



Egyptian Gods & Mythos

Ancient Egypt — a land of mysteries. No other civilization has so captured the imagination of scholars and laypeople alike. Mystery surrounds its origins, its religion and its monumental architecture: colossal temples, pyramids and the enormous Sphinx. The Egyptian pyramids are the most famous of all the ancient monuments, the only remaining wonder of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Just as life arose from the waters, the seeds of civilization were first sown along the banks of the Nile. This mighty river, which flows north from the heart of Africa to the Mediterranean Sea, nourished the growth of the pharaonic kingdom. The long, narrow flood plain was a magnet for life, attracting people, animals and plants to its banks. In pre-dynastic times, nomadic hunters settled in the valley and began to grow crops to supplement their food supply. Viewed as a gift from the gods, the annual flooding of the river deposited nutrient rich silt over the land, creating ideal conditions for growing wheat, flax and other crops. The first communal project of this fledgling society was the building of irrigation canals for agricultural purposes.

The sun was a principal deity whose passage across the sky represented the eternal cycle of birth, death and rebirth. The pharaohs were seen as gods, divine representatives on earth who, through rituals, ensured the continuation of life. After death, they became immortal, joining the gods in the afterworld.

The Egyptians also believed that the body and soul were important to human existence, in life and in death. Their funerary practices, such as mummification and burial in tombs, were designed to assist the deceased find their way in the afterworld. The tombs were filled with food, tools, domestic wares, treasures — all the necessities of life — to ensure the soul's return to the body so that the deceased would live happily ever after.

The most imposing tombs are the famous pyramids, shaped like the sacred mound where the gods first appeared in the creation story. These were incredibly ambitious projects, the largest structures ever built. Their construction was overseen by highly skilled architects and engineers. Paid labourers moved the massive limestone blocks without the use of wheels, horses or iron tools. The conscripts may have been motivated by a deep faith in the divinity of their leaders and a belief in immortality. Perhaps they thought that their contributions would improve their own prospects at the final judgement in the afterworld.

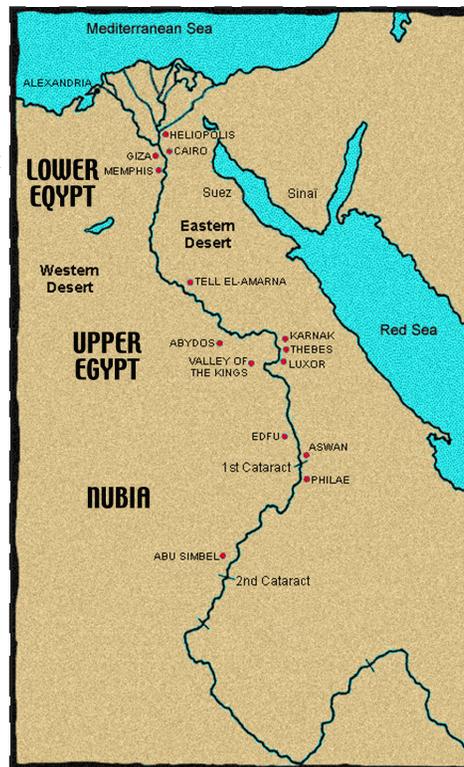
The gigantic pyramids were conspicuous targets for tomb robbers, whose plundering jeopardized the hope for eternal life. Subsequent generations of kings hid their tombs in the Valley of the Kings in an attempt to elude the robbers. In the desert valley near the ancient capital of Thebes, now called Luxor, they prepared their royal tombs by cutting into the side of the mountain. Despite efforts to hide the entrances, thieves managed to find the tombs, pillaging and emptying them of their treasures.

One tomb was spared, however: Tutankhamun's. Although his resting

place was disturbed twice by robbers, the entrance was resealed and remained hidden for over 3,000 years. Its discovery by the British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922 is considered by many to be the greatest archaeological find in history. Carter spent the rest of his life working on the tomb, removing its treasures to Cairo, and documenting and studying its contents, including the pharaoh's gold coffins and mask. Tutankhamun's mummy remains in his tomb, the only pharaoh to be left in the Valley of the Kings to date.

Today, Egyptian archaeologists are still making important discoveries, and the scientific study of royal mummies is shedding new light on the genealogy of the pharaohs. The ongoing deciphering of hieroglyphic writings and research on the life of the peasants are also answering many questions related to the evolution of Egyptian culture. The pharaonic religion gives the impression that the Egyptians were preoccupied with death; however, there are ample indications that they were a happy lot who knew how to enjoy life.

The pharaonic period spans over 3,000 years, beginning when kings first ruled Egypt. The first dynasty started in 3000 B.C. with the reign of King Narmer. Throughout the centuries, the power of the pharaohs increased and decreased numerous times before Egypt came under Roman rule in the Graeco-Roman Period (332 B.C. - A.D. 395). The pharaonic period ended with the death of the last Cleopatra during the thirty-second dynasty. When the Roman Empire was divided in A.D. 395, Egypt was controlled from Byzantium until the Arab conquest in A.D. 641. The history of the pharaohs is divided into dynastic periods, starting with the Early Period and ending with the Graeco-Roman Period. Manetho, a scribe in the fourth century B.C., was the first person to group the reigns of Egyptian kings according to dynastic periods.



CHRONOLOGY OF THE PHARONIC PERIODS

Predynastic Period - Prior to 3000 B.C.

Early Period - 3000-2575 B.C. First and second dynasties

Old Kingdom - 2575-2134 B.C. Third to sixth dynasties

First Intermediate Period - 2134-2040 B.C. Seventh to tenth dynasties

Middle Kingdom - 2040-1640 B.C. Eleventh to thirteenth dynasties

Second Intermediate Period - 1640-1550 B.C. Fourteenth to seventeenth dynasties

New Kingdom - 1550-1070 B.C. Eighteenth to twentieth dynasties

Third Intermediate Period - 1070-712 B.C. Twenty-first to twenty-fourth dynasties

Late Period - 712-332 B.C. Twenty-fifth to thirtieth dynasties

Graeco-Roman Period - 332 B.C. - A.D. 395 Thirty-first and thirty-second dynasties

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TIME LINE OF PHARONIC EGYPT:

3100-2770 BCE: Egypt - During this period in ancient Egypt, the Archaic period, Narmer unites Egypt. Hieroglyphic writing develops.

2772 BCE: Egypt - The 365 day calendar is introduced.

2700 BCE: Egypt - King Djoser founds the third dynasty in Egypt thereby issuing the period of the Old Kingdom, which lasts until 2200. He also builds the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the first known pyramid in Egypt. During the Old Kingdom, the power of the pharaoh is absolute.

2560 BCE: Egypt - Pharaoh Khufu builds the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

2200 BCE: Egypt - The first intermediate period begins with the collapse of the Old Kingdom, mostly because of crop failure combined with low revenue due to the pyramid building projects. It ends in 2050.

2050 BCE: Egypt - The period of the Middle Kingdom begins with its capital at Thebes. It ends in 1786. Around this time, an early political treatise, The Plea of the Eloquent Peasant, is written, calling for a benevolent ruler.

2000 BCE: Egypt - The Egyptians domesticate the cat for the purpose of catching snakes. Around this time, advances in astronomy enable the Egyptians to predict the annual flooding of the Nile.

1990 BCE: Egypt - The Twelfth Dynasty, Egypt's "golden" age, begins. It ends with the Middle Kingdom in 1786. During this period, power is somewhat distributed through the social classes. Religion shifts from a wealth-based system to one based on proper conduct. Queen Soreknofru is one of the rulers during this dynasty.

1786 BCE: Egypt - The second intermediate period begins due to internal dissention between the nobility and the pharaoh. It lasts until 1560.

1560 BCE: Egypt - The Hyksos occupy Egypt from Syria and Palestine and introduce the horse and chariot into Egypt. Their position is strengthened by the internal problems in the Egyptian state.

1600 BCE: Egypt - A revolution against the Hyksos begins in Upper (southern) Egypt and spreads throughout the country.

1560 BCE: Egypt - The period of the New Kingdom begins when Ahmose defeats the Hyksos and establishes the XVIII Dynasty. The New Kingdom ends around 1087. Unlike earlier periods, this period is imperialistic enabled by new modes of warfare introduced into Egypt by the Hyksos. Queen Hatshepsut is one of the rulers of the XVIII Dynasty.

1500 BCE: Egypt - By this time, the kingdom of Kush has been established to the south of Egypt. The people of Kush, known as the Kushites, are dark-complexioned Africans.

1375 BCE: Egypt - Amenhotep IV (Akhenaton), concerned about abuses in the Osiris cult of Egypt, posits a new monotheistic religion, perhaps the first, dedicated to the worship of the sun. He moves the capital of Egypt from Thebes to El-Amarna. The new religion does not last long; the cult of Akhenaton is abolished under the reign of his successor, Pharaoh Tutankhamen ("King Tut"), who moves the capital back to Thebes and returns to the old religion. Akhenaton's beautiful wife, Nefertiti, achieves her own position in world history.

1304-1237 BCE: Egypt - Rameses II ("the Great") rules Egypt.

1250 BCE: Egypt - Under the direction of Moses, the Israelites leave Egypt and head for the "promised land."

1182 BCE: Egypt - Rameses III defeats the Sea People. Rameses is pharaoh until 1151. He is the last great pharaoh to rule in Egypt. In 1175 he builds his temple palace at Medinet Habu.

750 BCE: Egypt - Kashta, the ruler of Kush, begins a campaign against Egypt. With the help of his son, Piankhy, he is successful. Piankhy becomes pharaoh of Egypt.

671 BCE: Egypt - Egypt is conquered by the Assyrians. But when the Assyrian empire collapses just under ten years later, Egypt enjoys a century or so of independence.

