

THE EGYPTIAN TRADITION, EVOLUTION AND THE EXPANSION OF CONSCIOUSNESS



RA, Dios del Sol

This booklet comprises various texts,
ranging from modern
to centuries-old,
including writings by Zulma and excerpt sourced from encyclopaedia.



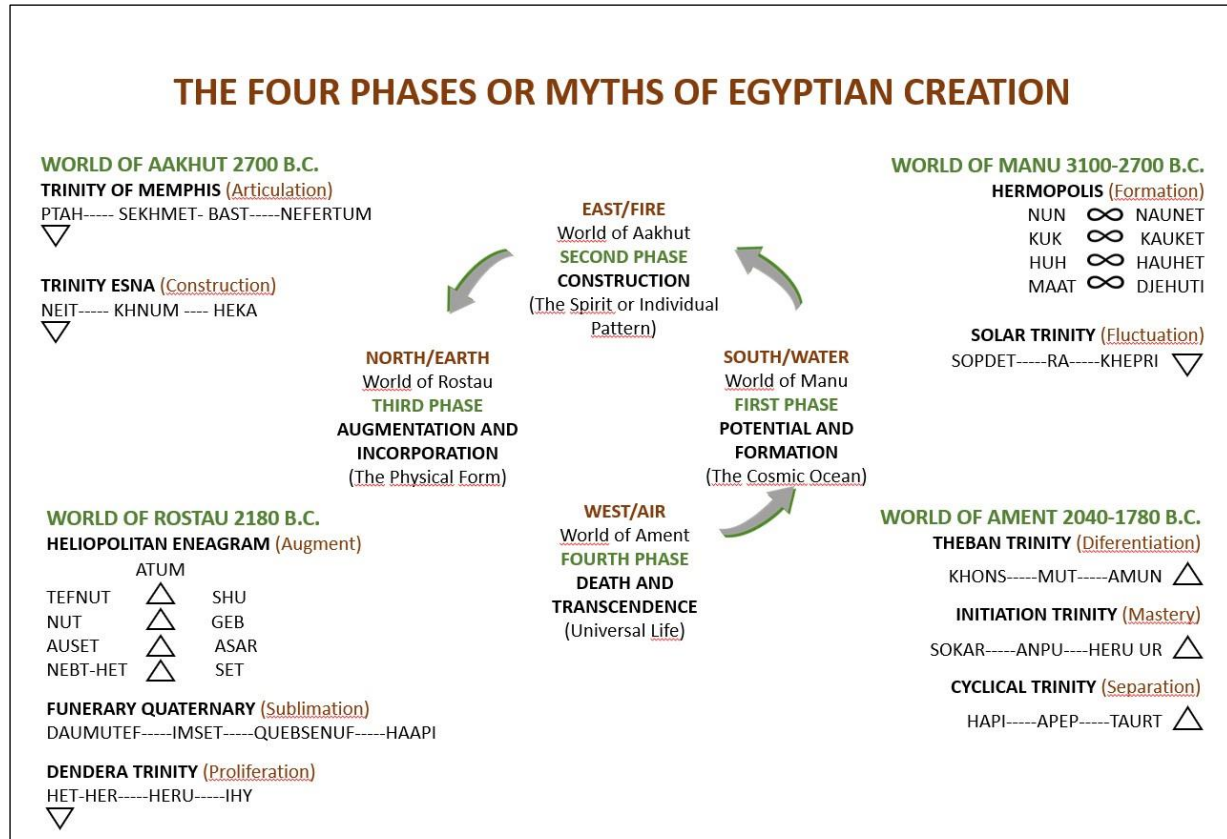
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Map of the four phases or myths of Egyptian Creation

Since time immemorial, in remotest documentation of antiquity, Egyptian priesthood claimed that their civilization existed throughout various astronomic cycles (zodiacal ages), each one lasting at least 25,000 years.

Their wisdom was encoded in mythological symbols and engraved into stone structures in such a way that in spite of time and radical shifts in mentality, future generations might **intuit a Greater Reality within the ordinary world**. Through the application of a precise knowledge of laws, forces and dynamics of creation, evocation, and preservation, they installed a way of living that assures power and self-sufficiency, generating, creating, and sustaining access to **an endless source of Consciousness and universal substance**.

