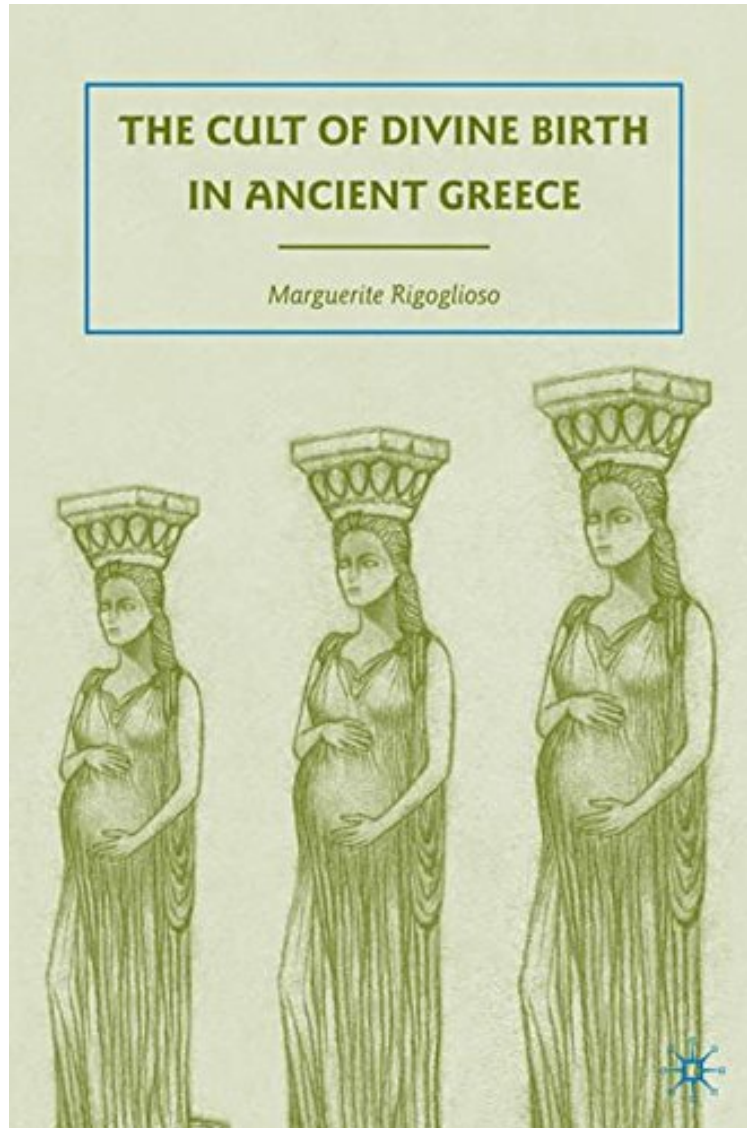


The Cult of Divine Birth in Ancient Greece

M. Rigoglioso

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M. Rigoglioso : The Cult of Divine Birth in Ancient Greece before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cult of Divine Birth in Ancient Greece:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A window into the mysteries of a PriestessBy Rev. Donna M. SwindellsThis book is an eye-opener! Having studied some of Greek mythology the Priestesses who served in the temples, I haven't come across this subject matter. Before the Catholic/Christian belief in a "Virgin birth" it was

possible for devoted Greek Priestesses to conceive a child, without the sexual union of a Man. In the stories of the Gods Goddesses of the Greeks, The Deities have sexual union with mortals. That union usually produced a gifted child. But, what if it was possible for a Priestess to conceive without union of a Man or the Divine? Could faith, magic or a combination of secret knowledge practices could produce, in a Priestess, an offspring? I took this book with me on a trip to Egypt. For 2 weeks, this was the book that kept my mind returning to its pages. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in the life of a Greek Priestess. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive in evidence By Clearsky311 I found Marguerite succeeded in providing enough evidence that a cult did exist in ancient Greece which practiced Divine Birth in its 3 forms at various times before and during the transition to a patriarchy which overtook the original matriarchy. There are numerous references to the various myths and writers of the ancient world with a comprehensive bibliography on which the writer bases her various proposals. Informative and eye opening and a joy to read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Deep scholarly work that reveals so much in relation to ... By Customer Deep scholarly work that reveals so much in relation to the myths that we thought we knew. This work has taken me on a journey of revelation

