

THE GODDESS OF WRITING IN ANCIENT EGYPT

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Abstract:

This research deals with the goddess of ancient Egyptian writing and consists in general of two axes, we touched in the first axis to the god Thoth, the god of wisdom, one of the lords of Thamun Al-Ashmunin Al-Koni, the god of science and knowledge and the inventor of writing. As for the second axis, we touched on the god Seshat, the god of writing, recording and arithmetic among the Egyptians.

Keywords: Gods, Writing, Religious Life, Culture

Introduction

We reviewed in our research this goddess ancient Egyptian writing as the Egyptian gods represent the basis of their lives, and they were approaching them through offerings and banquets, and the Egyptian religion was full of many gods, some of which are of great fame and then the other less famous, and perhaps the most prominent of these gods is the gods Thoth and Seshat.

The god (Thoth) had a special place in the hearts of the Egyptians, perhaps because the writing profession was under his patronage as the god of science and knowledge and the inventor of writing, arithmetic and magic, and the Egyptians considered him a mediator between the gods good and evil.

It was depicted in several different forms, as it appeared in the form of an ibis bird and a baboon, and next to Thoth, also the goddess Schat, as she was entrusted with writing, recording and arithmetic, and is also considered a guardian of the king, depicted as a woman wearing tiger skin with a logo in the form of a star with seven heads and above it a pair of horns suggesting the crescent moon.

With regard to sources, we have relied on a number of valuable sources, including the book of the researcher (Abdel Halim Nour El-Din) entitled (The Ancient Egyptian Religion, Part 1), the book of the researcher (Jaroslav Cerny) entitled (The Ancient Egyptian Religion) and the book of the researcher (Wallis Budge) entitled (The Gods of the Egyptians) and other sources.

The goddess of writing in ancient Egypt

The Egyptians invented writing and blogging in the late prehistoric times and when King (Mina) was able to unite the two faces of Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt and lay the foundations of the first royal family that ruled the Egyptian state (around 3200BC), writing had become a way for the Egyptians to record their history, and writing became a separation between historical and prehistoric eras in Egypt ⁽ⁱ⁾Due to the importance of writing for the ancient Egyptians, they

attributed it to the gods, including the gods Thoth and the goddess Sechat, and the following we will review them in detail:

First: The goddess Thoth:

Culture in all its theoretical and practical branches was the basis on which the entire Egyptian civilization was based, as this civilization was not only based on power, wide wealth, commercial and maritime activity, but also on the basis of culture, like most other ancient civilizations⁽ⁱⁱ⁾; Therefore, it is not surprising that Thoth, the god of knowledge and culture, enjoys a great position, as he is credited with inventing writing and divine words "hieroglyphs". The different languages that confer on each of the peoples of the earth his personality and individual identity are the author of the laws which maintain order in society⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾.

There have been many opinions about the name of the god "Thoth or Thoth" and its meaning, and these opinions include that it is derived from the word "Thw", which means "yellow sapphire" or the meaning of "yellow", and it is seen that the derivation of the name of the god from this word describes it as yellow as the moon god with yellow lighting, which explains the depiction of this god with yellow head, or it is derived from the word "Dhty". which gives the^(iv) meaning of "white stone or smooth white metal".

because he had many connections with other Delta, It seems that he came from the Delta, But the center of his cult was in Middle Egypt. godstAl AshmoninHe played. or Hermopolis probably began as a funerary but, an important role in many myths with different characters deity^(v).

And this god is the origin of Hermes the Greek, who was nicknamed (Hermes Triangle of Greatness). He was considered the messenger of the gods^(vi). Thoth was in the Egyptian religion the lord of the city of Hermopolis (Al Ashmonin, Al Minya Governorate) and also the Lord of the Holy Writings (Hieroglyphs). And the lord of the science of magic in the city of Hermopolis, there was a large temple of "Thoth" and catacombs for the temple and its secret library contained books on magic written by Thoth by his hand^(vii).

It was symbolized by two symbols, the first symbol in the form of a "Ibis bird", due to the straightness of its body lines and its fixed posture^(viii). An ibis is a bird with a long beak that is always seen in the fields on the banks of the Nile, and according to a certain legend when Ra appointed Thoth as his deputy, he appointed ibis as a messenger to facilitate his tasks^(ix).

