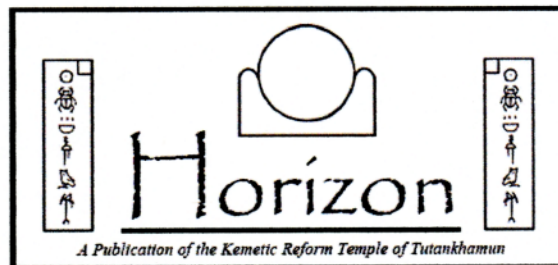


Seasons of
Akhet -Poret
Months of
Hat-Hor through
Ta'ibet



Volume 2, Issue 2
October-December 2019

Opportunity Through Adversity

Iiu im hotep! Welcome to our Fall Issue!

This summer had started out fantastically. My husband and I had gone to a couple of conventions that were tremendous fun, and we even got to meet fellow Kemetic (and *Horizon* contributor) Robert 'Yamanu' Brandum in person for one of them. Upet Ronpet passed happily, and I was looking forward to settling in for a productive late summer season. Then my husband got laid off from his job.

To make matters worse, not long after that our family car - affectionately known as 'Megatron' - needed serious repairs done, limiting my ability to travel and work. Our family seemed quickly headed for a dead-end. Unfortunate as it is, I'm sure that many of you have either been in a similar situation before, or else witnessed it with family or close friends: going to bed with worry and waking up with uncertainty, not knowing what will happen to the life you've worked so hard to build. And by 'work', I don't just mean the 'nine to five' kind. Keeping house and caring for loved ones is just as hard, and too often not as appreciated.

So I turned to the Notjeru, seeking Their help and guidance. My husband and I would do everything we possibly could to help our situation; 'first, do what you can for yourself' is part of our philosophy. But in trying times we can feel so small, like so much is out of our reach. Could the Gods possibly extend our reach, and stretch Their 'strong arm of protection' over us?

Their answer was surprising - and, I'll confess, a little intimidating: ask my YouTube viewers for help. It was intimidating because I always feel uncomfortable

asking for money. We hear appeals for donations all the time, why add one more to the clamor? Never mind that my husband and I *really need* the help. On life's path, our own internal fears and hang-ups can stop us in our tracks that way. Which is probably why that answer I got from the Notjeru seemed so insistent. Putting together a video appeal for "Kemetic Bytes" was very much an act of faith.

The outpouring of love, encouragement and monetary donations we got in response was humbling. It definitely made a difference, too, allowing us to keep food in the pantry and lights (and Internet!) on. But it also provided an opportunity to expand the readership for this newsletter; chances are, if you're reading this issue you either contributed through Paypal, or bought something from my Etsy store. For the first time, I'm having to keep track of donations for Kemetic Reform. As of early September, that total is nearly one hundred dollars, some of which went towards printing this expanded run of *Horizon*. The rest will go into the Kemetic Reform's savings account. This wouldn't have happened had I not taken that leap of faith.

Megatron is running again, and my husband and I currently are working on our own 'next steps'. But we have a greater sense of purpose and faith as we do so. The Notjeru do some of Their best work through our hands. You, as readers of *Horizon* and part of the Kemetic Reform family, are proof of this. Just imagine what we can accomplish with, and for, the Notjeru in the months ahead.

- Sharon LaBorde

In Praise of the Gods - Reader-Submitted Prayers

A Kemetic Table Prayer
by Robert Yamanu Brandum

Sakhmet of yesterday, o Wadjyt of today, we praise You for You have filled this table even as You fill the table of Your father Ra. Protect us with Your wadj scepter of life in Your name of Wadjyt, defend us from evil as You defend Ra from evil in Your name of Sakhmet. We are Yours as Horus is Yours made whole for life.

Come o people, raise these offerings before the faces of these Gods. Lift the offerings before Amun-Ra(Ptah), Mut-Bast(Sakhmet), Khonsu-Maahes(Nefertum), and all the Notjeru! All Life comes from Them, all Health comes from Them, all Stability comes from Them, all Good Fortune comes from Them as it has since the First Time.

Poret kheru ta, henket, kha kau, apdu, senotjer, merhat, khut nibet nofret wabet ankhet notjer im, en ka en <N>, and all of my Akhu residing in the West, ma'a kheru nibu hir Notjer A'ah.

