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(The Oretical Studey)

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## مجلة البحوث في مجالات التربية النوعية

معرف البحث الرقمي DOI: 10.21608/JEDU.2024.319737.2120

المجلد العاشر . العدد 54 . سبتمبر 2024

التقييم الدولي

P-ISSN: 1687-3424

E- ISSN: 2735-3346

<https://jedu.journals.ekb.eg/>

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العنوان: كلية التربية النوعية . جامعة المنيا . جمهورية مصر العربية





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## Abstract

The sun, as the giver of light, warmth, and growth, was observed rising behind the eastern hills (its birth) and setting behind the western hills (its death). It became a symbol with significant meanings in ancient Egyptian art, appearing in various forms. It appeared in the form of "**Khepri**," representing the sun at sunrise; as the god "**Ra**," representing the sun at noon, whom the ancient Egyptians considered the sole creator of the universe; and as "**Atum**," representing the sun at sunset. The sun also appeared as the "**Winged Solar Disk**," a symbol of the sun god whose worship center was Ain Shams, and as "**Aton**," one of the manifestations of Ra in the solar disk<sup>1</sup>. In the era of King Akhenaten, Aton was venerated as the sole deity.

These forms, along with other symbols in ancient Egyptian art, played a crucial role in Egyptian civilization. These symbols emerged when the ancient Egyptians struggled to understand natural phenomena, leading them to express these concepts symbolically to make sense of

1) Jaroslav Cerny, translated by Ahmed Qadry (1996): Ancient Egyptian Religion, Dar Al-Shorouk, 1st ed., p. 223.

them. A symbol became a physical representation of an abstract idea, but it could never replace the concept it symbolized; it was always an auxiliary to what it pointed to. These symbols were capable of merging and intertwining, creating complex and intricate forms. The myth, with its symbolic elements, was an attempt to understand and adapt to the surrounding nature and its phenomena. The ancient Egyptians used symbols and myths to embody and express their imaginative concepts and emotions.

Some of the mythological symbols associated with the sun in ancient Egyptian art include the falcon symbol "Horus," the left eye of the god "Ra," which is the moon, the serpent symbol (the cobra), the scarab symbol (the dung beetle), the ankh symbol (the key of life), the scepter "Was" symbol, the "solar boats" symbol, and "the lotus flower" symbol.

### **Introduction:**

The sun is regarded as the giver of light, warmth, and growth. Through observing the sunrise behind the eastern hills (its birth) and its setting behind the western hills (its death), the sun became a symbol with profound meanings, integrated with numerous symbols in ancient Egyptian art.

Symbols played a crucial role in ancient Egyptian civilization, where the ancient Egyptians, unable to explain the natural phenomena they experienced, sought to express these through symbolic representations to understand them. Thus, the symbol emerged as a material entity expressing an abstract idea, yet it could never replace the object it symbolized, as it always served as a helper pointing to it <sup>(1)</sup>.

The ancient Egyptians employed symbols and myths to embody their perceptions and make the world more understandable and tangible.

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1) Manfred Lurker, translated by Salah El-Din Ramadan (2000): Dictionary of Deities and Symbols in Ancient Egypt, Madbouly Library, Cairo, 1st edition, p. 12.

They believed that symbols and the forces they represented were interconnected (<sup>1</sup>).

Myths were not just stories revolving around specific subjects but followed ideals and symbolized underlying ideas. Myths represent absolute social life, narrating sacred history considered a divine revelation, transcending human understanding not merely as a model for imitation but also as a deeper expression of needs. In them, we find gods and natural phenomena that express psychological needs. The existence of gods was a paramount concern for the ancient Egyptians, as they were seen as the origin of the universe, much like other peoples in various times and places. They left behind many creation myths that depicted gods as living beings, each with its unique characteristics, driving people to feel love towards some and hatred and animosity towards others.