525 BCE: Egypt - Egypt is conquered by the Persians, who rule until 405. From this point onward, Egypt is ruled by Persian or Greek forces.

343 - 332 BCE: Egypt - The Persians rule Egypt for a second time.

332 - 331 BCE: Egypt - Alexander the Great occupies Egypt and founds the city of Alexandria.

305 BCE: Egypt - The Hellenistic Ptolemaic Dynasty begins.

311 - 383 CE: Egypt - The Arian Controversy, a Christian theological dispute over the precise relationship between the members of the Trinity, threatens the unity of the Christian churches in the East.

NOTE 1: At the end of the chapter is a chart that lists the god/goddess, his/her domain, and accepted symbol.

NOTE 2: Egypt was historically divided into two “kingdoms”. There was “Upper Egypt” and “Lower Egypt”. “Upper Egypt” seemed to contain a more “educated” or “civilized” peoples than “Lower Egypt”. The peoples of “Upper Egypt” were somewhat of a “different race” (a mixture of different ethnic groups) than those of “Lower Egypt”. The gods listed here (mostly from “Upper Egypt”), and their various depictions were, in the main, totally different in some aspect or another than the gods of “Lower Egypt”. For instance, Ptah, the great god of “Upper Egypt” is, in “Lower Egypt”, an ugly dwarf with an enlarged head, carrying a club over his head as if threatening his worshippers with vengeance, and he is the father of a brood of children as ugly and malicious as himself (the Cabeiri), whose main duty was to torture the wicked dead.

THE DIETIES

Aahmes/Nefertari - Queen, circa 1540 B.C.E., who was elevated to goddess stature as a protector/punisher of humans.

Aasith - Semitic goddess of war. Originally Syrian.

Ahat - A cow goddess.

Ahemait - An Egyptian underworld goddess who is part lion, part hippopotamus, and part crocodile, and who eats the souls of the unworthy dead.

Ahti - A malevolent goddess, depicted with the head of a wasp and the body of a hippotamus.

Aker - an ancient eart-god, signifying the horizon, the point where night turns to day, where day turns to night, and therefore depicted as two lions seated back to back, facing away from each other. They are also called ‘Yesterday’ and Tomorrow’, as one lion faces towards the east where the sun rises and begins the new day, the other lion faces west where the sun sets and descends into the Underworld. Aker also guards the gate to the Underworld and opens it for the King to pass through.

Akert-khentet-uset-s - One of the seven deities listed in the Egyptian Book of the Dead who provided food for the deceased in the underworld. They are pictured as having a solar disk between their horns. The other six are:

**Henemet-em-anh-annuit,
Meh-khebitet-seh-neter,
Shenat-pet-uthset-neter,**

**Het-kau-nebt-er-tcher
Sekhemet-ren-s-em-abet-s
Ur-mertu-s-teshert-sheni**

Akhet - Goddess of the seasons, sometimes called Goddess of the Nile.

Akusaa - Goddess of the setting sun. Wife of Atum.

Amaunet - A female counterpart to Amon and one of the primordial gods. Sometimes called wife of Amen, goddess of Heaven. Her name means ‘hidden one’. She is one of the eight primeval gods in the Ogdoad, forming the female counterpart of Amun. The Ogdoad, the Creation myth which originated in Hermopolis, conceived of four female and four male deities, forming four couples (the number four being the number of totality and completeness). Of these eight deities, only Amun developed into a remarkable status and moved to Thebes with his female counterpart Amaunet. At Karnak she remains the consort of Amun though less important than Mut.

Amemet - Goddess of the underworld. Listed in the Book of the Dead. Depicted with the rear of a hippopotamus, the fore of a lion and the head of a crocodile, Amemet “devoured” the hearts of those judged guilty when their hearts were weighed in the afterworld.

Amen - Also called Amoun/Amun/Amon/Ammon. Means “hidden god”. See Amon.

Ament - Also Amenti. Goddess who lived in a tree at the edge of the desert where she watched the gates of the afterworld, welcoming the newly dead with bread and water. Goddess of the land of the west or the Underworld. Consort of Amon. Her emblems are the hawk and the feather. She is often depicted in human female form wearing an Ostrich feather or a hawk. She welcomed all deceased people to the land of the dead with bread and water. If they ate, they could not return to the land of the living.

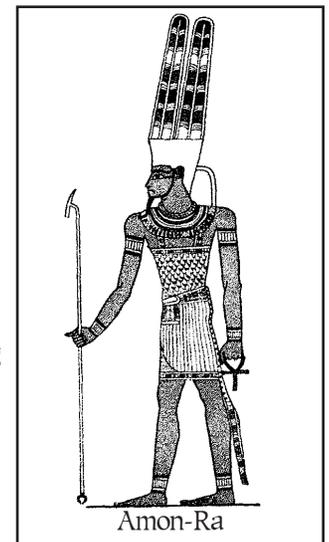
Amenti - The abode of the dead.

Amit - Fire goddess of Tuat (the underworld).

Ammit or **Ament** - Part crocodile, part lion, and part hippopotamus, she is a goddess of the underworld, devourer of hearts and evil-doers.

Amn - Another goddess of the underworld.

Amon - Also called Amun-Ra or Re (the Sun), or Amun-Ra or Amen-Ra (the Great Sun), or Khepri. The king of the gods during the Theban dynasties, and the god of fertility. He was part of the Theban Triad, along with Mut and Khonsu. Usually associated with the wind, or things hidden. King of Egyptian Gods and the creator of the race of mankind. Lord of all Egypt. Description of the great King: “Great was his majesty and splendid his adornments. On his neck was the



glittering collar of gold and precious stones, and on his arms were bracelets of pure gold and electrum, and on his head were two plumes: by the plumes alone could men know the King of the gods. In one hand he carries the sceptre of power, in the other the emblem of life. (Ankh) Glorious was he as the sun at midday.”

Amset - One of the four lesser gods of the dead who supervised the mummification process. His name means “carpenter”, and he is pictured with a man’s head. See also Hefi, Smotef, and Snouf.

Amunhotep - Son-of-Hapu (or Amenhotep, spelling varies) was a courtier, who was employed as a royal scribe and “overseer of all the work of the king” in the reign of Amunhotep III (Dynasty XVIII). Later, in the Ptolemaic period, he was deified on account of his reputation for wisdom. Amunhotep came from Athribis in the Delta area, and rose to power in the Theban court. He was responsible for recruiting military personnel and laborers for state building projects. As Pharaoh’s chief architect he would have been involved in most of the lavish building program, not only in Thebes but also in Nubia. He was Pharaoh’s most trusted and privileged official, being given management of the vast estates of Sitamun, the eldest royal daughter, and exclusively for a commoner, awarded a mortuary temple. He is believed to have lived into his eighties; his tomb is in the Theban necropolis. Of all his titles, Amunhotep seems to have been most proud of “royal scribe”. His cult seems confined to Thebes, where he was worshipped as a benefactor and healing genius. At Deir el-Bahari, Deir el-Medina and the temple of Ptah at Karnak, he shares his cult with Imhotep, of whom he is claimed to be the inseparable brother. His statues in the main Karnak temple were often prayed to, as being the way to gain access to the greater deity, Amun.

Anat - An alternate spelling was Antit or even Annuthat. Anat was introduced from Ugarith in Syria into Egypt in the Middle Kingdom. She was originally a deity of war, depicted with shield, axe and lance and wearing a high crown flanked with plumes. Her introduction was probably due to her protecting the King in battle. Despite this she was called ‘Mother of the gods’ and ‘Mistress of the sky’.

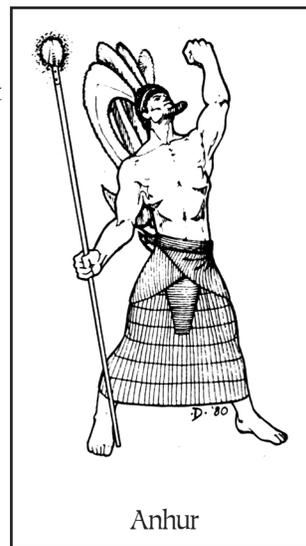
Her name was used interchangeably with Astarte, although the cults of these two deities differed considerably. During the Ramesside period, she was much worshipped in the Delta region, where a large precinct dedicated to her was erected at Tanis. She was, together with Astarte, daughter of the sun god Re. According to myth, when Nit (Neith) at Sais spoke for Heru (Horus) as the rightful heir to the Throne of Egypt, Anat and Astarte was considered as getting Set as husband to console him for losing to Heru. Maybe it was also seen as fitting that these warlike goddesses should be paired with Set. Occasional monuments link her in a fertility aspect to Min. Anat was assimilated by Het-Hert (Hathor), probably because of the latter’s sometimes fierce and blood thirsty aspect, as when She becomes

Sekhmet. The Syrian gods Reshef and Baal were at times also considered as her consorts, Baal in particular is also called her brother. In a myth she avenges his murder by cleaving his opponent, Mot, in two. Then she burns his body on the fire, grinds his bones and spreads them for the birds and beasts.

Anatha - Goddess of love and war. Also known as a mountain goddess.

Anatis - A goddess of the moon.

Andjety - Partly due to the link to the king, it is believed he was the precursor of Wesir (Osiris) by the way he is depicted. Andjety is depicted holding the crook and the flail, the same as Wesir carries and which is a sign of his dominion over the Netherworld. Andjety also wears the high conical crown flanked by two high plumes, reminding of the ‘atef’ crown worn by Wesir. As Andjety had the funerary function of being responsible for rebirth in the afterlife, this also points to him being the precursor to Wesir.



