

Priestess of Hathor



The Goddess Hathor was worshipped by many in Ancient Egypt, but mainly by women. She was considered one of the Queen Goddesses and represented motherhood, fertility and moisture amongst other tasks.



Hathor is regarded as a predynastic goddess there is research that shows her having priestesses since the 4th dynasty with the first recorded priestess of Hathor being the daughter of King Radjedef Neferhetepes . In the 5th dynasty, there is lots of evidence that shows popular devotion to Hathor as well as the sun god Re. priests and priestesses of these two gods are closely linked, the devotion of Hathor stayed strong up to the 12th dynasty with priestesses dressing up as the goddess to recreate scenes in her honour.

Being a priestess of Hathor was a high title to hold they were considered the hands and voices for the divine on earth. The priestesses were essential to the daily runnings of the temples of ancient Egypt as they conducted rituals

Priestesses of Hathor were mostly noble women who, through daily tasks, ritual and offerings, showed appreciation and loyalty to the goddess Hathor.

There were many ways that a Priestess of Hathor could show her worship. one of the most well-known ways being through song and dance instruments such as sistrums, rattle like instruments that could be heavily decorated such as this example that has the bust of Hathor on the handle (fig 1) . it was thought that this would please the gods by giving them both worship and entertainment



fig 1

Hathor can be seen in Human form, cow form or a mix of both. (fig 2) these forms were made into many symbols that were adopted by both her priestesses as well as nobility who wanted help with fertility. The most commonly seen symbols of Hathor were the cow horns and sun disc with priestesses wearing them as a headpiece. (fig 3)



fig 3



fig 2

Bibliography

art, egypt (2025). Authentic Ancient Egyptian Antiques Statue Of Hathor Egyptian Cow Egyptian BC. [online] Egyptartsite.com. Available at: https://egyptartsite.com/store/Authentic-Ancient-Egyptian-Antiques-Statue-Of-Hathor-Egyptian-Cow-Egyptian-BC_227094824265.html

Gillam, R.A. (1995). Priestesses of Hathor: Their Function, Decline and Disappearance. Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt, 32, p.211. doi:<https://doi.org/10.2307/40000840>.

Luxor museum (n.d.). Statue of Goddess Hathor .

Masqueradetheheart (2025).

Priestesses – Egypt Museum. [online] Egypt Museum. Available at: <https://egypt-museum.com/priestesses/>.

Roth, S. (2009). Queen . UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology , p.pp 1-12.

The Egyptian museum (2022). Sistrum . Egyptian Museum Cairo. [online] Egyptianmuseumcairo.eg. Available at: <https://egyptianmuseumcairo.eg/artefacts/sistrum/>.