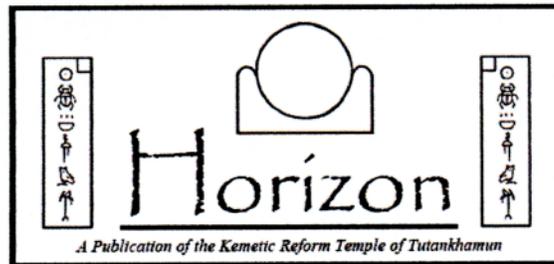


Seasons of
Shomu - Akhet
Months of
Pa'en-Inet through
Pa'en-Opet



Volumes 2, Issue 4
and Vol. 3, Issue 1
April-September 2020

A Special Double Issue!

Iiu im hotep!

Welcome to a special double issue of *Horizon*!

Ideally, new issues of *Horizon* hit print - and up until now, print only - at the beginning of each quarter. But as you are probably aware, these are not exactly ideal times. Indeed, it would be a rather blatant understatement to say that the global Covid-19 pandemic is vastly reshaping our lives in ways none of us could have imagined. Case in point being this newsletter. Between lockdowns, supply shortages and general disarray, I've had to rethink the original idea of an exclusively printed and mailed newsletter. But its success has also played a role in the decision to make this issue available online; in the past year I've gotten inquiries from overseas Kemetics wanting to read *Horizon*. For them, postage costs would present an obstacle even without a pandemic. So for those readers, I want to extend an especially warm welcome to our ongoing conversation.

I also want to include in that welcome our viewers from the Friday night livestreaming services on YouTube. Previous readers may recall that returning to live streaming services remained but a hopeful goal throughout last year. But since early April, we've been hosting live Friday night services with great success. We even celebrated "Egyptian Holy Week", being the Days

Upon the Year leading up to Wep Ronpet, culminating in an outdoor broadcast on New Year's Day. We've had our hiccups, but as one of our longtime members put it, "It wouldn't be a Kemetic Reform service without technical difficulties!"

As the world turns to the Internet to stay connected, other Pagans have also begun hosting online rituals, from the (Kemetic Pagan) Church of Flesh and Feather on Facebook to the Sumerian Pagan group Order of the Rod and Circle. While much of the mainstream world has struggled to adapt to gathering online, those of us who've known no other option to interact together have risen to the occasion. What was once our limitation has now become our strength.

Others in the mainstream have made this point, but it bears repeating: This pandemic, and its ripple effects, are far from over. We shouldn't expect to go back to our usual ways of life for many more months, and some things will likely never be the same again. But we could gain tremendous positives from this experience, both in general and as Pagans. Regular live streaming rituals and an online newsletter could be just the beginning. As our Holy Week divinations suggested, by combining patience and adaptability we could achieve many of the things we seek most this year. Please join us as we make that journey.

- Sharon LaBorde



In Praise of the Gods

The Jackal Draws His Blade

by Sharon LaBorde

With quiet patience He works the scale,
Jackal's ears and Jackal's face, human hands
and God's soul.

He weighs each person's heart with care
Against the sacred feather of Truth,
Listens to their testimony, words of lives
now in past tense.

Mild-mannered, He kneels to Osiris;
The Jackal's job is to serve, not to fight.
Other Gods take up that task, to defend Ra's
Creation with sharp blades and fierce eyes.
But this keen Jackal's ears prick up.
He hears distant cries of anguish, of pain -
And behind each of them a terrible whisper.
Unspeakable lies from the Unspeakable One.

Twisted distortions of sacred Truth,
A million shattered shards in the form of tortured thoughts
Of worthlessness and doubt, of sadness and self-hate -
Depression, destruction, and longing for death.

But Anubis, that great Jackal at the scales,
Knows those words for what they are.
They are the lies of the enemy of all Ra has made,
Subtle temptations beckoning to oblivion.
As He stands at the balance of Truth,
The gateway between life and death,

Precarious fulcrum between hope and despair,
Anubis resolves to answer.
To defend those crying for help,
To protect Creation itself beating within
countless anguished hearts,
The Jackal draws His blade.

With eyes of Truth He stares down the evil one,
Serpent tempter of souls seeking only their ruin.

The Jackal draws His blade and lunges forth.

Does the sword of Anubis find its mark?

Does the Jackal strike down the snake?

For every person who stays their own hands -

Puts down the bottle, the pills, the gun -

Anubis' stroke is true.

Our every choice fulfills His task;

His success is up to you.

--This poem constitutes a moment of sheer inspiration, but it has been greatly loved ever since I first read it during a live streaming service. May it continue to offer inspiration, and especially hope, to others.



More Praise of the Gods

Hymn to Ma'ahes

Hail and praise unto You,
Oh Raging Lion, the Scarlet Lord!
Flashing and thundering God,
Lord of darkness and winds!
One who acts swiftly,
Great God who listens,
Most glorious Ma'ahes!
Oh Son of mighty Sakhmet,
Protect us from every evil;
Lord of Slaughter, protect
those who are innocent;
Hear our prayers,
Defend us as you defend
Ra from His wicked foes!

