

עִטַּר

to decorate, to adorn, to ornament עִטַּר

<http://www.morfix.co.il/%D7%A2%D7%98%D7%A8>

سَمَاء

سَمَاء sky;heaven Noun

<http://aratools.com/>

שָׁמַיִם

heaven noun, שָׁמַיִם

<http://www.morfix.co.il/heaven>

Atarsamain

Atarsamain (also **Attar-shamayin** and **Attar-shamayin**,^[1] “morning star of heaven”) (Arabic: **عشتر سمين**) was an astral deity of uncertain gender, worshipped in the pre-Islamic northern and central Arabian Peninsula. Worshipped widely by Arab tribes, Atarsamain is known from around 800 BC and is identified in letters of the Assyrian kings Esarhaddon and Assurbanipal.^[2] Atarsamain may be identical with Allāt, whose cult was centred on Palmyra.

According to Dierk Lange, Atarsamain was the main deity in a trinity of gods worshipped by what he calls the Yumu'il Confederation, which he describes as a northern Arab tribal confederation of Ishmaelite ancestry headed by the “clan of Kedar” (i.e. the Qedarites).^[3] Lange identifies Nuha as the solar deity, Ruda as the lunar deity, and Atarsamin as the main deity associated with Venus.^[3] A similar trinity of gods representing the sun, moon and Venus is found among the peoples of the South Arabian kingdoms of Awsan, Ma'in, Qataban and Hadhramawt between the 9th and 4th centuries BC.^[3] There, the deity associated with Venus was Astarte, the sun deity was Yam, and moon deity was variously called Wadd, Amm and Sin.^[3]

Atarsamain is twice mentioned in the annals of Ashurbanipal, king of the Neo-Assyrian empire in the 7th century BC. The reference is to *a?lu (sā) a-tar-sa-ma-a-a-in* (“the people of Attar of Heaven”) who are said to have been defeated together with the Nebayot (Nebaioth/Nabataeans) and the Qedarites led by Yauta ben Birdadda, who was also known as “king of the Arabs”.^[1]

1 References

- [1] Retsö, Jan (2003). *The Arabs in antiquity: their history from the Assyrians to the Umayyads (Illustrated ed.)*. Routledge. p. 168. ISBN 0-7007-1679-3.
- [2] Hoyland, 2001, p. 68.
- [3] Lange, 2004, pp. 268–269.

2 Bibliography

- Hoyland, Robert G. (2001), *Arabia and the Arabs: from the Bronze Age to the coming of Islam* (Illustrated, reprint ed.), Routledge, ISBN 978-0-415-19535-5

- Lange, Dierk (2004), *Ancient kingdoms of West Africa: African-centred and Canaanite-Israelite perspectives : a collection of published and unpublished studies in English and French*, J.H.Röll Verlag, ISBN 978-3-89754-115-3
- Retsö, Jan (2003), *The Arabs in antiquity: their history from the Assyrians to the Umayyads* (Illustrated ed.), Routledge, ISBN 978-0-7007-1679-1

3 Additional reading

- Encyclopedia of Gods, Michael Jordan, Kyle Cathie Limited, 2002

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4.1 Text

- **Atarsamain** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atarsamain?oldid=630575531> *Contributors:* SamEV, Ogress, Rjwilmsi, Pigman, Tiamut, T@nn, Steven J. Anderson, Bob1960evens, Liberal Humanist, Addbot, Haruth, Tahir mq, KittyBot, Helpful Pixie Bot, Deuserez and Anonymous: 1

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Attar (god)



South Arabian fragment of a stela, depicts a reclining ibex and three Arabian oryx heads. The ibex was one of the most sacred animals in South Arabia, while the oryx antelope was associated with Athtar, 5th century BC; Walters Art Museum.

Attar (Aramaic); **Athtar** (South Arabia); **Astar** (Abyssinia); **Ashtar** (Moab); **Ashtar(t)** (Canaan); **Ishtar** (Assyro-Babylonian)^[1] is the god of the morning star in western Semitic mythology. In Canaanite legend, he attempts to usurp the throne of the dead god Baal Hadad but proves inadequate. In semi-arid regions of western Asia he was sometimes worshipped as a rain god. His female counterpart is the Phoenician Astarte. In more southerly regions he is probably known as **Dhu-Samani**.

Attar was worshipped in Southern Arabia in pre-Islamic times. A god of war, he was often referred to as “He who is Bold in Battle”. One of his symbols was the spear-point and the antelope was his sacred animal. He had power over Venus, the morning star, and was believed to provide humankind with water.

In ancient times, Arabia shared the gods of Mesopotamia, being so close to Babylon, except the genders and symbols of these deities were later swapped around. For instance, the sun god Shamash became the sun goddess Shams, and in southern Arabia Ishtar became the male storm god Athtar. The Sabaeans and other southern Arabians worshipped stars and planets, chief among whom were the sun (Shams), moon (Almaqah), and Athtar, the planet Venus. As head of the Southern Arabian pantheon, Athtar was a god of the thunderstorm, dispensing natural irrigation in the form of rain.^[2] Athtar also represented fertility and water as essential to fertility. When representing water he stood not just for the act of raining itself, but rather for the useful flow of the water after the rain, in the *wadi*, the Arabian watercourse which is dry except in the rainy season.^[3]

1 In popular culture

Attar appears as the demon Ashtar in *Shin Megami Tensei II*.

2 Notes

- [1] James Hastings (2003). *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics Part 3*. p. 165. ISBN 076613671X.
- [2] *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Ancient Middle Eastern Religions, Pre-Islamic Deities, Std. Ver. 1999
- [3] Julian Baldick (1998). *Black God*. Syracuse University Press. p. 20. ISBN 0815605226.

3 References

- Jordan, Michael (2002). *Encyclopedia of Gods*. Kyle Cathie Limited.
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4 External links

- [Encyclopedia Britannica Online: Athtar \(Arabian deity\)](#)
- [Jewish Encyclopedia: Ashtoreth in Arabia](#)
- [A Who's Who of World Mythology: Athtar](#)

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