Religion as such did not exist. Everything reflected The Law of the One. There was no separation between church and state. The Pharaoh was both the political and spiritual leader.



As Above so Below

All esoteric science (Kabbalah, astronomy, astrology) is based on the hermetic teachings of those early times, revealing the same dynamic in the human as in Creation.

The One and the Multiple

God is One, self-engendered, immortal, invisible, eternal, omniscient, all powerful. It may not be represented by any symbol. As “prime essence”, it is a sort of mono-personality composed of multiple functions and attributes called **Neteru***.

RA, for example, is not just the sun in a singular shape. It embraces all that represents the source, beginning, light, life, intelligence, and all means of manifestation, including the act of emergence or birth from nothingness. There are 75 aspects (Neteru) of Ra, male and female.

The nature of the **Neteru** is similar to the qualities and dynamics of chemical elements. They constitute the essence of all that exists in the universe and in humanity through their actions and interactions. They are simply elements that maintain and recycle forms of life. They do not possess consciousness (as the human does).

Way of Thinking

“All derives from One Unique Divine Source”.

Concepts such as “personal”, “intellectual”, and “private” were inconceivable in remote antiquity simply because linear reasoning without an essential holistic connection did not exist. It was all analogical.

Our linear reason that specializes in the microscopic and detail is incapable of decoding a language and a way of thinking that sustains the simultaneous interrelationship of everything.

*Note: Neter is the singular form and Neteru is the plural, just as Eloha is singular and Elohim is its corresponding plural.



Essential Intelligence functions in the following way:

- ❖ By **simultaneity**, conceiving cycles, and dimensions, including repetition and natural and cosmic phases.
- ❖ By **complementary pairs** comprehending the balance and the symmetry that lies beyond dual forms (i.e. good and bad) and their resolution.
- ❖ By **association** – “As above so below”, understanding the manifestation of grades of divine force.

Summary

God

- ❖ God is Source but also atoms and particles, each part containing the attributes of the whole but vibrating in different frequencies and in a certain order.
- ❖ God is cause and effect simultaneously.
- ❖ God is an Entity composed of entities. Each one has density, form, and principles of expression to transmit a certain purpose.
- ❖ God expresses in two modalities: Mind and Substance (Consciousness + Matter), as Energy within the space-time continuum.
- ❖ God represents the supreme Order behind All, the ocean of recyclable atoms in perpetual movement.
- ❖ God is the Communication System among all things in the universe.

The Human Being

- ❖ The human being, built in the image of God, is a universe in miniature. To understand the universe is to understand oneself and vice-versa.

