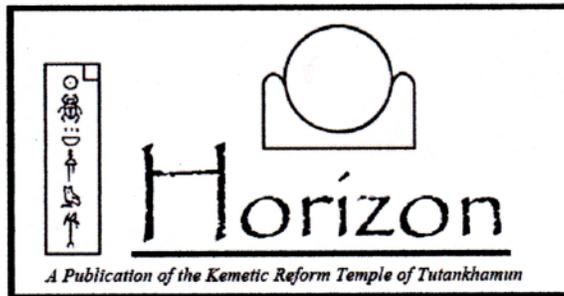


Seasons of *Poret* -  
*Shomu*  
Months of  
*Makhir* through  
*Pa-Khonsu*



Issue No. 3  
January-March 2019

# A Temple Taking Shape

*Iiu im hotep!* Welcome once again!

2019 is already under way, and great things could be in store for us this year. Since printing our last issue of *Horizons*, our kitty has grown two hundred dollars closer to our goal for incorporating. I have a rough draft for Articles of Incorporation begun, and questions for us to discuss as a group so that we can finish drafting them. By this time next year, we can be a legally recognized Kemetic Reform Temple. Isn't the thought exciting?!

Before listing the questions for discussion, I want to lay out some basic premises that won't go in the Articles. (When you read actual Articles of Incorporation, whether they be for a religious non-profit or a for-profit business, they're actually rather dull. Most of it covers the legal name, function and structure of the business or church.) How do we define Kemetic Reform? What are we about? What are we *not* about?

First of all, Kemetic Reform is a faith based upon worship of the ancient Egyptian, or *Kemetic*, Gods and Goddesses. How those Gods are defined - as in, separate entities in a purely polytheistic pantheon, or having some level of connection to a greater source of divinity - is up to the individual. This is an important area in which our tradition differs from existing Kemetic traditions, and part of the reason why we are *Kemetic Reform*. We collectively recognize our Gods as Kemetic deities, but each worshiper has their own way of describing Them.

We also recognize that our Gods need no earthly representative. Each of us was called to this path by the Gods themselves. They needed no human mouthpiece to reach us. Our clergy, once it is established, will lead rituals and assist fellow members, but they will not act as

"channels" for the Gods.

But now we get into territory that will need to be defined on paper. What will be required for membership: a trial period? An introductory course? (We developed an initial draft of one in 2015, which can be referred to in the future.) What about leadership? We aren't crowning a 'pharaoh' or inducting a 'court', so we'll need to decide what body of leadership our Temple will have. We should think carefully about this, because if we structure our Temple with the right balance, it could outlast us. And that's what we want! This tradition could be something that we leave for our children and other generations either just being born or not yet here. Let's think on this and build something worth passing forward.

For the moment, the FB group is still our most active forum of discussion, but don't hesitate to email (or even write!) with your thoughts. Here are the main topics we need to cover:

- 1) How should we define membership? What about guest status?
- 2) What kind of governing body should we have? Should it be clergy only, or include senior lay members as well? How many people? Should they be elected? If so, for how long?
- 3) How long should priests train, and what should they learn? Should they eventually be paid for the time they devote to the church?

