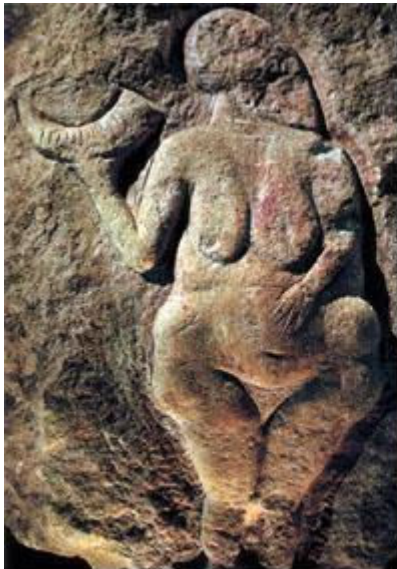


## The Sacred Horn

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The Asiatic Uighur tribes who spread to the four corners of the world considered the ibex as their sacred totem animal (see Chapter 3). The culture of these ancient nomadic tribes was based on oral traditions and their method of communication was essentially synthetic and pictographic. They prayed and made offerings to the sun-god, which was their most important deity. During these rituals the hollow horn of the ibex was used as a cup for solemn promises. It was also used to make an oath. The etymology of “oath” is known to be **ǣth** in old English but, most probably, its original form was **Octh**, a promise of solidarity to the **Okh** leader.



Aquitaine (south France)



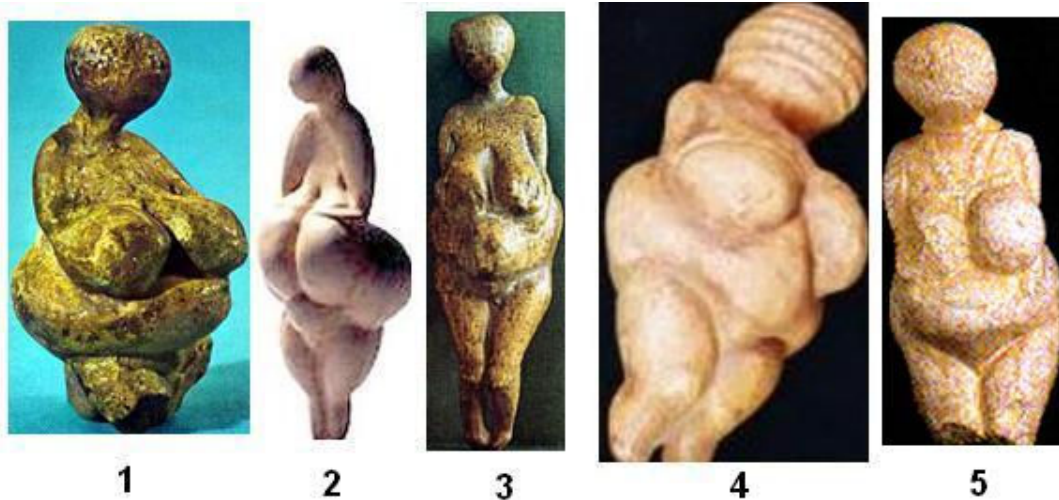
Bronze rhyton from Persia

The naked woman above is holding a curved ibex horn in her right hand. The wall relief is in the south-east part of Franca, known as Aquitaine. This region was part of the Occitania and is known as **Aquitania** in Occitan and **Akitania** in Basque (see Chapter 2, **The Proto-language of Central Asia**). The initial phonemes of these names (**Aq** and **Ak**) are possible relics of the ancient **Oc** nation. On the right we see a bronze rhyton in the form of an ibex from Persia (1).

An interesting point to note is that there are no facial details on the wall relief above. This was done on purpose, the reason being that she was the human representation of the sun deity. The sun rays were imagined to come out from small holes on the surface of the sun. This is why ancient cultures made small holes on the head of sun-goddess figurines without showing the facial details. Some examples are shown below.

All of them are about 10cm tall or less, an indication that they are sacred amulets of the sun-goddess. As mentioned above none of them have facial details. The exact date of these

amulets is not precisely determined but they are estimated to be minimum 5,000 years or more ancient. Since most of these mother goddesses were found in the north of the Black Sea (within present Russia and Ukraine) and Central Europe, we can safely guess that the sun cult originated from central Asia where ibexes and shaman woman were considered as



representation of the sun deity (2).

1. Gagarino (Ukraine), 2. Lespuges (France), 3. Kostenki (Russia), 4. Willendorf (Austria), 5. Kostenki (Russia).

Another strong indication about the origin of the sacred horn is obtained when the ancient rhytons are investigated. Some examples of rhytons are shown below. We see that not only the horned animals but also lions and horses were considered to be sacred (3).



**Rhytons from Asia and Europe**

Horses had a special place in the culture of Asiatic nomadic tribes. Horses were the main vehicle of transport and a person without a horse was not considered to be important. An ancient Turkish saying can be translated as: "The one without a horse cannot have a name". The original form of this sentence has the rhyming words "at" (horse) and "ad" (name). I have

already mentioned that “**ata**” means ancestor in Turkish (see chapter 11, **The Eastern expansion**). It is due to the horse that during the Neolithic period (about 10,000 years BP) people migrated very rapidly towards the west and south-west of Central Asia, spreading their culture and language, which is the common mother tongue from which all European languages derived.

## References

- (1) **7000 Jahre persische Kunst**, Kunsthistorisches Museum, page 206, Vienna, Austria.
- (2) **The Language of the Goddess**, Marija Gimbutas, ISBN-13-978-0500282496.
- (3) MIHO Museum publication, 1997 Japan.