*This hymn is adapted from inscriptions honoring
Ma'ahes dating to the Late Period.*



Hymn to Tutu

Inodj har-ek, Tutu,
Hail unto You, Tutu,
notjer a'ah, sa Nit!
Great God, son of Neith!
nekhy ur, nakht khopesh,
Great Protector, Mighty of forearm,
ma'i kha'kh nemtet,
Lion, swift of pace,
A'ah pehty, neb genu,
Great of strength, Lord of strength,
seher sabiu,
Who drives away enemies,
udi khennu im ibed neb
Who stirs uproar
im khenu en Sa'u!
every month in Sais!
Hery tep en kha'tiu en Sakhmet
Master of the *kha'tiu* [demons] of Sakhmet
shema'yu en Ba'stet,
and the wandering demons of Bastet,
ir hebiu im djed-en-ek!
The messengers act according to Your word!
Hery sheseru, seshem kha'u,
Master of the arrows [demons],
leader of the [decan star] *Kha'u,*
neb medja't nan her khu-ef!
Lord of the Book [of Life and Death]
Who has no equal!

Community Corner

The Polytheistic Day of Protest and Remembrance

Back in 2015, in response to the wanton destruction of ancient sites like Palmyra, Syria by ISIL terrorists, a handful of Pagan Reconstructionist groups including Neos Alexandria (Egyptian-Hellenistic recon), Natib Qadish (Canaanite reconstructionism), and our very own friends at Shrine of the Irish Oak (Celto-Roman and Kemetic) began observing an official day of mourning and protest. The official date for the event is July 31, but observances can be held on the nearest weekend.

The day is primarily marked with private rituals honoring the deities whose temples were destroyed at Palmyra. In Greco-Roman times, these would have included Canaanite and Semitic deities such as Ba'al and Al-lat (syncretized with Athena), as well as Greek and Roman gods. Figures more familiar to Kemetics, such as the goddess Isis and her Hellenistic consort Serapis, and Hadrian's deified lover Antinous (who died in Egypt), were probably also venerated there.

Given the fact that religious extremism and political instability can threaten pagan monuments anywhere in the world, the Day of Protest and Remembrance serves as a sobering reminder of how precarious and precious our ancient heritage actually is. Until the day comes that these sites are no longer under that shadow, let's plan to meet up next year at the end of July for another Day of Remembrance.

Elsewhere on the Web...

Since April, we've been broadcasting live services on Friday evenings for Kemetic Reform. YouTube streaming usually begins at 8:30pm Central US time. But if you have an opportunity, check out what our friends are doing:

Shrine of the Irish Oak Online Services -

Where: On Facebook, Shrine of the Irish Oak Page (also look for services posted on YouTube)

When: Wednesdays, 8 or 8:30 PM Central US time

What: Weekly ritual honoring Kemetic, Celtic and Roman deities, followed by a religious talk session.

Church of Flesh and Feather Services -

Where: On Facebook, Church of Flesh and Feather Page

When: Saturdays, 10 AM Central US time

What: Devotional service to Djehuty (Thoth), with occasional lunar observances as posted on FB page.

Know of other Kemetic friends hosting events or services! Let us know so we can share!

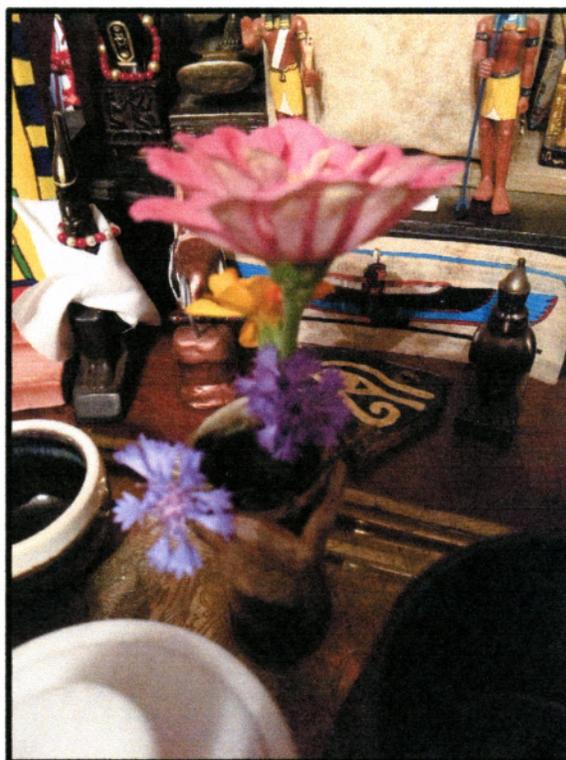
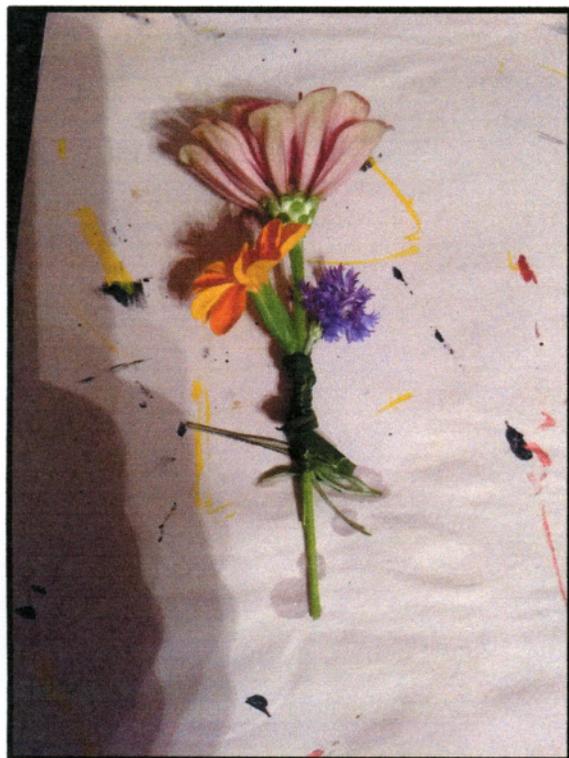
Do you write, make crafts or participate in Egyptian-Pagan-related projects? Are you looking for certain hard-to-find books or supplies? Send in your 'Want Ad' or advertise what you do!