Anhur - Also Anher/Anhert or Onouris. ‘He Who Brings the Distant One’. Ancient god of war and hunting whose origin is This in Upper Egypt, near Abydos. He was depicted in bearded, human form and carrying four feathers on his head, a spear or sometimes a lance lifted high in one or both hands. He resides in the desert at the edge of the world from whence, according to myth, he brings back the eye of the sun, in this case his consort by name of Mekhit. This parallels the myth wherein Shu brought back his consort Tefnut from Nubia. Another female Name of Netjer who also bore the name Eye of Re was Sekhmet and sometimes also Aset. Anhur is somewhat of a complicated deity, the plumes associate him with both Montu and Sopedu and even Heru (Horus), whose claim to the throne of Egypt he supports in myth. He is further associated or even equalled to Shu, partly due to the tall feathers on top of his head, just like Shu is depicted. In this connection, Anhur is called ‘Son of Re’, which is supported by the

liasion with Mekhet as the ‘Eye of Re’.

Anka - A creator goddess, wife of Khnum.

Ankhtith - Goddess depicted as a serpent with the head of a woman.

Ankt - A spear-carrying Egyptian war goddess.

Antaios - He was originally a falcon god, later believed to have merged into Horus.

Anthat - Syrian war goddess adopted by Egypt. She is pictured holding a spear, shield, and battle-axe and wearing the Crown of the South.



Anubis - Or Anpu/Sekhem em Pet, Inpew, and Yinepu. The offspring of Nephthys affair with Osiris. He prepared the dead and led them into the underworld. Guardian of Isis and messenger of the gods. Anubis invented embalming practices and funeral rites. He and Maat weighed souls for truth. His disciplines include: wisdom, death, embalming, endings, truth, journeys, protection, boats, diplomacy, astral travel (voluntary and involuntary), cemeteries.

Anuket - An early Egyptian water goddess; she was later merged with Nephthys. Also called Anqet and Anukis. Her name means "the clasper" and she was the water goddess of the Nile. Her symbol was the cowrie shell. She had a special dwelling place on the isle of Seheil. She is pictured as a woman wearing a tall plumed crown

and sometimes she was pictured with four arms to represent the union of male and female. She was the producer and giver of life; water.

Apep - The great snake of darkness, who sometimes rose up, mouth agape, to try to swallow Ra's solar barque in its travel across the heavens; Ra always managed to escape, but each of Apep's failed attempts resulted in fierce storms or solar eclipses. He resides in the pit of fire in the deep dark of the Duat. Some times called Apophis or the Great Serpent of the Tuat (Underworld). Was said to be responsible for eclipses and storms.

Apis - It means "sacred bull". Depicted as a bull with a solar disk between its horns, Apis was another form of Ptah.

Ashtoreth - Moon goddess and goddess of war. She is depicted with the head of a lion. Probably devolved from the Syrian Astarte.

At-Em - Goddess of time.

Aten (Aton) - The Pharaoh Akhenaton decreed him to be the one and only god in his attempt to establish a monotheistic religion.

Athor - The goddess of Love and Beauty. She is usually shown with cow horns, and sometimes with a cow's head. Wife of Amun-Ra.

Atmu - God of the sunset

Atum - A primordial god that was represented in the form of a human and a serpent. The version of the Egyptian god Amon who creates Shu and his sister Tefnut via masturbation (or expectoration). (Sumeria) A creator god in Mesopotamia, later called Ea.

Auf - Aspect of the god Ra. Pictured as a ram headed man wearing the solar disk crown. He represents the sun at night when its rays were concealed. Also called Euf Ra.

Babi - Babi is known since the Old Kingdom. His name means 'bull of the baboons', by which is to say that he is the most dominant of the males. This is a dangerous, blood thirsty and virile baboon deity, who controls the darkness and who lives on human entrails and can murder on sight. There are spells for protection against this dangerous deity, but his powers were also used for the opposite purpose (which was most often the case in the ancient days), that of protection against other dangers in the Underworld, like snakes and turbulent waters. Often in the 'Book of Going Forth by Day', the deceased uses spells to 'become Babi' in order to acquire his powers.

Banebdjedet - Local ram deity of Djedet (Gr: Mendes, modern Tell-el-Ruba), meaning 'the Spirit, the Lord of Djedet'. He incorporated the essence of the world in four forms or 'ba' spirits, corresponding to the four first rulers of the world; Ra, Shu, Geb and Osiris. At Mendes his spouse was the local fish goddess Hat-Mehit whose importance he had taken over. Harpokrates (Gr. A late form of Heru was here considered his son.

Ba Neb Tetet - The Ram God. Considered the sacred ram incarnate. Great festivals were held in his temple and he was considered the god of discussion, arbitration and peace. Also known as Banebdjedet or Banaded.



Bahet - Goddess of wealth and abundance.

Bakha - The sacred bull that was an incarnation of Menthu, a personification of the heat of the sun. He changed color every hour of the day.

Bast or Bastet - Bastet (originally a lion goddess symbolizing the fertilizing force of the sun's rays), became the cat goddess, the patroness of the domestic cat and the home. She is often seen in human form with the head of a cat and holding the sacred rattle known as the sistrim. Bastet is also associated with the eye of Ra, the sun god, and acts as an instrument of his vengeance. Lady of the East. She ruled over fire,

sexual rites, the Moon, warmth, animals-especially cats, healing, intuition, pleasure, dancing, music, and joy. Sometimes called Pasht.

Bat - Mother goddess, later merged with Hathor.

Befen - God scorpion.

Benu - The legendary bird, first known in the Pyramid Text, which descended on the 'ben-ben' stone at Heliopolis (Iunu), symbolizing the Primeval Mound which first became visible as the Primeval Waters began to withdraw. It is a form of the creator god Atum. The benben stone was later developed into the obelisk, the long, tapering stone, ending in a pyramid shape at the top. The name 'Benu' is thought to come from the Egyptian verb 'wbn' which means 'to rise in brilliance'. From its first mentioning, in the Pyramid Text, this bird was the yellow wagtail, but later, in the Book of Going Forth By Day it was depicted as the heron with two long feathers at the back of his head. The Benu was a living manifestation of the sun god Re, and was called the 'Ba of Re' and even of Wesir (Gr: Osiris). As such he had a close connection with Heliopolis and the temple of the Sun god there. Because of his association with Wesir, it is sometimes depicted with the Atef-crown; a conical shaped crown flanked by two tall plumes.

Berenice - Wife of Ptolemy Soter, who promised the gods that she would cut off her beautiful hair if her husband returned safely from war. He did, she did, and hung her hair in the temple of Arsinoe. It disappeared from the temple, and appeared in the heavens as the constellation Coma Berenices.



Bes

Bes - Bes means "dancing". Protector of children. Often pictured as a leopard skinned dwarf with a huge head and grotesque features. She is also goddess of protection, dance, childbirth, goodluck, marriage and cosmetics. Her image was often carved over the doorways of buildings as a guardian against all evils and dangers.

Bubastis - Goddess of childbirth.

Busiris - A king of Egypt, who to avert famine for his people, ordered all strangers that landed on his shores be sacrificed to the gods. He made the mistake of capturing Hercules, who escaped his chains and slew the king.

Buto - Serpent goddess of lower Egypt. Mother of the sun and moon. She spits poison on the enemies of the pharaoh, and burns them with her fiery gaze. Other

times she is shown as a woman wearing a vulture headdress and the red crown of the north. Also called Uajyt, Uatchet, Utchat, Per Uadjit, Uazit, Uto or Uraeus.

Candace - Title of the hereditary queens of the desert empire of Meroe. One of them led an army of 10,000 rebels against the Roman occupation of Egypt.

Chem - Also called Ham. He was the god of "increase", considered as the father of their race. He is usually pictured wearing a women's garment.

Chensit - Another serpent goddess of lower Egypt. She is pictured with the crown of Hathor or with Maât's feather.

Chonso - Son of Amun-Ra and his wife Athor. Usually pictured with the new moon atop his head.

Dep - great spirit

Duat - House of the Dead that is divided into twelve countries.

Êpet - Goddess protector of children. She is pictured as being a hippopotamus with woman's breasts and lion's feet, usually carrying a crocodile on her back.

Ermutu - Another goddess of childbirth.

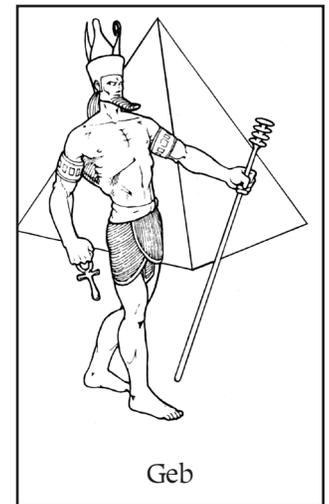
Ernutet - Goddess with the head of a cobra, wearing a headdress with a solar disk between two horns.

Gate-Keepers, The - Guardian goddesses of the gate to the underworld. The dead must say their names before they are allowed to pass through. Aakhabit and Clother are mentioned in the Book of the Dead. The others are called by titles like "Lady of the Light", etc.

Geb - Greater god of Earth. Geb the inheritor. Older god whom all others proceeded. Also called Seb/Kebe. Similar to the greek god Cronos, he sired Osiris, Isis, Set and Nephthys. Married to his sister Nut and he was bore by Shu and Tefnut.

Hagar - A desert goddess of lower Egypt. Occult lore links her to the moon.

Hak - A frog-headed goddess of resurrection.



Geb

Hapi - God of the Nile, crops, fertility, water and prosperity, he was thought to live near the first cataract of the Nile. Often depicted as a fat man with breasts.

Hapimou - Means the Nile. "He" was depicted with the beard of a man and the breasts of a child-bearing woman.

Harpocrates - Son of Isis. Associated with the traits of Horus.

Harmachis - old Egyptian god with the face of a man, stern and majestic turned toward the sun, and the body of a lion. On his brow is the death-dealing snake with its head erect. Also called the sphinx and Father of Terrors. God of silence.