Myths that emerged in Egypt can be considered as expressions used to "narrate" the imperceptible verse that allows the universe to move, grounded in purely intellectual processes, supposedly governing cosmic forces. The matter is physical (<sup>2</sup>). The current research is limited to studying the sun as a symbol with symbolic meanings and its relationship with some mythological symbols in ancient Egyptian art.

### **Research Objectives:**

The research aims to:

1. Explore the sun in its various forms as a symbolic element in ancient Egyptian art.
2. Identify and analyze certain mythological symbols and their relationship with the sun in ancient Egyptian art.

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1) Samuel Noah Kramer (1974): Myths of the Ancient World, translated by Ahmed Abdel Hamid Youssef, General Egyptian Book Organization, Cairo, p. 104.

2) Isabelle Franco, translated by Halim Tosson (2005): Myths and Gods (Breaths of Ra, the Sun God), Supreme Council of Culture, 2nd edition, p. 30.

## Research Significance:

The significance of the research lies in the following points:

1. Emphasizing the importance of studying ancient Egyptian art, with its rich symbols and elements of symbolic significance, and drawing inspiration from it by focusing on one of its key elements.
2. Delving into the study and analysis of the sun as a symbolic element and its relationship with certain mythological symbols in ancient Egyptian art.

## Some Mythological Symbols and Their Relationship with the Sun:

The sun played a significant role in ancient Egyptian art, taking on various forms and meanings. It appeared as "Khepri," representing the sun at sunrise; as the god "Ra," symbolizing the sun at noon, who was considered by the ancient Egyptians to be the sole creator of the universe; as "Atum," representing the sun at sunset; and as the "Winged Solar Disk," a symbol of the sun god whose worship was centered in Ain Shams. It also appeared as "Aten," one of the manifestations of Ra in the solar disk<sup>(1)</sup>, which emerged during the reign of Pharaoh Akhenaten as the sole god.

Symbols played a crucial role in the entirety of Egyptian civilization. For the ancient Egyptian artist, symbols were an artistic attempt to interpret reality, similar to the expressionists. From the beginning, the Egyptian artist was connected to an idea that he sought to achieve and highlight within the framework of historical and religious documentation. We see this in how he depicted leaders, sometimes as powerful bull and other times as lion. The concept of symbolism in ancient Egyptian art is one of the key features of ancient Egyptian religion.

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1) Yaroslav Cherny, translated by Ahmed Kadri (1996): Ancient Egyptian Religion, Dar Al-Shorouk, 1st edition., p. 223.

The ancient Egyptians were the first to use symbols, embodying their thoughts through symbols and expressing them through myths. Symbols, by nature, are the focal points for imaginative contemplation and emotions, belonging to the realm of myth, even if they have earthly origins. Symbols are not standalone units; they are capable of blending and intertwining to create complex and intricate forms. This blending of forms is not arbitrary but based on established rules and principles<sup>(1)</sup>. Myths, with their symbolic elements, were the ancient Egyptians' attempt to understand and adapt to nature and its surrounding phenomena, with all their forms and symbols carrying profound philosophical meaning<sup>(2)</sup>.

When looking at symbols more deeply, the importance of a symbol does not lie in the symbol itself but in the ideas surrounding it that give it significance. Ancient Egyptian art is the product of the ancient Egyptian civilization, one of the greatest and oldest civilizations in the world. This civilization was built on its deep-rooted religious beliefs, particularly the doctrine of resurrection and immortality, which were closely linked to various aspects of Egyptian life and thought. The ancient Egyptian artist sought to embody these beliefs in most of his decorations and to express them symbolically, creating art characterized by symbolic decorative expression<sup>(3)</sup>. Hieroglyphic writing is the best example of symbolism in ancient Egyptian life, as it drew its alphabet from elements of the environment, whether human figures, animals, or familiar objects<sup>(4)</sup>.

