20251219 – Dissecting Enheduanna; a collage by Mark Sanders – after a poem by Sarah Glaz.

Enheduanna

. . . in the beginning
there is no beginning . . .

Eternity's dark fingers hold a lantern
casting a glow
over the city-state of Ur,

where the Sumerian princess,
Enheduanna,
high priestess of the Moon God, Nanna,

Nanna, the Moon God, is known as the Father Of The Astral Triad: Moon, Sun and Venus.
The central circle in the collage is an 18th century pastel image by English portrait artist John Russell; his view through a telescope, thought to be the earliest detailed representation of the Moon's surface.
In the top right corner is an image of the Sun.
Two thirds of the way down, below the Sun, is a detail from Botticelli's Birth Of Venus.
Nanna was symbolised as a crescent-horned bull, with the crescent Moon itself also used to represent his role as the Judge of Gods and Men, the Bearer of Law; Sage, protector and ruler, Boatman of the Night. The carved head of the bull, bottom right, is a decorative section of a lyre found in the king's grave, during the 1927CE archaeological excavations at Ur; and the crescent Moon bottom left.

daughter of King Sargon,

The head top left is that of King Sargon. This bronze dating from 2300BCE is held in the Iraq Museum in Baghdad.

stretches the cord
measuring land and irrigation canals,
tall ziggurats
and massive ramparts.

The image above the central Moon is an aerial shot of the city of Ur. The ruins and rubble mirror the cratered surface of the Moon; and, visible among them, the Great Ziggurat atop which the gods were thought to dwell, can be seen, casting its shadow in the light of the Sun to its right.

The tarot card depicting the Moon (again), bottom right, is for both Sargon and his daughter, the High Priestess, representing, as it does, the Divine Feminine.

Her other task is time reckoning.
Nanna dictates the calendar
expecting priests
to iron out the details.
She measures the high heavens
to keep his lunar months
in sync with the four seasons

and to exalt the pantheon of gods
and let her heart be appeased,
conceives the words.

Poet and mathematician— the first
to sign her own work:

Enheduanna's epic work "The Exhaltation of Inanna" is represented here by the figure of the Mesopotamian goddess, top right in front of the Sun.

The compiler of this tablet, Enheduanna.
My lord, that which has been created [here]
no one has created [before].

The disc seen at the very centre of the piece is an image of the Disc of Enheduanna. An alabaster artifact, also discovered in the 1927CE during excavations at Ur, inscriptions upon it identify one of the figures (third from the right) as "Enheduana, priestess of Nanna, spouse of Nanna, daughter of Sargon, the king of the world, built an altar in the temple of Inana-Zaza at Ur and named it Altar, the Table of Heaven".

28 lines tribute to Enheduanna,
true woman, sprout of the holy reed