May the offerings endure as the Great and Little Enneads of the Gods endure likewise for eternity.

You have come in peace oh Amun-Ra(Ptah), Mut-Bast(Sakhmet), Khonsu-Maahes(Nefertum), You have come in peace oh Notjeru.

May You go forth in peace, Oh Amun-Ra(Ptah), Mut-Bast(Sakhmet), Khonsu-Maahes(Nefertum). May you go forth in peace, Oh Notjeru, to every place Your immortal *Kas* wish to be.

May You sail in joy in the Mandjet barque, and may you rest content in the Sektet barque and may You smile upon us, Your humble servants.

In-un-ma'a.

(Editor's note: The italicized portion in the middle of this meal blessing is also known as the Voice Offering Prayer, or the 'vocal offering' in Brandon Hensley's Wisdom. Thanks to both of you for your lovely contributions!)

A Kemetic Bedtime Prayer
by Brandon Hensley

I came down from my home,
and went to my town,
and I did all that people love and the gods praise.

I am a lover of good and a hater of evil,
and I have left nobody angry for the night.

There was no falseness from my mouth,
and no evil was done by my hands.

I am one who makes their character,
one beloved of people each day.

I have done maat and spoken *maat*,
and should I join the gods of the Am Duat,

I know that I am *maa-heru* - justified.

(Adopted primarily from Cairo JE 36346, stela of Hnwn, Lichtheim autobiography 19, and BM 159, stela of Rwdah3w, Lichtheim autobiography 21, pp. 24-26)

Untitled Wisdom by Brandon Hensley

Give to the gods their offerings.

What cost is it to offer them water and milk
for one who has them?

What strain is it on one to lift their hands in
offering who has hands to work?

What does one lose in giving to the gods that
they do not gain?

Sing the hymns of the gods if you have nothing to give.

They delight in your voice and their hearts exult
at your words.

The vocal offering is worth 10,000 loaves, 10,000 oxen, and 10,000 jars of wine and oil.

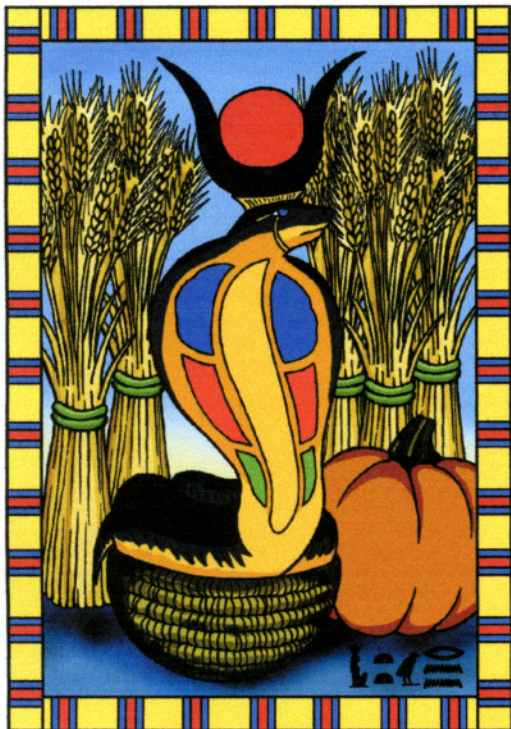
Give to them your voice so long as you have it.
Lift your heart to the gods if you have no voice to sing.

Major Holidays of Kemetic Reform

by Sharon LaBorde

Usually I write about the current season here, but this issue I have a different approach. As part of By-Laws for an incorporated church, I'd like for us to outline what our most important holidays are on the liturgical calendar. Depending on what Gods or Goddesses one honors personally, the year can be dotted with little observances and feast days, but certain holidays have major themes that most of us recognize and honor. By putting this in a formal document, we can hopefully give our faith further legal protection. I've counted nine. The list is below, but again, I strongly invite feedback on it. Should anything be taken out? Added? Combined? Write in, email or message me!