Hast - Another goddess of the underworld mentioned in the Book of the Dead.

Hat-Mehit - Hat-mehit, Hat-mehyt, a local fish-goddess from the Delta city of Mendes in the 16th Nome, Lower Egypt. The importance of Hat-mehit's cult became lessened after the ram-headed BaNebDjedet appeared as her consort. He then took over as the main god. Sometimes BaNebDjedet, Hatmehit and their son Harpocrates were called for the Mendesian triad. Hat-Mehit was usually depicted in the form of a woman with a fish above her head. Her name means 'she who is in front of the fishes', as her cult was considered the foremost of the relatively rare fish cults of ancient Egypt. Another interpretation could mean that Hat-mehyt was the earliest fish-goddess, from the very mythical beginning when Egypt emerged out of the primeval waters.

Hathor - The goddess of joy and love, she was a protector of women. Also worshipped as a sky and moon goddess, Hathor is depicted wearing a sun disk held between the horns of a cow as a crown. Queen of the West, the Lady of the Sycamore. Hathor was the patroness of all women, artists, music, dance, and happiness and motherhood. She is often traditionally present in all ancient Egyptian tombs to ensure safe passage into the after world. The Greeks called her Aphrodite, but she also has a dark side who loves to slaughter her prey. She is considered the personification of the great power of nature. Had one son called Ahi.



Hedetet - A scorpion goddess mentioned in the Book of the Dead.

Heh - Depicted as a man squatting on the ground waering on his head a reed curved at the end. God of eternity, longevity and happiness. Also called Neheb.

Heka - One of the three creative powers of the Sun god Ra, which were necessary for Creation to come about. Thus Heka was the divine energy or the life force, the other two were Hu (divine utterance), and Sia (divine knowledge). Heka was

personified as a man standing in front of the naos where the Sun god is seen, in the sunboat, and sometimes holding different ritual objects. See **Hu**.

Heket - a water deity in the form of a frog or a frog-headed woman. She made her debut into the Egyptian pantheon in pyramid inscriptions, in a magical text destined to allow the king to ascend into the sky. Later she became connected with birth, in a Middle Kingdom papyrus, containing tales of wonder from the age of the pyramids. As she developed into a symbol of fecundity and resurrection, Heket, who helped Osiris to rise from the dead, presided over the birth of kings and queens.

Hekt - Goddess of birth.

Hepi - Another of the four lesser gods of the dead. His name means digger, and he has an ape's head.

Heptet - A serpent-headed goddess of resurrection who is associated with the resurrection of Osiris.

Hesper - The star of morning, great hawk of the sky and leader of heaven, herald to the new day. Also called Lucifer.

Heqet - Goddess of fertility and regeneration. She assisted Osiris to rise from the dead. Another frog-headed goddess. Also called Heqtit or Heket.

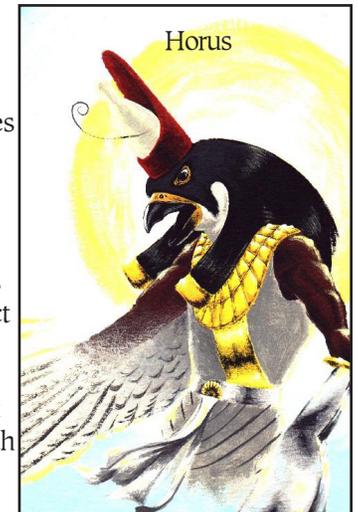
Herit - Goddess of the North.

Her-sha-s - Goddess of the mid-day desert.

Her-tept - Another serpent-headed goddess of the underworld. She takes care of the mummified Osiris.

Het - Het is the Egyptian serpent goddess who rules fire.

Horus or Heru - The falcon-headed son of Osiris and Isis, who was conceived miraculously by Isis and the dead Osiris. He swore to avenge his father's murder. He did. Horus has deep blue eyes that reflect the future of those who gaze in them. It is said of him that he loves an hour of battle more than a day of rejoicing. He can also assume the form of a "great winged disc, a disc that glowed like a ball of fire, with great wings on either side like the colors of the sky at sunset when the blue shades from dark to light,



and is shot with gold and flame.” This is his battle form. The followers of Horus are called Mesenti, the metal workers. He is identified with Apollo.

Hu - Personification of the sound of the creative speech, the principle of Divine Utterance, which together with Heka (divine power) and Sia (divine omniscience) were necessary for the King’s creative powers during the Old Kingdom. They are seen together with the falcon-headed sun god standing in the Sunboat See **Heka**.

Imhotep - Also Imothph, the god of science or medicine. Son of Ptah and Sekhet. Counselor-physician to Zoser (Tosorthros), who founded Egypt’s 3rd Dynasty. His name means “He who comes in peace”. He is a deified hero similar to the Greek Aesculapius.



Isis - Sometimes Isitis, which means Earth or corn-bearing Land. She is the “mother of all creation”. A daughter of Geb and Nut, she was the faithful wife of her brother Osiris. She became universally worshipped, is associated with love, motherhood, marital devotion, healing, eternal life, and the casting of magical spells and charms. Isis is the goddess of day, while her twin sister, Nephthys, is the goddess of night. Her sacred symbol is an amulet called the tyet. She is the mother of Horus. Referred to as the great enchantress, the mistress of magic and the speaker of spells. Sometimes referred to as Aset, Eset or Tait, the goddess of 10,000 names.

Lion Gods - Aker, Ari Hes Nefer, Urt Hekau, Hebi and Ma Hes

Khem - God of fertility.

Khent-Amentiu - One of the oldest Names of Netjer, a local deity in jackal form whose title was ‘Foremost of the Westerner’, which also Wepwawet held. Worshipped at Abydos and during the Old Kingdom assimilated with Osiris.

Khepri or **Khepera** - The scarab beetle god who rolled the sun through the sky. Soul of the universe, god of resurrection and transformations. Also the third form of the god Ra. Lives within the coils of a five headed serpent in the house of night and day within the Duat.

Khonsu - The son of Amon and Mut, and one of the main gods of Egypt when the Theban dynasties ruled. Expeller of Demons. The first month called Pakhons was sacred to Khonsu. God of the Moon. He is referred to as the Navigator and Traveller. He is a moon god often depicted with the head of a hawk surmounted with a crescent moon and a lunar disk. Khonsu is also seen as a youth with a side-



lock of hair, and a crescent moon and a lunar disk on his head.

Khnum or **Khnemu**- he who fashioned the bodies of men. The supreme potter. A straight-horned, ram-headed god who is often depicted creating humans on his potter’s wheel, Khnum emerged from two caverns in the subterranean world in the ocean of Nun. He was the god of the First Cataract of the Nile in Upper Egypt and controlled fertility by sending half the waters of the river to the south and half to the north. His name means the moulder and he was the inventor of the potter’s wheel. God of art, fertility and gentleness. He had two wives named Sati and Anqet.

Kneph - The god of animal and spiritual life. He has the head and horns of a ram.

Ma’at - Ma’at is the Egyptian goddess of truth, justice and the underworld. She passed judgement over the souls of the dead in the Judgement Hall of Osiris. The “Law of Ma’at” was the basis of civil laws in ancient Egypt. Daughter of Ra and wife to Thoth, she was goddess of truth, right, law, judgement, order and reincarnation. She was usually depicted with an ostrich feather on her head. Also called Maa, Maut, Mayet.

Mafdet - ‘The runner’, an early, violent deity in panther form, seen as a manifestation of judicial authority. A personification of the executional tool. She was one of the protective powers in the king’s suite. Her claws were likened to the barbs of the king’s harpoon, which he used to protect himself with in the Underworld.

Mehet-Weret - ‘The Great Flood’. Goddess of the primeval flood out of which life emerged and the sun god appeared. She was often depicted as a great cow with the sun disc between her horns, as such she was linked to Hathor and called the mother of Re.

Matet - God scorpion.

Mehueret or **Mehurt** - A universal mother goddess associated with night. Lady of Heaven and mistress of the earth.

Mentu - God of War. He sits to the left of Amon-Ra in Heaven and wears the two feathered crown with the flaming sun in its center. He carried a khepesh, club, bow and arrows into battle. He represents the searing heat of the sun. The bull is sacred

to him and he has dominion over war, protection and vengeance. Also pronounced Menthi, Menthu Ra, Mont.

Meretseger/Meresger - “She who loves silence” - local goddess of the Valley of the Kings on the Western shore of the Nile at Thebes. She was worshipped by the workmen in the necropolis especially in the form of the mountain peak known as “Lady of the Peak” that dominates the valley. Meresger is also shown sometimes as a uraeus with a woman’s head, a woman with a snake’s head or sometimes as a scorpion with a woman’s head.

Meshkent or Meskhenet - A goddess of birth, personification of the ‘birthing bricks’ upon which ancient women used to squat when giving birth. She is often shown as either a woman with a brick as a head, or as a brick with a woman’s head. Sometimes she is also shown fully human, with the image of a cow’s uterus above her head. After the safe delivery, Meskhenet decided the destiny of the child, and her protective powers guarded the infant. Conversely, she also appeared in the Hall of Judgment when the heart of the deceased was to be weighed. Here she could testify to the character of the deceased, and perhaps guard the symbolic rebirth in the Afterlife. She is also found assisting Isis and Nephthys in funerary rites.

Mestet and Mestetef- God scorpion.

Mihos/Maahes - Maahes or Mihos, the lion-god, son of Bast, called Miysis by the Greeks. He is portrayed as a man with the head of a lion, sometimes wearing the Atef crown. He is sometimes also portrayed as a lion devouring a captive.

Min - A god of fertility and “Lord of foreign Lands”. God of the eastern deserts and is associated by the Greeks as Pan. His sacred animal is the white bull and his ancient symbol is the thunderbolt. Min wore a crown of two straight plums. Associated with journeys, harvests, sex and patron of the desert. Sometimes called Minu or Menu.