Therefore, the ancient Egyptian symbols are among the most significant legacies left to us by the ancient Egyptians. Many of these symbols are characterized by mystery and secrecy, as they were closely

1) Randall Clark, translated by Ahmed Saliha (1988): Symbol and Myth in Ancient Egypt, The General Egyptian Book Organization, 1st ed., p. 213.

2) Shima Jamal Salim Hassan (2017): Contemporary Formulations of Wooden Works Inspired by the Concept of the Eye Across Egyptian Civilizations, Master's Thesis, Faculty of Education, Minia University, Published Research, p. 44.

3) Philippe Sergent (1992): Symbols in Art, Religion, and Life, translated by Abdel Hadi Abbas, Dar Dimashq, Syria, pp. 65-71.

4) Ibrahim Ahmed Zarkana et al. (1950): The Civilization of Egypt and the Ancient East, Maktaba Misr, p. 72.

connected to various aspects of life in ancient Egypt, whether social, religious, cultural, or recreational. Consequently, symbolic decorations in the lives of the ancient Egyptians were diverse, both in form and in the rituals associated with their use<sup>(1)</sup>.

A large number of ancient Egyptian symbols have been passed down to us, and the ancient Egyptian artist used symbols to express their thoughts, beliefs, and visible phenomena in a diverse manner that was marked by originality and uniqueness, due to the distinct style in crafting these forms and symbols, which the ancient Egyptians masterfully created and relied upon in various aspects of life, whether social, religious, cultural, or recreational. These symbols had different meanings and played an important role in enriching the aesthetic vocabulary inspired by ancient Egyptian art<sup>(2)</sup>.

The ancient Egyptians were unable to explain the natural phenomena occurring around them, so they attempted to express them symbolically to understand them. Thus, the symbol emerged as a material entity representing a spiritual concept, but it could not replace the thing it symbolized, as it always served as an auxiliary to what it pointed to<sup>(3)</sup>. In this way, the ancient Egyptians used symbols and myths to embody and express their perceptions, making them a world comprehensible by logic and perceivable by the senses. They believed that the symbols and the power they represented were inherently linked<sup>(4)</sup>.

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1) Vivian Shakir Mikhail Habashi (2018): The Ankh Symbol in Ancient Egyptian Culture Between History and Contemporary Fashion, International Design Journal, Volume 8, Issue 4, Scientific Society of Designers, p.371.

2) Fatima Ahmed Mohamed Hussein (2004): Design Formulations of Symbols in Egyptian Civilizations and Their Use in Interior Design and Furniture, First International Scientific Conference on Specialized Palaces: Artistic and Craft Heritage as a Language of Communication Between Peoples, International Design Magazine, p. 1.

3) Manfred Luker, translated by Salah Al-Din Ramadan (2000): Dictionary of Deities and Symbols in Ancient Egypt, Madbouly Library, Cairo, 1st edition , p. 12.

4) Samuel Noah Kramer (1974): Myths of the Ancient World, translated by Ahmed Abd El-Hamid Youssef, General Book Authority, Cairo, p. 104.



Some mythological symbols associated with the sun in ancient Egyptian art, including:

### The falcon symbol "Horus":

The falcon's dominance over the Egyptian sky, with its majestic flight and soaring above, mirrored its role as the dominance of the sun. It was characterized by its ability to fly and soar, its capacity to face the sun's rays without blinking, and its precision in swooping down on its prey. Due to its ability to soar in the sky at great heights, it was given the name 'Horus.' The worship of the falcon was one of the oldest and most widespread religions in Egypt (<sup>1</sup>).



Figure (1)  
The falcon  
."Horus"(5).

### Its Appearance:

The falcon was regarded as the god whose forehead contained two eyes—one representing the sun and the other the moon. The ancient Egyptians revered it in many forms(<sup>2</sup>). There were various forms of worship dedicated to the falcon throughout ancient Egypt(<sup>3</sup>). The most prominent and widely recognized depiction of the god Hor (Horus) was in the form of a falcon, dating back to the early dynasties<sup>4</sup>. It was known by different names and titles depending on the era or the location where it was worshiped. There were three main representations of the god Horus.

