Dying and Rising Gods

The History of a Mythologem in West Asia of the Second Millennium BCE

Noga Ayali-Darshan

Zaphon

Münster 2024

Contents

Preface7
Introduction11
A. Aims and Context11
B. Findings15
C. Scope
D. Some Preliminary Notes
Chapter 1. The Evolution of Research on the Dying and Rising God
in Mesopotamian Texts
A. The Early Era of Research: Late Antiquity Writings and
the Decipherment of <i>Ištar's Descent</i> 21
B. Research in the 1950s: After Deciphering Most of <i>Inana's Descent</i> 29
C. Research from the 1960s Onwards: After Deciphering
the Last Lines of <i>Inana's Descent</i> 31
D. <i>Inana's Descent</i> and Related Compositions: A Discussion34
1. Dumuzi and Ĝeštinana (UET 6/1 11)35
2. <i>The Death of Dumuzi</i> (BM 100046; CT 58.42)37
3. Istar's Descent
4. Inana's Descent
E. Conclusions
Chapter 2. The Dying and Rising God in Mari Texts53
A. Tablet A.1146: The Death and Return of Dumuzi55
B. Tablet A.4540: The Burial of Dumuzi59
C. Tablet MARI 5, 1987.14: The Return of Dumuzi61
D. Discussion and Conclusions
Chapter 3. The Dying and Rising God in Ugaritic Texts
A. A Brief Overview of <i>The Baal Cycle</i> 69
1. The Literary Boundaries of the Baal vs. Yamm Conflict70
2. The Plotline of the Baal vs. Yamm Conflict70
3. The Relations between the Gods in the Baal vs. Yamm
Conflict71
4. The Literary Design of the Characters in the Baal vs. Yamm
Conflict72
5. The Authorship of the Baal vs. Yamm Conflict72

6 Contents

B. A Summary of the Dying God Mythologem	/3
C. Baal as a Dying and Rising God	75
1. Baal's Death (KTU 1.5 V-1.6 I 31; 1.6 II 13'-23'; 1.19 I 42-	46;
1.12)	75
2. Baal's Revival (<i>KTU</i> 1.6 III–IV; 1.17 VI 26′–32′)	96
3. Conclusions	102
D. Mot as a Dying and Rising God	103
1. Mot's Death (<i>KTU</i> 1.6 II 30′–35′; IV 11–19; 1.23 8–11)	103
2. Mot's Reappearance (<i>KTU</i> 1.6 II 35′–37′; V 7–11)	109
E. Conclusions	
L. Conclusions	
Chapter 4. The Dying and Rising God in a Text of Northwest Semitic	
Origin	113
A. The Myth of Elkunirša, Ašertu, and the Storm God (CTH 342.1)	113
B. Discussion and Conclusions	122
D. Discussion and Conclusions	122
Chapter 5. The Dying and Rising God in the Post-Ugaritic Levant	125
A. Ritualistic Aspects of the Dying and Rising God Mythologem	120
in Later Periods	126
B. Literary Aspects of the Dying and Rising God Mythologem	120
in Later Periods	132
III Later 1 erious	132
Chapter 6. Sources Related to the Storm God's Descent	
to the Netherworld without a Subsequent Ascent	125
A. Iškur and Enlil (Ni 12501)	
B. The Song of Release (CTH 789)	
C. Zechariah 12:10–11	
D. Conclusions	
D. Colletusions	14 /
Chapter 7. Summary and Conclusions	1.40
A. Early Occurrences of the Dying and Rising God Mythologem	145
	1.40
in the Ancient Near East	
B. The Origin and Development of the Dying and Rising God	
Mythologem in West Asia	
C. Epilogue	156
Diblicaments	
Bibliography	157
Index of Deferences	
Index of References	104