

# Running Horned Woman

Tassili n'Ajjer, Algeria, pigment on rock, c. 6000-4000 BCE

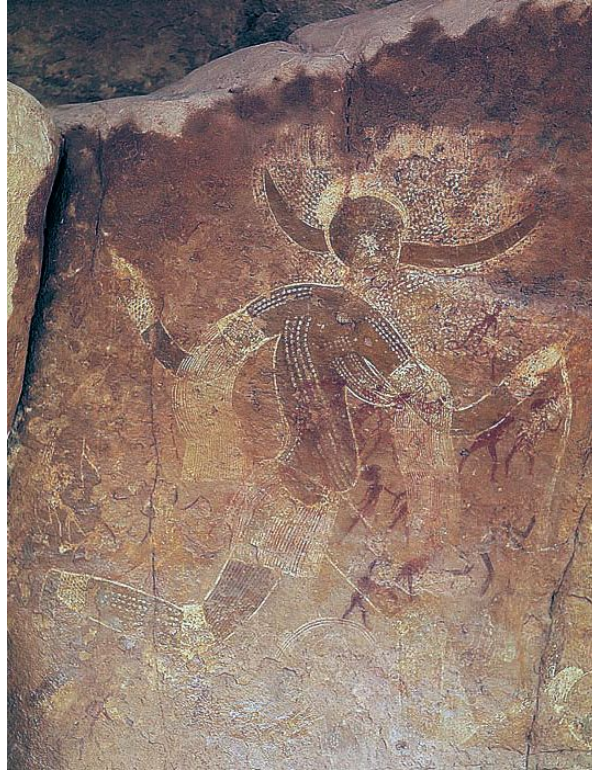
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## Context

- This piece was created at the beginning of the Neolithic Period.
- We are unsure about who she is, but the most common theory is that she's a goddess (possibly of fertility or agriculture) of the ancient peoples who lived in that region.
- It is also believed to be a symbolic representation, rather than a literal one.
- She is believed to be derived from Isis, the Egyptian goddess who is attributed to the discovery of agriculture.
- The horns mark her as a goddess because the people of the time thought that animals were sacred and they often created gods with animal features.

## Form

- Hierarchical status is shown here; the goddess/subject of the piece is displayed in the middle of the wall and with ginormous, while there are tiny humans in the background.



## Content

- The painting shows the silhouette of a woman running with horns on her head.
- There are white dots running up and down her body which we believe is scarification, (the scratching, burning/branding, or the cutting of designs into the skin as a permanent body modification).
- Can be found in one of the highest massifs in the Tassili (a region is believed to hold special status due to elevation and unique topology).

## Function

- The fact that the subject is dressed in ornate clothing, has her body decorated with designs, and is in a sacred and respected place, suggests that this was used in some sort of ritual, rite, or ceremony.