Montu - The falconheaded god of war. From the beginning he was worshipped at Hermonthis, but in the Eleventh Dynasty he was brought to Thebes, where he soon was overtaken by Amun as the royal deity. Montu was depicted with a falcon’s head crowned with the solar disc surrounded by two tall plumes. He fought the enemies of the gods and defended his father Re against his enemies. His sacred animal was a white bull with a black face, which was regarded as his manifestation and buried with full honors at death.

Mo - Sometimes the god, sometimes the goddess, of Truth and Justice. Is depicted with ostrich feathers on the head. Similar to Maat.

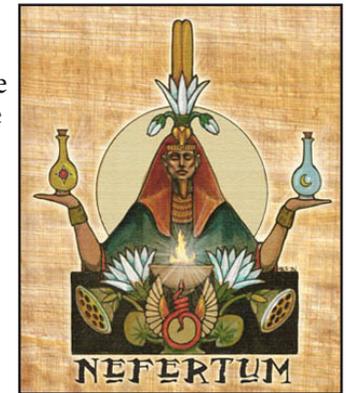
Mut - Mut is seen as the mother, the nurturing force behind all things while her husband Amon is the great energy or creative force. In ancient Egyptian, ‘mut’

means mother. The mother of Khonsu. Mut is another name of Isis. Associated with the cow, cat and lioness. Queen of the Egyptian pantheon.

Nebethetepet - A Heliopolitan deity, ‘Mistress of offering’ or ‘Mistress of the Vulva’, a manifestation of Hathor and sometimes linked to the Creator god Atum as his female creative counterpart. Also sometimes referred to as a mother goddess.

The Neb-Ti - The ruling goddesses of the north (Uadgit) and south (Nekhebet, the protector of childbirth).

Nefer-tem or Nefertum - God of lotus flowers. The Name of Nefertem means “Tem is Beautiful”. The god of fragrance, his form was “the Divine Lotus”. He was also the patron of healing and of beautification, though in later periods Imhotep was introduced as his brother, and took over as the patron of healing. In the Pyramid Texts there is a description where Nefertem is said to be the lotus flower which is held before the nose of Re but he is often shown as human wearing a lotus on his head, often with two vertical plumes.



Neferu-Ra - Beauty of Ra or Great Royal Wife. Translated means: beauty like the setting sun.

Nehebkau - Serpent god of the underworld feared by both gods and men. He was mentioned in the Pyramid Texts as the son of Serket and therefore associated with the spells against venomous bites. Further he protected the King, received him in the Underworld and served him food. He is said to have swallowed seven cobras, out of which his magical power is made.

Neith or Nit - Means the Self-begotten. She is goddess of the Sky, opener of ways, Mother to the Gods, warrior goddess and Queen of Lower Egypt. Goddess of Sais and is known by her shield crossed with arrows. One of the oldest gods and is often depicted next to Selket as mummy guardian and protectress of marriage. On her temple in Plutarch her inscription reads: I am all that has been, that is, and that will be. No mortal has yet been able to lift the veil that covers me.

Nekhebet or Nekhbet - Vulture goddess of protection, motherhood and childbirth. She is often depicted over pharaoh as a vulture holding a flywhisk and the seal. As a woman she wears the white crown of upper Egypt and a vulture head-dress.

Nephthys - The dark twin sister of Isis, Nephthys is the goddess of night and the protectress of the dead. She is also Set’s sister and wife, although, through her

subterfuge, she bore a child (the jackal-headed Anubis) by Osiris. Often depicted as a woman with long winged arms and fair green eyes. Goddess of death and magic, guardian of hidden things, intuition, dreams and peace.

Nut - the great sky goddess. Elder goddess whom all other proceeded. She gave birth to Osiris, Horus, Set, Isis and Nephthys in order. Ra had cursed Nut that she would never have children born on any day of the year, but Thoth helped her to give birth by winning the moon's light for five extra days so Nut could give birth to the new gods.

Nun - Goddess of the waters of the sky. Eldest of the gods and all ancestor gods, Mother to Ra. Possibly Neith. Nun was the god who personified the primeval waters, the chaos which existed before there was shape and form, the dark liquid mass out of which there appeared the creator-god. Nun is regarded as having no surface, stretching into infinity. Not subject to cosmic order (Maat), Nun's watery chaos is even so considered beneficial. Amenhotep III constructed a pool at Thebes in which the god delighted. Nun is without peer in the Egyptian cosmos, as he is regarded as the "father of the gods". His consort is Naunet. Once the creation of the universe had taken place, Nun continued to exist beyond its boundaries, within the waters of the earth and those of the river Nile.

Osiris - He was the first child of Geb and Nut. He is the judge of the dead in the underworld. Osiris was killed by his jealous brother Set. He sets to the right of Amon-Ra and is crowned with the white crown of the South land. He became King of Egypt for a time and showed men how to plant grain and vine. He made the laws and abolished savage customs. When he was killed by Set he became the God of the Dead and uses a magic balance and the Feather of Truth to judge for or against the newly deceased. Major Egyptian god with over 200 titles in the book of the dead. Every year in his festival, his flesh was symbolically eaten in the form of communion cake. God of fertility, commerce, success, death, reincarnation, water, judgement, justice, agriculture, vegetation, civilization, architecture, religion, law and rules, ceremonial music, power, order, discipline, growth and stability. Also called Wesir in the early days.



Pasht- The goddess of Virtue. She is pictured with a cat's head.

Pé - Greater Egyptian spirit

Petet - God scorpion

Ptah - Also spelled as Pthah. He was the god of fire and the creator. His figure is bandaged like a mummy, and his head is shaven like a priest. Elder god and symbol of the creative powers behind the gods (the elements). Also called The Master Builder, The Divine Artificer, Ptah Tenen, Ptah Seker and Ptah Seker Osiris. His wife is Sekhmet and his son is Nefertum. God of life, regeneration, carving, masons, miracles, science and manual skills.



Qetesh - Goddess of beauty and love.

Ra - Sometimes Re or Phra. The sun god, and leader of the gods, he was pictured as a child in the early morning, a man in his prime at noon, and an old man in the evening. He traveled through the underworld at night to be reborn at dawn. He is Khepera in the morning, Ra at noontime, and Atum in the evening. He is also the creator of the living flame, the creator of days and keeper of life. Sometimes called Ra-Horakhti. Ra owns a boat millions of years old called Manzet, the boat of dawn. It carries him across the sky and into the Duat at night. He is also considered to take the form of a bull Merwer and a bird Bennu. He is creator of earth, heaven and the underworld. Eternal god without end, he is often called Amon Ra or Ra Atum. Also see Amon.

Ranno - God of gardens.

Rat - Lady of the Heavens. Mother to Selket and Maat. Elder goddess of wisdom and knowledge. Also called Tat-Taiut, Rait and Rate.

Renenet or Renenutet - Often depicted as a woman with a serpent's head or a serpent wearing the solar disk. Rarely drawn as a female with a lion head wearing the plumes of Maat. "Lady of the fertile land" and "lady of granaries", a deity of fertility and harvest but she was also a protector of linen, especially bandages, children and their nourishment. Mother of the grain god Nepri. She also gave each child a destiny and she attended the weighing of the hearts of men in the Hall of Judgment. The Greeks called her Thernmutis. Her name consisted of two parts: `rnn´ - nourishment, and `wt´ - snake, showing something of her character. People made offerings to her during harvest time and she was depicted either as a snake or a human with a snake's head. In the Greco-Egyptian days she was often depicted as Isis with a snake's head. Her main cult center was Faiyum in Lower Egypt.. Also when a soul is weighted at death she stood by with Shai. Goddess of childbirth, luck and justice. Sometimes named Ernutet.

Renpet - Mistress of eternity, she wore a long palm shoot over her head and presided over youth, springtime and the passing of time.

Reshef or Reshpu - A Syrian war and thunder god, always depicted with raised weapons, wearing the White Crown of Upper Egypt with a streamer flowing from the top. At the base of the crown is either a complete head of a gazelle or just the horns. In the Pyramid Texts mentioned as replacing the guardian of the celestial gates, Khay-Tau, a foreign deity, probably from Byblos.

Sa - Goddess of evening, guardian of Ra.

Sati - Also known as Satis and Satet, is an Egyptian archer goddess who personified the waterfalls of the river Nile. She had a sister named Anquet and was goddess of fertility, hunting, planting and water in southern Egypt. Satis, "The Lady of Elephantine" and "She of Sehel (the island)" the giver of water for purification of the deceased, and associated with the inundation. Satis, Anukis and Khnum formed in later days the Triad of Abu(Elephantine) and the neighboring islands. She was depicted in human form, wearing the White Crown of Upper Egypt, with two curved antelope horns on the side. When Khnum later was identified with Re, Satis became the "Eye of Re" and assuming some of Hathor's aspects, she was seen as a goddess of women and love.

Seker - Guardian to the door of the underworld. Sometimes pictured as a green hawk headed mummy. Also called Sokar or Socharis. God of death.

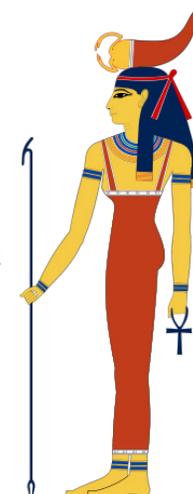
Sekhmet - The ennead of Memphis was headed by a triad composed of the father and brother Ptah, the mother Sekhmet, and the son Imhotep, main gods of Egypt during the Memphite dynasties. Sister to Bast. She wore all red robes Goddess of might, violence, and farmlands.

