

## **The *Ninhursag Lament*, a Literary Precedent for the *Stabat Mater***

Clara Brandt

*Departmental Affiliation:* Theology  
College of Arts and Sciences

The *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* of the Christian tradition bears a striking resemblance to the weeping goddess poems of Sumer, and in particular the *Ninhursag Lament*. The history behind both poems is briefly outlined, and then comparisons are drawn between the two poems' structure, imagery, movements, and use of other literary devices. Using these comparisons and evidence from the Bible, it is proposed that the *Ninhursag Lament* is a literary precedent for the *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*.

### *Information about the Author:*

Clara Brandt is a senior middle-level education major. This paper is a version of a term paper written for a theology course (THEO 319) she took for her minor. It grew from her fascination with theology and love of Pergolesi's rendition of the *Stabat Mater*. After the original submission, this paper was presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Student Religious Studies Conference and the suggestions made there have been incorporated accordingly.

*Faculty Sponsor:* Dr. George Heider

*Student Contact:* [clara.brandt@valpo.edu](mailto:clara.brandt@valpo.edu)