

A Dictionary of Egyptian Gods and Goddesses

The ibis that becomes associated with Thoth appears perched on a standard on slate palettes of the late Predynastic period. By the first dynasty the baboon in its formal squatting posture which was to become the symbol of Thoth had made its appearance in glazed composition figurines from Abydos.

Scribes were known as the ‘followers of Thoth’.

Thoth was in command of all ‘the sacred books of the house of life’ (a library).

It was Thoth’s duty to record all the souls entering the Duat. In the hall of the two truths, Thoth is in charge of the balance. Thoth appears in front of the scales in which the heart of the deceased is weighed against the feather of truth. Frequently, in his shape of a baboon, he sits on top of the balance. He has the vital task of announcing to Osiris that the deceased has led a blameless life and is ‘true of voice’.

Thoth was ‘lord of the city of eight’.

Found in the temple of Esna: *Dhwty pa aa, pa aa, pa aa.*

The Ogdoad

Hermopolis = Hermes-town = Khemnu (Ḥmnw) = town of the eight

Nun, Naunet	Solid, inertness
Heh, Hauhet	Finite space, undefined space
Kek, Kauket	Light, Dark
Amun, Amaunet	Known, Hidden

Pyramid Texts

- 16. O Thoth, take away him who is harmful to Osiris, and carry off him who speaks evilly in the king’s name; put him in your hand ... O Thoth, hasten, take the king’s foe to Osiris.
- 43. O Osiris the King, take the Eye of Horus, the water in which Thoth has seen – a ḥrs-sceptre, a db3 sceptre and a mace.
- 128. O you two Companions who cross the sky, who are Re’ and Thoth ... I go round the sky like Re’, I traverse the sky like Thoth.
- 163. See what Seth and Thoth have done, your (Osiris’) two brothers who do not know how to mourn you.
- 175. O Thoth, this one here is your brother Osiris, who has been caused to be restored that he may live and punish you; if he lives, this King will live ... (address to the ennead, but only Seth and Thoth will punish)
- 387. If you do not ferry me over, I will leap up and put myself on the wing of Thoth, and he will ferry me over to yonder side ([of the]horizon).
- 420. Thoth is my champion when it is dark, is dark. (see 2266)
- 468. Hail to you, daughter of Anubis (Kḥwt), who is at the windows of the sky, the companion of Thoth, who is at the uprights of the ladder!
- 519. *King*: I have bathed with Re’ in the Lake of Rushes. *Priest*: Horus will rub your flesh, O King; Thoth will rub your feet. O Shu, raise up the King; O Nut, give your hand to the King.
- 535. The messenger of Horus loves me and has brought his eye; the messenger of Seth loves me and has brought his testicles; the messenger of Thoth loves me and has brought his arm ...
- 575. O King, Horus has come that he may seek you, he has caused Thoth to turn back the followers of Seth for you, and he has brought them to you altogether ...