- 1 ) Naguib Michael Ibrahim (1966) : Egypt and the Ancient Near East, Part Four, Dar Al-Ma'arif, Cairo, 2nd edition. , p. 188.
- 2 ) Abdel Halim Nour El-Din (2010) : Ancient Egyptian Religion, Part One, "Deities," Luxor, 2nd edition , p. 30.
- 3 ) Naguib Michael Ibrahim (1966) : Egypt and the Ancient Near East, Part Four, Dar Al-Ma'arif, Cairo, 2nd edition, p. 188.
- 4 ) Ahmed Badawi (1950) : In the Procession of the Sun (Part Two), Committee for Authorship, Translation, and Publication, Cairo, 1st edition, p. 125.

It was the god "Hor," representing the midday sun, who engaged in a great battle with "Set" and its conspirators. It was also the god "Ra," who merged with Ra and appeared in human form with a falcon's head, wearing the solar disk and the double crown or the Atef crown. It was the god of the horizon, the source of the sun, and the son of Isis<sup>(1)</sup>.

### Its Role:

It was responsible for protecting the sunrise, ensuring that the enemies of light could never extinguish it. Meanwhile, (Isis) remained vigilant in her watch, while (Osiris), in the afterlife, granted new life to those who understood death, aboard the funerary boat. In this way, the world remained in balance

Forever <sup>(2)</sup>.



Figure (2)

The relationship of the sun to the falcon Horus (in the form of the

1 ) Ibrahim Youssef Al-Shatla (2008) : A Biological Interpretation of Some Beings in the Drawings and Wall Inscriptions in Ancient Egypt, National Books and Documents House, Cairo, 1st edition, p. 55.

2 ) Robert Jacques Thibault, translated by Fatima Abdullah Mahmoud (2004): Encyclopedia of Myths and Pharaohic Symbols, Supreme Council of Culture, 1st edition, p. 7.

**Its Relationship**god "Ra"<sup>(1)</sup>**to the Sun:**

The god "Horus" was regarded as the deity whose forehead held two eyes: the first representing the sun and the second the moon. He merged with the god "Ra" and took on a human form with a falcon's head, wearing the solar disk and the double crown or the Atef crown. He was the god of the horizon, the source of the sun, and the son of Isis.

- **The Symbol of the Left Eye of the God "Ra", Representing the Moon:**

It was known as "Wedjat," the left eye of the god "Horus", which he lost during his eternal battle with his evil enemy, Set.

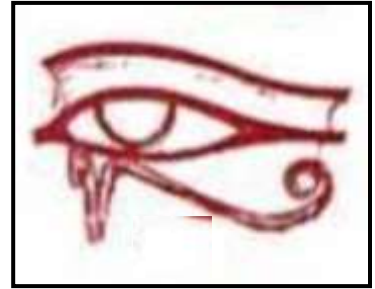


Figure (3)  
the Left Eye of the God  
"Ra"<sup>(1)</sup>

**Its Appearance:**

It appeared as the left eye of the god "Ra", and it is considered to be the left eye of the god "Horus".

**Its Meaning:**

The restoration of this eye symbolizes health and strength. It was often used in amulets and necklaces for protection and safety. The symbol is frequently shown as merging with the cobra, which guarded against harm on the god's forehead. It is one of the most common and mysterious symbols in ancient Egyptian art.

**Its Origins:**

1) <https://www.albawabhnews.com>.

2) <https://www.albawabhnews.com>.

