

## REPORT

The Egyptians were completely governed by their beliefs. They never questioned the beliefs handed down to them. These were of the many gods and goddesses that they believed ruled all. They even thought that the Pharaoh was also a god. They had Myths for everything.

Their myth of creation was that there was a great waste called Nun, and from it came Ra. Ra created all and reigned as Pharaoh for thousands of years. He created Sekhmet to take revenge on man, and tricked her into becoming sweet Hathor. Eventually he was too old to rule, and Isis tricked him into revealing his secret name and he left the earth to take his place in the high heavens.

Another myth is how a prince who was envied by his brothers, wanders onto the edge of the desert and makes a deal with the Sphinx. The Sphinx asks him to unbury it, and if he does so he will become Pharaoh without trouble. He goes back to Egypt and becomes Pharaoh, then keeps his promise and unburies the Sphinx. The next story is one that has been told many times.

The story of the Egyptian Cinderella starts with a Greek maiden, Rhodophis, stolen by pirates and sold as a slave in Egypt, so obviously different from the servant girls. She had a kind master, and he bought her rose-gold slippers for her tiny feet. Once the Pharaoh held a court, and she wasn't allowed to go. While she was doing the chores, a falcon swooped down and took a slipper to the Pharaoh, who immediately went on a search for the woman with tiny feet. Eventually he found her, and they were married.

The Egyptians ruled for thousands of years. They were an advanced people, and

many of their secrets were lost over time. Their stories tell us that they were a lot like people today. They were jealous, greedy, and they wanted to explain how and why things happened in the world. They scared people into submission, and they welcomed strangers who meant no harm.

Their gods are easily identifiable with the Greek ones. Amun-Ra was their Zeus, Hathor their Aphrodite, Bastet was Artemis, Thoth was Hermes, Ptah was Hephaestus, and Seth was equated with the Greek monster Typhon. These types of people are universal, always have been, always will be. Ancient Egyptians were clever and gone before their time. They could have taught us much.

People today are still jealous, they're still trusting and distrusting, vengeful, greedy, etc. The Egyptians were like the Greek people, very much so. When they had dealings, they spoke of their gods, "Thoth, whom you call Hermes", "Hades, whom you call Osiris", things like that. They accepted that they worshipped the same gods under different names. The Egyptians called the Greeks the Aquaiusha. They even have their own story of the Trojan war.

The Egyptians say that when Paris and Helen washed up in Egypt, their stories were told, and Paris's stolen treasure was confiscated. When Paris was leaving, Thoth brought forth the Ka, the double of Helen, and the Trojan war was fought over a being of air. When Menelaus came to Egypt, seeking Helen, he found her there, and they left for Sparta with the treasure that was rightfully theirs.

The Egyptians were very religious. This religion shaped their growth and hierarchy. At the top of the pyramid is the Pharaoh, next the viziers, then the high

priests and nobles. Then the officials and scribes, and then the craftsmen. At the very bottom were the slaves, laborers, and peasants.

This ancient culture was advanced and it died before its time. If the Persians hadn't come, who knows how long it would've lasted. But their culture is gone, and we can only find out bits from what they recorded in writing. They were very religious, and very clever. They could have been great again.

## Research notes

history101.net

Religion was strongly influenced by tradition.

They didn't question beliefs handed down to them.

They wanted to emulate the conditions they believed existed at the dawn of creation.

They believed that the Pharaoh was not only king, but also a god.

The Pharaoh held an immense amount of power and so did the priests.

They believed that if things were good, then the Pharaoh and the priests were doing a good job and that they were doing a bad job if things were not going well for Egypt.

Mostly polytheistic

700 gods and goddesses

One time monotheistic

Sometimes deities were combined to form a new deity.

Believed in an afterlife

Preserved bodies and constructed pyramids for Pharaohs. Later used rock cut tombs.

Household and national gods

National gods usually appointed by reigning Pharaoh.

Main gods/goddesses: Amun Anubis Bes Hathor Horus Isis Khnum Osiris Ptah Ra Sebek

Thoth.

Anubis had a jackal head

Most deities were men

Hathor was associated with Aphrodite.

Only 2 of the main deities were women.

[egyptianmyths.net](http://egyptianmyths.net)

700 deities

mostly male

believed in afterlife

believed the Pharaoh was king and god

sometimes combined gods

national/household deities

reigning Pharaoh usually appointed national god

Anubis = god of the dead

had a jackal head

preserved bodies and built pyramids for the Pharaoh

Egyptian hierarchy:

Pharaoh

viziers

high priests and nobles

officials and scribes

craftsmen

slaves, laborers, and peasants

[bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

2,000 deities

12 of the most important: Ptah Re Osiris Isis Horus Seth Hathor Anubis Thoth Amun Aten  
Bastet.

mostly polytheistic

one-time monotheistic during Akhenaten's reign

monotheism died after Akhenaten's death

Pharaoh held much power along with the priests

Ptah was the patron god of craftsmen and creator god

equated with Hephaestus

Ra was the sun god

Osiris chief judge of the underworld and resurrection

killed by Seth and brought back

Isis was one of the great goddesses

revered for her magical powers

and devotion to her husband Osiris

universally revered for many centuries

Horus was sky god

son of Isis and Osiris

depicted as hawk-headed man

Seth was god of the desert and promulgator of thunderstorms and violence

brother and murderer of Osiris

Greeks equated him with the monster Typhon

Hathor was cow-goddess, lady of love, music and intoxication

symbol of motherhood and fertility

patron goddess of unmarried women and mining

a goddess of the dead

identified with Aphrodite

Anubis = jackal god of the dead

patron god of embalmers

Thoth was moon god with ibis head

patron god of scribes

equated with Hermes

Amun = king of the gods

name means invisible one

Aten was Akhenaten's chosen god

Bastet was cat goddess

virgin goddess, but had a son

identified with Artemis

emayzine.com

The religion of Egyptians was the dominating influence in the development of their culture according to Egyptian only the ocean existed at first

Then Ra, the sun, came out of an egg that appeared on the surface of the water

Ra brought forth four children, the gods Shu and Geb and the goddesses Tefnut and Nut

Shu and Tefnut became the atmosphere

They stood on Geb, who became the earth

and raised up Nut, who became the sky

From this myth of creation came the conception of the ennead, a group of nine divinities,

and the triad, consisting of a divine father, mother, and son

Every local temple in Egypt possessed its own ennead and triad

The Egyptian gods were represented with human torsos and human or animal heads

Sometimes the animal or bird expressed the characteristics of the god

touregypt.net

Religion in ancient Egypt was not unlike modern times

Today, not everyone believes in the same way, or of the same god. Egypt was no different

Individual kings worshipped their own gods, as did the workers, priests, merchants and peasants

The gods reigns overlapped, and, in some instances, merged

There was no organized hierarchy structure of their reign

The dominance of the gods depended on the beliefs of the reigning king

over 700 deities