

1992

## Astarte 2 (Front Matter)

Astarte Staff

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## Greetings,

*The goddess Astarte was worshipped for at least a millennium before Christ. She was named and revered in different ways among the cultures of the ancient Middle and Near East; the early Hebrews called her Ashtoreth. At first she was worshipped primarily as a goddess of abundance and fertility, but as her cult spread, her aspects multiplied, and she became a goddess of maturity, of love, and of war. She was identified with Aphrodite, Ishtar, and Venus by their own followers.*

*In the twentieth century, the search for the goddess is on again. Women have asserted themselves in many ways, and have discovered the plurality of their own being. They struggle to recognize and assimilate these aspects, spiritual and sexual, nurturing and destructive, intuitive and rational, and they struggle to gain the means and confidence to balance these aspects in their daily lives. In this spirit of adventure and crisis, Astarte was conceived and dedicated to a goddess who was among the most ancient, many-faceted, and universal in history.*

*The magazine's goal is to hear and represent the voices of both men and women describing these struggles and discoveries. It seeks to represent the visual and verbal arts as well as the humanities, including such disciplines as history and philosophy. Its focus is local, reflecting the founders' desires to represent the voices to be heard in their own place and time.*

*Another of Astarte's goals is to sponsor readings, performances, and similar events in the hope of nurturing a spirit of community among local artists, writers, and scholars. The magazine hopes this will provide a forum for sharing between painters and poets, historians and sculptors, professionals and students.*

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