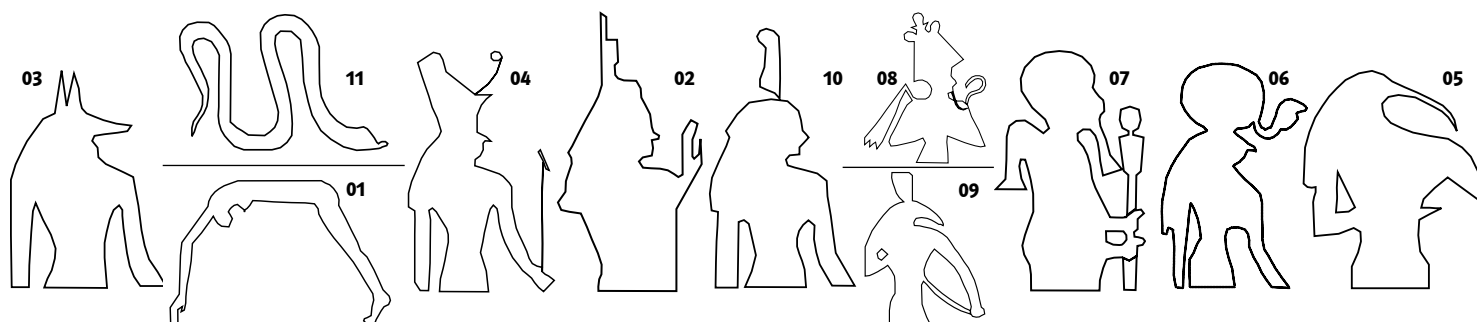


Encyclopaedia of Egyptian gods

Click on one of the pictures to learn more about the gods of Ancient Egypt.



01 Nut

Nut was the goddess of the sky and heavens. Bowing over the Earth, her hands and feet touched the ground while her body formed the orbit. The sun, moon, and stars wandered along her body. Every night, Nut swallowed the sun and gave birth to it again the next morning. As mother to the sun, she also became the mother of every dead person. She protected the dead in the form of a sarcophagus, winged goddess or tree goddess.

to bow: beugen | orbit: Himmelsbahn |
to swallow: verschlucken |
sarcophagus: Sarkophag | winged: geflügelt

02 Isis

When her husband Osiris was killed by her brother Set, Isis went looking for the body and awoke him to eternal life. She also protected her son Horus from his uncle Set's revenge. This is why the people worshipped Isis as loving wife and mother, goddess of magic, motherhood and fertility. She is often depicted wearing a throne on her head.

eternal: ewig | revenge: Rache | to worship:
verehren | fertility: Fruchtbarkeit |
to be depicted: dargestellt werden

03 Anubis

Anubis, the god of the dead, has the head of a black jackal. Anubis was the only god who could preserve the bodies of the dead and help their souls through the judgment ceremony, just as he did for Osiris. During each mummification, the priest who performed the mummification had to wear an Anubis mask.

jackal: Schakal | to preserve: konservieren |
mummification: Mumifizierung |
to perform: durchführen

04 Horus

Horus is Isis's son. He fought against Set, his uncle, and became the successor of his father Osiris. People believed that since then, the Pharaoh was an incarnation of Horus. Being

king meant that Horus always had to be vigilant, which is why he is pictured with a falcon's head. In this picture, he is shown wearing the combined crowns of Upper and Lower Egypt.

successor: Nachfolger | incarnation: Verkörperung | vigilant: wachsam | falcon: Falke

05 Thoth

Thoth appears either as an ibis or as a baboon. He is the god of the moon and ruler over time. He invented language, writing, science and the laws. The scribes in particular worshipped him. He was a great healer, but the dead were supposed to fear him because he was the master of magical texts and rituals. During the judgment ceremony, he wrote down the judgment of the gods on the dead person.

ibis: Ibis | baboon: Pavian | ruler:
Herrscher | science: Wissenschaft |
law: Gesetz | to worship: verehren

06 Ra

The sun god Ra was seen as the creator of all living things. He was the ruler of heaven and took care of things in the cosmos and among the people. He is pictured in many forms, for example as a falcon, tomcat, or as a scarab, a beetle that was considered holy. He is often shown wearing the sun disc on his head.

ruler: Herrscher | falcon: Falke | tomcat: Kater |
scarab: Skarabäus, als heilig betrachteter Käfer | sun disc: Sonnenscheibe

07 Ptah

Ptah was the creator of the world. Because of this, he was worshipped especially by artisans and craftsmen.

creator: Schöpfer | to worship: verehren

08 Osiris

Osiris was killed by his brother Set, who was

jealous of him, but Osiris's wife Isis awoke him to eternal life. The Egyptians hoped for a life after death, too. That is why Osiris was one of the most popular gods. Osiris's son Horus ruled over the living, Osiris himself was the ruler over the dead. The green colour of his skin symbolizes the River Nile. Sometimes he is also pictured in black, which stands for the fertile mud of the Nile.

jealous: eifersüchtig, neidisch | eternal: ewig
to rule: herrschen | ruler: Herrscher

09 Set

Set, murderer of Osiris and enemy of Horus, is pictured with a long snout and square ears. He looks like no animal we know. The Egyptians called it the 'Set animal'. Because of his uncontrollable power, he was the god of chaos and storms, and ruler over the desert.

murderer: Mörder | enemy: Feind |
snout: Schnauze | ruler: Herrsche

10 Maat

Maat was the goddess of balance and truth. She expected the people to be fair to each other. For the Pharaoh, this meant that he had to rule well. For the farmer, it meant that he had to work hard. During the judgment ceremony, the heart of each dead person was weighed against Maat's symbol, a feather.

balance: Gleichgewicht | truth: Wahrheit
to live in justice: gerecht leben |
to rule: herrschen

11 Apophis

The giant snake Apophis was the enemy of the sun god. It stood for darkness and chaos. The sun god Ra had to fight it every day. While Ra's boat swam through the darkness, Apophis would drink the water so that the boat had to stop.

giant snake: Riesenschlange | enemy: Feind