

Becoming Osiris

Exploring Religion in Ancient Egypt offers a stimulating overview of the study of ancient Egyptian religion by examining research drawn from beyond the customary boundaries of Egyptology and shedding new light on entrenched assumptions. Discusses the evolution of religion in ancient Egypt – a belief system that endured for 3,000 years. Dispels several modern preconceptions about ancient Egyptian religious practices. Reveals how people in ancient Egypt struggled to secure well-being in the present life and the afterlife.

At the beginning of time, there was only Nun, the primeval waters of chaos, then in a great flood, the Sun got interned, rose from the water, and willed himself into creation. Atum then created Ayr, a son he named Shu and moisture, a daughter he named Tefnut. They were the first divine pair and soon had children of their own. The earth named Geb and the sky called Nut the second divine pair then had four children: Osiris, Isis, Seth, and Nephthys. They were completing the group of nine primeval gods known as the Ennead. Osiris then married his sister Isis, and the two ruled over Egypt together in an unprecedented time of peace and prosperity; however they're jealous, brother Seth desired the throne for himself and murdered Osiris, dismembering his body scattering the parts across the land. Isis then searched for the pieces of her husband's body and, with the help of her sister Nephthys was eventually able to collect them with the help of the scholar god Thoth and the funeral god Anubis. Isis was able to reconstruct Osiris, creating the first mummy. Osiris impregnated Isis after his resurrection; however, he was too weak to remain in the world, instead of traveling to the Duat, the Land of the Dead, where he became Lord. Seth then took the throne for himself, forcing Isis to flee and give birth to her son Horus in hiding. She raised Horus until he was an adult and able to challenge his uncle Seth for the throne. After a violent contest, the case was settled in a divine legal trial hosted by the Ennead. Acting as judge was Geb, the God of the earth who ruled in favor of Horus, who then took his rightful place as king of Egypt. Future Pharaohs claimed descent from Horus, with it being this divine ancestry that gave them the right to rule. Amun, the hidden one, was the foremost God of Egypt thought to be the invisible force behind all things, even creation itself, unlike other gods linked to only one aspect of the world: the sky, the earth, or the Sun. Amun was a universal God who had links to all parts of the cosmos; his prominence also increased as he absorbed other gods throughout Egyptian history, taking on their roles and powers. The most important of these was his merger with the Sun God Ra combining to become Amon Ra. In this role, he became linked with the Sun, an essential part of the Egyptian world. In this combined state, Amon Ra rose to prominence, becoming Egypt's chief deity and the king of the Gods. Amon became so widely worshipped that he came close to becoming the sole deity of Egypt. The other gods merely being aspects of his great power. Osiris, judge of the Dead and King of the underworld, was one of the most respected ancient Egyptian gods. His death and resurrection story inspired the Egyptians to follow in his footsteps and seek immortality for themselves. The elaborate tombs and burial rituals found in ancient Egypt were all built in search of this goal, with the funerary practices being done to aid the spirit in its journey through the underworld. Pharaohs and wealthy Nobles could afford more elaborate burials with trinkets and spells to help them in their journey, but the average Egyptian could survive the underworld as well.

Ayizan appears to live the life of a normal teenager, but she hides a tremendous secret: she is human and extraterrestrial. Ayizan's older sister whom she's never met has been watching Zan from her home planet for over a year now, using her tarot cards. But when Zan's impetuous behavior compromises the safety of other extraterrestrial inhabitants of Earth, the older sibling must intervene. Unable to put her distrust for her sister aside, Mercedes plots to prevent Zan from completing her Immersion, a rite of passage, controlled by the ancient loa, or spirits of the voodoo culture. As the sisters' complex relationship changes over time, they struggle to find common ground and understand each other while working for the good of the galaxy. In this science fiction novel, two sisters of extraterrestrial origin must learn to work together to maintain the intergalactic balance between order and chaos.

Bojana Mojsov tells the story of the cult of Osiris from beginning to end, sketching its development throughout 3,000 years of Egyptian history. Draws together the numerous records about Osiris from the third millennium B.C. to the Roman conquest of Egypt. Demonstrates that the cult of Osiris was the most popular and enduring of the ancient religions. Shows how the cult provided direct antecedents for many ideas, traits and customs in Christianity, including the concept of the trinity, baptism in the sacred river, and the sacrament of the Eucharist. Reveals the cult's influence on other western mystical traditions and groups, such as the Alchemists, Rosicrucians and Freemasons. Written for a general, as well as a scholarly audience.

The ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts form the oldest body of religious texts in the world. This book weds traditional philology to linguistic anthropology to associate them with two spheres of ritual action, mortuary cult and personal preparation for the afterlife.

"Was there an advanced prehistoric civilization in ancient Egypt? Who were the people who built the great pyramids and carved the Great Sphinx? Did the pyramids serve as energy devices and not as tombs for kings? Independent Egyptologist Stephen S. Mehler has spent over 30 years researching the answers to these questions and believes the answers are "Yes!" An indigenous oral tradition still exists in Egypt, and Mehler has been able to uncover and study it with the help of a living master of this tradition, Abd El Hakim Awyan. He has also been given permission to share these teachings—presented heretofore in fragments by other researchers—to the Western World, teachings that unfold a whole new understanding of ancient Egypt"--Publisher's description.

Storytelling is an ancient practice known in all civilizations throughout history. Characters, tales, techniques, oral traditions, motifs, and tale types transcend individual cultures -

elements and names change, but the stories are remarkably similar with each rendition, highlighting the values and concerns of the host culture. Examining the stories and the oral traditions associated with different cultures offers a unique view of practices and traditions. "Storytelling: An Encyclopedia of Mythology and Folklore" brings past and present cultures of the world to life through their stories, oral traditions, and performance styles. It combines folklore and mythology, traditional arts, history, literature, and festivals to present an overview of world cultures through their liveliest and most fascinating mode of expression. This appealing resource includes specific storytelling techniques as well as retellings of stories from various cultures and traditions.

Horus and Set were mortal enemies who embodied the timeless struggle between good and evil. When Set killed Osiris and became the supreme ruler of Egypt, the lives of ordinary Egyptians became unbearably difficult. Horus, the grown son of Osiris and Isis, brought his claim to the throne to the Council of Nine. The Nine Unknown ruled in favor of Set, but Horus had no intention of accepting this decision, and so the two became embroiled for years in their struggle for the Egyptian throne.

An initiatic guide to temple construction on the spiritual and physical planes • Details the initiations for consecrating yourself as a divine vessel • Guides you in building a sacred inner temple for connecting with the gods of Egypt • Delivers shamanic journeys and initiations on ascension, shamanic death and renewal, soul retrieval and healing, multidimensional realities, and more Deep within each of us lives a primal memory of a time when the natural world was recognized as divine and our temples were built from sacred materials enlivened through magic. Temples were not places you visited once a week; they were centers of community, divine work, healing, and wisdom, places where Heaven and Earth meet. This union of Heaven and Earth--the sacred temple--is also a union of Thoth and Isis: the Egyptian god of wisdom and the creative cosmic force and the Egyptian goddess of civilizing knowledge. Their relationship established the celestial teachings on Earth, for Thoth taught Isis all the mysteries and magic she knows and Isis acted as Thoth's instrument to deliver the teachings in a form humanity could use. In this initiatic guide to temple building on the spiritual and physical planes, Normandi Ellis and Nicki Scully explain how to create a communal spiritual structure for connecting with the ancient Egyptian pantheon as well as how to consecrate yourself and become a vessel suitable for divine wisdom and a home for your personal gods. The authors detail the construction, shamanic visioning, and ritual consecration of a Moon Temple dedicated to Thoth. They explore teachings that help you develop relationships with the Egyptian neteru and realize your place within the family of the Egyptian pantheon. They guide you as you create your inner heart temple, the adytum, a safe place in which to receive guidance and access your higher spiritual bodies and oracular gifts. They provide shamanic journeys and initiations on ascension, shamanic death and renewal, soul retrieval and healing, multidimensional realities, and more. By creating a sacred temple within and without, we each can take part in the union of Isis and Thoth and restore the magic of the Egyptian mysteries to our time.