The known about this bird is that it walks and wanders slowly, sluggishly, reverently and calmly, and searches with its beak for earthworms during plowing to rid them of impurities, like the researcher in the depths of knowledge who continues to search constantly until he reaches pure knowledge. Free from any defect. It is the real symbol of sobriety, patience and constant searching^(x). The Ibis bird became its symbol and appeared on prayers from pre- and early dynastic times^(xi).

The bird Ibis was initially worshipped in the Delta and then found a new home for himself in Ashmonin in Middle Egypt, and people believed in him that he was (the god of the moon), and that he was the one who brought this star back to full after its disappearance so that he became the perfect eye of Horus^(xii).

The second symbol of this god was the baboon monkey and it is believed that the shape of the baboon is probably older than that of the ibis bird, because the Egyptians in early times sanctified the baboons and associated it with the sun god because of its lullaby at sunrise in the morning. Obviously, the wisdom of the "monkey" was associated with the wisdom of the god of wisdom. In this form Thoth was painted as a monkey with a dog's face. The temple of Rameses II in Abu Simbel shows baboons worshipping the rising sun, standing at a huge monkey at the gates of Thoth in the "Ashmonin" near Minya^(xiii).

There are many baboon statues in the Egyptian Museum, and the monkey was charged with weighing the heart of the deceased in exchange for honesty, and his presence among the tools on the image of the monkey may be waiting for the weight of the heart, also found in the tools a straight reed half of both sides and pierced in the middle (reed balance)^(xiv).

In the drawing of the trial in the Book of the Dead, we find that Thoth plays the role of the registered angel^(xv), along with Anubis and Horus^(xvi).

His decision is accepted by the gods, who ratify it, and it is submitted to osiris. If he says that the soul of the deceased has been weighed, that the truth has been made known by its trial on the great scale, and that there is no evil whatsoever in it, then the gods cannot but say, "Thoth uttered the truth and the deceased is one of the righteous and holy"^(xvii).

Thoth was a companion of the sun god in the underworld, and wrote to him on his writing tablet the results of weighing the hearts of the dead in the balance of justice, and he performs this work with honesty, sincerity and mastery because he was a "lover of truth and a hater of falsehood"^(xviii).

Legends say that Thoth originated from the head of the god Set, after the latter inadvertently swallowed the sperm of Hor, and Thoth was associated with the moon, which made him the master of time, hence the fact that the symbols accompanying it were often a writing tablet or a branch of palm fronds. Thoth is usually described as the tongue or heart of Ra^(xix).

Thoth was integrated into the theology of Ain Shams in the Old Kingdom and was associated with Osir, Ra and Hor; he was known as Ibn Ra, and some legends say that he healed or treated the eye of Horus associated with the moon^(xx).

The texts of the pyramids associate the name of Thoth with the tree of the family of Osiris, but is usually seen as an independent god, whom Osiris employed as a vizier and clerk, functions he later performed in the service of Horus^(xxi).

Therefore, it is not surprising that Thoth, the god of knowledge and culture, had a unique and privileged place in the Egyptian "Pantheon". In some pyramid texts Thoth is sometimes depicted as the eldest son of Ra, sometimes as the son of Geb (earth) and Nut (heaven), the brother of Isis, set and Nephthys, but it is customary and common for him that he had nothing to do with the Osiris' family and that he was only a minister of Osiris and the scribe of his holy kingdom^(xxii).

It also appears in pure human form or as a composite of some of these elements, which cannot accommodate all its rich nature^(xxiii).

Thoth is considered the inventor of all sciences, arts, literature, sports, surveying, geometry, astronomy, prediction, magic, medicine, surgery, string and air music, painting, stories and poetry. Moreover, he is the inventor of the art of writing whose teachings mankind would not have remembered and retained his discoveries and inventions so he was called the Master of Sacred Words.^(xxiv)

Thoth or Thoti in a good language is Hermes Egyptian, who symbolizes divine discernment and is the inventor of crafts, science and writing and the founder of the Society of Humanity and the street of religion, and the use of the measure and scale, and the art of construction, engraving, visualization, engraving, music, is the one who taught man to know the world and its systems until the truth appeared in it, and for this he was called the Lord of truth, the actor of justice, the author of the holy books, the writer of the deities sect and the professor of divine speech^(xxv).