Sekhmet - Consort of Ptah and their son Nefertem made up the Memphite Triad. Her name meant "the mighty one" and she was associated with war and appropriate retaliation and was said to have an awesome appearance, her weapons being arrows 'with which she pierces hearts', her body was said to spread a fiery glow. She was depicted with a lioness' head and her breath was associated with the hot winds of the desert. Another name for her was 'The Eye of Re' showing her solar association and thereby also her association with the king. She was often called his mother and followed him in battle. Apart from her protective side she also represented the destructive side of the sun and was therefore sometimes called the daughter of Re. When Thebes was the seat of royal residence,(11th Dyn.) the local goddess Mut was merged with her. She was also called "Great of Magic" and was a goddess of healing and surgery.

Serapis - means "underworld". An ancient Egyptian god of the lower world, also worshiped in ancient Greece and Rome. He is shown as having a bull's head.

Selk - Scorpion goddess. Known by a scorpion bearing in each claw the Ankh.

Selket or Serket - Her name means 'She who causes to breathe' and refers to her power of protecting from, or curing poisonous stings of scorpions and serpents. The reason for this might lie in the fact that those who have been bitten tend to breathe too fast and too shallow because of the poison. She is depicted with a scorpion ready to strike above her head or as a woman with a scorpion's head. In ancient Egypt her priesthood was connected to the healing of poisonous bites and she was frequently appealed to for protection from venomous bites. The beautiful scorpion goddess Selket, has her scorpion strike death to the wicked. She also saves the lives of the innocent stung by a scorpion. Goddess of happy marriages, married love and guardian after death. Also called Selqet, Selquet, Selchis or Serqet.



Seshat or Sesheta - Record keeper of the gods and female equivalent and wife to Thoth. Goddess of writing, archives, measurement, calculation, hieroglyphics, time, stars, history, learning and inventions. Pictured as a woman wearing a star or crescent on her head.

Sept - Lord of the East

Serapis - The cult of Serapis rose during the early Ptolemaic period. This was an anthropomorphic deity, most likely of Egyptian origin but with Hellenistic attributes like those of Zeus, Helios, Hades, Asclepius and Dionysos added. The basic model for Serapis could be said to be Osiris combined with the Apis bull which made up Osirapis, which in Greek became Serapis. On his head could be seen a corn measure, indicating him as the protector of the corn supply, and therefore pointing at his fertility function. His main cult centre was, though linked to the Apis bull, not at Saqqara, but at the Serapeion at Alexandria. The Roman influenced Isis was seen as his consort and these two formed a pair which embodied the natural forces of male and female fertility. The Romans brought this cult all over their empire, even to Britain.

Seshat - Goddess of writing and measurer of time, referred to as "she who is foremost in the house of books". She measured time and helped Pharaoh with laying out the ground plan of a new temple with a measuring cord, therefore she was also the "Lady of builders". Her most important function was to keep track of Pharaoh's regnal years and jubilees. She also supervised the booty and tributes from foreign lands and military expeditions. She was shown as a woman wearing a panther skin robe, holding a pen, a palette and a tally-stick and on her head she wore a seven-pointed star surmounted by either a bow or a crescent moon with two falcons feathers. Often she held a palm leaf in her hand. Considered to be the consort of Thoth.



Seth

Seth, Set - The son of Geb and Nut. This powerful god was regarded as god of the desert. He was Osiris' evil brother and was considered the incarnation of wickedness. He tricked Osiris at a feast in Osiris' honor, and killed him, and took his place on the throne. In some myths he is called Typhon, and is associated with the "abominable" animals: the pig, donkey, and the hippopotamus. He was depicted as a strange being with a stiff, forked tail, a long gaunt body, a tapering snout, huge erect ears and protruding eyes. He could deceive both men and gods.

Shai (male) or **Shait** (female) - guardian angel presiding over destiny and fate. One was given to each person at birth and gives account to their true actions at death.

Shedu - the winged crimson snake of the ten stars of the morning. Men call him Atmu, dweller in Heliopolis. He is more ancient than Ra. God of the sweet north breezes.

Shu - One of the Heliopolitan Ennead. He is the god of sunlight and air, first recorded in the Old Kingdom, where he was responsible for bringing Ra and the king to life every day. Over a millennium later, Akenaten was to continue this tradition, by commemorating Shu as dwelling in the sun's disk. Shu is one of the first two deities created by Atum, the sun-god of Heliopolis. The semen (or in an alternative tradition, the mucus sneezed by Atum from his nostrils) of Atum gave birth to Shu. His wife, and also his twin sister, is Tefnut, the goddess of moisture. Shu holds aloft the sky, and keeps separate his two children Geb the earth god, and Nut, the goddess of the sky. In sacred art, Shu is shown in human form with an ostrich feather on his head, the hieroglyph of his name. In the Underworld, Shu is dangerous, leading a band of torturers and executioners, whose slaughtering-block represents a great peril for the deceased. On the other hand, he is also a protection against the snake-god Apophis, and Shu's spells can ward off the poisons of Apophis.

Shu and Tefnut - They were Ra's children. Shu was the god of air and held up the sky. Tefnut, his twin sister and wife, was the goddess of dew and rain. They were the parents of Geb and Nut.

Sia - Personification of Divine Knowledge or Omniscience, which together with Heka (divine power) and Hu, personification of Divine Utterance, were necessary for the King's creative powers during the Old Kingdom. They are seen together with the falcon-headed sun-god standing in the Sunboat as it travels across the sky; "in order to sustain the life of men, and all the cattle, and all the worms, [every-

thing] he has created". This points to the mythical concept that every sunrise is equal to the world being created anew, after having fought back all dangers on its way through the Underworld.

Sphinx - Head of a man and the body of a lion. Also see Harmachis. Symbol of the sun god Ra Temu. The famous statue existed during the time of the second statue and is probably older than Egyptian civilization. Guardian and protector.

Smotef - Another of the four lesser gods of the dead. His name means shaper, and he has a jackal's head.

Snouf - Another of the four lesser gods of the dead. His name means bleeder, and he has a hawk's head.

Sobek - Sebek, Sobek or Suchos, 'Watching over you'. means "crocodile". Was depicted as having a crocodile face. Said to live in the bottom of the underworld in a black pyramid. God of death and dark magic. During the Middle Kingdom he was merged with Ra (Sobek-Ra) and was worshipped as primordial deity and creator-god. This deity is symbolic of the might of the King. His cult rose to prominence in the 12th and 13th Dynasty, when the name Sobekhotep was held by eight rulers. The last of the kings in the 12th Dynasty was the first definitely attested female king, called Sobekneferu, 'The Beauties of Sobek'. Sobek is first known from Old Kingdom texts as 'Rager'. At this period he is called the son of Nit, and in some myths Set is said to be his father. In the Middle Kingdom he began to be assimilated into the cult of Amun, like many other deities. He is most often depicted as a crocodile, wearing the sun disc on his head, which indicates a connection to Re. In this form he is often perched on a shrine or an altar. More seldom is he depicted as a human-headed crocodile wearing an atef crown and carrying a scepter and an ankh. He is also depicted in crocodile form with a falcon's head which shows a relationship with Horus. In this connection Sobek is a protector, a healer and one who avenges wrong doers. Sobek is called 'Lord of stretches of water and of fishes' and among the deities related to water, Sobek is the most important one. Another title is 'Lord of Bakhu', by which is meant the mountain of the horizon where he was said to have a temple made of carnelian. As he is a god of water, the Nile is said to issue from his sweat and "he made the herbage green". According to some myths Sobek belongs in the underworld from where he could be called upon to get rid of bothers and troubles of different kinds, by using the phrase 'to Sebek with it!'

Sokar - Lord of those who are buried and the fifth country of the Duat. He was depicted as a falcon-headed human, showing his association to the king, and in the Pyramid Text he was mentioned in relation to Osiris. In the Late period he became merged with Ptah and Osiris and known as Ptah-Sokar-Osiris.

Sopdet/Sothis - Sothis was the goddess personifying the dog-star Sirius, the bright appearance of which in the July dawn sky announced the annual flooding of the Nile. The Egyptian name of the goddess was "Sopdet", from which came the Greek Sothis, normally used in Ancient Egyptian studies. She is portrayed as a lady with a star on her head. As early as the First Dynasty, Sothis was called bringer of the New Year and the Nile Flood. The agricultural calendar started with the rise of the Nile. Gradually Sothis became linked with the constellation Orion, because of the prosperity which resulted from the fertile silt left by the receding waters of the river.

Sotef - He sometimes replaces Smotef as one of the four lesser gods of the dead. His name means cutter or purifier.

Tauret - Sometimes written Ta-urt or Taweret, means "hippopotamus". This was the animal form of the great mother goddess Mut. As a nurturing force Tauret was depicted as a pregnant hippopotamus with long teats, standing on her hind legs and carrying the scrolls of protection. As a fierce animal force protecting the children, Tauret was pictured as a lion-headed hippo carrying a dagger. Also called Apet, Opet, Taueret, Thoueris, Rertretu and Taweret. Goddess of childbirth, maternity, nursing, protection and revenge.

Tayet - Tayet is a deity of weaving who provides the linen bandages that were used to wrap the mummy with. The cloth was sometimes called 'the Land of Tayet'. She also wove the cloth used for the curtains in the tent of purification, where the embalming process was carried out. It is said that the curtains were embroidered by Ptah.

Tefen - God scorpion

Tefnut - Tefnut is the goddess of daybreak (the goddess of dew and rain) and is associated with the mountains from which the sun rises. On a darker side it is said that she lives in the underworld and underworld gods hack up her body for her blood.