596. (the Eye of Horus leaps up to protect itself from Seth) Thoth saw it on yonder side of the Winding Waterway when the Eye of Horus leapt up on YSotWW and fell on Thoth's wing on YSotWW. O you gods who cross over on the wing of Thoth to YSotWW, to the eastern side of the sky, in order to dispute with Seth about this Eye of Horus: I will cross with you upon the wing of Thoth to YSotWW, to the eastern side of the sky, and I will dispute with Seth about this Eye of Horus.
635. Thoth has laid hold of your foe for you, he having been decapitated together with those who are in his following, and he will have no mercy on him.
639. (Geb) he has caused Thoth to reassemble you (your head) so that what was on you comes to an end.
709. Hail to you, O Re' ... May I see you when you go forth as Thoth, when a waterway is prepared for the Bark of Re' to his fields which are in 'I3sw (a part of the sky); may you rush on (gw3) as one who is at the head of his Chaos-gods (*h₁yw.f, h₁h₁w.f*).
796. The earth speaks: The doors of the earth-god are opened for you, the doors of Geb are thrown open for you, you come forth at the voice of Anubis, he makes a spirit of you like Thoth, you judge the gods, you set bounds to the celestial expanses between the Two Wands in this your spiritualized state which Anubis commanded. If you walk, Horus will walk; if you speak, Seth will speak;
956. The sky reels, the earth quakes, Horus comes, Thoth appears, they raise Osiris from upon his side and make him stand up in front of the Two Enneads.
962. Sharpen your knife, O Thoth, which is keen and cutting, which removes heads and cuts out hearts!
976. The Eye of Horus gleams (?) upon the wing of Thoth on the left-hand side of the ladder of the god.
1089. I have gone up in Pe to the souls of Pe, I am girt with the girdle of Horus, I am clad with the garment of Thoth, Isis is before me and Nephthys is behind me, Wepwawet opens a way for me, Shu lifts me up, the Souls of On set up a stairway for me in order to reach the Above, and Nut puts her hand on me just as she did for Osiris on the day when he died.
1153. ... to the Great Throne which the gods made, which Horus made and which Thoth brought into being
1237. ... for I am Thoth, the mightiest of the gods.
1254. O you two kites (Isis and Nephthys) who are on the wings of Thoth ...
1271. If Thoth comes with his evil coming, do not open your arms to him, but let there be said to him his name of 'Motherless'. 'Go, go southward to Gebelen(?); go to Pe, to the Abode of Thoth!'
1429. Ferry me over, O Thoth, on the tip of your wing as Sokar who presides over the Bark of Righteousness. Horus is not asleep behind the canal, Thoth is not boatless; nor am I boatless, for I possess the Eye of Horus.
1465. Hear, O Thoth, in whom is the peace of the gods.
1523. Content are (all the ennead and all gods everywhere) with this great and mighty word which issued from the mouth of Thoth for Osiris, (even he) the Treasurer of Life, Seal-bearer of the gods.
1713. ... the doors of Geb are thrown open for you that you may go forth at the voice and spiritualize yourself (*s3h.k.tw*), O King, as Thoth and Anubis, magistrate of the Tribunal.
1906. Thoth comes to you with the knife which came forth from Seth.
1914. The King is Thoth; assemble, O you gods who are in this Castle of the Mace (*ntrw imyw 'h h₁d*).
1927. The *mizwt*-crown which is on your shoulders is Thoth with the knife which went forth from Seth.
1962. Yours is rebirth in the nest of Thoth within the Field of Tamarisk in the protection of the gods ...
2150. The King is Thoth in authority over the sky.
2266. Get back, snake which attacks in the night ... O Thoth, the night snake, the night snake! (see 420).

Coffin Texts

Spell 47. ... you weigh in the balance like Thoth ...

Spell 76. *Ascending to the sky, going aboard the bark of Re', and becoming a living god.*

O you eight Chaos-gods who are in charge of the chambers of the sky, whom Shu made from the efflux of his members, who put together the ladder of Shu, come and meet your father in me, give me your arms, put together the ladder for me, for I am he who crated you and made you, even as I was created by your father Atum. I am weary of the Supports-of-Shu since I lifted up my daughter Nut from upon myself, so that I might give her to my father Atum in his realm, and I have set Geb under my feet. This god knits up the Two Lands for my father Atum, he gathers together for himself the celestial kine; I have set myself among them, but the Nine Gods cannot see me. I indeed am Shu whom Atum created, whereby Re' came into being; I was not built up in the womb, I was not knit together in the egg, I was not conceived, but Atum spat me out in the spittle of his mouth together with my sister Tefenet. She went up after me, and I was covered with the breath of the throat. The phoenix of Re' was that whereby Atum came into being in chaos, in the Abyss, in darkness and in gloom. I am Shu, father the gods, and Atum once sent his Sole Eye seeking me and my sister Tefenet. I made light of the darkness for it, and it found me as an immortal. It was I who again begot the Chaos-gods in chaos, in the Abyss, in darkness and gloom. I indeed am Shu who begot the gods.

O you eight Chaos-gods whom I created from the efflux of my flesh, whose names Atum made when the Abyss was created, on that day when Atum spoke in it with Nu in chaos, in darkness and in gloom: Come to meet me in joy, give me your hands, put the ladder together for me just as you did for my father Atum, for I am weary of the Supports-of-Shu, the bank of dusk.

O Lord of Flame guarding the doors of the sky, open the doors of the sky, put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in chaos, in the Abyss, in darkness and in gloom.

