

Session 3 – week 1, Thur

**Activity: Reading material culture to understand ancient Egyptian religion**

The characteristics of Ancient Egyptian Religion

HPAN5046/6046 Religions in Africa

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# Statuette of Amun

MMA 26.7.1412

Dynasty 22 (ca. 945–  
715 b.c.)

Gold

H. 6 7/8 in. (17.5 cm)





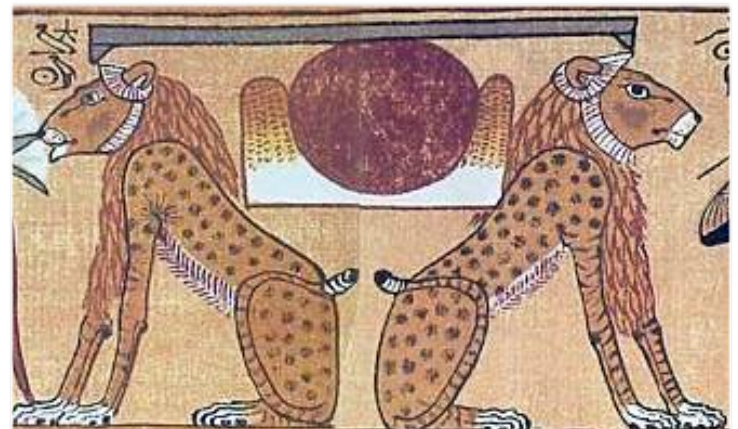
# Triads: Osiris, Isis, Horus (Louvre)

Divine families!

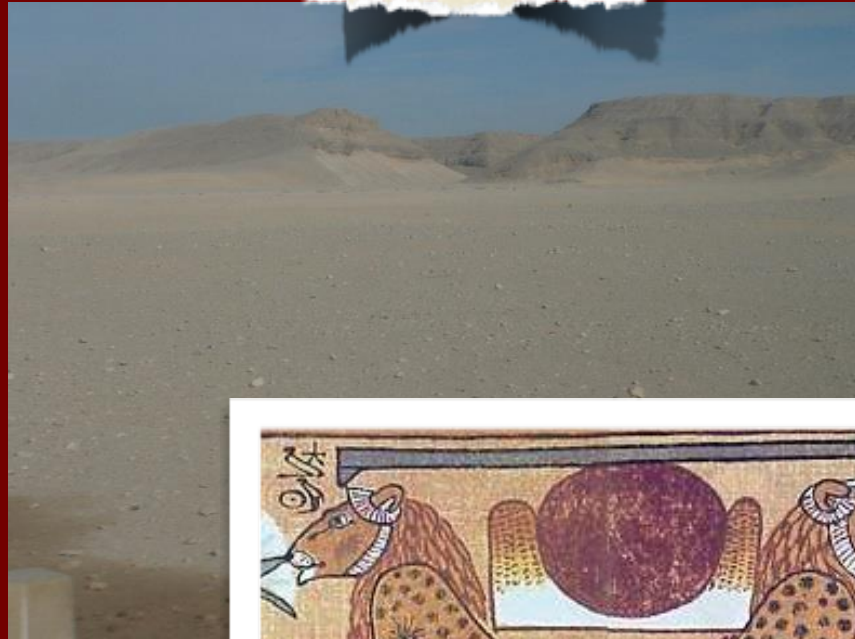
=grouping gods by 3: triad consists of a god, his spouse and one child

1. Theban triad: Amun-Re, wife Mut, son Khonsu
2. most popular: Osiris, Isis and their son Horus
3. Memphite triad: Ptah, Sekhmet and Nefertem
4. Not always a son: triad of Elephantine – Khnum, Satet, Anuket

