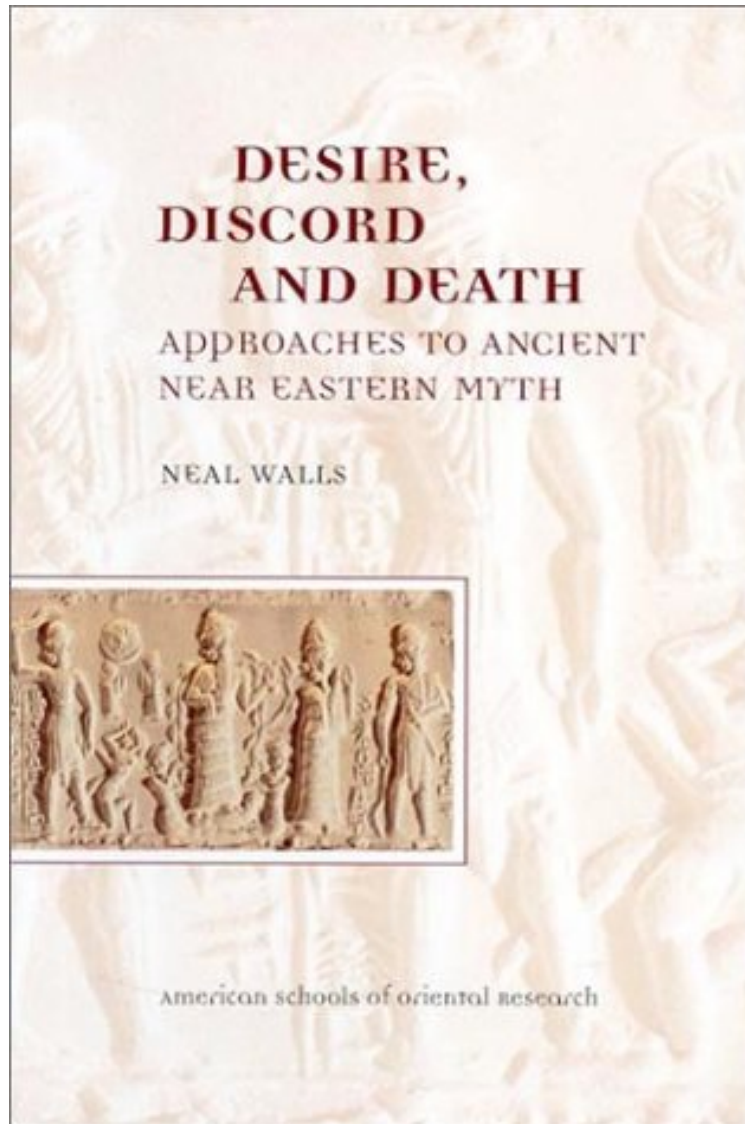


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Desire, Discord and Death: Approaches to Near Eastern Myth (ASOR Books)

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From American Schools of Oriental Research : Desire, Discord and Death: Approaches to Near Eastern Myth (ASOR Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Desire, Discord and Death: Approaches to Near Eastern Myth (ASOR Books):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy A. MeyerContains three articles which explore the topics of desire, discord and death in three separate myths. The articles contained in the book are: "The allure of

Gilgamesh: The construction of desire in the Gilgamesh epic," "On the couch with Horus and Seth: A Freudian analysis," and "Desire in death's realm: Sex, power, and violence in Nergal and Ereshkigal." In the first article the author looks at desire in the epic of Gilgamesh through the lens of Queer Theory. I am willing to lend credence to many aspects of his interpretation but honestly I don't see everything in that light. Even without looking at the epic using Queer Theory I see the homosexual elements for what they are and don't require a special theory to look at it. In the second article we have a novel approach in looking at the myth of "the Contendings" between Horus and Seth which uses Freudian analysis as its underlying theory of interpretation. Now outright I have issues with Freud and his incessant seeing every single thing as a symbol of something. Sometimes a thing is just a thing. With that said I did enjoy this article, and its analysis does give much to think about when looking at the odd parts of the story. The final article examines the myth of Nergal and Ereshkigal through the lens of a feminist analysis of power. A fascinating article but again I can see much of the same analysis while reading the myth without having to use a feminist model to interpret it. Enjoyable nonetheless, and gives some interesting thoughts about the myth. This book is possibly worth re-examining in the future after some other reading so I may readjust my rating at a later date.

The three essays presented in this volume reveal the symbolic complexity and poetic visions of ancient Near Eastern mythology. The author explores the interrelated themes of erotic desire, divine conflict, and death's realm in selected ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian mythological narratives using contemporary methods of literary analysis. Topics include the construction of desire in the Gilgamesh epic, a psychoanalytic approach to 'The Contendings of Horus and Seth', and gender and the exercise of power in the stormy romance of Nergal and Ereshkigal. Walls' fresh treatment of these three important myths brings them to life for the specialist and mythology buff alike.

A feast of erudition and insight! -- Laurie L. Patton, Associate Professor of Early Indian Religions and Chair, Department of Religion, Emory University
Neal Walls critically informed readings of ancient Near Eastern myths are novel, insightful and very smart. -- Jerrold S. Cooper, Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University
This book is a must for anyone interested in the literature and religions of the ancient Near East. -- Jerrold S. Cooper, Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University
About the Author
Neal Walls is Associate Professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Wake Forest University. A scholar of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and related ancient Near Eastern texts, Walls is fascinated by the breadth, depth, and complexity of Old Testament literature. He enjoys helping students to become skillful interpreters of scripture, to appreciate the diversity of theological perspectives within the canon, and to reclaim the Old Testaments abundant theological imagination for the church's ministries today. Walls also leads pilgrimages and travel programs to Africa and the Middle East.