



The Sacred and the Feminine in Ancient Greece

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In classical Greece women were almost entirely excluded from public life. Yet the feminine was accorded a central place in religious thought and ritual. This volume explores the often paradoxical centrality of the feminine in Greek culture, showing how out of sight was *not* out of mind. The contributors adopt perspectives from a wide range of disciplines, such as archaeology, art history, psychology and anthropology, in order to investigate various aspects of religion and cult. They include the part played by women in death ritual, the role of heroines, and the fact that goddesses had no childhood, at the same time posing questions about how we know what rituals meant to their participants.

The Sacred and the Feminine in Ancient Greece is a lively and colourful exploration of the ways in which religion and ritual reveal women's importance in the Greek *polis*, showing how ideologies about female roles and behaviour were both endorsed and challenged in the realm of the sacred.

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