The supreme god of the Egyptians was represented as a falcon, either perched on a structure or emerging from the primordial waters. Its right eye was the "sun," and his left eye was the "moon." The Egyptians expressed the phases of the moon and the cycle of the sun symbolically in myths related to healing and finding the eye. In ancient Egyptian religion, the eye is associated with flame, destruction, the cobra, and the crown. On Earth, it symbolizes royalty, signifying power, while in the cosmos, it represents the eyes of the god and the heat of the sun. There is also the Eye of Horus, which was torn out by the evil Set during the battle between good and evil, and was cast by Set beyond the edge of the world until the spirit of the moon, represented by Thoth, found and restored it<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **Its Relationship to the Sun:**

The left eye of "Ra," representing the "moon", where the symbol of the sun reflects its nature. It is the eye of the celestial god, with the circumference representing the iris and the center point symbolizing the pupil. In addition to the mythological basis for the use of this symbol, the eye itself is rich in meanings. The entity that spreads light and allows living beings to see has the ability to perceive the material world; thus, it is depicted as the pupil of the eye. Furthermore, the radiating light serves as a tool for knowledge, much like the eye itself<sup>(2)</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> ) Nihal Abdel Jawad Mohamed Abu El-Kheir, Ibrahim Badawi Awad (2005): The Philosophy of Symbols in Ancient Egyptian Art: An Analytical Study from a Contemporary Perspective, Eighth Conference of the General Union of Arab Archaeologists, 1st edition, p. 4,5.

2) Nihal Abdel Jawad Mohamed Abu El-Kheir, Ibrahim Badawi Awad (2005): The Philosophy of Symbols in Ancient Egyptian Art: An Analytical Study from a Contemporary Perspective, Eighth Conference of the General Union of Arab Archaeologists, 1st edition, p. 4,5.

- **The Symbol of the Serpent (Cobra):**

The Serpent is considered one of the manifestations of the deity at the beginning of creation. It is the beast that must be controlled before order can prevail in the world, and it embodies the spirit of fertility<sup>(2)</sup>.



Figure (4)  
The Serpent (Cobra)<sup>(3)</sup>

### **Its Origin:**

The first coronation witnessed by the world was the transformation of the "eye" into the "cobra," which "Ra" wrapped around his head. The eye originated from the supreme god while he was in the water, making the Egyptians regard it as its child<sup>(3)</sup>. The cobra is the guardian of the earth or the spirit of the underworld.

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2) [http : //www.albawabhnews.com](http://www.albawabhnews.com)

2) Randall Clark, translated by Ahmed Saleh (1988): Symbol and Myth in Ancient Egypt, Egyptian General Book Authority, 1st edition, p. 222.

3) Nihal Abdel Jawad Mohamed Abu El-Kheir, Ibrahim Badawi Awad (2005): Ibid, p. 4,5.

### Its Role and Significance:

The serpent was used as a symbol of protection against evil spirits. The Egyptians often depicted it with two heads to allow it to see in two directions simultaneously. The cobra, especially the upright one, was considered a feminine symbol and was often depicted grasping a scepter or a symbol of the king or god's prosperity. The cobra carrying the sun on its head was another common representation<sup>(2)</sup>.

The cobra protected the crown and was often depicted on the king's forehead. The eye, also considered the mother goddess, was believed to have given birth to humanity through her tears. Therefore, the eye is considered the mother of the king or the primordial mother. The eye was represented as a cobra adorning or being part of the king's crown. The ancient Egyptians merged the eye and transformed it into the image of the venomous "cobra," which appears fierce and erect. The cobra served to protect the crown, typically depicted as connected to the front of the head, just above the king's forehead. This illustrates how the Egyptians could adorn the crown with the very deity they revered simultaneously<sup>(3)</sup>.



Figure (6)  
The Serpent and its relationship to the Sun (The Sun in the form of the god "Ra")<sup>(2)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup> <https://www.albawabhnews.com>

<sup>2)</sup> Randall Clark, translated by Ahmed Saleh (1988): Ibid, p.222.

<sup>3)</sup> Ibid, p.222.