O you who brighten chaos and lighten the skies, put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in the Abyss, in chaos, in darkness and in gloom.

O you *n'w*-snakes, the seed of Shu, put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in the Abyss, in chaos, in darkness and in gloom.

O Blood of Shu, Bull of Uraei, put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in the Abyss in chaos, in darkness and in gloom.

O Inhaler of the breath which is in the mouth of Shu, put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in the Abyss, in chaos in darkness and in gloom.

O Bull of Millions who wards off Ape, put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in the Abyss, in chaos, in darkness and gloom.

Shu once became weary of it in the presence of his brethren; put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in the Abyss, chaos, in darkness, and in gloom.

Make a way for Shu that he may go up stout-hearted to the sky; put the ladder together for me, make a way for me, for I am weary in the Abyss, in chaos, in darkness and in gloom.

Raise up the weary Shu by means of those who are in charge of the sunshine Make a way for Shu that he may go up stout-hearted to the sky; put the ladder of the weary Shu together for me, make a way for me in darkness in chaos, in the Abyss and in gloom.

Spell 78. O you eight Chaos-gods whom Shu conceived, whom Shu fashioned, whom Shu created, who Shu knit together, who Shu begot from the efflux which was in his flesh as jackals of the seed/lands of Shu, whom Nu begot, whom Atum made, whom Nut raised up under Atum, who guard the path of Nut which is under Atum, whose length is that of the sky, whose breadth is that of the earth. Come, be joyful in your dignities, be tall with your crown when meeting Shu in me. Give me your hands, put together the ladder of Shu.

Spell 79. O you eight Chaos-gods who went forth from Shu, whose names the flesh of Atum created in accordance with the word of Nu in chaos, in the Abyss, in darkness and in gloom: ...

Spell 80. O you eight Chaos-gods, being veritable Chaos-gods, who encircle the sky with your arms, who gather together sky and earth for Geb, Shu fashioned you in chaos, in the Abyss, in darkness and in gloom

...

Spell 98 ... Do I forget the outer chamber of Thoth? ...

Spell 231 ... may your mouth be split open by Thoth with this wondrous book of his wherewith he split open the mouth of the gods/Osiris. He speaks and splits open the mouth of N that he may speak.

Spell 242. Spell for opening a door to the soul. Recite: I am Thoth who brings justice, who healed the Sacred Eye in the House of the Double Lion ...

Spell 310. I am a spirit in the sky ... I am Khons who sends out the rage ... I am ... that god who cannot die, on that day of the flame(?) when seed was taken away from that spirit when he had judgment in front of his father with On, when he judged between Horus and Seth, Thoth being between them on that day in which he appeared as that august god who is in charge of judgments ...

Spell 313. Being transformed into a Falcon.

Thoth: Behold, I have come – so says Thoth (to Osiris) – and I have brought to you truth and joy, I have brought to you authority and vindication. You are triumphant over your foes, the love of you is in the Bark of Flesh, a fair remembrance of you is in the Castle. I will grant to you the lifetime of Re' who is yonder, <...> I will place the awe of you in Ninsu, [and also] the awe of Re' who is in Ninsu. I will grant to you oblations in Memphis, [I] will repeat your festivals in On, I will open up for you the paths of the Netherworld, I will put fear of you in Djedu, I will regrant your crown in Abydos, and also the crown of Re' which is in Thinis.

He who shall come against you in the sky shall be (doomed) <to> the striking-power of your crown.

He who shall come against you on earth shall be (doomed) to the striking power of your majesty.

Those who shall come against you from the South shall be driven off by Satis, Lady of Elephantine, who will shoot at them with her arrows, which are painful and sharp [against(?)] them.

Those who shall come against you from the North shall be (doomed) to Hekes [and to] Hephep.

Those who shall come against you from the East shall be (doomed) to Sopd, Lord of the East, and they shall be driven off with your knives in them.

Those who shall come against you from the West shall be (doomed) to Ha, Lord of the West, and they shall be driven off by the striking-power of Atum in his ascendings from the horizon.

