

**Write your hook here:**

*In Pt. 1 of our Stripper Heaux History Project, we're going to be discussing the sinful, vengeful, passionate, and spiritual myths that are credited with being the origins of exotic dance.*

**Write your intro below:**

*If you don't know I'm Venus Rose, a lover of all things classic and vintage, and that includes the classic styles of exotic dance. I love the glitz and glamour that went into putting on a show and being the crowd's fantasy, but I always wanted to know more. The history of stripping is slim and a little bit all over the place. Mostly minimal research from historians, blogs from neo burlesque performers or enthusiasts, and scattered stories and pieces of evidence we've been able to come across over time. If you're an exotic dancer or simply appreciate the art, stay tuned for a deep dive into ancient myths and tales of removing your clothes in a transactional exchange.*

**Write your main content below:**

## **African Traditions**

*In my research, it was really difficult to find much information on the myths and ancient traditions that are credited with being the beginnings, or first accounts of stripping in our history. What I did find, was that there are rumored origins of a few different backgrounds and traditions. The one that stood out a lot to me, but of course had the least information to behind this tradition or the tribe that started it, was an African tradition. This was a ceremonial dance done prior to the wedding, the soon to be bride would dance provocatively with a wooden pole to show her soon to be husband that she was ready to mate while also letting him know how she liked to get down. I really searched high and low to find anything else about this ancient tradition, but sadly, there was the same story, "a rumored African tradition...", and nothing more insightful. There's literally nothing, no mention of what tribe or the possible region this tradition came from, no ancient writings, no artwork, absolutely nothing. I was able to find more backstory on a Sumerian Myth of the Goddess Inanna and her descent to the underworld, the most agreed upon origin myth of stripping by scholars and researchers. Now I suspect the lack of information about the ancient African tradition has to do with the lack of effort and intention in the research being done, but that's just my cynical mind at work.*

## **Inanna's Descent**

*Now, getting into the myth of Inanna, also known as the Goddess Ishtar (In ancient Mesopotamian lore), this myth tells a story of naivete, self-sacrifice, and requital, all assumptions and for some, elements of the world of stripping that we know today. See Inanna was a goddess of heaven and believed she would be able to go to the underworld to visit her sister, Ereshkigal, the queen of the Underworld, in addition to paying her respects to the Bull of Heaven, Gugalanna, who died in another tale where he was sent to attack Gilgamesh & Enkidu on behalf of Inanna. The rules of the Underworld were that no one who enters would be allowed to leave with the exception of a few high deities. That didn't deter Inanna. She knew she was going to go down there to get what she wanted and return home to heaven no problem, but when the gatekeeper of the underworld, Net that she is there to see her sister and pay her final respects to the Bull of Heaven, but before he lets her through, he runs to Ereshkigal to get her permission. Neti is instructed to lock each gate of the underworld (in this story, there are 7), and to make Inanna hand over a piece of her royal outfit or jewelry to gain access and move onto the next level. She already instructed her servant, Ninshubur to go reach out to 4 separate high level deities to come and rescue*

**Write your call to action below:**

*If you found this information useful, love pole, love strippers, or just want to know more about the history and where stripping came from. Make sure you become a Patron, subscribe to Youtube for new free and informative showgirl content, and check me out on [showgirlartistry.com](http://showgirlartistry.com) for mini lessons, and Venus Rose Pole Classes! If all of that is just too much for you to process in one sitting, simply sign up for our mailing list just to stay in the know and where to find me! I'll link somewhere in the description or video.*