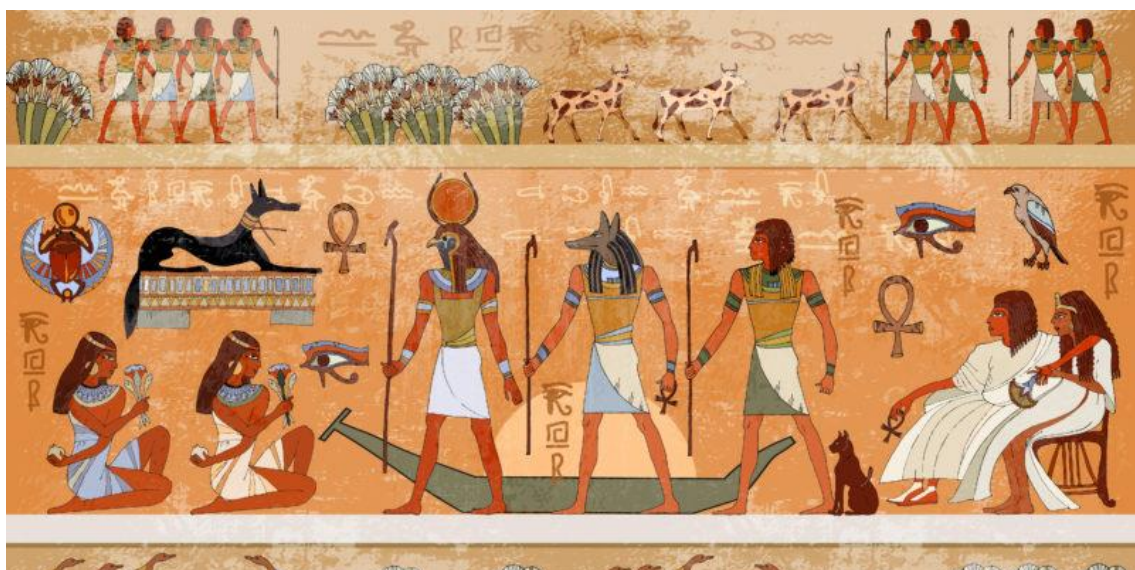


- ❖ To understand the **Law of the One** and the dynamics that rule over the universe, we serve ourselves of analogies or correspondences among the animal realm, astronomy, and the human realm.
- ❖ All measure, for example, revolves around the “cubit”, that delineates the proportion of the human body. These extend onto the planet, the solar system, and the universe.
- ❖ The most complex philosophical or scientific information was conveyed by means of imagery.

ORIGIN OF EGYPTIAN WISDOM

The **Neteru** acquired form and **represented dynamics and prototypical experience** for posterity through the very same Beings or Advanced Intelligences that populated the planet and who incorporated the attributes, forces, and energies, with the purpose of lending them a human context. Without being “gods”, their lives **became myth and symbol** like Isis, Osiris, and Horus.

If we understand how a caricature transmits information, we may understand the intimate and yet transcendent intimacy of these lives/symbols. Their images appeared in profile, indicating action and interaction with the All. The clothing, the colours used, the headgear, the associated animal, the plumage, or the specific plant that accompanied the image, the position of the body, its size, the visible gesture, and the sacred object – such as an ankh or a staff – it carries, **transmit physical, physiological, psychological, and spiritual information.** (Anubis = human body with the head of a jackal; the BA = human head and body of a stork.)





The Sacred Science

The Sacred Science consists in the impregnation and manifestation, in other words the **descent of divine forces** (Neteru) into the physical plane through the Cosmic Resonance, the Sacred Architecture (form and inscription) and Rituals (sound, colour, smell, etc.)

Three Paths throughout Egyptian History:

- ❖ Stellar – Cosmic life upon the Earth (sublimation). Tauran Era
- ❖ Solar – Equilibrium and Magic (transformation). Era of Aries
- ❖ Lunar – Initiation or the Elevation of Matter (karma) through recalibration (transmutation). Piscean Era.

The **Pharaoh** represented:

- ❖ Soul elevation
- ❖ Maintenance of Natural Order
- ❖ The purification of the physical form

Temples:

The **Temples** dedicated to the Neteru channelled their force and were built along lines and points where they could **receive the greatest cosmic energies**. They were conceived as energetic laboratories and libraries. They imitate the universe of the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars.



Texts and practices from ancient sources:

All events are in the hand of God.
That which does not yet exist is in the hand of God.
If AMON is behind me, I fear nothing.
Only God conduces one to happiness.

The favourite of God is he who loves justice.
The favourite of Amon is he who praises him.
The favourite of Amon is all who adore him.
God loves he who loves him.
God exalts all who love him.

AMON-RA is the only Power.

I will sing hymns in his name,
I will praise him to the heights of heaven and by the width of the Earth.
I will declare his Power to he who navigates in favour of the current.
Be attentive to him,
Announce him to the son and his son,
To the great and the small,
Declare him to the fish in the river and to the birds in the sky.
Announce him to he who knows and he who ignores him.
Be aware.
You are AMON,
The Lord is he who is silent,
Who answers the voice of the poor.
I call you when I am in anguish,
And you come.
You who can save me,
You who give breath to those who are spent,
You can liberate me when I am in prison.
You are AMON,
Lord of Thebes,
Who also saves who is in the other world:
Because you are all merciful
When you are called from afar.

“For thought alone can see that which is hidden, in as much as thought itself is hidden from sight; and if even the thought which is within you is hidden from your sight, how can he (God), being in himself, be manifested to your through your bodily eyes? But if you have power to see with the eyes of the mind, he will manifest Himself to you.” (Libellus V:2)



Solar Force

RA = the Sun in Himself
AMON = the everyday sun
ATON = the solar disc (circle without beginning or end)

The Way

To know oneself:

- ❖ Conquering pessimism
- ❖ Knowing oneself and one's place in Nature
- ❖ Discovering the relationship with the higher worlds

Words engraved upon the Sphinx at the entrance to the Temple of Initiation:

KNOW - DESIRE - DARE - KEEP SILENT

Requirements for Initiation

Will and Faith. Courage, faith, respectful of vows and thoughts, solid willpower, perseverance.

