

Union Branch University: World Religions

Indigenous Religions of Africa

Part 1 of 2: Ancient Egyptian Religions

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Deity/Absolute Reality

AMUN-RA: The Hidden One

MUT: The Mother Goddess

OSIRIS: The King of the Living

ANUBIS: The Divine Embalmer

RA: God of the Sun and Radiance

HORUS: God of Vengeance

THOTH: God of Knowledge and Wisdom

HATHOR: Goddess of Motherhood

SEKHMET: Goddess of War and Healing

GEB: God of Earth

Myth of Origin/Beginnings

There are multiple origin stories throughout sacred hieroglyphic texts found in pyramids, tombs, temples, ancient papyrus.

Moral Code/Ethics/Humanity

Maat was the goddess of order. Her codes symbolized the ancient Egyptian concepts of truth, balance, order, harmony, law, morality, and justice. Maat personified these concepts, and regulated the stars, seasons, and the actions of mortals and the deities who had brought order from chaos at the moment of creation.

Key Historical Figures

Nefertiti (1370-1330 BC)

Hatshepsut (1473 – 1458 BC)

Thutmose III (1479 – 1425 BC)

Tutankhamen (1336 – 1327 BC)

Ramses II (1279 – 1213 BC)

Cleopatra VII (69-30 BC)

Ritual Practices

- Temples
- Official rituals and festivals
- Animal cults
- Oracles
- Popular religion
- Magic
- Funerary practices

Sacred Writings

Written records of Egypt began about 3100 BCE with a King Menes. Type of writing include:

- Mythology
- Ritual and magical texts
- Hymns and prayers
- Funerary texts