraq. The hymns sing of Inanna's journey through life and her exaltation to the pre-eminent deity. During a drinking bout with her father, Enki, the god of wisdom, Inanna encouraged him to give her the 'me', a term that referred to the virtues and practical skills Inanna bestowed upon the people of Uruk. The 'me' helped establish the foundation of civilisation.

Restored goddess


According to myth, Inanna descended to the Underworld to aid her sister Ereshkigal, after the death of her brother-in-law. Ereshkigal flew into a murderous rage and killed Inanna, but she was restored to life by Enki. To the joy of her people, Inanna returned to Earth to reclaim her throne.

Inanna was celebrated by the people of Uruk as a goddess of death and rebirth.




SYMBOLISM OF QUEEN INANNA


Inanna had a wide range of symbols, which draw upon her mythology as queen of heaven and a goddess of love and war.


 The symbol of an eight-rayed star was sacred to Inanna and subsequently to the


If you wish to call upon Inanna, prepare an offering of dates for the queen of heaven.


Babylonian goddess Ishtar. You will be shown how to use Inanna's star overleaf.

 Inanna was often depicted with a foot resting on lions – her sacred animal.

 Venus, as ruler of the Morning and Evening Star, was linked to the queen of heaven – who was also worshipped as a love goddess.

 Inanna also held the status of goddess of war, and the axe and bow were her symbols.

 Inanna had a passion for lapis lazuli and wore a necklace of lapis lazuli beads. She bore a measuring rod carved from this crystal.

 Date palms and their sweet, juicy dates were sacred to Inanna.