

Anubis (Student Example)

Anubis was an Egyptian god of the dead, mostly embalming and the afterlife. It's worth noting that his name was Inpu to the Ancient Egyptians; however, this is what the Greeks called him when they were in Egypt.

He had the head of a jackal or black dog, both of which were associated with the dead, as they were seen around corpses and graveyards, looking for food. Anubis had the title of "Lord of the Hallowed Land", and "Foremost of the Westerners", due to the fact that they believed that the afterlife was in the westward direction. Anubis may have actually been worshipped long before Osiris, who was considered the king of the afterlife (Anubis himself was seen as a guide).

Anubis was thought to be the son of either Nephthys and Set, or Nephthys and Osiris. Some stories say he had a daughter named Kabechet, often depicted as a snake or ostrich. He himself is thought to have invented mummification, when Isis asked him to bring her husband back to life again, after Set had killed him. Anubis embalmed the corpse, and wrapped it with the cloth that Nephthys and Isis made. This was to make sure the body wouldn't decay.

When someone died, the body was turned into a mummy. This process involved removing various organs and putting them into canopic jars, removing the brain with a hook, and soaking the body in various chemicals. The priests presiding over the ritual always wore Anubis masks. When it came time for the day of the funeral, they would perform a ritual known as "The Opening of the Mouth Ceremony". This ritual was believed to make the body suited for the dead's ka (part of their soul that lingered the tomb), and to purify the spirit. This ritual included an actual "opening" of the mouth, washing the body, and offering it food. After this, the spirit was able to see, hear, speak and eat like any living person. After this, Anubis would take the soul to the afterlife, where they were judged.

The deceased's heart would be measured on a scale, known as the Scales of Truth, with a feather to compare. Anubis was there to make sure that it was done correctly, as it was kind of important. If it was the same weight or lighter than the feather, they could move on to the afterlife, where Osiris ruled. However, if their hearts were heavier, due to bad behavior in life, they would be fed to a monster known as Ammut. However, those who did well in life, and had light hearts, were protected by Anubis from it.

interesting!

There are indeed connections to him and the Greek gods, as there was Greco-Roman rule in Egypt for a while, from 331 to 30 BCE. As a result, for a while he was known as Hermanubis, due to comparisons to him and Hermes, the messenger god of the Greeks.

Both gods brought the dead to the afterlife, where, in both cultures, their actions in life are judged, and are treated accordingly to what they were.

In fact, in many cultures, your sins are weighed, and you receive punishment in the afterlife for breaking taboos. For example, some Christians believe that you will go to Hell if you don't follow Jesus' way, or if you sin (however, it's worth noting that some of the things that would supposedly bring you to Hell actually won't according to Jesus, as long as you pray for forgiveness). In Greek culture you go to Tartarus if you were a bad person in life, where you would be forced to push up a boulder, or carry around vases that leaked water. Some cultures, such as Buddhism, also believe in karma, where you would be reincarnated over and over to achieve enlightenment, and the next incarnation would be based on how good a person you were in the previous (the worse you were, the worse things will be).

good connections!

There is also a connection to him and Hades, as both were involved in rites involving the dead.

Of course, the Egyptians wanted to explain what happened when people died, as everyone wants to know what would it be like to be dead. So, they told each other stories about what would happen when they, or their pharaohs died. Of course, no one knows for sure what goes on in the afterlife, so it's all guesswork, based on their beliefs, and what they felt the world was like.

Like any other culture, they wanted people to follow the law, and, like Greek's Tartarus, they would be told that they will be judged for their sins. After all, no one wants to be eaten by a monster. So, they were told that if they didn't do good, their hearts would be heavy and that would be the end of them. As I pointed out, this judgment theme can be seen across many religions and cultures, from Christianity to Buddhism. This was a way to get people to follow the rules, or else bad things will happen once they die.

It is also worth noting that they felt the heart was associated with emotion, like many other cultures, which is why the heart was weighed. In fact, the heart would be left in the body, while the brain was tossed out, due to them not feeling that it was important in the body at all! Many other cultures associate hearts with emotions, as well, including our own. For instance, there are a lot of phrases in the English language that have to do with this ("My heart is broken", "I give my heart to you", and so on). We also associate hearts with Valentine's day, and love in general, in a sense. It actually took people a while to realize that we don't think from our hearts, but from our brains.

In short, Anubis, and Egyptian mythology, can be compared to many other cultures.

Excellent report. Great connections made!!

