

Women in Ancient Egypt: Sekhmet and Tiye



Fig 1: Sunken Wall Relief of the Goddess Sekhmet, Egypt Museum, <https://egypt-museum.com/sekhmet/>

Sekhmet: Warrior Goddess

- Sekhmet: 'the female powerful one'
- She is a warrior Goddess and the Goddess of healing and medicine, and the daughter and 'eye' of Ra
- Egyptian kings used her as patroness of military prowess
- She was sent by Ra to punish disobedient humans, and her anger made him fear for the destruction of everything
 - Her wrath was tamed by Ra tricking her into drinking beer, turning her into a compassionate healer who offers protection to kings
 - She wears a long red dress and a sun disc with a royal cobra

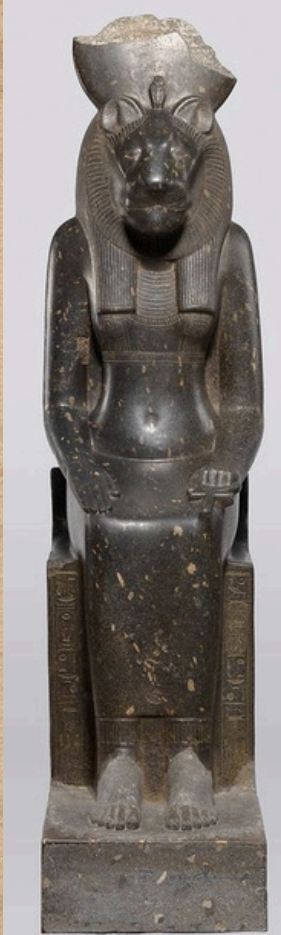


Fig 2: Statue of the Goddess Sekhmet, Egypt Museum, <https://egypt-museum.com/statue-of-the-goddess-sekhmet/>

Tiye: Queen & Diplomat



Fig 3: Portrait of Queen Tiye, Egypt Museum, <https://egypt-museum.com/por-trait-of-queen-tiye/>

- Tiye was the wife of Amenhotep III
- She supported her young son Amenhotep IV and had great influence over him in his reign
- She was in charge of the relationship with the kingdom of Mitanni, and had a huge role foreign relations, as referenced in Amarna letters which were addressed to her directly, not her husband the king
- She played an active role in religious festivals, and was portrayed alongside her husband at the Sed festival
- She was not born of royalty, but gained the title of 'great royal wife'



Fig 4: Statue of Amenhotep III and Tiye, Egypt Museum, <https://egypt-museum.com/colossal-statue-of-amenhotep-iii-and-tiye/>

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