Greek religion is filled with strange sexual artifacts - stories of mortal women's couplings with gods; rituals like the basilinna's "marriage" to Dionysus; beliefs in the impregnating power of snakes and deities; the unusual birth stories of Pythagoras, Plato, and Alexander; and more. In this provocative study, Marguerite Rigoglioso suggests such details are remnants of an early Greek cult of divine birth, not unlike that of Egypt. Scouring myth, legend, and history from a female-oriented perspective, she argues that many in the highest echelons of Greek civilization believed non-ordinary conception was the only means possible of bringing forth individuals who could serve as leaders, and that special cadres of virgin priestesses were dedicated to this practice. Her book adds a unique perspective to our understanding of antiquity, and has significant implications for the study of Christianity and other religions in which divine birth claims are central. The book's stunning insights provide fascinating reading for those interested in female-inclusive approaches to ancient religion.

"With this pioneering work, Marguerite Rigoglioso has illuminated the coherence and the centrality of the seemingly disparate references to divine parthenogenetic birth in Greek religion. Her insightful study of the priestesshoods of divine birth brings the subject into focus and suggests new scholarly perspectives." --Charlene Spretnak, author of *Lost Goddesses of Early Greece*"This book is bold, creative, and courageous, and makes a considerable contribution to feminist re-readings and reinterpretations of religious and mythological traditions from the Graeco-Roman world." --Marvin Meyer, Ph.D., Grisct Professor of Bible and Christian Studies, Chapman University; Author of *The Gospel of Judas, The Gospels of Mary, The Gnostic Bible, and Ancient Christian Magic*"Thought provoking and superbly written, this is the only book to examine thoroughly and seriously the question of divine birth in ancient Greece. Imperative for classical scholars, the book provides stunning insights that should be a fascinating read for anyone who has even the slightest interest in spirituality, religion, feminism, or ancient history." --Jorge N. Ferrer, Ph.D., Coeditor, *The Participatory Turn: Spirituality, Mysticism, Religious Studies*"Marguerite Rigoglioso is a unique scholar who has skillfully woven an important study that shifts the dominant gaze on pre-Christian origins. Her work allows for a more holistic perspective regarding a major religious belief of the world--that of virgin birth. What a treasure--an original and scrupulous scholar who writes well and suffuses her study of myths with passion!" --Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, author of *Black Madonnas: Feminism, Religion, and Politics in Italy*"Marguerite Rigoglioso is a unique scholar who has skillfully woven an important study that shifts the dominant gaze on pre-Christian origins. Her work allows for a more holistic perspective regarding a major religious belief of the world--that of virgin birth. What a treasure--an original and scrupulous scholar who writes well and suffuses her study of myths with passion!" "With this pioneering work, Rigoglioso has illuminated the coherence and the centrality of the seemingly disparate references to divine birth in Greek religion. Her insightful study of the priestesshoods of divine birth brings the subject into focus and suggests new scholarly perspectives." "Thought provoking and superbly written, this is the only book to examine thoroughly and seriously the question of divine birth in ancient Greece. Imperative for classical scholars, the book provides stunning insights that should be a fascinating read for anyone who has even the slightest interest in spirituality, religion, feminism, or ancient history." "With this pioneering work, Rigoglioso has illuminated the coherence and the centrality of the seemingly disparate references to divine birth in Greek religion. Her insightful study of the priestesshoods of divine birth brings the subject into focus and suggests new scholarly perspectives."