I have placed your foes in bonds and the Scorpion in fetters: so says Thoth to Osiris. I have come that I may do again what is good for you, I will raise up Truth for you, I will gladden you with what you desire, for I have smitten, subdued and felled your foes for you, I have driven off for you those who rebelled against you, I have massacred them, I have obstructed them, again I have appeared [against them(?)] I have given you vindication in the Two Conclaves and joy in the Two Enneads, I have set a fair remembrance of you in the Castle, I have [set] the love of you in the Island of Fire, just as Re' commanded to be done for you.

Spell 396 ... there leaps up the Eye of Horus which fell in yonder eastern side (of the sky), and there rise on high the wings of Thoth which fell in yonder eastern side of the sky.

Spell 540. To become the scribe of Hathor

... I will not perish nor be destroyed in this land (for ever) I am the scribe of Hathor, the writing materials of Thoth are opened for me, and I am his helper.

Spell 581 ... just as Horus and Thoth guarded her who is with the Two Falcons ...

Spell 587 ... Hail to you, Thoth, creator of the Two Brethren, whose utterance Re' accepts when the Great Tribunal sits to give judgment; you shall sit for me before them ...

Spell 617 O Thoth (/Re'), open those wings of yours to me, for I am one of those nine spirits of yours ...

Spell 627 ... and he will make presentation of bread to the hand of Thoth who opens the books of the gods as he who proclaims their utterance ...

Spell 681. Hail to you, Thoth! It means that you are exalted (in) the mouth of Geb. Your wrt-crown is given to Horus and Osiris – may you live, have permanence and dominion. O my son, they will save you from the stroke of Seth in the great storm. See, N has come. May you display your noble rank, may he establish your permanence, (may you) be save (from) the stroke of Seth at the shrine(?). It is N who has brought the Sacred Eye from the mansion of Him of the gd-pillar. She who is in the mouth of Geb is she who makes the

serpent of Thoth to appear in the storm. O Geb and *Hnhnw*, go down to Neith ... for those who spit(?). N is ... the warm-hearted one who unites and equips those who nurse their children. O

O Thoth, son of the Harpooner, brother of Horus and Seth, who are on your throne, silence Seth. The dignity of Him who is on his throne. 'O *Dty*' says Thoth, who examines Him who is on the throne of the two Distant Ones(?). The Great Ones are advanced (in rank): *Nu. N. Dty*. The name of Nut is revealed. Those who dispel bleariness. Nut has set him in front of the horizon, and he controls gifts. He hits with the strength of the Great Ones. He divides those who tremble according to their gifts. He who is at the head of the two Conclaves, Bull of Star-town. It is N who performs the service due to the two crowns when he passes by; he will not drown the great warrior of Khem as on the first occasion of attaching the thigh. N has attacked him. The cord of Ma'et is strong. (As for) 'Apep, N has attacked him.

Spell 691 ... I am a falcon (in the southern sky) and Thoth (in the) northern sky. I pacify the raging fiery serpent, I raise up Ma-et to him whom (she) loves – so says Thoth.

Spell 1092. HAIL TO YOU THOTH, WHO WAS CHOSEN AS LORD OF THE MORNING.

Spell 1093. This is the path of Thoth to the House of Ma'et and I will be in the suite of Thoth at night assembling them. I possess Ma'et, I detest darkness, I open up the night. Fire.

Spell 1094. Hail to you Thoth in the suite of Re'. It is I who bring the bright Sacred Eye, it is I who dispel the bleariness which is on the injured Eye so that it may be bright ... Let me bring Thoth to you, for he cannot defend you by night. It is I who bring the Sacred Eye, having saved it from him who would conquer it. The Mansion of the Moon is a witness.

Spell 1103 ... whom Thoth will judge in the morning ...

Spell 1117 As for anyone who knows what is sealed, he will become more glorious thereby than Osiris. He has passed every tribunal in which Thoth is, but Thoth will be in the tribunal of Osiris. If there be a man, a Great One, who is on his waterway of death to the beautiful West, the man shall read it at the quadruple purification, and he shall depart in four days, being correct in everything ...

Ancient Records of Egypt

Vol II, 915. Inscriptions of Amenhotep

I was appointed to be inferior king's scribe; I was introduced into the divine book, I beheld the excellent things of Thoth; I was equipped with their secrets; I opened all their passages; one took counsel with me on all their matters.