Dominion over natural inclinations, mastery over the nervous system.

Contemplation free from bodily sensations = perfect happiness.

Constituent Elements of the Human Being

- ❖ The physical body - purely material, without force or activity. KHAT
- ❖ The Etheric Double – subtle energies (substance) which animates matter. KA
- ❖ The Soul – energies forged by love and vision. BA
- ❖ Vital Essence – the “breath” of God (Amon – Ra). Divine spirit. Vital force. KHU

Temporary Personality

- ❖ The senses, bones, muscles, organs, means for life support.
- ❖ Acts and manifests, suffers, and loves. The seat of superior powers. Unconscious.

Real Personality / Soul

- ❖ The receptacle of the divine spark. The Real personality. Responsible for guiding, educating, and controlling the *khat/ka*. Conscience. Knowledge of Cause.
- ❖ A solar flame, spark of divine fire. Animates the body and its double. The Radiant Body.



NETERU

Symbolically represent Cosmic Law & Order and the Relationship to Nature

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWw7oR1KZZo> (12 mins.) also Video II and III following this one.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bURNgGA2lzM&ab_channel=TheLifeGuide (Egyptian Gods) (13 mins)

God

The One Unique all powerful source of energy **RA, the Creator**, emanates Himself as cosmic laws, which represent the metaphysical *process* of Creation rather than Creation itself.

The **Neteru** are Natural forces, within and without.

In ancient Egypt they were personified into forms that represent their relationships. Male and Female are equal in the qualitative sense. The Divine Powers of Nature as the Neteru keep the universe expanding. Ready to be used once we know how.

The objects held by a Neter is symbolic whose objective is to connect (not about giving and receiving).

Example: the Ankh connects us to the gift of the Breath of Life, represented by Ptah. King inhales his (Ptah's) divine breath and the Neter receives it back, creating a flow of divine love until the moment of death. Breath = direct contact with divine nature.

Three Worlds – the Celestial, the Terrestrial and an Intermediate World between Heaven and Earth, through which the Divine impulse descends or emanates as the causal power manifesting the Neteru. In the Terrestrial World, or Earth, the Neteru manifest as Nature.

The One who began the 'becoming', according to the teachings given at Heliopolis, is **ATUM** (ATON). This name has the meaning of 'All' and 'Nothing', signifying the great potential of creation yet unmanifest. Atum is one with **NUN**, the indefinable cosmic ocean, and his first act must be to distinguish himself from Nun. This emergence is shown as happening in any one of three versions:

Atum, as All, emerges from Nun as the primordial hill, and thus begins to realise himself. The primordial hill provides him with a support, or foundation from which to work i.e., begin further realisations as Amun and Ptah. Thus, established he creates further supports – Shu and Tefnut – which according to the Pyramid Texts he 'spits out' and 'expectorates' respectively. Shu can be thought of as the principle of space and Air, while Tefnut is the element of Fire.



Temples

Duly charged places where priests observe the miraculous nature of Nature and keep records.
Temple= Universe

Pharaohs represents the Universe acting through cosmic laws. Acts take place outside of space and time on many levels. The face of a Neter often resembled the face of the king.
'That which is in Heaven, on Earth and in the Dwat'.

Atum (or Ra) at Heliopolis,
Ptah at Memphis,
Thoth at Hermopolis,
Amun at Thebes.

"All the gods are three: Amun (Amon), Ra and Ptah, who have no equals. When a message comes from heaven, it is heard at Heliopolis, it is repeated at Memphis to Ptah, and it is made into a letter written in the letters of Thoth [at Hermopolis]





THE LAWS OF MA'AT

"There is no yesterday for **the lazy** person, no friend for the one who is **deaf** to Maat, no feast day for **the greedy**".

Laziness - To do Ma'at

Laziness is the absence of action, inertia. For the Egyptian, every action must induce a reaction in a web of past actions (yesterday) up to the present. **It is necessary to act** for the one who acts, for a very clear reason: to advise him to remain active.