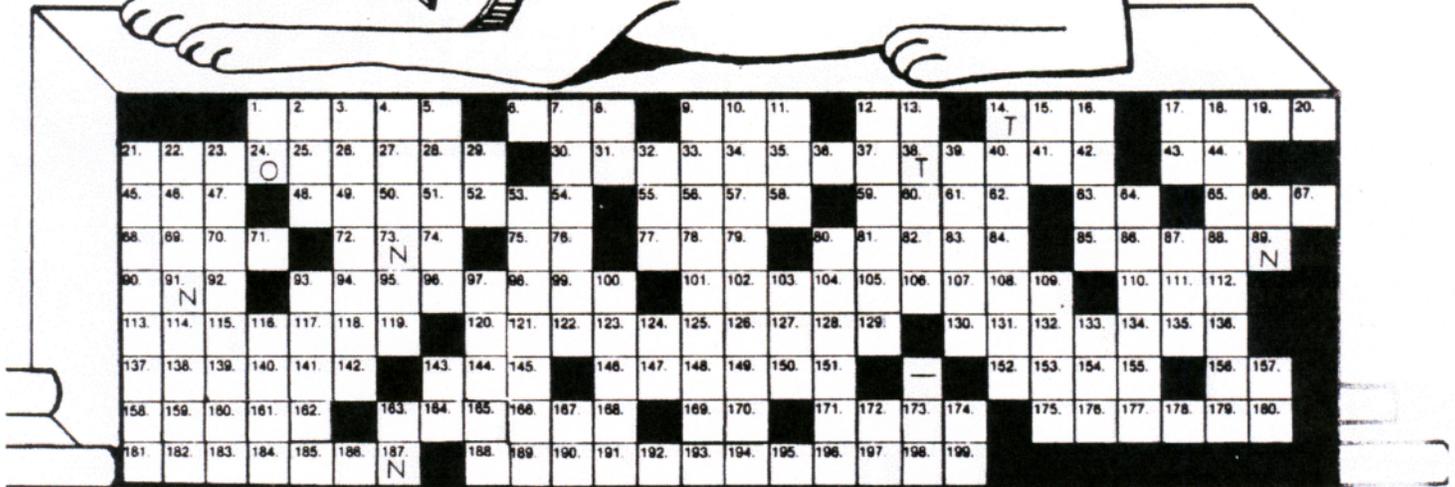
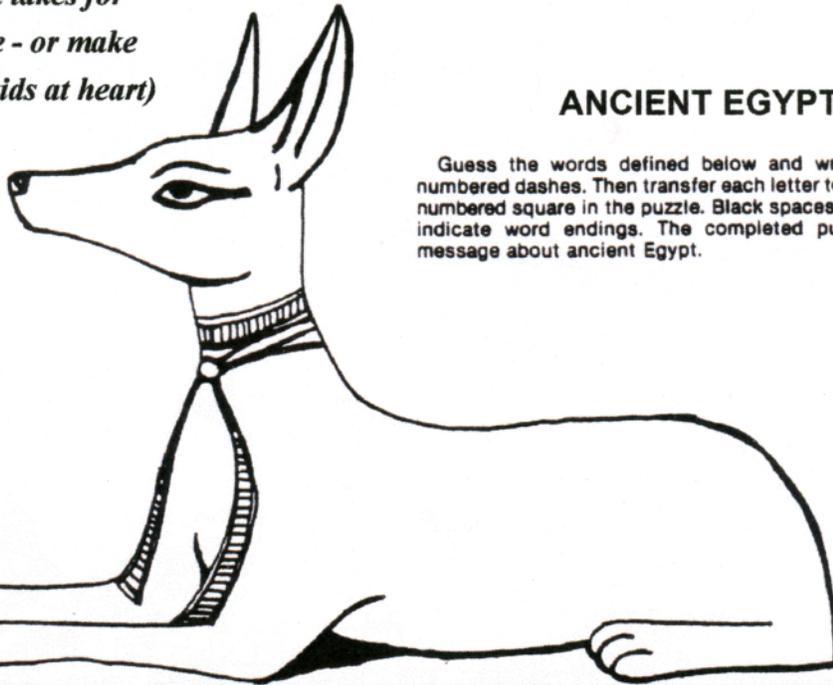
These questions are quite involved, so give them some thought. And let us hear from you!

- *Sharon LaBorde*

*I got this crossword puzzle way back in 1989! See how long it takes for you to solve the message - or make copies for any kids (or kids at heart) you know.*

## ANCIENT EGYPT

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the puzzle. Black spaces and the end of lines indicate word endings. The completed puzzle will contain a message about ancient Egypt.



- K. Important official ..... 190 21 36 81 1 179
- L. Ancient capital of Egypt ..... 196 163 52 152 134 163
- M. Writing symbols ..... 15 33 59 186 170 2 93 3 186 78 83 188 19
- N. Jackal-god ..... A 126 117 87 133 138
- O. It runs south to north ..... 199 39 123 178
- P. Famous Egyptologist ..... 50 7 147 99 105 86
- Q. Ambitious Egyptian Queen ..... 161 165 167 176 4 130 116 82 140
- R. Protected Egypt from invaders ..... 145 47 101 108 173 184
- S. Where Great Pyramid is ..... 148 193 194 11 48
- T. God of wisdom: 1st letter ..... 154
- U. First meant "Great House" ..... 23 159 27 97 86 18 162
- V. Same as "J" above ..... 138
- W. Greek historian ..... 155 148 25 43 92 156 26 85 109
- X. Wife of Osiris ..... 107 83 31 61
- Y. Bes was assoc. with this animal ..... 34 104 153 180
- Z. Ethic of truth and justice ..... 17 88 90 106
- AA. United Upper & Lower Egypt ..... 22 56 121 79 8
- AB. God of earth & vegetation ..... 75 70 51 139 197 112
- AC. Inundation ..... 171 115 102 40 168
- AD. Left so dead wouldn't hunger ..... 44 12 172 129

