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by R S

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Art of Ancient Sumer with That of the Assyrians

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Art of Ancient Sumer with That of the Assyrians

Sumerians fashioned alabaster pots with curled heads, stone and alabaster ornaments, gold adornments, cylinder covers made from valuable stones, and musical devices decorated with semi-precious stones and gold. There were metal fabricators who mastered the art of fashioning gold and silver. Most of this art were exhumed from tombs since the ancient Sumer buried their deceased with their valued objects. In contrast, Assyrians created huge winged bulls with human heads. Additionally, they carved relief carving to greater art. The arts included hunting scenarios, decorations of bloodstained battles, fighting lions and bulls, demonstrations of kings and idols, bulls having wings, and two-dimensional human figures with more developed bodies and muscle with elaborate hairstyles and beards (Esteve, 2017).

In both cultures, the ultimate responsibility was appropriately carrying out of the cult, which the well-being of the country relied upon. The duties were delegated to the king or city ruler. They were considered compelling figures who imparted their powers into their rule, consequently creating fertility and welfare. According to Esteve (2017), the ancient Sumer and Assyrian religious principles and practices formed a similar tradition. They worshipped different gods and goddesses whom they believed influenced whatever transpired in their lives. A large temple called ziggurat was built in the middle of the city for the gods where priests lived and made sacrifices to the gods.

Following the similarities in religious beliefs between the ancient Sumer and Assyrians, most of the gods such as Enlil and Enki were created representing an equal possession of power. The differences were very minimal and unnoticeable. Lastly, the sociopolitical organization of the two civilizations also contributed to the different styles of art produced. Maul (2017) argues that from the earliest times cities were characterized and adorned by public buildings. Armies

were well trained, equipped and foreign defeats or regional warfare were major preoccupations of rulers. Therefore, certain classes of artworks were dedicated to glorifying the success and military expertise that influenced the different styles and functions of the arts produced.

References

Esteve, J. L. B. (2017). Nergal: *The shaping of the god Mars in Sumer, Assyria, and Babylon*.

Maul, S. M. (2017). Assyrian Religion. *A Companion to Assyria*, 113, 336.

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