

Compiled and condensed from the Sumerian Telling of Inanna Queen of Heaven

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Inanna (Venus) sets out for the Underworld to attend the funeral of the Great Bull of Heaven and her sister Erishkegal's husband. She dresses in her full ceremonial regalia and is forced to give up something at each gate she encounters on her journey to the Underworld.

Venus/Inanna going through the Gates.

Inanna at the first gate, the Gate of Authority, surrenders the shugurra, the crown of the steppe, symbolizing being stripped of her connection to her godhood, her connection to heaven, her divinity.

The second gate, the Gate of Perception... the lapis measuring rod and line are removed from hand (or in other versions of the story she surrenders her small lapis bead earrings) as she is stripped of her sense of magic and her ability to manifest.

The third gate, The Gate of Communication... she surrenders the Double stranded beads around her neck – releasing all the ways she no longer communicates the truth and authenticity of her being.

The fourth gate, The Gate of Compassion... she surrenders her breastplate called "Come, man, come!" symbolizing her emotional heart and the release of all the ways she no longer truly loves herself.

The fifth gate, The Gate of Personal Power... the Golden hip girdle from her waste (or in other version the gold ring around her wrist) is removed. – and she is stripped of all the ways she tried to have power over others or gave her power away.

The sixth gate, The Gate of Creativity, her ankle bracelets are removed and she was stripped of all the ways she no longer truly valued herself.

The **seventh gate**, The Gate of Manifestation... From her body the royal robe, also referred to as the Garment of ladyship, was removed stripping Inanna of her life force.

Thus she arrived in the underworld stripped bare of all her garments of protection that no longer served her.

Ereshkigal kills Inanna and hangs her corpse on a meat hook.

Ninshubar gets Enki to sending two emissaries or androgynous beings called a kalatur and a kurgarra. They have been given instructions to hear Ereshkigal's pain and name it back to her. Wisely this action heals depression, hurt and anger when we can name and witness our pain without judgment or a need to fix, change or make it be different than what it is.

When the kalatur and karugurra witness Ereshkigal's pain she is miraculously healed. In her gratitude she gives Inanna to Enki's emissaries and they revive her with the water and food of life. Inanna awakes and begins her departure back through the seven gates collecting her vestments symbolizing her renewal and rebirth.

At the first gate -The Gate of Manifestation, **which had been the last gate she passed through on her way into the underworld** she retrieves her royal robe, or Garment of ladyship, reclaiming the healthy potency of her own life force expression.

The second gate -The Gate of Creativity, she retrieves her ankle bracelets symbolizing a renewed and healthy connection to her value and self worth.

The third gate - The Gate of Personal Power, the Golden hip girdle from her waste or the golden ring around her wrist is returned and she reclaims her personal power.

The fourth gate - The Gate of Compassion, she retrieved her breastplate called "Come, man, come!" symbolizing the healing of her emotional heart and her renewed ability to truly love herself and thus love others.

The **fifth gate** - The Gate of Communication... she retrieves the Double stranded beads around her neck – reclaiming healthy authentic communication of her true self.

The **sixth gate** - the Gate of Perception... she regained the lapis measuring rod and line or the small lapis bead earrings – and reclaims her sense of magic and ability to manifest.

The seventh gate - the Gate of Authority, Inanna retrieves the shugurra, the crown of the steppe, symbolizing her reconnection to heaven, her divinity and her godhood.

Innana ascended - returning to the heavens - reclaiming her place as Queen of Heaven and Earth, but now she had the knowledge and experience of pain and darkness, having experienced them for herself.

The Wisdom that originally orchestrated her descent into the underworld also arranged her return. After passing through the seven gateways Inanna encountered all her shadowed parts, the uncertainties of who she really was. All her tools were stripped from her and she was required to die (surrender) to who she believed herself to be.

This is the underworld initiation of death and rebirth that we all encounter. This is the gift of Inanna's journey that reminds us it is through the wisdom of surrender and trusting the death and rebirth process that brings us through this passage to a whole new more empowered and magical way of being. And so it IS!!!!