- **The Scarab Symbol (Dung Beetle):**

The scarab, known in plural as "g'ul," "g'alān," or "g'arān," is a dung beetle that was revered by the ancient Egyptians.

**Its Role and Significance:**

The scarab was used during religious rituals and in the process of mummification. It was placed on the chest of the deceased to prevent the heart from speaking against their owner in the afterlife. The scarab was often placed next to or over the heart or inside the wrappings of the mummy. The ancient Egyptians considered the heart to be the most important part of the human body, as it was the center of feeling and conscience<sup>(2)</sup>.

They also used the scarab as an amulet or decorative ornament to ward off magic, evil, and harm, calling it "Kheper".

**Its Origin:**

The scarab was believed to emerge from the earth at the same place as the rising sun. It was considered self-created and asexual, carrying a sacred quality. The scarab would place its offspring in an egg, then bury it in the mud in a direction opposite to its own movement. It was also believed to be generated from the night sky, associated with the goddess "Nut".

**Its Appearance:**

The "scarab" was found in various forms in different locations, symbolizing the deity "Khepri," who was depicted as a human with a scarab head. This representation signifies the cycle of the sun, as if it were reversing its path in the sky when moving from west to east, with

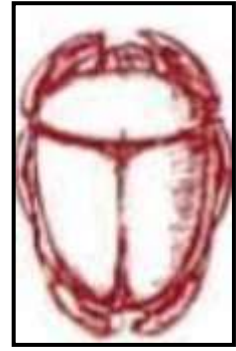


Figure (7)  
Dung Beetle (1).

<sup>3)</sup> Muslim Rashid Al-Rawahana (2007): Pharaonic Egyptian Religious Beliefs Between Paganism, Myth, and Monotheism, Mu'tah Journal for Research and Studies - Humanities and Social Sciences Series, Volume 22, Issue 5, Mu'tah University, Jordan , p.283,284

<sup>4)</sup> Muslim Rashid Al-Rawahana (2007):Ibid. p.283,284

the scarab pushing it backward, signifying the return to the east, representing birth or beginnings. This is connected to the deity "Atum," who creates himself at the top of the primordial mound<sup>(1)</sup>.

This is the reason why the ancient Egyptians revered the scarab, as it embodies the ability to self-recreate, taking the form of the sun god.

The scarab appears on cartouches, seals, and amulets, as well as on Pharaonic jewelry and necklaces. In this way, it symbolizes the daily occurrence of light's emergence and the resurrection of those who have successfully navigated the difficulties and challenges of life.

### Its Relationship to the Sun:

The scarab represents the god "Khepri," which is one of the forms of the sun in human representation, depicted as a man with a scarab head<sup>(4)</sup>. The scarab is often shown carrying the sun disk in the wall carvings of temples.



Figure (8)  
The scarab (in the image of the god khepri and his relationship to the sun)(1).



Figure (9)  
The scarab and its relationships The sun alone(2) by

<sup>1)</sup> Ibid. p.285

<sup>1)</sup> <https://www.ar.wikipedia.org/wiki>.

<sup>2)</sup> <https://www.ar.wikipedia.org/wiki>.

<sup>4)</sup> Muslim Rashid Al-Rawahana (2007): :Ibid, p.285:286.



## • Symbol of Ankh: (The Key of Life):

The Ankh is one of the most famous religious symbols of ancient Egyptians and is one of the Egyptian hieroglyphic symbols representing eternal life. It is considered the first amulet or talisman in ancient Egyptian beliefs, given to humanity by the pharaonic god "Thoth," the god of wisdom and knowledge, coinciding with the emergence of the first hieroglyphic language<sup>(2)</sup>.

