

Atum's Eye

One day, Shu and Tefnut went for a walk through Nun, but as they talked they did not realize how far they had wandered. Soon they were hopelessly lost.

Shu and Tefnut looked around, but they couldn't see any of the other gods. In fact, all they could see was the dark abyss of the endless ocean, and were unable to find their way back home. When Atum could not find his children, he was distraught. He cried out to the Universe, "Shu? Tefnut? Where are you?"

It was his eye that offered a solution.

"Let me leave your body for a little while and go out into the depths of Nun to look for them," his eye said. "I can see further than anyone else and can search more quickly by myself. Then, when I return, we can be reunited."

Atum eagerly agreed to his eye's suggestion. With an echoing "Plop!" he removed it from its socket and gave it a life of its own, as only a god can do.



Atum removed his eye and gave it life.



HORUS

GOD OF THE SKY AND KINGS

Sky god Horus was thought to rule over the lands of fertile black soil left behind by the flooding of the Nile. As one of the first kings of Egypt, he was associated with the pharaohs. Horus the younger and elder were two different forms of this god.

PARENTS: Isis and Osiris

CHILDREN: Many

SACRED SYMBOLS



FALCON
Horus was shown with either just the head of a falcon or sometimes as the whole bird.



DOUBLE CROWN
This combined red and white crown symbolized the union of Upper and Lower Egypt.



EYE OF HORUS
The eye of Horus, otherwise known as the udjat, was a symbol of protection.



SUN AND MOON
After Ra retired, the eyes of Horus were said to represent the Sun and Moon.

PHARAOHS AS GODS

As Horus was appointed king by the other gods, he symbolized the right to rule. The ruling pharaoh was, therefore, believed to be the human embodiment of Horus himself.

GOD



GOD

SET

GOD OF STORMS AND DISORDER

Set was the god of all things chaotic and disorderly. Due to this, he was feared most above all the other gods. He had the head of the mythical "Set animal", and was believed to rule over the sandy red lands of the desert.

PARENTS: Geb and Nut

CHILDREN: Sobek and many more

SACRED SYMBOLS



HIPPOPOTAMUS
The hippo was associated with Set because of the destruction it caused to crops.



WAS SCEPTRE
This sceptre was a symbol of power that had a representation of Set's head at its end.



SET ANIMAL
This legendary creature had the body of a dog, a two-pronged tail, and a long nose.



DESERTS
Set was the god of deserts as they represented a place of danger beyond the Nile.

SET AND THE HYKSOS

Around 1700 BC, Lower Egypt was taken over by a group of people known as the Hyksos. Set was their favourite god, so during this time he was once more considered a king of gods.

The Eloquent Peasant



Khunanup was a peasant. He had very little, but he lived a happy life with his wife and children. One day, he announced that he would be heading to the market.

The time had come to refill the family's stores with provisions for the coming year. Khunanup reaped his bags and loaded them onto his donkey, then off he went.

On his journey, however, Khunanup encountered a man by the name of Nemtynakhte. This man immediately noticed Khunanup's donkey, which the peasant took great care of, and decided that he wanted it for himself.

Unlike Khunanup, Nemtynakhte was a rich man, and he was used to getting what he wanted.

Nemtynakhte quickly came up with a plan that would allow him to take the donkey.

Khunanup was travelling along a path between the river and barley fields belonging to Nemtynakhte. It was a narrow path, and the rich man lay down a piece of cloth, hoping to obstruct Khunanup. When the peasant reached the cloth, Nemtynakhte called out to him to stop.