

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

January 2021 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

## **Women and Power in Ancient Turkey:**

### **Hittite Queens & Queenship**



What was the role of the queen in the ancient world? Most studies of power and politics in the ancient Middle East have centered on kings and kingship, overlooking the topic of queenship and power. This topic is ripe for discussion, as there is a rich diversity of texts from the second millennium BCE shedding light on the lives of powerful royal women like Šibtu of Mari, Puduḫepa of the Hittite Empire, Tiye of Egypt, and Fu Hao of the Shang dynasty. This reading group will examine the lives of the queens of the Hittite Empire, a powerful rival of ancient Egypt. Through our readings, we will explore what ancient queens can teach us about the complex and dynamic relationship between gender and power.

We will first explore the religious activities of Hittite queens. Why was it so important for the queen to be present for festivals, and why did scribes record the dreams of queens? What did queens pray about, and what sorts of objects did they offer to the gods? Our discussion will then turn to politics and administration. How did queens interact with their officials and courtiers? What happened when a queen clashed with her husband or son, and how were these conflicts



resolved? What was the role of the queen and other royal women in diplomacy? Readings will include a variety of texts in translation, including historical annals, prayers, festival and ritual texts, and diplomatic correspondence. By reading and discussing these texts, participants will develop a better understanding of the intersection of gender and power in ancient politics, religion, and daily life.

**Your SASA Educational Ambassadors:**

Michael Moore, PhD in Ancient Near Eastern Studies

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**Dates (3 weeks):**

Wednesdays @ 2pm EST

-Session 1: January 13th

-Session 2: January 27th

-Session 3: February 3rd

**Location:**

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929075989?pwd=MGNkZ0l2bG10OW9XemN4cDk2YmtOdz09>

Zoom Meeting ID

859 2907 5989

Zoom Meeting Password

156210

**Preliminary Reading**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zu3npq4iqv5gjhq/Overview%20of%20Hittite%20History.pdf?dl=0>

## Week 1 Religion

Prayer of Puduhepa

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6nmbj2v2l2hydxt/Puduhepa%20Prayer.pdf?dl=0>

Prayers of Mursili II

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0l3dgdpgv5bzcgp/Mursili.pdf?dl=0>

ZABABA Festival

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lfwosmozk1ue4ns/ZABABA%20Festival.pdf?dl=0>

Dreams and Votive Texts

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/budbzyk7r99de1v/Dream%20Texts.pdf?dl=0>

Asmunikkal Decree

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/f38fyad5jnzp9fz/Asmunikkal%20Decree.pdf?dl=0>

### Optional Background Reading

“Hittite Religion” by Gary Beckman from *The Cambridge History of Religions in the Ancient World* edited by Michele Salzman and Marvin Sweeney

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ehceqq1d39ouniz/Hittite%20Religion.pdf?dl=0>

### Additional Resources:

- Images of Hattusa: <https://www.hittitemonuments.com/bogazkoy/>
- Reading about the politics of Hittite black magic:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZuB7nBMmPblo16JfBUrRYnw3taxujlXZ/view?usp=sharing>
- On Hittite royal funerary ceremonies *sallis wastais* (great sin) :  
[http://smea.isma.cnr.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Kapelus\\_Some-remarks-on-Hittite-Royal-Funerary-Ritual-sallis-wastais.pdf](http://smea.isma.cnr.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Kapelus_Some-remarks-on-Hittite-Royal-Funerary-Ritual-sallis-wastais.pdf)
- [https://www.academia.edu/26311880/\\_Achilles\\_and\\_the\\_Sallis\\_Wastais\\_Ritual\\_Performing\\_Death\\_in\\_Greece\\_and\\_Anatolia\\_in\\_Performing\\_Death\\_Social\\_Analyses\\_of\\_Funerary\\_Traditions\\_in\\_the\\_Ancient\\_Near\\_East\\_and\\_Mediterranean\\_ed\\_N\\_Laneri\\_Chicago\\_2007\\_229\\_242](https://www.academia.edu/26311880/_Achilles_and_the_Sallis_Wastais_Ritual_Performing_Death_in_Greece_and_Anatolia_in_Performing_Death_Social_Analyses_of_Funerary_Traditions_in_the_Ancient_Near_East_and_Mediterranean_ed_N_Laneri_Chicago_2007_229_242)
- Hittite royal afterlife and a bit about the common after life:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d6818juWZlkjf-EMkxNwxCPfHR4fS29P/view?usp=sharing>
- If anyone reads Turkish, here is an article I wrote about the continuation of older Anatolian mortuary traditions in Hittite royal funerary practices: (Dr. Pinar Durgun)  
[https://www.academia.edu/36657084/\\_Hitit\\_%C3%96l%C3%BC\\_G%C3%B6mme\\_Gelenekleri\\_nin\\_Yerel\\_Anadolu\\_K%C3%B6kenleri\\_The\\_local\\_Anatolian\\_origins\\_of\\_Hittite\\_mortuary\\_practices\\_2018\\_Akt%C3%BCel\\_Arkeoloji\\_63\\_44\\_51](https://www.academia.edu/36657084/_Hitit_%C3%96l%C3%BC_G%C3%B6mme_Gelenekleri_nin_Yerel_Anadolu_K%C3%B6kenleri_The_local_Anatolian_origins_of_Hittite_mortuary_practices_2018_Akt%C3%BCel_Arkeoloji_63_44_51)
- Images of musicians at Alacahöyük: <https://www.hittitemonuments.com/alacahoyuk/>