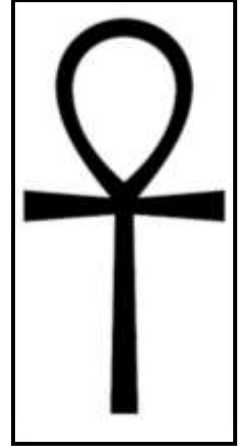


Figure (10)  
Symbol of  
Ankh: (The Key  
of Life(1)

### Its Appearance:

The Ankh is referred to in Latin as "cross with a loop" or "hand cross," as it resembles a cross with a loop at the top, which was held by gods or kings.

### Its Significance:

The Ankh is a symbol of eternal life and is known as the key to life, representing divinity, resurrection, and immortality for over 4,000 years. It was carried by gods and pharaonic kings who believed they could control the essence of this life through it<sup>(3)</sup>. The Ankh is considered a talisman granting strength, life, and protection from evil and harm, thus bestowing eternal life.

The ancient Egyptians regarded it as an amulet that grants strength and protection from evil and harm, leading to everlasting life. The Ankh symbol has retained its distinctive form and character throughout the

<sup>1)</sup> <https://www.ar.wikipedia.org/wiki>.

<sup>2)</sup> Ibrahim Ahmed Zarfana et al. (1950): The Civilization of Egypt and the Ancient East, Egypt Library , p.73.

<sup>3)</sup> Simon Cox, Susan Davies (2007): An A to Z of Ancient Egypt, Mainstream Publishing; New York. , p.22.

historical periods of the pharaonic era until its end, as it represented continuity and sacredness of beautiful life,

The "Ankh sign" often appeared adorned with various pharaonic symbols, such as the "lotus flower," which signifies creation for the ancient Egyptians. Additionally, the Ankh also included other symbols like the "Was" scepter, representing power and authority. The Ankh was found alongside the "Djed pillar," symbolizing life, prosperity, and bliss.

### Its Relationship to the Sun:

The Ankh appeared in many forms, notably in the left hand of the god "Ra", the sun god. It is known as a talisman that grants strength and protection from evil <sup>(2)</sup>. The Ankh symbolizes eternal life and is often depicted with the sun disk "Aton".

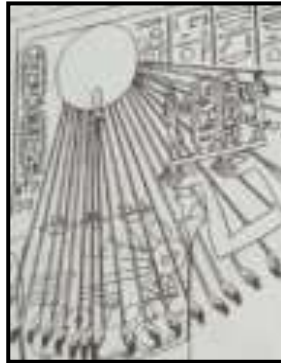


Figure (11)



Figure (12)

The Ankh Symbol and its Relationship to the Sun in Various Forms ( 1)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>) Simon Cox, Susan Davies (2007) : An A to Z of Ancient Egypt, Mainstream Publishing; New York. , p.22.

<sup>2</sup>) Ibrahim Ahmed Zarqana et al. (1950) : The Civilization of Egypt and the Ancient East, Egypt Library , p.73.

## • Symbol of the Scepter"Was":

### Its Appearance:

The scepter is depicted as a staff with a head shaped like a long-eared hound, referred to in hieroglyphics as (Was)<sup>(2)</sup>.

### Significance:

The "Was" scepter is a symbol of power and authority.

### Its Relationship to the Sun:

The Was scepter was held by the gods "Ra" and "Atum" in their right hand, symbolizing power and authority



Figure (13)  
The Scepter  
"Was"<sup>(3)</sup><sup>1</sup>



Figure (13)  
The Was Scepter and Its  
Relationship to the Sun  
(Khepri, One of the  
Forms of the Sun(1) .

<sup>1</sup>) <https://www.ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

<sup>2</sup>) Burt M. Hrow, translated by Philip Atiya (1988): The Egyptian Book of the Dead (From the Papyrus of Ani in the British Museum), Madbouly Library, 1st edition, p.129.

<sup>3</sup>) <https://www.ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

## • Its Appearance and Significance:

The ancient Egyptians believed that the movement of the god "Ra," the sun god, resembled the movement of a human on the waters of the Nile. In their perception, the sky was a vast ocean. Therefore, they believed that the god "Ra" made his daytime journey from east to west on a boat called "Mandjet." His nighttime journey in the underworld, from west to east, was made on another boat named "Mesktet."



