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**Abstract**

There are many elements at play in the Genesis story of the Garden of Eden, all of which instigated a multitude and diverse range of interpretations. However, the text has only rarely been interpreted as possibly having a link to an ancient ritual. Remarkably, all of the elements present in the tale of Adam and Eve can be found in several Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean sources, many of which have been interpreted as being associated with rituals. What I propose for this thesis is that the written account of the Eden narrative could be both a record of an historical ritual, and an attempt to standardize a choice women's rite of passage that was used to attain an exalted status within the Israelite religious and social institutions. For this, I investigate the development of the sacred marriage ritual in the nations surrounding Israel by defining its history, its purpose, and its main religious experts. I then explore the Israelite religious landscape around the time the text was composed to find the proper circumstances that would lend themselves to the existence of a Judahite sacred marriage rite akin to that of these other ancient cultures. Finally, using a comparative approach to the Eden text, that mainly relies on the Ritual School, I briefly explore the many elements at play in the tale and define their purpose in the ritual.

**Divisions:** [Concordia University](#) > [Faculty of Arts and Science](#) > [Religions and Cultures](#)**Item Type:** Thesis (Masters)**Authors:** [Beaulieu, Stéphane](#)**Pagination:** vii, 320 leaves : ill., maps ; 29 cm.**Institution:** Concordia University**Degree Name:** M.A.**Program:** Religion**Date:** 2007**Thesis Supervisor(s):** Oppenheim, Michael**Identification Number:** LE 3 C66R45M 2007 B43**ID Code:** 975701**Deposited By:** Concordia University Library**Deposited On:** 22 Jan 2013 16:13**Last Modified:** 13 Jul 2020 20:08**Related URLs:**

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In the Sacred Marriage, humans took the place of the gods in religious rituals devoted to fertility. The high priestess of the city, acting in the capacity of the fertility goddess Inanna, would have sex with the high priest or the king role-playing the fertility god Dumuzi. Loading... Those familiar with the Greek myth of Demeter and Persephone will recognize the precedence found in the earlier Inanna myths. Sacred Prostitution. Scholars have yet to settle on the question of whether sacred prostitution took place. Herodotus, a Greek historian, wrote that every Babylonian woman had to attend the temple of Ishtar/Inanna and agree to sex with any male that asked her. Once she performed this ritual, the male visitor gave her money to donate to the temple. A TOURIST couple who bled to death in a Greek island guesthouse appear to have been performing a Satanic ceremony before their double suicide on New Year's Eve, authorities say. Knives, candles and a pentagram symbol - used by Devil-worshippers - were found in the Airbnb room near the bodies of Lilia Botusheva, 23, and her 30-year-old German boyfriend. 4. Lilia Botusheva, 23, is said to have died along with her boyfriend in a Satanic ritualCredit: Facebook. The sinister arrangement of objects in the blood-soaked apartment led investigators to believe the pair were taking part in a black m