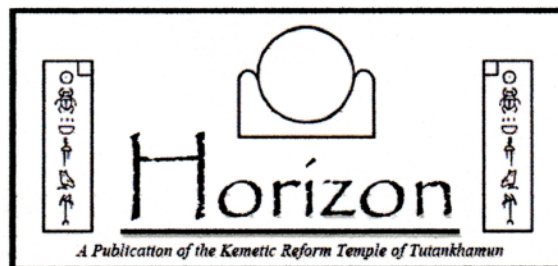


Season of *Akhet* -
Months of
Djehutet through
Hat-Hor



Volume 2, Issue 1
July - September 2019

A New Kemetic Year Begins

Iiu im hotep! Welcome to Volume Two of *Horizon*!

Just as we tend to look back on the year that's passed and contemplate a new one just beginning when we celebrate secular New Year's, the same can be said of a religious new year such as Upet Ronpet. Overall, this past year has had its share of successes and setbacks, like most years. But for this newsletter and its purpose, it's been a great start and hopefully more good things will come.

We've gotten some great contributions - keep those coming! - and interest is growing. More thanks goes to Zabora, who has contributed generously to the costs of publication throughout this year. And as for incorporating Kemetic Reform, through speaking with co-planners for the local Pagan festival, I've learned that the Articles as I have them in draft form may be closer along than I originally thought. So while the progress may be slow at times, it is still forward progress, and more is gradually being made.

So as we 'sail forth' on *Horizon*'s second year, let's keep sharing our prayers and expressions of faith. I look forward to finding more educational material to share; the ancient Egyptians' wisdom offers a well of inspiration and wonder that never runs dry. And these days, September and October are when many Pagan festivals take place. As always, if you learn about one scheduled in your area, let us know so that we can list it in the Events section.

One big goal that I have - one that may not take place until next Kemetic year, or even the year after that - is to host a Kemetic Pagan festival. The first obstacle to overcome in order to make that happen is fairly simple in principle: get incorporated and raise enough money to rent venue space. Intimidating as it may sound, that part is not hard in concept, just in application. The second hurdle is much murkier, though. Way back in the late 1990's, and even into the early 2000's, many people found it easier to travel across the country for big conventions. Some annual conventions (such as BotCon, the original Transformers convention) became like odd family reunions that attendees looked forward to all year. But with higher travel costs and fewer opportunities to save up - or flex some credit card muscle! - could we recapture that magic for a Kemetic convention? Hope springs eternal, but I want to open that conversation with you, the readers. Without people like you involved, it remains a purely academic concept.

That's an eventual goal. But for right now, keep reading and writing your *Horizons*. See you next issue!

- Sharon LaBorde



In Praise of the Gods - Reader-Submitted Prayers

I say these prayers daily after offering water and incense:

Wepwawet: "Praise to you Wepwawet, you give us the strength to open the paths before us, to defeat our inner demons and rage, and the strength to defend those in need"

Anubis: "Praise to you Anubis, you guide our path and help us in making just decisions in all our endeavors"

Bast: "Praise to you Bast, you grant us comfort, joy and happiness, while guarding us as a mother cat guards her kittens"

- submitted by Nathaniel Hunt

Is it Anubis, or is it Wepwawet? Here you can tell it's Wepwawet if you know what hieroglyphs to look for; the cow horns and square mat spell 'w + p', rendered as either 'Up' (pronounced 'oop') or 'Wep'. The three roads are a plural, thus 'wau', plus the half-circle loaf or 't' makes 'waut' or 'wawet'. Hence, Up-waut, more commonly given as Wepwawet, meaning '[He] Opens the Ways'.



A Blessing for Opet:

by Robert Yamanu Brandum

O Amun-Ra(-Ptah), Lord of All, sole one of creation from which all else came. Mut-Bast(-Sakhmet), great Divine Mother, queen of all lands, people, spirits and gods. O Khonsu-Ma'ahes(-Nefertum), Lord of children, decider of fates, righter of wrongs and up-holder of Ma'at. Oh Lords and Ladies of Ma'at, united in Ma'at who detest evil and wrong-doing, I seek a blessing and aid for one named <N>, and the ones who care for and love them.

