

**BANTU MYTHS
AND OTHER TALES**

RELIGIOUS TEXTS TRANSLATION SERIES

NISABA

EDITED BY

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BANTU MYTHS AND OTHER TALES

COLLECTED AND TRANSLATED BY

JAN KNAPPERT

With a folding map



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NISABA is the name of the Sumerian goddess of vegetation and writing, whose symbol is the calamus (the instrument with which the writing was impressed on the soft clay) on an altar. The Sumerians were the first people to use writing, for keeping accounts and, by extension, inter alia, as a substitute for the oral tradition. For this reason, the goddess has been given pride of place here.

Illustration facing p. 1, by Laurence Knappert.

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