

Re: Alexander The Great.....

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From: Jona (ads1294196_at_tiscali.nl)

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JustInterested wrote:

> *I was just wondering if anyone could tell me if Alexander The Great
> built (or used) a temple called the Luna Temple? Thank you.*

Luna is the Latin name of the moon, and the word can be used as a translation of Selene (the Greek moon goddess). Alexander sacrificed to her after a lunar eclipse of 20 September 331, shortly before the battle of Gaugamela. She had to share her sacrifice with Gê (Earth) and Helios (Sun), which shows that Alexander knew what an eclipse was.

Alternatively, Luna might stand for Sin, the Babylon Moon god. He was venerated at Harran, and although our sources do not mention that Alexander visited the city, he passed through it when he went from the Euphrates to the Tigris.

See <http://www.livius.org/ha-hd/harran/harran.html>

and <http://www.livius.org/a/turkey/harran/harran.html>

Finally, at the end of his life, Alexander ordered the construction of an expensive temple of Artemis Tauropolus at Amphipolis (http://www.livius.org/aj-al/alexander/alexander_t27.html). Artemis was sometimes venerated as the Moon goddess, but Artemis Tauropolus was, as far as I know, especially the goddess of friendship among soldiers.

[I took the liberty to crosspost this message from sci.archaeology to soc.history.ancient; there are some people there who know a lot about Greek religion.]

Jona

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Jona Lendering

<http://www.livius.org>