Divine light shine down on those in plight, lift their cares, and their sorrows. Bring with you better tomorrows. Lift the spirit and encircle this one in your protection. Cast out sickness and pain in every cardinal direction. May Life, Well-being, and Health be theirs wrapped in loving embrace, shine upon <N>, give them your grace.

Editor's note: <N> refers to the name of the person receiving blessing. This prayer addresses the Theban Triad, but includes the option for the 'Memphite Triad' of Ptah, Sakhmet and Nefertum. Thanks for the great contributions, Nathaniel and Yamanu!

"I will exist, I shall endure. I will overcome, I shall rise anew. I shine in the dark for I am one with the Bennu."

-also by Yamanu



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!

A Season of the Stars

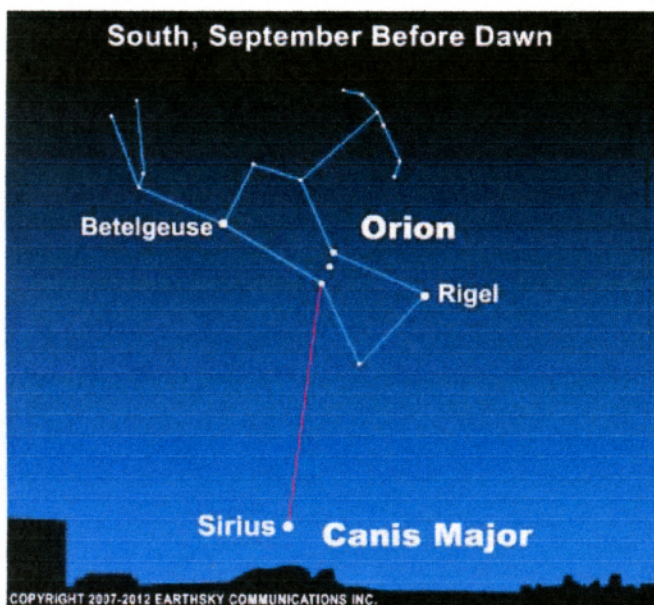
by Sharon LaBorde

In much of the Northern Hemisphere, summer months bring heat, dry weather and low water levels in local lakes and rivers. (Though in some places, unusually heavy rains have made rivers and waterways look much more like the flooded Nile must have.) Sometimes in the middle of a summer heat wave, it's hard to imagine that this time of year was greeted as a season of renewal for the ancient Egyptians. But one common phenomenon inspired not only the start date for their sidereal calendar, but also an expression used even today: the "Dog Days of summer". Ancient Romans attributed their sultry weather to the rise of Sirius, their 'Dog star' (because of its location in the constellation Canis Major). Two millennia ago, Sirius became visible in the early morning sky just as summer's heat began ramping up - and just as the Nile began to swell with its annual floodwaters, announcing a new beginning.

Ties between astronomy and ancient festivals can be a fascinating topic. Even though, in the present day, the stars rise two to three weeks later than they did in the pharaonic age, with a reasonably dark night sky you can still find major constellations and appreciate how they inspired the ancients. Orion, one of the easiest to find, represented Osiris to the Egyptians. Having slipped below the western horizon in May, by August Orion is rising steadily higher in the eastern sky during the predawn hours. Perhaps Orion's track across the night sky - towards the 'Winding Waterway' of the Pyramid Texts - influenced the timing of the Wagdy Feast, during which Osiris ferries overnight to Abydos. In the Kemetic Reform tradition, the Wagdy Feast takes place on August 3rd and 4th, followed by the Djehutet Feast, originally a lunar festival.

Objects we now understand are planets also had associations with Egyptian deities. Interestingly, Venus, Mars and Jupiter all represented aspects of Horus, but Mercury was associated with Seth. This offers interesting possibilities for those who keep track of Mercury retrograde cycles.