They considered him the "writer" chosen by the other Egyptian gods to record their works, descriptions and specialties, he is the "writer of the gods" and he is also the "god of the book" of the Egyptians who were blessed with him and considered him a symbol of their lofty profession.^(xxvi)

The scribes kept statues of Thoth in their homes and offices for their works, perhaps to inspire them with his inspire or ask for the shadow of his care, and they used him against those who harmed their literary writings, and some of them preached to the ruler by saying: "You are the inch of the pen, you are the book, you are the painting of Thoth as long as you stay away from doing bad." The effect of all this was the presence of a group of writers who took it upon themselves to call for the theology of Thoti out of their love, devotion and worship to him, and one of them said: I am the servant of your house, let me speak of your blessings (or your abilities) in every country..., so that people may bring their children to name them (or to vow them) of your profession."^(xxvii)

And they took the god Thoth, the god of the moon, their protector this god is the one who divides time into months and he is the one who organizes it. In other words, it is he who regulates the affairs of the world. And if the sun god is the ruler of the world, then Thoth is the most important worker, he is the minister who stands next to him on his deck to read on him the affairs of the state. He is the "judge who judges in heaven" and judges in disputes of the gods^(xxviii).

Thoth understood time and truth because he possessed some of Ra's universal knowledge. Some stories say that his knowledge came from books in his father's library, which only he knows how to read. Through the study of books^(xxix).

The god "Thoth", described by the theological theory that attributes the creation of the world by thought and speech, was one of the gods believed to have been created by words, he is "the one who creates what exists and what does not exist", but the Egyptian in his way of giving moral things a material attribute focused on this god other creation attribute synonymous with creation by words, i.e. creation by writing - he became the "master of divine speech" or "The

Master of Writing and the Divine Writer "Lord of Books" who gives lunch to every god... and he shall be given the breath of life."^(xxx)

It is known that the god Thoth is the writer of the gods, so it is not strange that he is taken as the god of writing - he is the god of writing and the writer of the gods^(xxxi).

Clement Alexandrian says that the books of Thoth exceeded forty-two books and that they have been divided into six sections, the books from the first to the tenth deal with laws, gods, teaching priests, and books from the eleventh to the twentieth discuss the worship of the gods in the sense of offerings, victims and forms of worship. etc. and books from the twenty-first to the thirtieth are concerned with the history of the world, geography and hieroglyphics, while the books from thirty-one to thirty-fourth are his works in astronomy and astrology, and the fifth and thirty-sixth books contain a compilation of religious literature and books from thirty-seventh to forty-second devoted to medicine.^(xxxii)

The Egyptians mention in their records and legends that science was invented around eighteen thousand years BC by "Thoth", the Egyptian god of wisdom, during his rule on the surface of the earth, which lasted for a long time until it was in their estimation three thousand years; they also confirm that the oldest books on each of the sciences were among twenty thousand volumes drawn up by the learned god. This is also confirmed by Emblix (circa 300 AD). Minthon, the Egyptian historian who lived in 300 BC, believes that Thoth, the god, wrote thirty-six thousand books^(xxxiii).

In the New Kingdom, the goddess Thoth was depicted in the form of a statue of a seated writer who exercised many functions, because he bestowed positions on those he loved^(xxxiv).

The name "Thoth" even appeared in the names of many kings of the New Kingdom. And those who bore the name "Thothin Mes" (Thutmos), i.e.: (son of "Thothus"), or: ("Thoth" son)^(xxxv).

In the late period, Thoth, the lord of wheat, took the nickname of the silver furnace. One cannot say to what extent the Egyptians understood the moon as a seated individual, and the curved beak of an ibis is a symbolic sign of the lunar crescent.^(xxxvi)

This knowledge of writing endowed Thoth with awesome abilities. He is a magician and has drawn up a book on magic that he wrote with his own hand, and whoever reads formulas of this book aloud acquires supernatural abilities, and can enchant what is in heaven and earth, the world of night, mountains and waters^(xxxvii).

Thoth is mentioned in Metternich's magic painting and is invoked in its texts as the divine entity that founded the science of magic and who possesses all its tools. Thoth is the one who can extract poison from the body of a patient who has been bitten by a snake or scorpion and save him^(xxxviii).