Figure (14)  
Sun Boats(1)



Figure (15)  
One of the Sun Boats and Its  
Relationship to the Sun (1)

## Its Relationship to the Sun:

These boats are the means by which the god "Ra" travels during his journey, moving from his daytime journey in the celestial realm to his nighttime journey in the underworld. They appear in many wall paintings carrying the god "Khepri."

1) [https:// www.ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://www.ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/)  
938

## Symbol of the Lotus Flower:

The “lotus flower” is closely associated with ancient Egyptian art. It was considered the flower of divine beauty.

### • Its Origin:

The lotus flower emerged from the water of “the primordial ocean” during the initial creation when the god "Ra" first appeared. Its first manifestation was above the lotus flower, which rose from “the water of the abyss”, as stated in the texts for the construction of the Edfu Temple. The ancient Egyptians would often hold the lotus flower in their hands to inhale its fragrance.

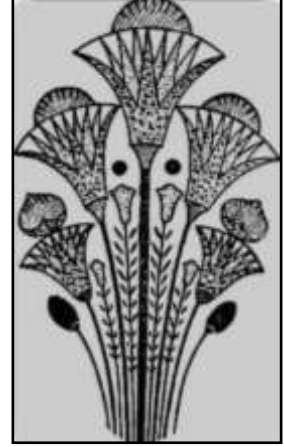


Figure (16)  
The “lotus flower” (1)

### Its Significance:

The lotus flower symbolizes resurrection because it closes when darkness falls and submerges in the water, only to emerge and bloom again when sunlight touches it<sup>(2)</sup>. This cycle led to its appearance as a religious motif in tombs and on coffin walls<sup>(3)</sup>. and over mummy wrappings before burial<sup>(4)</sup>. Lotus wreaths were also presented to the

1) <https://www.albawabhnews.com>.

2) Mohamed Al-Sagheer (1984): Papyrus and Lotus in Ancient Egyptian Civilization, Cairo.

3) Hanan Hanafi Mahmoud Saleh Al-Bahnasawi (2010): Ancient Egyptian Doughs: Their Composition and Impact on Developing Artistic and Heritage Values for Teacher Students at the Faculty of Art Education in the Field of Pottery, Ph.D. dissertation, unpublished research, Faculty of Art Education, Helwan University. Ibid,136:137.

4) Sherin Al-Kurdi (2021): The Secret of the Ancient Egyptians' Fascination with the Lotus Flower (Akhbar Al-Youm) (February 14, 2021).

deceased around the neck or on the forehead to grant them life. The flower was found atop women's heads for fragrance and adornment and on the crowns of temple columns<sup>(1)</sup>.

### **Its Appearance:**

The lotus flower is depicted emerging from the water and opening its petals to greet the sun at dawn. At sunset, it closes its petals and sinks back into the water, waiting for the sun rise in the following day.

### **Its Relationship to the Sun:**

The lotus flower was the first to greet the sun god "Ra" at the beginning of creation when it emerged from the primordial water of "Nun". It was also offered as a sacrifice to "Ra" and "Aton". It is often found at the ends of solar boats.



Figure (17)  
The "lotus flower" and  
its Rrealationship to the  
Sun<sup>(2)</sup>

### **The Results :**

**Through The Previous Presentation, The following results Could be reached:**

- 1- The sun has many symbols for the anciet Egyptians .
- 2- The word sun had many names among the ancient Egyptians, which differed according to the Period of Its appearance – sunrise – noon – sunset.

<sup>1)</sup> Hanan Hanafi Mahmoud Saleh Al-Bahnasawi (2010): Ibid,136:137.

2) <https://www.albawabhnews.com>.

- 3- The ancient Egyptians used symbols and myths to embody and express their imaginative perceptions of the sun

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