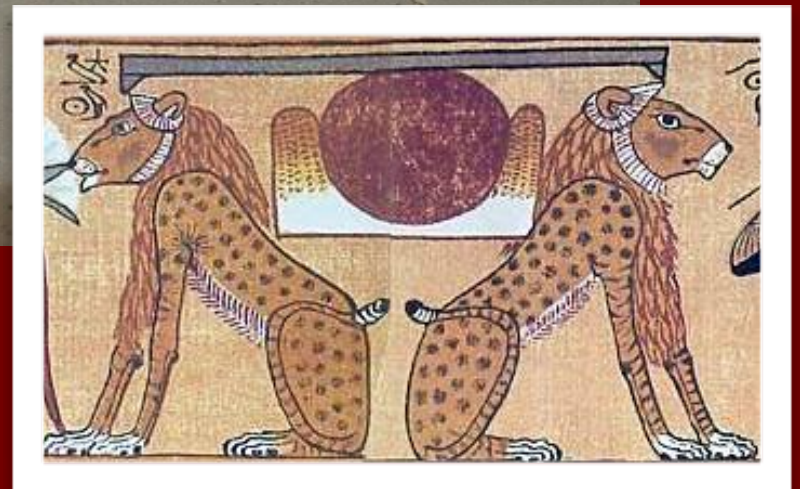




# Theological motivations for choosing the site of a new capital - Amarna



- Solar symbolism:  
Akhet-Aten =  
“Horizon of the  
Solar Disk”



# Riverine society

already represented in earliest representations

Hierakonpolis Tomb 100: (about 3500 BC - Naqada II)



# Half lion, half human



# Ramses II making an offering to Horus (Abu Simbel)



West wall of the chapel of Nikauhor and  
Sekhemhathor  
MMA 08.201.2a-g  
Old Kingdom (ca. 2465-2389 BC)



The King's  
Acquaintances  
Memi and Sabu  
MMA 48.111  
Old Kingdom  
ca. 2575–2465 BC



# Funerary text – Book of the Dead of Khnumemheb, 19th Dynasty (chapter 125) - ucl32365



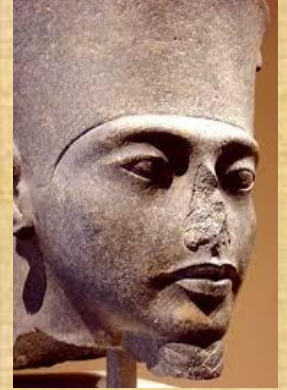
# Funerary text – Book of the Dead of Khnumemheb, 19th Dynasty (chapter 125) - ucl32365

Address at arrival at the broad hall of the  
Two Goddesses of What is Right,  
shielding N from all forbidden things that he  
has done, and seeing the faces of the gods.  
Words spoken by N:  
Hail great god, lord of the place of the Two  
Goddesses of What is Right.  
I have come before you so that you may  
bring me to see your perfection.  
I know you, I know your name,  
I know the name of these 42 gods who are  
with you in this broad court of the Two  
Goddesses of What is Right,  
who live on the henchmen of evil, and eat of  
their blood  
on that day of calculating characters in the  
presence of Wennefer.



# HYMN TO THE GOD AMUN-RA

## Pap. Boulaq (XVIII Dynasty, 1552-1295 BC)



Praise to Amon-Ra, The Bull of On-Heliopolis, Prince of all the Gods, The Good and Perfect God, the Beloved One, The Giver of Life to all animated things.

Hail to You, Amon-Ra, Lord of Ipet-sut, Prince of Uaset of the North and of the South, The Bull of His Mother, the First in His field, Whose step is large, Prince of Upper Egypt, Lord of Kush, Sovereign of Punt, The Greatest in Heaven, the Higher on Earth.

Lord of All, The One Who is in all things, Unique among all the Gods, The Beautiful Bull of the Ennead of the Gods, Prince of all the Gods, Lord of Ma'at, Father of the Gods, Maker of mankind, Creator of beasts, Lord of All, Creator of fruitful trees, He Who makes grass to grow, Feeder of cattle.

Beautiful One in the form fashioned by Ptah, Beautiful and darling Youth to Whom the Gods give honour, Maker of things above and below, Enlightener of the Two Lands, The One Who joyously passes through the Sky.

King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Ra of the Ones whose words are Truth and Justice, Prince of the Two Lands, Glorious in Power, Lord of Might, Supreme Creator of the whole Earth, The One Whose forms are greater than every God,

In Whose Beauty the Gods jubilate, Praised in 'Per-wr', Crowned in 'Per-Neser', Whose fragrance the Gods love When He comes from the land of Punt, Abounding in scent when He comes back from Kush [Nubia], Beautiful of Face when He comes from the Divine Land.

The Gods bow before Him When They acknowledge His Majesty as Their Lord; Lord of Terror and Fear, Greatest and Mighty, Lord of Crowns, Flourishing in provisions, Maker of nourishment

Glory be to You, Creator of Gods, You Who have uplifted the Sky, You Who have stretched the Earth.