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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
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Language



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Ma·don·na  (mə-dŏn ə)

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- n.*
1. The Virgin Mary, especially as depicted in art.
 2. An image or figure of the Virgin Mary.
 3. *Obsolete* Used as a form of polite address for a woman, especially in an Italian-speaking area.

[Italian, from Old Italian : *ma-* (variant of *mia*, my, from Latin *mea*; see [MADAME](#)) + *donna*, lady (from Latin *domina*; see [MADAME](#)).]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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