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August 23, 2020
HST100
Primary Source Assignment #1

The Piece seems to be addressed to a priestess, or a female deity. It would seem to fall into the genre of poetry, a song of praise. It is common in many traditions to praise a god or king with a song of praise. Also known as praise signing. Often in the form of a chant to ceremoniously introduce them at events. Praise singing is sometimes still practiced for a modern ruler. Personally, my experience of praise signing comes from the African Zulu tradition. The chiefs where often introduces ceremoniously with poetic chanting. It is still practiced today in South Africa at events like the inauguration of a president, and the opening of parliament.

The culture seems to be a religious and superstitious one. Praying or worshipping gods. There also appears to be a rivalry amongst these gods; Perhaps the god of an enemy. Maybe a reference to an actual enemy who went against their god. Possibly a force of evil, they believe they would be protected from by worshipping this goddess. Do they feel they have wronged the gods and need to praise and honor them? It seems to be a society where religion, life, and war are all tied together. Wars are undertaken for religious reasons and the blessing of the gods. They were relating the society's success and failure directly to the will of this deity. A culture that engages in war with others, so to say a militaristic culture. However, it is not clear to what extent the military influences the culture. Is it like the Romans or Zulus who live for conquest? Or is it a minor or temporary altercation. Do they seek to be freed from an enemy, as suggested by the allusion to something being crushed by the deity?

I would like to know more about the deity the song is addressed to and the context of the address. Is it seeking blessings for a new conquest? Is it thanks? Is it a ritual remembrance? More background would greatly aid my understanding.