

Isis:

Ancient Egyptian Funirary Beliefs

Isis: Myth and Meaning

Isis meaning “throne” in ancient Greek, Was the Egyptian Goddess of life and magic. She is both the Sister and Wife to Osiris, God of the underworld in Egyptian Myth and Mother to Horus the God of the Sun. Isis is a figure that was relatively unknown until the her influence spread across Egypt and into Rome and Greece.. (Tyldesley, Joyce. "Isis". Encyclopedia Britannica, 3 Dec. 2020) Isis is one of the most important figures when it relates to death in ancient Egypt as she is the mother of the God of the sun a common figire shown to give life but also wife to the God of the underworld meaning Her presence is significant to both life and death. Isis also represents the mother a common architype among mythologies adding to her connection to life and death and adding to her significance. (Isis in the Ancient World , R. E. Witt, pg 25-27)

Image of a Statue of Isis nursing Horus, Encyclopedia Britannica, Accessed 26.01.21



Image of a statue of Isis nursing Horus, Encyclopedia Britannica, Accessed 26.01.21

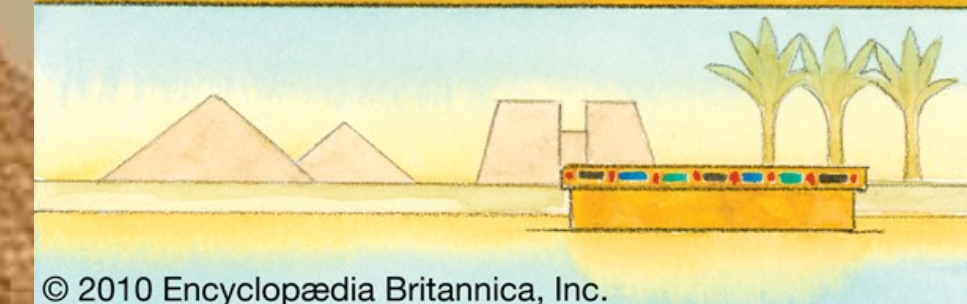


Image of Isis (right) and Osiris (left), Encyclopedia Britannica, Accessed 26.01.21

Bibliography:

Background Image of Pyramids, <https://www.corinthiantravel.co.uk/blog/pyramids-of-egypt/> accessed 27.01.21

Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt, Jan Assmann, Cornell University Press, 2005

Images of Isis, Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Isis-Egyptian-goddess>, Accessed 26.01.21

Isis in the Ancient World , R. E. Witt, JHU Press, 1997

The Coffin of Heqata, Harco Willems, Peeters Publisher , 1996

Tyldesley, Joyce. "Isis". Encyclopedia Britannica, 3 Dec. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Isis-Egyptian-goddess>. Accessed 27 January 2021.

Isis: Death

Death is the fate that awaits everything. It is only in recent years that death has become purely mournful many cultures through out history have welcomed death as merely the next stage of existence. In Ancient Egypt This was the case, many rituals had become customary in Ancient Egypt one such example is the world famous mummification process. However the Egyptians would also leave gifts with the dead in order to aid their way to the afterlife. Isis was an important part of this ritual as many instances of imagery and inscriptions of Isis have been found in Egyptian burial sites including caskets with imagery of Isis and in some cases statues and tombs. (*The Coffin of Heqata*, Harco Willems, pg 92-94)

Isis: Afterlife

It is said that Isis would aid those who had died in their quest to find the afterlife. As a goddess known for giving life it is thought that she would aid in the spiritual resurrection of the deceased. It has been found that in many coffins there has been inscriptions of hymns written in order to call on the aid of Isis to send the deceased to the underworld to her husband Osiris. This was done in the hope that Isis would recrate the body after death as she would be able to heal and restore the bodies of the dead. (*Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*, Jan Assmann, pg 34-36) Showing the importance of Isis in the beliefs that surround the Egyptians.