In a society where the daily survival of the individual, in a complex relational labyrinth, the slightest disorder can compromise the survival of the people or the functionality of the administrative machine. Not forgetting the good that has been done is the basis of trust. It is a solidarity of survival, based on interdependence, embodied by Ma'at.

Deafness in Maat - To say the Ma'at

The greatest wisdom according to Ancient Egypt, is to know how to listen in silence, to meditate on the word received and to act accordingly. It is not surprising when one knows the importance of language, of spoken words which are a living substance, a true nourishment. Social life is only possible through the exchange of a harmonious speech, which only allows the integration of one and the other in the dynamics based on the trust of the actions to be achieved.

The deaf who do not listen to the other are **the insensitive, the indifferent**. Therefore, he has no friend and is not integrated into society. When he no longer communicates, at the level of the individual or of society, it is violence and the survival of the fittest takes over.

Greed

Greed is, what the Egyptian sages call **an incurable disease**.

It is doubly negative:

- For the individual: in fact, during his life, man accumulates a subtle "energy" notably at the time of feasts, which seem to be related with the joy of living. It nourishes his Ka, his intangible double. He who cannot be happy harms his own ka.
- for society: selfishness, the desire for possessions and jealousy, implies the destruction of social relations. He who deprives those who have worked for him, takes away their means of survival, puts them in danger and this fact, is provoking violence.

Moreover, by trying to eliminate his dependence on the other, to individualize himself, man breaks the dynamic interaction of society and there again he will generate violence. Ma'at is honesty, charity, absence of jealousy, fair and just payment work.



NEGATIVE CONFESSIONS (Papyrus of Ani)

When the deceased enters the hall of the goddesses of Truth, he says: "Homage to you, great God, Lord of Truth. I have come to you, my Lord, and have brought myself here so that I may see your beauty, '[i.e., experience your gracious clemency]. I know thee, I know thy name. I know the names of the Forty- two gods who dwell with thee in this Hall of Ma'at, who watch over those who have done wrong, who feed on their blood on the day, when the lives of men are counted in the Presence of Un-Nefer [i.e., Osiris]. I have truly come to thee. I have brought Truth to you. I have destroyed wickedness for your sake.

These words are followed by a statement of the crimes which he had not committed, and he says:

- I have not committed robbery with violence.
- I have not robbed.
- I have not killed men and women.
- I have not stolen grain.
- I have not taken offerings.
- I have not stolen the property of the Gods.
- I have not told lies.
- I have not taken food.
- I have not uttered curses.
- I have not committed adultery
- I have not made someone cry.
- I have not grieved needlessly, nor felt remorse
- I have not attacked any man.
- I am not a man of deceit.
- I have not stolen cultivated land.
- I have not been a spy.
- I have not slandered anyone.
- I have not been angry without just cause.
- I have not insulted any man's wife.
- I have not insulted any man's wife. (Repeat the above statement but addressed to a different god).
- I have not defiled myself.
- I have not terrorized anyone.
- I have not violated the Law.
- I have not become angry.
- I have not closed my ears to the words of truth.
- I have not blasphemed.
- I am not a man of violence.
- I am not motivated by violence (I do not disturb the peace).
- I have not acted (or judged) with undue haste.
- I have not meddled in affairs which are not my own.



- I have not multiplied my words in speaking.
- I have not offended anyone; I have done no wrong.
- I have not practiced witchcraft or sorcery against the King (or blasphemed against the King).
- I have never stopped [the flow of] water.
- I have never raised my voice (spoken arrogantly, or in anger).
- I have not cursed (or blasphemed) God.
- I have not acted in wicked anger.
- I have not stolen the bread of the Gods.
- I have not carried away the khenfu cakes of the spirits of the dead.
- I have not robbed bread from children, nor treated God of my city with contempt.
- I have not killed the cattle belonging to the God.



Osiris' Trial: Ammyt was the one who devoured the heart of a deceased human being if he was not considered "Righteous of voice" (pure). She had the head of a crocodile, the front of a lioness and the back of a hippopotamus.