Reproduction of the original: The Book of the Dead by E. A. Wallis Budge

An in-depth examination of the ancient Egyptian approach to death and its relevance to the modern near-death experience • A thought-provoking account of the numerous initiatic stages of the immortalization process • Examines the Ritual of Embalming and the Ritual of the Opening of the Mouth, both central to the ancient Egyptian death experience • Includes numerous illustrations from the rich field of Egyptian funeral art In their well-known Book of the Dead, the ancient Egyptians left humanity one of the most comprehensive looks at the death experience and the afterlife. Without sacrificing the rich complexity of pharaonic thought, Stephane Rossini and Ruth Schumann Antelme provide an accessible, thought-provoking account of the numerous initiatic stages of the immortalization process and the magical self-defense techniques necessary for the soul to achieve its ultimate objective as a solarized being. The true significance of the ancient Egyptian view of death cannot be entirely comprehended without knowledge of the practices that preceded those described in the Book of the Dead. Becoming Osiris presents an informative account of both the Ritual of Embalming, which transforms the deceased into a latent Osiris, and the Ritual of the Opening of the Mouth, which restores to the deceased his faculties. Though thousands of years old, these texts have an astounding contemporary relevance. With numerous illustrations from the rich field of Egyptian funeral art, Becoming Osiris presents a comprehensive guide to the fascinating Osirian odyssey that is the ancient Egyptian death experience.

A look into the mysteries of life extension profiles people working to make humans live longer and better, traces the history of the science of aging, and explains how recent discoveries could change our lives. Gathers Jung's discussions of Nietzsche, whose writings were a major influence on Jung's own work

In Death, Burial and Rebirth in the Religions of Antiquity, Jon Davies charts the significance of death to the emerging religious cults in the pre-Christian and early Christian world. He analyses the varied burial rituals and examines the different notions of the afterlife. Among the areas covered are: * Osiris and Isis: the life theology of Ancient Egypt * burying the Jewish dead * Roman religion and Roman funerals * Early Christian burial * the nature of martyrdom. Jon Davies also draws on the sociological theory of Max Weber to present a comprehensive introduction to and overview of death, burial and the afterlife in the first Christian centuries which offers insights into the relationship between social change and attitudes to death and dying.

In this book, philosopher Paul Brunton (1898-1981) encounters the mysteries and magic of Egypt in the 1930s, including an eerie yet illuminating night spent alone inside the Great Pyramid. Alongside his explorations of ancient Egypt's monuments and gods, Brunton encounters a variety of occultists, fakirs, and dervishes, and even manages to become initiated into the deadly art of snake charming. His frank interviews with Muslim leaders remain relevant today, and his description of the Hajj reflects the beauty and inspiring faith of Mohammad's true followers. Brunton's journey to discover the furthest reaches of what the mind and body are capable of--and to distinguish various forms of yoga and magic from true spirituality--lead him to the myth of Osiris and to the mystery that is the Sphinx itself. In the end, Brunton turns his attention to his own spiritual path, connecting all of his experiences into a single discovery: that we are more than the body and that the freedom of our spirit can be experienced here and now. This new edition has been updated to incorporate Brunton's final revisions and includes an introduction by the Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation. "Paul Brunton was a great original and got to a place of personal evolution that illumines the pathways of a future humanity." --Jean Houston, author of A Passion for the Possible and A Mythic Life "Any serious man or woman in search of spiritual ideas will find a surprising challenge and an authentic source of inspiration and intellectual nourishment in the writings of Paul Brunton."--Jacob Needleman, author of What is God?

Contains nearly 600 brief entries on the world's religious traditions.

Gods and goddesses—in human, animal, and other forms—were central to the ancient Egyptian way of life. Identified with the natural world, daily living, and the afterlife, they maintained order and prevented chaos from permeating the human world. The figures documented in ancient hieroglyphics are given dimension in this absorbing volume, which

examines the characteristics and significance of many of the Egyptian gods and goddesses and also looks at related topics such as ancient symbols and the influence of Egyptian mythology on other cultures and belief systems.