1. **July 18 - Kemetic New Year (Upet Ronpet)** *(Probably our most important holiday, combined with dates of July 12 for the Day of Mosyt, and July 13-17 for the Days Upon the Year)*
2. **August 3-5 - Wagy - Djehutet Feasts** *(First feast of the dead, plus festival of Djehuty (Thoth))*
3. **September 3- 10 - Opet Festival** *(Honoring Amun of Thebes)*
4. **November 2 -14 - Khoiakh (Osiris) Mysteries** *(Most important festival of the Blessed Dead.)*
5. **November 15 - Hab Sed and/or Coronation of the Sacred Falcon** *(Hab Sed would honor historical kings.)*
6. **January 13 - Feast of Makhir (Filling the Sacred Eye)** *(The mid-year feast, can combine Feast of Lifting the Sky)*
7. **April 13 - Kemetic Harvest** *(Feasts of Min, Khonsu, Rennutet) (Also honors Child Gods, such as Khonsu.)*
8. **Mid-to-Late April - Beautiful Feast of the Valley** *(Final feast of the dead. Should date be lunar based?)*
9. **Late May - Feast of the Beautiful Reunion** *(Honors Horus of Edfu and Hathor. As with no. 8, could be fixed or lunar. Have we missed any holidays? Are any less important to us today? What do you think?)*

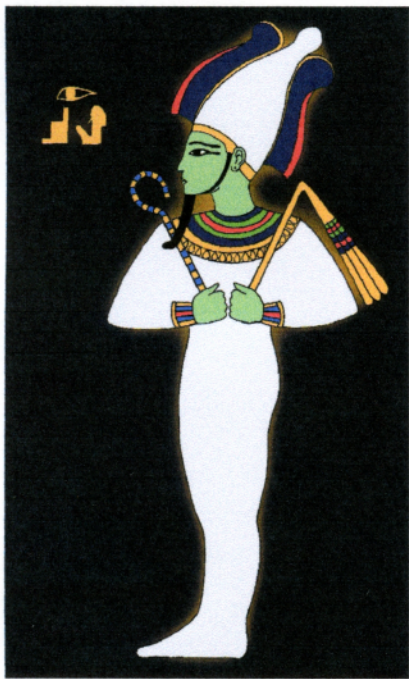


The ancient Egyptians might have recognized this as a harvest scene - except for the pumpkin, which is a native gourd of the New World. While most of us living in temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere associate the harvest with the months of October and November, though, in Egypt the grain harvests traditionally come around March or April. Rennutet, protectress of the harvest and Goddess of nourishment, has a month and a festival named for Her that celebrates that all-important grain harvest. But we can still honor Rennutet as part of our modern autumn season, with its themes of ingathering and thankfulness for the blessings we've received throughout the year. It's one more way that ancient faith can adapt to new forms of expression. *Dua Rennutet!*



A Hymn to Osiris by Sharon LaBorde

Hail, Osir, Lord of *Duat*!
 Your feet rooted deeper than oceans,
 Your crown reaching past the stars,
 Your hands gentle, open as a father's.
 Vast as Your mother Nut,
 Strong as Your father Geb,
 Loving as Your sister Iset.
 Cool waters flow from You,
 Green plants spring forth from You.
 Your grain sustains those upon earth,
 Your *ka* sustains those in the West.
 Hidden are Your myseries,
 Yet they are destined for all!
 All who live, they come to You,
 All who breathe, at last speak Your name.



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!

Upcoming Feast Dates:

- October 2** - Feast of Amun After Opet
- October 15** - Sailing of Hat-Hor
- October 26** - Feast of Osiris in Abydos
- October 30** - Feast of Bast and Sakhmet
- November 2 -14** - Khoiakh Mysteries (for Osiris)
- November 15** - Feasts of Hab Sed, Neheb-kau, and Coronation of the Sacred Falcon
- November 23** - Make cakes for Sakhmet
- December 4** - Sailing of Bast and Wadjyt
- December 15** - Sailing of Anubis
- December 22** - Opening the Doors of the House of Neith

Upcoming Pagan Festivals:

If you know about any in your area, tell us!

Shreveport Pagan Festival - Shreveport, LA
Saturday, October 12, All Souls UChurch

Arkansas Pagan Pride - Hot Springs, AR
October 26, 2019, Entergy Park
arkansaspaganpride.org

(Oklahoma Pagan Pride Day is reportedly this same weekend - contact us if you have more information)

Horizon Newsletter

Editor: Sharon LaBorde

Contributing to this Issue: Sharon LaBorde, Robert 'Yamanu' Brandum, Brandon Hensley

Special Thanks: *All Our YouTube viewers!*

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