THE COMMANDMENTS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

- I. Thou shalt not kill, nor command anyone to be killed.
- II. Thou shalt not commit adultery or rape.
- III. Thou shalt not take vengeance nor burn with rage.
- IV. Thou shalt not cause terror.
- V. Thou shalt not harm anyone or cause pain.
- VI. Thou shalt not cause misery.
- VII. Thou shalt not harm man or animals.
- VIII. Thou shalt not cause tears to be shed.
- IX. Thou shalt not mistreat the people nor bear any evil intent.
- X. Thou shalt not steal or take what does not belong to thee.
- XI. Thou shalt not take more than thy share of food.
- XII. Thou shalt not damage crops, fields, or trees.
- XIII. Thou shalt not deprive anyone of what is rightfully his.
- XIV. Thou shalt not give false testimony, nor support false accusations.
- XV. Thou shalt not lie, nor speak evil of another.
- XVI. Thou shalt not use violent words nor provoke disputes.
- XVII. Thou shalt not speak or act deceitfully to injure another.
- XVIII. Thou shalt not speak contemptuously against others.
- XIX. Thou shalt not eavesdrop or spy.
- XX. Thou shalt not ignore the truth or words of righteousness.
- XXI. Thou shalt not judge anyone hastily or harshly.
- XXII. Thou shalt not fail to respect holy places.
- XXIII. Thou shalt do no wrong to any worker or prisoner.
- XXIV. Thou shalt not be angry without good reason.
- XXV. Thou shalt not impede the flow of running water.
- XXVI. Thou shalt not waste running water.
- XXVII. Thou shalt not pollute the water or the land.
- XXVIII. Thou shalt not use God's name in vain.
- XXIX. Thou shalt not despise or anger God.
- XXX. Thou shalt not rob God.
- XXXI. Thou shalt not give excessive offerings or less than what is due.
- XXXII. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.
- XXXIII. Thou shalt not rob nor disrespect the dead.
- XXXIV. Thou shalt remember and observe the designated holy days
- XXXV. Thou shalt not withhold offerings destined to God.
- XXXVI. Thou shalt not interfere with the sacred rites.
- XXXVII. Thou shalt not maliciously kill any sacred animal.
- XXXVIII. Thou shalt not act with deception or insolence.
- XXXIX. Thou shalt not be too proud or act arrogantly.
- XL. SG. Thou shalt not magnify thy status beyond what is appropriate.
- XLI. Thou shalt not do less than thy daily duties require.
- XLII. Thou shalt obey the law and not commit treason.



EGYPTIAN MYSTERY SCHOOLS

This text is sourced from encyclopaedia. It describes the process of the initiation in the Egyptian Mystery school.

For more than 3,000 years, the mystery schools of Egypt have epitomized the ultimate in secret wisdom and knowledge. As in ancient times, certain contemporary scholars and researchers insist that the great teachers who presided over **the Egyptian mystery schools had to have come from some extraordinary place**. Perhaps, it has been theorized, they were wise masters who survived the destruction of **the lost continent of Atlantis** and made their way to the early civilization of Egypt, where they helped elevate it to a greatness far in advance of other cultures of that era. Some have even suggested that the entity known as the god Osiris was an extraterrestrial astronaut from the Pleiades, who first visited Egypt in prehistoric times when it was composed of barbaric tribes. Because he came from an advanced extraterrestrial culture, say the proponents of this theory, he was considered a god and became the founder of the mystery schools and raised the primitive Egyptians' standard of living to a remarkable degree.

Even many conservative scholars of the history of religion have a sense that the mystery schools of Egypt contain within their teachings a particular knowledge that came, if not from prehistoric times, from ancient times. The earliest human records legible, the Pyramid Texts of Egypt (c. 3000 B.C.E.), contain many prayers that are quoted from a far more ancient period, and it is apparent that the prayers were used in the texts as **magical formulas and spells**.

The mysterious first initiator into these sacred doctrines was known as Toth and later to the Greeks by his more familiar name of Hermes. Hermes -Toth is a generic name that designates a man, a caste, and a god at the same time. As a man, Hermes-Toth is the originator of a powerful system of magic and its first initiator; as a caste, he represents the priesthood, the repository of ancient wisdom; as a god, Hermes becomes Mercury for the Greeks, the god who delivers messages to mortals from the Olympiad and the god who initiates mortals into transcendent mysteries. Later, the Greek disciples of this secret tradition would call him **Hermes Trismegistus** (three times great), and he would be credited for originating the material contained in 42 books of esoteric science.

