

ROOTS OF EASTER: FROM BABEL TO ROME

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Original trinity of Husband-Wife-Son with Nimrod, Semiramis, & Tammuz: *Ancient Assyria (Mesopotamia [Sumer, Akkad, Nineveh etc...]) Semiramis becomes Mesopotamian Mother Goddess Ishtar (Queen of Heaven) & is the consort of Tammuz. The festival to honor Tammuz is called Akitu and was normally held the first month of spring. It was a barley ripening festival. The King of Assyria would take on the role of Nimrod and or Tammuz. The King would then engage in intercourse or a sacred marriage with the high priestess of Ishtar (Semiramis). During mid-summer the death of Tammuz was celebrated as a day of mourning. People would fast and weep for him for 40 days prior. This is where the tradition of lent comes from.*

In Phoenicia (Canaan) Ishtar became Astarte and Tammuz became Adonis (From Adon where we get the Hebrew word Adonai). Astarte/Asherah was consort of Baal or El the main God of the Canaanites. Her artifact of worship was her fertility/wooden poles. Adherents to her cult would engage in temple prostitution. This is why strip-clubs have poles in them. This is why next to altars for Baal there would usually be a Astarte/Asherah Grove or Poles near by. Per usual her festivals were in the springtime. The Phoenicians may have started the festival of mourning his death in the Springtime that was eventually adopted by the Romans.

In the Hellenistic (Greek) world Astarte became Aphrodite and they kept the Phoenician name of Adonis for Tammuz. The festival of mourning his death was believed to be celebrated in Spring or Mid-Summer. Some scholars say Mid-Summer but according to the only Greek documents on the dates of the festival it was Springtime. The festival was called Adonia.

The Romans made Astarte or Aphrodite their Goddess Venus. In 217 BC, in the early stages of the Second Punic War with Carthage, Rome suffered a disastrous defeat at the battle of Lake Trasimene. The Sibylline

oracle suggested that if the Venus of Eryx (Venus Erycina, a Roman understanding of the Punic goddess Astarte), patron goddess of Carthage's Sicilian allies, could be persuaded to change her allegiance, Carthage might be defeated. Rome laid siege to Eryx, offered its goddess a magnificent temple as reward for her defection, captured her image, and brought it to Rome. It was installed in a temple on the Capitoline Hill, as one of Rome's twelve dii consentes. Shorn of her more overtly Carthaginian characteristics, this "foreign Venus" became Rome's Venus Genetrix ("Venus the Mother"). As far as the Romans were concerned, this was the homecoming of an ancestral goddess to her people. Roman tradition made Venus the mother and protector of the Trojan prince Aeneas, ancestor of the Roman people. Soon after, Rome's defeat of Carthage confirmed Venus's goodwill to Rome, her links to its mythical Trojan past, and her support of its political and military hegemony.

In the Roman world the festivals of Venus were also celebrated in Spring and Mid-summer. Veneralia on April 1st, Vinalia urbana on April 23rd, and Vinalia Rustica on August 19. The latin name for the month April is Aprilis and comes from her Greek name of Aphrodite. The Romans changed her festivals to Easter and made Christ represent Tammuz. That is why you mourn or fast for 40 days during lent prior to Easter. Mourning the death of Tammuz/Christ. The Virgin Mary was turned into Venus/Astarte/Ishtar (Queen of Heaven).

In the Germanic Anglo-Saxon world Venus became Eostre or Ostara a fertility Goddess. Her month and festival were held in April also. The month of April was named after her in Germanic nations. The Anglo-Saxons brought these customs with them when they took over Britain from the Celtic Brits. Thus Easter became the name of the month April in Old English. Many of the customs practiced in America with easter comes from the traditions of Eostre. For example the bunnies and eggs etc...