The cult of Aphrodite

Who was Aphrodite?

Aphrodite is the ancient Greek goddess for love, beauty and pleasure.

She is one of the twelve Olympians.

Aphrodite was worshipped as patron of sexuality and fertility.
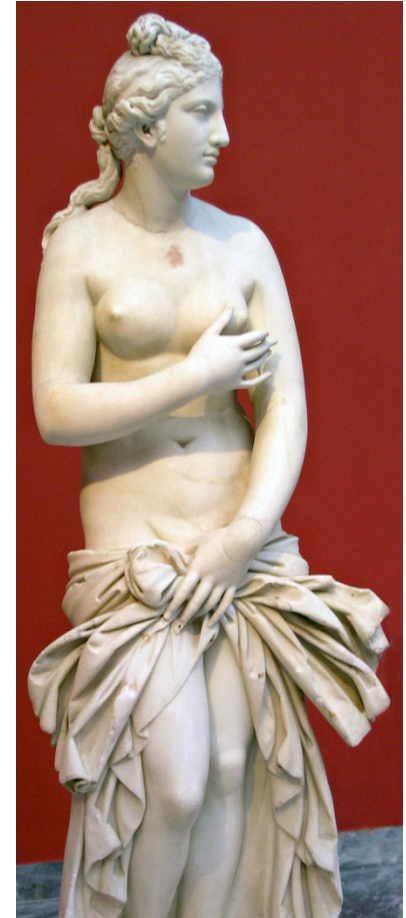
Sculpture of Aphrodite [1].

Origin of Aphrodite

The Origin of Aphrodite is Mesopotamia.

Venus figures are much older.

Venus from Willendorf is estimated to have been made 30,000 years ago.

Venus from Willendorf [10].

Origin of Aphrodite

The Origin of Aphrodite is Mesopotamia.

Sumer is the earliest know civilisation in this area.

The Sumerians worshipped the goddess Inanna, who was replaced by Ishtar through the Assyrians and Babylonians.

Ishtar is like Aphrodite goddess for love and pleasure, but also for war.

Ishtar, goddess from Mesopotamia [2].

Birth of Aphrodite

Aphrodite was born in the ocean near by Phaphos on the island of Cyprus.

Paphos on the island of Cyprus [5].

Coast near Paphos [4].

16.05

Birth of Aphrodite

Aphrodite was born in the foam of the Ocean.

Cronus brokaway Uranus' genitals and threw them into the ocean.

Through Uranus sperm and blood the Ocean generated the foam from which Aphrodite emerged.

The Birth of Venus (1863),
painted by Alexandre Cabanel [3].

Mythology of Aphrodite

Aphrodite was the wife of Hephaestus, but had an affair with Adonis.

Adonis was killed by Ares who was masked as wild boar.

Death of Adonis (1684-1686), painted by Luca Giordano [6].

16.07

Judgement of Paris

Hera, Athena and Aphrodite had a conflict, which one is the most beautiful.

Paris of Troy was asked to decide.

Aphrodite win over by promising Paris the most beautiful women on earth.

The Judgement of Paris (1636),
painted by Peter Paul Rubens [7] .

Judgement of Paris

The women was Helen, her husband Menelaus, was king of Sparta.

Paris took Helen and started the Trojan War.

The Judgement of Paris (1636),
painted by Peter Paul Rubens [7] .

Temples of Aphrodite

Temples were often build in the near of the ocean

Main festival to honor Aphrodite was Aphrodisia.

For Aphrodisia the temple was purified with the blood of a dove.

Places of the ancient citys:
1: Paphos, 2: Kouklia (Palaia Paphos), 3: Amathous,
4: Kition [5].

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Temple ruins at Aphrodisias [8].

From Aphrodite to Venus

Venus is a Roman goddess for love, desire and victory and was influenced by the Greek Aphrodite.

Venus comes from venenum (englisch: venom) and means poison or elixir.

The Planet Venus which is also called evening star is also associated with Aphrodite.

The Birth of Venus (1879),
painted by William-Adolphe Bouguereau [9].
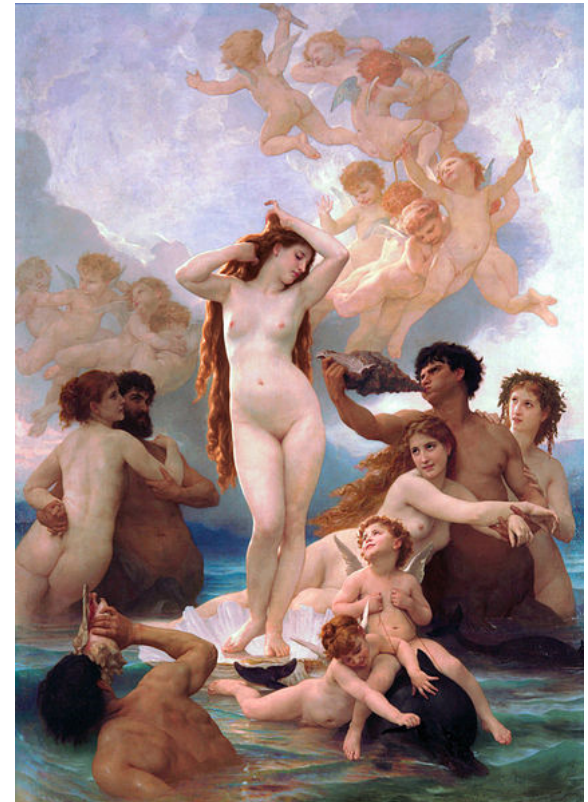
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Illustrations

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[2] https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/ff/Naked_woman_holding_her_breasts-Sb_7742-IMG_0880-black.jpg.

[3] https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f6/1863_Alexandre_Cabanel_-The_Birth_of_Venus.jpg.

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Petra_Tou_Romiou_00669.jpg.

[5] https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cyprus_relief_location_map.jpg.

[6] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Luca_Giordano_020.jpg.

[7] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Rubens_-_Judgement_of_Paris.jpg

[8] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_Temple_of_Aphrodite,_built_in_the_Ionic_order_in_stages_during_the_Roman_period_(from_1st_century_BC_to_2nd_century_AD)_and_later_converted_intoa_Christian_basilica,_Aphrodisias,_Caria,_Turkey_(20487630885).jpg.

[9] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_Birth_of_Venus_by_William-Adolphe_Bouguereau_(1879).jpg.

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