The initial aim of this thesis was to investigate the language and textual imagery employed on women's coffins dating from the First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom, and to see if this deviates from that found on men's coffins dating from the same time. I have argued in my honours dissertation (2010, unpublished) that death can be seen as a sexless and genderless state; all individuals became an Osiris, "laid low" through the inertia imposed upon them. The liminal state between life and rebirth was so dangerous because Osiris' (and by association every deceased individuals') identity, so caught up in sex and gender conventions, was taken away from them. Therefore (s)he was rendered powerless and unable to take action to overcome this peril. After being found [...], true of voice and justified before the gods, the individual could regain their corporeal identity, within which so much understanding of self was tied up. In regaining their biological sex they were now able to participate in the Afterlife and promulgate the eternal cycles of [...] and [...]. The work of Kathlyn M. Cooney and Heather Lee McCarthy, focussing primarily on the New Kingdom, outline the use of artistic decorum, mortuary literature and the flaunting of its conventions to suggest that women had to essentially become male, or at least lose their specifically feminine identity, in order to pass through the liminal state between death and rebirth. Gender fluidity was required for a woman to follow in the divine precedent of traversing the dangerous, liminal stage before rebirth, yet remains notably absent from funerary items included in burials for use in the Afterlife; that is, after the deceased was considered justified and had successfully achieved rebirth, regaining their earthly sexual identity. For example, the vast majority of Middle Kingdom Abydene stelae present women in a stereotypically perfect way, seemingly unconcerned with portraying an individual accurately or deviating from the generic standard representation in visual terms. Likewise, grave goods are often highly gendered. Whether the Egyptians conceived of women as becoming biologically male in order to be reborn, or simply used the masculine association with the first individual to be reborn after death, the deity Osiris, is a topic that will be addressed in this thesis. My focus will be on the First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom Coffin Texts and I plan to show how this mortuary literature supports the assertion that, in the transitional period between physical death and rebirth in the Afterlife, 'male' and 'female' was a largely irrelevant distinction until the individual had been deemed justified, and differences in the material record from this period can tell us more about status hierarchy and regional associations than it can about differential attitudes imposed due to biological sex. I shall explore, using the Egyptian Coffin Texts compiled by Adriaan de Buck in general and the textual record surviving from the Late Dynasty burial of Lady Djehutynakht at Deir el Bersha in particular, just how it was possible for a woman to become Osiris NN, circumventing the cultural dilemma of death as a finality and achieving a successful rebirth c. 2150 -1630 BC.

Discover how the ancient Egyptians controlled their immortal destiny! This book, edited by Foy Scalf, explores what the Book of the Dead was believed to do, how it worked, how it was made, and what happened to it.

Becoming OsirisThe Ancient Egyptian Death ExperienceInner Traditions / Bear & Co

Theodosia Throckmorton is in a fix. Allowed to attend a reception given by one of the directors of her parents' museum, she stumbles across Mr. Tetley of the British Museum—in most unusual circumstances! Since Theo has last seen him in a showdown in an ancient Egyptian tomb, his reappearance could mean only one thing: the Serpents of Chaos are back. Once again Theodosia will have to take on secret societies, evil curses, and dark magic too sinister to imagine, especially if it falls into the wrong hands. Blocked at every turn, Theodosia will have to rely on her own skill and cunning—along with a little help from the most unexpected places.

Make the mythology of Ancient Egypt come to life for young readers through engaging stories and dramatic photos and illustrations. Discover the gods and goddesses behind the myths and the powers they used to control and change the world. There's Ra, the sun god who created the world, and Osiris, the god of the dead and ruler of the underworld, plus many more. Sidebars, facts, and help uncover how these myths influenced the culture and daily life of Ancient Egypt.

This new study is the first translation of the papyrus of Padikakem, with an extensive commentary. The complete early Ptolemaic manuscript from the Walters Art Museum contains two uncommon texts in hieratic. The initial text, a Ritual of Introducing the Multitude on the Last Day of Tekh, is identified as a temple liturgy by its rubric title, while its themes recall love poetry and the Lamentations of Isis and Nephthys. The second text, a rarely attested Book III of glorification spells (sakhw) has an exclusively mortuary character. The spells of this section largely originate in the Pyramid Texts and include specific instructions for recitation by the lector priest. The two texts are established as a coherent composition that belongs to the Greco-Roman tradition of merging Egyptian funerary practices with temple liturgies. The diverse sources and themes of the texts shed light on the evolution of Osirian and mortuary theologies from the Old Kingdom onwards. The study also thoroughly examines the development of grammar and paleography among the parallels.

Examines the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead and details their funerary practices including the embalming ritual

Some have called it the essence of sin, others the depth of salvation. Regardless of one's evaluation of it, however, deification throughout Western history has been a part of human aspiration. From the ancient pharaohs to modern transhumanists, people have envisioned their own divinity. These visionaries include not only history's greatest megalomaniacs, but also mystics, sages, apostles, prophets, magicians, bishops, philosophers, atheists, and monks. Some aimed for independent deity, others realized their eternal union with God. Some anticipated godhood in heaven, others walked as gods on earth. Some accepted divinity by grace, others achieved it by their own will to power.

There is no single form of deification (indeed, deification is as manifold as the human conception of God), but the many types are united by a set of interlocking themes: achieving immortality, wielding superhuman power, being filled with supernatural knowledge or love--and through these means transcending normal human (or at least "earthly") nature. Links the star Canopus in the constellation Orion with the god Osiris, the Grail legend, and alchemy. Proposes that Canopus enabled men to communicate with gods and enter other dimensions, and shows how this connection is part of both Egyptian mythology and modern physics and describes the structure of the universe.