- AE. Hatshepsut's husband: 1st letter ..... 111
- AF. Same as "U" above ..... 95
- AG. Of great concern to Egyptians ..... 37 13 77 16 116 99 110 157 74
- AH. Used to make brick for houses ..... 174 114 177
- AI. Associated with Hathor ..... 132 9 181
- AJ. Rapids ..... 127 57 20 98 58 80 113 189 42
- AK. Helped preserve treasures ..... 30 192 35 175 143 84 151
- AL. Kingdom beginning 1567 B.C. .... 135 149 6
- AM. Sky goddess ..... 144 124 84
- AN. In times long past ..... 195 49 103 94 128 131 82
- AO. God worshipped by Akhenaton ..... 86 54 72 10
- AP. Finely glazed pottery ..... 122 48 137 100 53 150 185
- AQ. Important geog. feature: 1st letter ..... 28
- AR. Egypt was divided into \_\_\_\_\_ areas ..... 5 65 71
- AS. Nefertite was Akenaton's \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 158 189 80 98
- AT. Sun god of Heliopolis ..... R 182
- AU. Describes quality of Egyptian art. .... 78 160 55 141
- AV. Evil brother of Osiris, (alt. sp.) ..... 67 125 45
- AW. Tutankhamen, when he died ..... 29 119 164 41
- AX. Amenhotep \_\_\_\_\_: changed name ..... 120 32
- AY. Castor, flaxseed & sesame ..... 198 191 142

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# The Kemetic Mid-Year

by Sharon LaBorde

On our secular calendars, January marks the start of a new year. In the Northern hemisphere, winter is in full swing, bringing its dreariness and cold. But on the Kemetic calendar, we are now at mid-year. The Feast of Filling the Sacred Eye falls on January 13th, the exact mid-point between one Upet Ronpet (July 18th) and the next. This time is to the Kemetic year what high noon is to the sun's daily cycle, and in ages past the ceremonies held for mid-year may have paralleled the themes of the daily noon ritual.

In an interesting modern parallel, the Hindu festival of Thai Pongal celebrates the beginning of the sun's northward journey as it passes into the region of Capricorn, and the holiday is celebrated in many regions on or around January 14th - very similar in timing and theme to our solar-oriented Feast of Filling the Sacred Eye.

February marks the first of two observances of "Chewing Onions for Bast", which were held at different towns. Anubis also has a couple of special occasions, including a visit from the earth god Geb on what we typically know of as Valentine's Day.

As we ease into springtime and warmer temperatures, the Kemetic season also turns. Mid-March brings *Shomu*, or the 'hot' season as the ancient Egyptians knew it, though thankfully soaring temperatures are still a few months off. The ancients began harvesting grain in *Shomu*, celebrating the bounties of Min and Rennutet. The births of child gods, most notably Khonsu and Horus the Child, are observed in March and early April. Today we can give thanks for things coming to fruition, milestones made, and journeys about to begin. No matter Who your patron deities are, this is Their season of bounty.



## An Evening Prayer to Bast

*(as requested by Child of Bast on YouTube)*

Oh Bast, Great Lady, Great Eye of Ra,  
Firstborn daughter of the Lord of All!  
Be with me through the dark hours of night,  
May the glow of Your eyes be my protection.  
Guard my sleep til the coming of dawn,  
'Til You shine forth in glory like Ra!

## ALitany to Ma'at

*(from the 18th-Dynasty tomb of Neferhotep)*

Oh Ra who sets with Ma'at,

Ma'at is joined to His brow.

Oh Ra who rises with Ma'at,

Ma'at embraces His beauty.

Oh Ra, effective through Ma'at,

Ma'at is secured to His bark.

Oh Ra mighty through Ma'at,

whereon He lives every day.

Oh Ra who made Ma'at,

and whom one offers Ma'at:

You placed Ma'at in my heart  
that I may raise Her up to your *ka*!

I know you live by Her  
and it is You who made Her body.

I am a straight one free of lies,  
who does not practice deception.

Gods, Lords of the Two Truths,

May you receive the Scribe of Amun Nerferhotep,

True of voice, in peace, in peace.



## Recent and Upcoming Feast Dates:

**Feast of Victory of Horus, January 4-8**

**Feast of Filling the Sacred Eye, January 13**

**Geb Visits Anubis, February 14**

**Chewing Onions for Bast, February 16, March 18**

**Feasts of Horus, Son of Isis and Horu-Sema-Tawy, March 15**

Do you have any announcements to share? Local events or festivals to advertise? Or how about Kemetic or other Pagan-related items to buy, sell or trade? Tell us about it for the next issue!



### Horizon Newsletter

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Donations of any size to cover print and mailing costs are always welcome. Contact Editor for details.