- Sistrum from Early Bronze Age Anatolia:  
<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/324440?searchField=All&sortBy=Relevance&ft=anatolia+sistrum&offset=0&rpp=80&pos=2>
- Hittite Music Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Hittitemusic/>
- The Lives of Hittite Women in the Late Bronze Age:  
[https://www.academia.edu/5803405/The\\_Lives\\_of\\_Hittite\\_Women\\_in\\_the\\_Late\\_Bronze\\_Age](https://www.academia.edu/5803405/The_Lives_of_Hittite_Women_in_the_Late_Bronze_Age)
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## Week 2 Diplomacy and International Relations

Hatti and Egypt

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hbfzh0axzhqu69h/Hatti%20and%20Egypt.pdf?dl=0>

Hatti and Ugarit

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bmr3uagk2c7oqp4/Hatti%20and%20Ugarit.pdf?dl=0>

Hatti and Tarhuntassa (selected paragraphs)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6pkfm2b0bwsekrq/Hatti%20and%20Tarhuntassa.pdf?dl=0>

Hatti and Ahhiyawa (selected paragraph)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y1oxfxy22bame5h/Hatti%20and%20Ahhiyawa.pdf?dl=0>

### Additional Resources:

- [https://archive.archaeology.org/online/features/iron\\_ladies/puduhepa.html](https://archive.archaeology.org/online/features/iron_ladies/puduhepa.html)
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2016/07-08/ancient-egypt-ramses-pharaoh-hittite-royal-wedding/>
- Amarna letters: [https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/amlet/hd\\_amlet.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/amlet/hd_amlet.htm)
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2020/11-12/pharaohs-amarna-letters-expose-politics-3300-years-ago/>
- “My Sun-God” Reflections of Mesopotamian Conceptions of Kingship among the Hittites:  
<https://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/handle/2027.42/77475/MELAMMU2.PDF%3Bsequence=1>
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## Week 3 Politics and Administration

Letter from the king to the queen mother (Tudhaliya IV to Puduhepa?)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/xdn5tscfxudhcxw/King%20to%20Queen%20Mother.pdf?dl=0>

Letter of Puduhepa to Tattamaru

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3nv0npxlaggwntm/Puduhepa%20to%20Tattamaru.pdf?dl=0>

The case of Ura-Tarhunta and Ukkura

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qxv7xe3z5htcjc/Ura-Tarhunta%20and%20Ukkura.pdf?dl=0>

Ruling on a wrecked ship at Ugarit

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vxiaoqys0olsginy/Ugarit%20Ship.pdf?dl=0>

Land grant for the chief singer of the queen

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9srkzaii4t3ulf0/Land%20grant%20for%20the%20chief%20singer%20of%20the%20queen.pdf?dl=0>

### **Full Zoom Meeting Link:**

Topic: SASA Mini Reading Group: Women and Power in Ancient Turkey: Hittite Queens and Queenship

Time: Jan 13, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929075989?pwd=MGNkZ0l2bG10OW9XemN4cDk2YmtOdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 2907 5989

Passcode: 156210

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85929075989#,,,,\*156210# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,85929075989#,,,,\*156210# US (San Jose)

### Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 859 2907 5989

Passcode: 156210

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929075989?pwd=MGNkZ0l2bG10OW9XemN4cDk2YmtOdz09>