



# Press Release

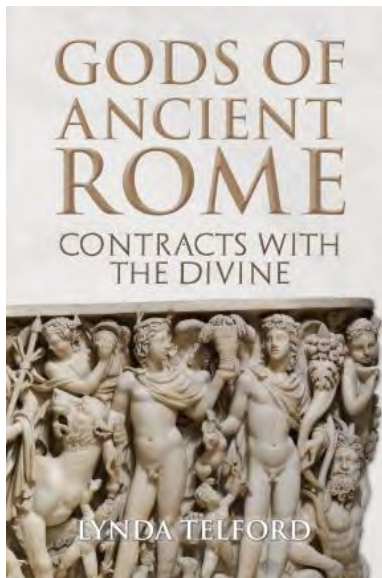
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## ***Gods of Ancient Rome Contracts with the Divine***

Lynda Telford

*From the family shrine, the Lararium, to huge public festivals, which embodied the sanctity and viability of the state itself, religion permeated every aspect of Roman life.*



Roman religion was a very definite 'contract' with the Gods, offering devotion and the blood sacrifices which 'fed' and nourished the gods, in exchange for their continued protection and for Rome's security and prestige. This 'contract' was a very real expectation that the gods were alive and aware, and that in return for the regular nourishment of human worship they could, and would, honour their part of the bargain. If this bargain was not honoured, then its nullity could bring disaster. This was best shown by the utter astonishment in Rome at the news of the defeat at Cannae in 216 BC. Surely the gods were unhappy - and two Vestal Virgins were chosen to be buried alive to appease them!

The original gods and goddesses would be joined, but not superseded, by the importation of Greek gods, who with their names changed, but with their anthropomorphic characteristics intact, also served Rome and gave her their support. There would eventually be others, foreign gods from the East, bringing new ideas to Rome, along with outlandish and curious ceremonies, weird and wonderful gods like nothing ever before seen, requiring initiations, sacrifices and rituals of their own, performed by equally unusual priests, some of them celibate, who would add to the already replete Roman priesthood, with its many Flamens, Pontifices, Augurs and Haruspices, but bringing even a tantalising whiff of magic. All of these would eventually become accepted, by all classes of society. With chapters on the Numina, emperor worship, the festivals and magic, '*Gods of Ancient Rome*' presents this complex but fascinating subject for the non-specialist reader.

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**Publication:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
**Price:** £22.99  
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**Binding:** Hardback  
**Extent:** 288 pages  
**Illustrations:** 46 illustrations  
**Rights:** World, all languages

### PRESS INFORMATION

- A more accessible work on the same subject as Mary Beard's successful two-volume 'Religions of Rome'
- An examination of how belief in the supernatural affects the political, as relevant today as it has always been.
- Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats.
- Contact Philip James Dean, Publicity Officer, at Amberley Publishing, Tel +44 01453 847823, Email [p.dean@amberley-books.com](mailto:p.dean@amberley-books.com) for further details.

### THE AUTHOR

Lynda Telford writes historical articles and is Events and Projects Officer for the Yorkshire Branch of the Richard III society. She is a keen amateur archaeologist and the author of five books, including 'Women of Medieval England' and 'Women of the Vatican' for Amberley.



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Amberley Publishing  
The Hill, Merrywalks, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4EP  
**T:** +44 1453 847823  
**E:** [publicity@amberley-books.com](mailto:publicity@amberley-books.com)