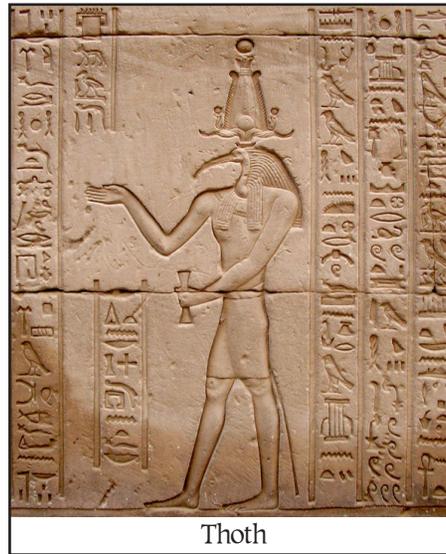
Temu - Represents the evening or night time sun (Dark eye of Ra). Personification of Ra in human form and of the setting sun. Sometimes called Tem, Atem or Atum.

Theban Pantheon - Anit, Atumu, Hathor, Horus, Isis, Montu, Nephthys, Nut, Osiris, Shu, Sibiu, Sit, Tafnut, and Tanu. Sometimes the group includes Khonsu, Maut, Mont, and Mut.

Thetet - God scorpion.

Thoth - The god of learning, he was the lunar god usually depicted with the head of an ibis, though he was worshipped as a baboon in Hermopolis. He acted as secretary to the gods, and was the master over writing, prophecy, speech, astronomy, rituals, languages, laws, annals, and calculations. It was taught that he was self-begotten and created himself with his voice alone. Referred to as twice great and maker of magic. Thoth created the master book of all things. Anyone who reads the book will know all the magic of the world, all forms of speech and be able to see the gods in all things. The Greeks call Thoth Hermes Trimegistos. Mighty of truth in earth and heaven. His other names were Tehuti, Thout, Djehuti and Zehuti.

Ua - Goddess of the underworld (as mentioned in the Book of the Dead).



Thoth

Uadjet or Wadjet - Sometimes Uajyt, goddess of Buto, "the papyrus-coloured one", meaning "the green one", which was a general name for the cobra, the uraeus, her sacred animal. Later she was connected to the ichneumon. In one Pyramid Text it is said that the papyrus plant emerged from her, and as "the green one" she was connected to the forces of growth. She was the protective goddess of Lower Egypt, her counterpart being the vulture goddess Nekhbet of Upper Egypt. Together they embodied the two crowns of the country and were part of the royal insignia. They also represented the mythical mothers of the king and were shown offering their nurturing breasts to him. Wadjet is most often depicted as a rearing cobra, and is frequently seen together with Nekhbet at the front of the head-dress of rulers and queens often wore a crown surrounded with many small uraeus heads. The uraeus being a royal symbol was also worn by Horus and Seth and the spitting cobra was seen as the eye of Ra, thus Uadjet was connected to the solar

deity and could sometimes be seen with a leonine head crowned with a solar disc and uraeus.

Uat - Goddess of water.

Udjat - There are two versions of the "Udjat eye":

1. It is the Eye of Ra (or of Heru). It refers to the eye of the falcon-headed god Horus after it had been torn out by Seth during one of their never-ending battles over the throne of Egypt. The eye was then healed by Thoth, hence it was considered a symbol of healing or revitalization.

2. According to some other texts, Atum (the creator) gave birth to his son by spitting him out. His daughter he vomited out. Shu (the son) represented the air and Tefnut (the daughter) was a goddess of moisture. After some time Shu and Tefnut became separated from their father and lost in the watery chaos of Nu. Atum, who had only one eye (the Udjat eye), which was removable, removed it and sent it in search of his children. In time they returned with the eye. At this

reunion Atum wept tears of joy. Where these tears hit the ground, men grew (the beginning of the human race).

Umm s-Subyan - A death goddess who causes infants to die.

Unen-em-hetep - Goddess protector of the dead.

Upuaut - The opener of ways, god of the underworld. Pictures as wolf headed, but different from Anubis. He is often dressed as a soldier and presided over war, protection, defence, martial arts and journeys. Also called Ophis and Wepwawet.

Urt-hekau - The lion goddess (sometimes the lion god) who is the protective power in the Eye of Horus.

Uazet - Goddess of the city of Pé. Also called Buto and Latona. Goddess of the North country. She wears the red crown of the north.

Wenut - “the Swift One” ancient minor deity from the predynastic days, from the beginning shown in snake form but probably in the Graeco-Roman period represented as a hare.

Werethekau - ‘She who is rich in magic’ or ‘Great in magic’. A name used for various goddesses, especially Aset and Sekhmet, but she is also a deity in her own right, depicted as a snake or a woman with a lioness head. She was also considered the divine nurse of the king and the protector of Egypt. From the New Kingdom onwards she was present at the coronation of the King.

Wepwawet/Wepawawet - Local deity of Lycopolis, depicted as a jackal or a wolf or with a jackal head, often dressed as a soldier and carrying his weapons. His name means “opener of the way” and is believed to have a connection with going out into battle. His attributes are the mace and the bow and he led the royal processions carrying his standard, opening the way for Pharaoh. In the form of two standards he went before the funeral procession at Abydos. He was placed by the tomb and from there he kept watch over the deceased. He was sometimes identified with Horus and he guarded the sun-boat on its journey through the Underworld. This is the origin of the term Lycanthrope.



Wesir - Another name for Osiris.

EGYPTIAN MYTHS

Note: The following text is from ‘The Book of Overthrowing Apophis,’ a late work, but one which conserves basic material from a relatively early period.

The Lord of All, after having come into being, says: I am he who came into being as Khepri (i.e., the Becoming One). When I came into being, the beings came into being, all the beings came into being after I became. Numerous are those who became, who came out of my mouth, before heaven ever existed, nor earth came into being, nor the worms, nor snakes were created in this place. 1, being in weariness, was bound to them in the Watery Abyss. I found no place to stand. I thought in my heart, I planned in myself, I made all forms being alone, before I ejected Shu, before I spat out Tefnut 1 before any other who was in me had become. Then I planned in my own heart, and many forms of beings came into being as forms of children, as forms of their children. I conceived by my hand, I united myself with my hand, I poured out of my own mouth. I ejected Shu, I spat out Tefnut. It was my father the Watery Abyss who brought them up, and my eye followed them (?) while they became far from me. After having become one god, there were (now) three gods in me. When I came into being in this land, Shu and Tefnut jubilated in the Watery Abyss in which they were. Then they brought with them my eye. After I had joined together my members, I wept over them, and men came into being out of the tears which came out of my eyes.² Then she (the eye) became enraged³ after she came back and had found that I had placed another in her place, that she had been replaced by the Brilliant One. Then I found a higher place for her on my brow⁴ and when she began to rule over the whole land her fury fell down on the flowering (?) and I replaced what she had ravished. I came out of the flowering (?), I created all snakes, and all that came into being with them. Shu and Tefnut produced Geb and Nut; Geb and Nut produced out of a single body Osiris, Horus the Eyeless one 5 Seth, Isis, and Nephthys, one after the other among them. Their children are numerous in this land.

EGYPTIAN POETRY

Hymn to the Nile

Hail to thee, O Nile! Who manifests thyself over this land, and comes to give life to Egypt! Mysterious is thy issuing forth from the darkness, on this day whereon it is celebrated! Watering the orchards created by Re, to cause all the cattle to live, you give the earth to drink, inexhaustible one! Path that descends from the sky, loving the bread of Seb and the first-fruits of Nepera, You cause the workshops of Ptah to prosper!

Lord of the fish, during the inundation, no bird alights on the crops. You create the grain, you bring forth the barley, assuring perpetuity to the temples. If you cease your toil and your work, then all that exists is in anguish. If the gods suffer in heaven, then the faces of men waste away.

Then He torments the flocks of Egypt, and great and small are in agony. But all is changed for mankind when He comes; He is endowed with the qualities of Nun. If He shines, the earth is joyous, every stomach is full of rejoicing, every spine is happy, every jaw-bone crushes (its food).

He brings the offerings, as chief of provisioning; He is the creator of all good things, as master of energy, full of sweetness in his choice. If offerings are made it is thanks to Him. He brings forth the herbage for the flocks, and sees that each god receives his sacrifices. All that depends on Him is a precious incense. He spreads himself over Egypt, filling the granaries, renewing the marts, watching over the goods of the unhappy.

He is prosperous to the height of all desires, without fatiguing Himself therefor. He brings again his lordly bark; He is not sculptured in stone, in the statutes crowned with the uraeus serpent, He cannot be contemplated. No servitors has He, no bearers of offerings! He is not enticed by incantations! None knows the place where He dwells, none discovers his retreat by the power of a written spell.

No dwelling (is there) which may contain you! None penetrates within your heart! Your young men, your children applaud you and render unto you royal homage. Stable are your decrees for Egypt before your servants of the North! He stanches the water from all eyes and watches over the increase of his good things.

Where misery existed, joy manifests itself; all beasts rejoice. The children of Sobek, the sons of Neith, the cycle of the gods which dwells in him, are prosperous. No more reservoirs for watering the fields! He makes mankind valiant, enriching some, bestowing his love on others. None commands at the same time as himself. He creates the offerings without the aid of Neith, making mankind for himself with multiform care.

He shines when He issues forth from the darkness, to cause his flocks to prosper. It is his force that gives existence to all things; nothing remains hidden for him. Let men clothe themselves to fill his gardens. He watches over his works, producing the inundation during the night.

The associate of Ptah . . . He causes all his servants to exist, all writings and divine words, and that which He needs in the North.

It is with the words that He penetrates into his dwelling; He issues forth at his pleasure through the magic spells. Your unkindness brings destruction to the fish; it is then that prayer is made for the (annual) water of the season; Southern Egypt is seen in the same state as the North.

Each one is with his instruments of labor. None remains behind his companions. None clothes himself with garments, The children of the noble

put aside their ornaments.

He night remains silent, but all is changed by the inundation; it is a healing-balm for all mankind. Establisher of justice! Mankind desires you, supplicating you to answer their prayers; You answer them by the inundation! Men offer the first-fruits of corn; all the gods adore you! The birds descend not on the soil. It is believed that with your hand of gold you make bricks of silver! But we are not nourished on lapis-lazuli; wheat alone gives vigor.