In the time of the Ramses (c. 1300 B.C.E.), Egypt shone as a beacon light of civilization throughout the known world, and while the leaders of foreign nations sought to barter for the empire's rich produce in order to avert local famines and to make treaties with pharaoh in order to avert his military might, seekers of the divine sciences came from the distant shores of Asia Minor and Greece to study in the sanctuaries with magi and hierophants who they believed could give them **the secrets of immortality**. The students who would be initiates of the mystery schools were well aware that they must undertake the rigors of disciplined study and the training of body, soul, and spirit. They had heard from former initiates that in order



to attain the mastery demanded by the priests of the mysteries that the newcomers would undergo a complete restructuring of their physical, moral, and spiritual being. According to the credo of the mysteries, only by developing one's faculties of will, intuition, and reason to an extraordinary degree could one ever gain access to the hidden forces in the universe. Only through **complete mastery of body, soul, and spirit** could one see beyond death and perceive the pathways to be taken in the afterlife. Only when one has conquered fate and acquired **divine freedom** could he or she, the initiate, become a seer, a magician, an initiator.

A particularly interesting aspect of the Egyptian mystery schools is that for centuries the **pharaohs themselves were the pupils and instruments** of the hierophants, the magicians, who presided over the temples and cults of Isis and Osiris. Each pharaoh received his initiation name from the temple, and the priests were honoured with the roles of counsellors and advisors to the throne. Some have even referred to the rule of ancient Egypt as **government of the initiates**.

Although the ancient Egyptians never appeared to produce a philosophical system in the manner of the Greeks or the Romans, the mysteries produced a remarkable number of systematized theologies that dealt with the essential questions about the true nature of humankind and its relationship to the cosmos. The hierophants created **theological constructs and formulated esoteric answers** that brought initiates and aspirants to the great religious cities of Heliopolis, Memphis, Hermopolis magna, Abydos, and Thebes.

Isis

The initiate who wished to attain mastery over the mysteries of life after death would be sent to knock at the door of **the great temple of Thebes or of Memphis**. Here, he had been told, the priests could teach what Isis and Osiris knew. If the newcomer were admitted, the priest of Osiris would question him about the place of his birth, his family lineage, and the temple where he had received his elementary instruction. In a brief but revealing interrogation, if the student was found unworthy of the mysteries, he would be sent quickly away. If the seeker appeared to be one who sincerely desired to learn the truth of the mysteries, he would be led through a corridor to an underground crypt where a large statue of Isis hid the doorway to an inner sanctuary. The goddess's face was veiled, with an inscription that advised all initiates that no mortal could ever lift her veil and look upon her true features until the moment of death.

Within the hidden sanctuary were two columns, one coloured black, the other red. The priest explained to the novice that the red column represented the ascension of the spirit into the light of Osiris, while the black one signified the captivity of the spirit in physical matter. Whoever sought the mysteries risked madness or death, the initiate was warned. Once the door closed behind him, he would no longer be able to turn back.



Those novices who chose to go forward were assigned a week of menial tasks working with the temple servants and forced to observe a strict silence. When **the evening of the ordeals (tests)** arrived, two *neocoros*, assistants of the hierophant, led the candidate to the secret sanctuary, a dark room where statues of the ancient gods and goddesses, entities with human bodies and animal heads, appeared foreboding and threatening in the flickering torchlight. On the far side of the room, a hole in the wall, flanked by a human skeleton and a mummy, appeared just large enough for someone to enter on hands and knees. Here, the novice was given another opportunity to turn back. Or, if he had the courage, he was to crawl into the tunnel and continue on his way.

With only a small lamp to drive back the shadows of the cramped corridor, the novice crawled on his hands and knees, hearing over and over a deep sepulchral voice warning that fools who coveted knowledge were certain to perish in the tunnel. As the initiate proceeded forward, he eventually found himself in a wider area where he began to descend an iron ladder. But as he reached the lowest rung, he saw below him only a gaping abyss. There seemed no choice left to him. He could not go back, and he could surely die if he stepped off the ladder into what might be a drop of thousands of feet into the blackness below him.