The schools of magic placed them under the protection of the god Thoth, the lunar god of the city of Hermopolis (Al-Ashmonin of the Assiut District), believing that this god is the first to put scientific books on magic and its spells. The pharaohs considered it a pride for them to have schools of magic under his auspices and the pharaoh himself was called the head of the magicians to indicate his veneration for this science.^(xxxix)

The Book of Hours (one of the books of the science of magic) describes Thoth with these attributes: (Lord of Writing... The adept in the House of Books (Library) ... The great in magic ... the owner of the holy eye The heart of "Ra" ... Atom's tongue ... The guide of the divine entities that count the dimensions of everything ... the lord of the time count ... Chief Justice and Ministers.... Messenger "Ra" ... who drives away evil spirits... who puts everything in its right place ... which completes the eye of Ra and the eye of Horus)^(xl).

The god Thoth, a colleague who shared his job as a writer and scientist, was the goddess (Seshat), the writer and the lady of the houses of books, any libraries, and she was the first goddess who wrote, and she was originally the goddess "Nephthys", and her job is to record the works of kings, and engrave their names on a tree in the temple of "Heliopolis" while (Thoth) records the years of each king on a long branch ^(xli).

Goddess Schat:

and later they ,the goddess of writing ,At first the ancient Egyptians worshipped Sihat ^(xlii) were content to worship Thoth The ancient Egyptians knew Besides Thoti is an idol for writing and underlining, which they called Schat, i.e. writing..entrusted with writing, registration and arithmetic, and she was "Lady Houses of Religious Documents"^(xliii). She was entrusted with writing, recording and arithmetic because she was the goddess of the bookcase, and the Egyptians considered the knowledge of drawing and underlining a manifestation of divine creative activity^(xliv).

The name "schat" is derived from the verb "write". In cooperation with Thoth, the names of kings were written on the leaves of the sacred tree of the city of Heliopolis and their immortal deeds were recorded^(xlv). It was found represented in many places on the eastern wall of the first column foyer. On the southern tower of the second edifice of the temple of Ramses II^(xlvi).

It merged with Nephthys and then with Ibers and Hathor ^(xlvii), and one of its functions was to record the years of the king's reign and his deeds, as well as to record his name on the sacred tree (the tree of heaven) in On, as well as the deeds of men and gods^(xlviii).

She was the king's personal god, she helped the king in many ways: she was the one who recorded the time the gods had allocated to him for his stay on earth^(xlix). If the period of the king's earthly life is determined on the toothed palm branch to which she was transferred.^(l)

From the Second Dynasty onwards, she helped him lay the foundations of temples, where she helped King Kha Sekhmoy (Second Dynasty) to tug of war or string, in what was known as the rite of tug^(li) of war. It is an important part of the temple founding ritual, which includes measuring its ground plan.^(lii)

The king and goddess Schat- who wears a headdress decorated with stars –land planning and lay pegs. They then pull the rope around the pegs defining the north-south axis. The king slaughters his ora so that the earth may drink its blood and keep away the forces of evil: "I hold the rope with the sashat, and then turn my face towards the stars until I identify the big bear".^(liii)

Sichat people are generally depicted as a woman wearing a flower or a symbol of the star on her head with the snake that connects her to the monarchy, wearing the skin of a tiger, holding a pen in one hand, and in the other an inkwell or palm newspaper to record the number of years, and one of her seven-horned surnames (Sfakht-Abbo) which became one of her names that give her^(liv), She is the patron of writing and records^(lv), depicted with a crescent moon and a star with two feathers^(lvi) on her head. The star has seven heads, and above it a pair of inverted cow horns suggesting a crescent^(lvii) moon.

So was the wife of Thoth, the gods, Schat, the protector of writing and geometry. These gods hold the heavenly sacred tree, the tree of Ishid when they give birth to a new pharaoh on earth, Schat records on the leaves of the tree the name of the new master, and then they grant the pharaoh immortality. Historical events that have occurred in the past and will occur in the future are also recorded on the leaves of the tree^(lviii). And this goddess did not have a temple or a special worship cabin. Despite being the goddess of scribes and builders, she did not contribute any role to popular religion.^(lix)

Conclusions

- 1- The god always depicts Thoth holding a pen and writing on it.
- 2- The ancient Egyptians believed that the god of Thoth was the one who taught them writing and arithmetic. He also has a role in Egyptian mythology.
- 3- The goddess Schat was known as the god of wisdom and knowledge and a constant companion of the god Thoth and played an important role in the founding ceremony.

Margins

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