The other major feast of *Akhet* season, the Opet, may have had astronomical cues that we haven't yet found. But it marks an important time of observance for the Holy Family of Thebes, being Amun, Mut, and Khonsu the Child. This Labor Day weekend, may They bring us peace and renewal as we keep 'reaching for the stars'.



This image taken from the web gives a decent idea of how Orion and Sirius - known as 'Sah' and 'Sopdut' to the ancient Egyptians - can be found in relation to each other. You'll actually want to look in the southeastern sky during the early morning hours. As the year progresses, they rise earlier in the evening; by September, if you're a 'night owl' and happen to be up close to 3 AM, you can watch Orion climbing in the eastern horizon. The path taken by the sun, moon, planets and Zodiac constellations, which Orion travels close to, is known in astronomy as the ecliptic. In the Pyramid Texts, the ecliptic was called the "Winding Waterway" and equated to the celestial Nile.



Prayer to the Torch of the New Year:

(a good blessing for new ritual candles)

To the torch: Hail to you, this beautiful torch for ____
(title)!

Hail to you, oh Eye of Horus, which leads upon the
paths of darkness!

To the Deity: This torch leads You, oh ____, in every
place Your immortal *Ka* desires.

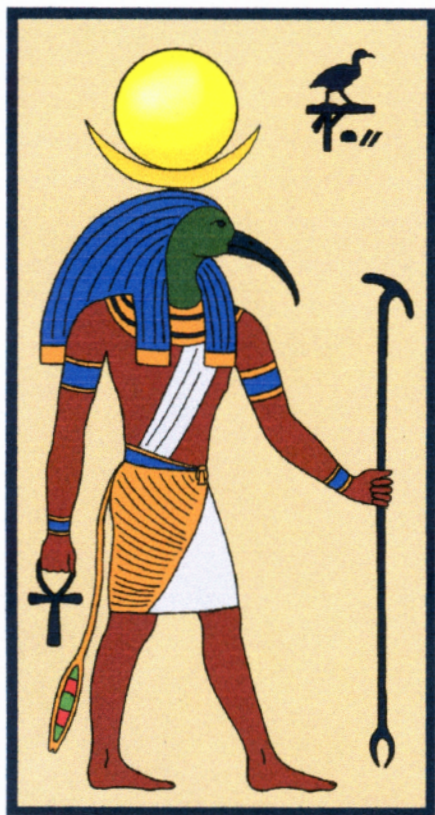
I [we] present this torch of new fuel and new wick to
You, oh ____ (title), as a gift.

Geb and Nut, Osir and Isut, Set and Nebet-hat, They
wash Your face, They dry Your tears, They open Your
mouth with Their bright fingers.

Heaven and earth are given to You, the Fields of Peace
are Yours on this night.

This torch is for You, oh ____ (title), as a gift from Your
servant(s).

*-adapted from the Ritual of Amenophis I at Medinet
Habu*



Wepwawet and Djehuty art by Sharon LaBorde

Orion image by EarthSky Communications

Upcoming Feast Dates:

- July 11** - Day of Mosyt (last day of the Kemetic year)
- July 12-17** - *Heriu Diu Hir Ronpet* -Days Upon the Year
- July 18** - Kemetic Reform New Year (*Upet Ronpet*)
- August 3-5** - Wagyu-Djehutet Feasts
- August 6** - Purification of Ra
- August 19** - Feast of Sobek, Lord of Ombos
- September 2** - Robing of Anubis; Labor Day (US)
- September 3-10** - Opet Festival (this year it could
combine with the previous observances)
- September 23** - Isis Goes Forth in Joy
- September 25** - Feast of Neith and Tutu

Upcoming Pagan Festivals:

*Yes, we actually have word of a few! If you
know about any in your area, tell us!*

Mystic South - Atlanta, GA, July 19-21, 2019

www.mystic-south.com/

Arkansas Pagan Pride - Hot Springs, AR

October 26, 2019

arkansaspaganpride.org

Shreveport Pagan Festival - Shreveport, LA

Saturday, October 12, All Souls UU Church

Horizon Newsletter

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Donations of any size to cover print and mailing costs
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