It was at this point that the fortunate initiate, if the oil in his small lamp had held out, would notice a staircase carved into a crevice to his right. Stepping into the crevice and ascending the spiral staircase, he would find himself entering a great hall and being congratulated by a magician called a *pastophor*, a guardian of sacred symbols, for having passed **the first test**.

Before the next ordeal, the *pastophor* explained the sacred paintings and the 22 secret symbols on the walls of the great hall. These represented the 22 first mysteries and the alphabet of their secret science, the universal keys, the source of all wisdom and power. Each letter and each number given in the language of the mysteries had its repercussion in the worlds of the divine, the intellectual, and the physical.

The second test involved passing through a great furnace of flames. Those initiates who refused, protesting that to enter such a wall of fire could only result in death, never got close enough to see that it was all a clever optical illusion and that there was a safe pathway through the middle. Following the trial by fire was the trial by water, which offered no illusion, but only a walk through a chest-high dark and stagnant pool.

Two assistants helped pull the novice from the dank pool, escorted him to a room with a tub filled with warm and perfumed water, then left him to dry off and to dress in fine linens while awaiting the hierophant. Exhausted from his ordeals, the initiate could enjoy the bath, and later lie on a soft bed to relax while awaiting the priest.

Soon music sounded from an invisible group of musicians, and within a few moments, a lovely young woman, appearing much like the goddess Isis herself, entered the room where the initiate lay resting upon the bed. Heavy with perfumes, moving in rhythm to the sounds of



harp, flute, and drum, the personification of Isis would do her best to tempt and seduce the novice.

If she succeeded, the initiate failed. He would be sent away from the temple with the admonishment that he had triumphed over death, fire, and water, but he had not learned to conquer himself. He had succumbed to the first temptation of the senses that he encountered after the tests, and he fallen into the abyss of matter.

If, however, the initiate had resisted the seductress, 12 *neocoros* would enter the room to lead him in triumph into **the sanctuary of Isis**, where the priests awaited him beneath a massive statue of the goddess. Beneath this representation of Isis, a gold rose at her breast, wearing a crown of seven rays, and holding her son Horus in her arms, the aspirant would take oaths of silence and submission as a disciple of Isis. From that day forward, he would be a recipient of the mysteries of Isis.

Osiris

The cult of Osiris was established at Abydos, where he became known as the Lord of the Death or Lord of the West, referring to his mastery over all those who had travelled "west" into the sunset of death. An initiate into the cult would be led at dusk into the lower crypt of the temple by four priests carrying torches. In a corner of the crypt was an open marble sarcophagus supported by four pillars placed upon four sphinxes. The chief priest of the mystery would advise the aspirant that no man could ever escape death, but **every soul who died was also destined to be resurrected and to receive life anew**. Those who would be a priest of Osiris must enter the tomb alive and await his light. He must spend the night in the coffin and enter through the door of fear **to achieve mastery**.

The initiate would lie down in the open sarcophagus and be left alone in the crypt. The priests would leave him a small lamp which would soon use up its reservoir of oil. From somewhere outside the tomb, he would be able to hear priests chanting his funeral song. Then he would be alone in the darkness, feeling the cold of the grave close in upon him.

Perhaps the initiate would experience a life review or begin to see colours and lights appear around him. This illumination, he believed, was the light of Osiris come to bring him visions. Some aspirants might claim to have had conversations with Isis or Osiris. Others might visualize themselves in the land of the dead, walking and talking with departed spirits and receiving special teachings from Osiris.

Those who survived the night alone in the sarcophagus were awakened by the priests who proclaimed the initiate's resurrection and who brought him refreshing food and drink. Later, at an appropriate time in the temple of Osiris, the newly initiated member of the cult would be asked to describe any visions that he experienced or any prophetic messages that he received while on the journey of light with Osiris.



The theology of Osiris that **promised resurrection** soon overshadowed that of the sun god Ra (Re). Ra was a creator god, fundamentally solar, a king by nature, whose theology concerned itself with the world—its origin, creation, and the laws that governed it. Osiris and his doctrines were concerned with the problems of life, death, resurrection, and an afterlife. The connection between the two deities was Horus, who was a sky god of the heavens and also the dutiful son and heir of Osiris.



Horus (Falcon) – Osiris - Isis