Egyptian Bouquet Tying

We've all seen the elegant pictures of flowers the ancient Egyptians offered to the Gods. But those flowers didn't grow like that - they were carefully arranged and bound into tall bouquets to be placed on an altar. The basic principle is fairly simple, and in Lise Manniche's [An Ancient Egyptian Herbal](#) you can even find a three-part instruction on how to tie one. But since most of us don't have access to papyrus and blue lotus flowers, we have to make do with what's available. The example pictured here includes a cosmo, a marigold, and blue cornflowers - aka bachelor buttons, a flower used in ancient Egypt and commonly found in garden seed sections today.

To start, use the tallest flower as the center and leave the stem long. Here it's the cosmo; it works best if you use a flower with a strong stem. Next, tier the other flowers underneath and tie them to the central stem. Here the marigold and cornflowers are tied with a length of dark green nutsedge grass. Many kinds of sedge, such as purple nutsedge and chufa, grow prolifically as weeds but are actually related to papyrus. You can pick the stalks or leaves at the same time that you pick potted flowers. In fact, you can even use the seed heads as 'flowers' in an offering bouquet - the Egyptians didn't label certain plants as just 'weeds' like we do today. If it adds a touch of color or unique shape, add it in! (Just don't use poison ivy or poison sumac...lucky for them, the ancient Egyptians didn't have either of those.)

If you can grow your own flowers, they can yield wonderful offerings for your altar space that celebrate the growing season. Wildflowers can provide another beautiful source of seasonal offerings (as long as they don't come from a protected area). You don't have to have a superabundance of them, either; the bouquet pictured below is made of just four flowers and a long blade of grass, but makes a perfect thanksgiving to the Gods for Their gifts of nature.





An Evening Candle-Lighting Prayer

This candle is the Eye of Horus. It proclaims
night after day.

Oh, come in peace, bright Eye of Horus! Come
in peace!

This Eye of Horus shines like Ra in the Twin
Horizons, and evil hides in fear of it.

This Eye of Horus destroys the enemies of Ra in
all of their abodes, 'till none remain.

This Eye of Horus comes, and this house, its
inhabitants, and its grounds are safe, well and
content with it.

In-un-ma'a.



Recent Feast Dates:

August 3-5: Wagy and Djehutet Feasts (live service held Aug. 7)

August 8 - Feast of Anubis in Denderah

August 13 - Day of Peace Between Horus and Seth (live service August 14)

August 19 - Feast of Sobek of Ombos (live service August 21)

August 26 - Procession of Bastet, Mistress of Ankh-Tawy (live service Aug. 28)

September 1 - Feast of Neith

September 4 - Opet Feast Live Service

September 9 - Moving Sand for Anubis (live service Sept. 11)

September 18 - First Feast of Wadjyt (live service honoring Wadjyt, Hathor and Sakhmet)

September 23 - Aset (Isis) Goes Forth Rejoicing

September 25 - Feast of Neith and Tutu (live service also honoring Aset)

October feast dates will be observed on Fridays, with a possible special broadcast on Halloween night.

ALSO: Tune in for Arkansas Pagan Pride's Virtual event on October 24 - we will be broadcasting a live ritual at 3PM! Check arkansaspaganpride.org for more details!

Horizon Newsletter

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(A dedicated P.O. Box for KemetiC Reform remains a goal. When funds and pandemic-related issues allow, that address will be announced.)

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