A festal song is raised for you on the harp, with the accompaniment of the hand. Your young men and your children acclaim you and prepare their (long) exercises. You are the august ornament of the earth, letting your bark advance before men, lifting up the heart of women in labor, and loving the multitude of the flocks.

When you shine in the royal city, the rich man is sated with good things, the poor man even disdains the lotus; all that is produced is of the choicest; all the plants exist for your children. If you have refused (to grant) nourishment, the dwelling is silent, devoid of all that is good, the country falls exhausted.

O inundation of the Nile, offerings are made unto you, men are immolated to you, great festivals are instituted for you. Birds are sacrificed to you, gazelles are taken for you in the mountain, pure flames are prepared for you. Sacrifice is metle to every god as it is made to the Nile. The Nile has made its retreats in Southern Egypt, its name is not known beyond the Tuau. The god manifests not his forms, He baffles all conception.

Men exalt him like the cycle of the gods, they dread him who creates the heat, even him who has made his son the universal master in order to give prosperity to Egypt. Come (and) prosper! Come (and) prosper! O Nile, come (and) prosper! O you who make men to live through his flocks and his flocks through his orchards! Come (and) prosper, come, O Nile, come (and) prosper!

God/Goddess Attributes

Name	Domain	Symbol	Sacred Animal
Amun-Ra	universal god	ram	goose or hawk
Anubis	god of funerals	jackal/dog	jackal
Apis	fertility	bull	bull
Aten	only gods	solar disc	
Bast	pleasure/protection	cat	cat
Buto	protection	serpent/vulture	cobra or mouse
Geb	the earth	human form	
Hathor	joy, love	cow	cow or frog
Horus	divinity	falcon	hawk
Isis	magic	female form	swallow
Khnum	creation	ram	
Khepera	reincarnation	beetle	scarab
Khonsu	navigation	falcon	falcon/hawk
Maat	justice/truth	ostrich feather	
Min	fertility	thunderbolt	white bull
Mut	motherhood	female form	cat, lion or cow
Neith	marriage	shield & arrows	vulture
Nephthys	night	human form	
Nut	sky	celestial vault	
Osiris	vegetation	human form	hawk or phoenix
Ptah	creation	human form	bull
Sebek	dark magic	black pyramid	crocodile
Seker	death	mummy	hawk
Sekhmet	power	lioness	lion
Seth	evil & Chaos		ass or pig/boar
Thoth	scribe	ibis	ape
Upuaut	protection/war	soldier	wolf



The Scarab - Symbolic of the universe and of life, death and rebirth.

The Lineage of the Egyptian Gods

Time moves forward from left to right.

The Ogdoad

The Eight Cosmic Deities

Kek-Keket

Elemental Darkness
Deity



Nun-Nunet

Elemental Watery
Abyss Deity



Heh-Hehet

Elemental Space &
Time Deity



Amun-Amunet

Elemental Air &
Spirit Deity

Ptah
Craftsman & Father
Creator God



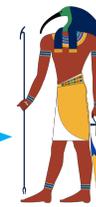
Amun-Ra
Creator Solar
God



Khnum
Potter Creator God



Thoth
Magic and Knowledge
God



Sobek
Judgement God



Shu
Sky & Air God



The Ennead

The Nine Main
Egyptian Gods

Geb
Earth Fertility God



Neith
Primordial Mother
Goddess



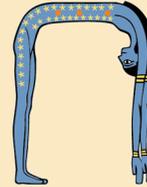
Maat
Truth & Justice
Goddess



Tefnut
Water & Fertility
Goddess



Nut
Sky & Night
Goddess



Sekhmet
War & Healing
Goddess



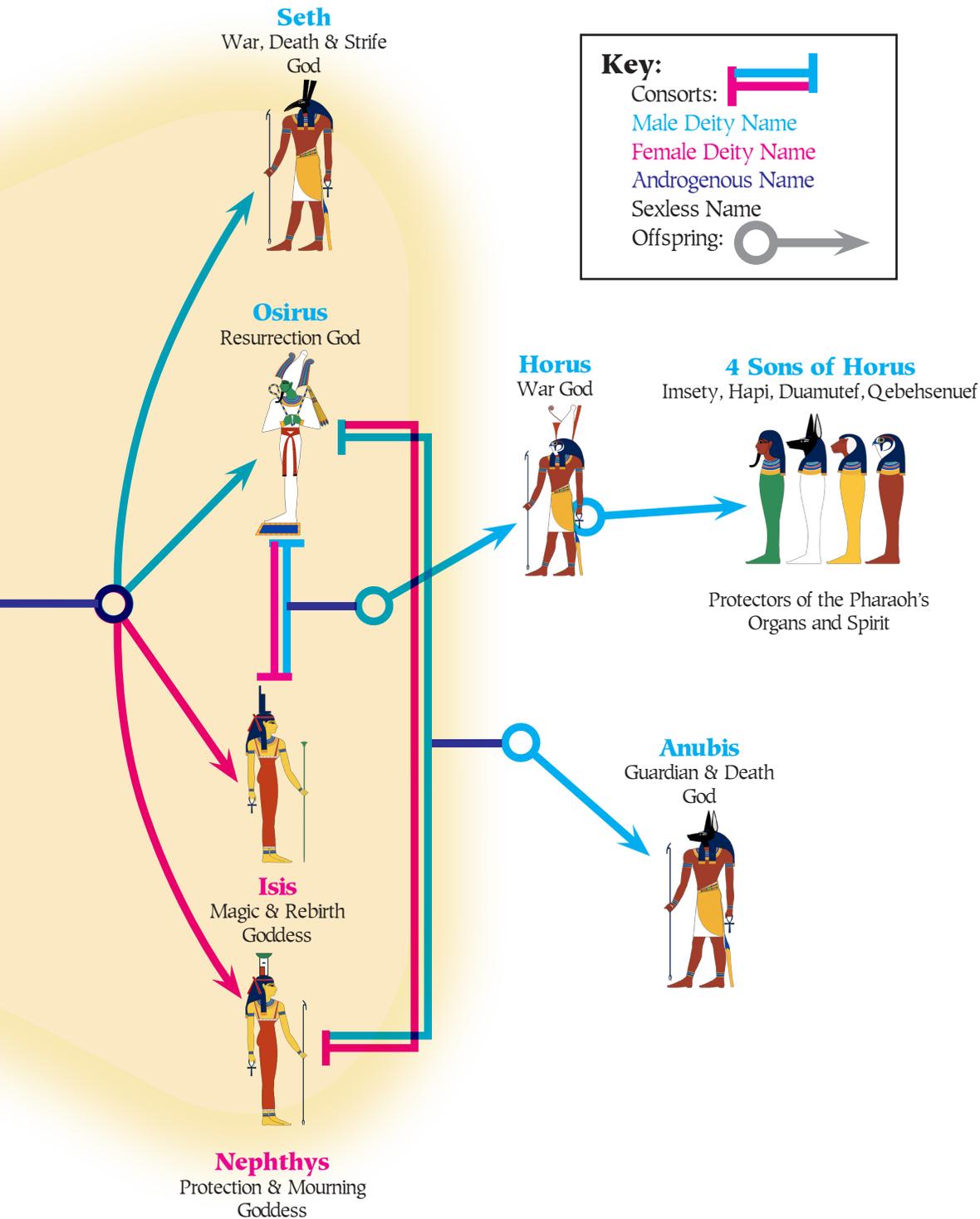
Hathor
Motherhood & Fertility
Goddess



Bast
Sensual Pleasure
Goddess



Apep
Chaos God



Notes on the Egyptian Pantheon

Many stories exist about the Egyptian gods and because the religion was so long lived, the lineage of these gods would change over time or be different between the various kingdoms. I could have presented many variations

The ancient Egyptians had a well thought out creation myth with the lineage of the gods also well structured. It is of interest that there was a large amount of incest and intrigue within the stories of their exploits.

The Ogdoad: This is the beginning state of existence before the universe was born. The eight gods of the ogdoad all exist in male/female form, having no particular sex. This is why they have male and female names. They were thought to have retired or moved to the land of the dead and had no real influence with Egyptian society. They can be interpreted as elemental forces of water, time, space, darkness and Air. From the Ogdoad sprang chaos (Apep), Ra (Elemental Fire), Ptah (Fatherhood/Masculinity/Craftsmanship/Engineering and Humanity) and Neith (Motherhood/Femininity/Hunting/Weaving/Protection and Creation).

Notes on Neith (the Mother Goddess): Neith predates the Egyptian culture and was inherited by the region. Neith has many duties among the gods and is involved in many myths. Some myths have Neith as the mother of Ra while others do not. She is sometimes listed as the sister of Isis or consort to other gods.

Notes on Amun-Ra: Ra is listed as a separate deity often from Amun and was eventually merged as the Egyptians often do with their gods. I have combined the names here as well as it more clearly defines the lineage of his children in a more concise way.

Notes on the Ennead: The Ennead were worshipped at Heliopolis and consisted of the god Atum, his children Shu and Tefnut, their children Geb and Nut and their children Osiris, Isis, Set and Nephthys.

Notes on Ptah: Ptah is a self begotten god, this is clear. He was responsible for his own creation and is sometimes listed as the creator of the universe, the Nile and of mankind. Other accounts list him as the creator of the father of the gods while others do not. I have made him the participant in the creation of Ra with Neith as the first celestial parents to the prime Egyptian god and many myths support this idea.

Notes on the Chart: Many gods exist within the Egyptian Pantheon. I have seen the number of 144, which is significant in itself. This chart is an attempt to form a common genealogy from the many myths and as a result, represents just the core or most popular deities of this culture.