The modern Western movement to embrace Eastern spiritual traditions usually stops with India and the Orient. Westerners have yet to discover the wisdom that dates back even further to ancient Egypt. With a Jungian perspective, clinical psychologist Dr. Thom F. Cavalli plumbs that wisdom through the myth of Osiris, the green-skinned Egyptian god of vegetation and the Underworld. As no one else has done, Cavalli draws on Osiris's death and resurrection as a guide to spiritual transformation. The myth represents the joining of the conscious and the unconscious, the light and the dark, life and death, and shows how to live our temporal existence in service to and anticipation of eternal life. Cavalli sees the ancient art of alchemy — which attempted to turn lead into gold — as the key. The alchemical recipe "solve et coagula" (solution and coagulation) encoded in the myth describes the integration of all parts of a person and the method for achieving an experience of immortality in life and eternal life after death. The Osiris myth thus provides a model for the contemporary quest for individuation, the Jungian term for integrating ego and self, body and soul, in the process of becoming whole.

This book explores the phenomenon of aniconism—the denotation of the presence of gods, saints, or spiritual forces using non-figural visual markers that do not resemble these supranatural entities. The contributors show how various types of aniconism differ in how they mediate divine presence and relate to other modes of representation. Aniconism is rarely absolute; each aniconic form needs to be considered within a spectrum of visual modes ranging from the abstract to the anthropomorphic. The chapters examine aniconism in paleolithic cultures; in ancient Egypt, Israel, and Greece; in early Christianity and Islam; in medieval and contemporary Hinduism; and in 17th–19th century Scottish-Gaelic contexts. The volume also provides a critical historiography of 'aniconism' as an academic concept, a new fine-tuned terminology, and some general characteristics of aniconic expressions in the context of the broader field of material religion. Offering a multi-faceted discussion of this important category of religious material culture, this book will be of interest to those with an interest in aniconism, as well as those involved in the wider study of how religion intersects with art and anthropology. This book was originally published as a special issue of the Religion journal.

The story of Osiris is one of the central cultural myths of ancient Egypt, a story of dismemberment and religious passion that also exemplifies attitudes about personal identity, sexuality, and the transfer of royal power. It is, moreover, a story of death and the overcoming of death, and in this it lies at the center of our own means of engagement with ancient Egypt. ReMembering Osiris takes as its focus this tale as it is recorded in Egyptian texts and memorialized on the walls of temples and tombs. Since such a focus is attainable only through Egyptian representational systems, especially hieroglyphs, the book also engages broader questions of writing and visual representation: decipherment, controversies about the "ideograph," and the relation between visual images and writing.

Organized by the periods, kingdoms, and empires generally used in ancient Near Eastern political history, Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture interlaces social and cultural history with a political narrative. Charts, figures, maps, and historical documents introduce the reader to the material world of the ancient Near East, including Egypt. The emphasis on historical debates and areas of uncertainty helps students understand how historians use evidence to create interpretations and that several different interpretations of history are possible. New features in this edition include: Reorganization of the chapters on the early periods, with discussions incorporating the latest archaeological finds. New "Debating the Evidence" sections discussing current controversial issues in Near Eastern history. These sections make it easy for students and teachers to find and use the portions of the text devoted to scholarly arguments about various aspects of ancient Near Eastern history. A new chapter, "Ancient Israel and Judah," has been added to cover more completely the crucial issues of ancient Israelite history and religion. More emphasis has been placed on the role and contributions of women in the ancient Near East. The most important change is the addition of co-author Susan N. Helft, a specialist in the art and archaeology of the ancient Near East, who has applied her considerable knowledge, insight, research, and editing skills throughout the book. This new edition of Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture will remain a crucial text for students beginning to learn about the fascinating civilizations of the Near East.

The Egyptian Book of the Dead is one of the oldest and greatest classics of Western spirituality. Until now, the available translations have treated these writings as historical curiosities with little relevance to our contemporary situation. This new version, made from the hieroglyphs, approaches the Book of the Dead as a profound spiritual text capable of speaking to us today. These writings suggest that the divine realm and the human realm are not altogether separate--they remind us that the natural world, and the substance of our lives, is fashioned from the stuff of the gods. Devoted like an Egyptian scribe to the principle of "effective utterance", Normandi Ellis has produced a prose translation that reads like pure, diaphanous verse.

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