



The Gods of the Egyptians, Volume 1

E.A. Wallis Budge

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Thoth, the ibis-headed god of wisdom, inventor of the art of writing; Osiris, the dead god who arose and set the pattern for death-and-resurrection gods ever since; Isis, the great mother, wandering through the reed swamps; Anubis, conductor of the dead, with jackal head; Bast, the cat goddess; Set, the evil serpent; Ptah, the living mummy ... For more than 2,500 years, since the days of Herodotus, students have found the gods of Ancient Egypt a source of fascination and wonder. Strange beings who lived in a world of their own (as opposed to the human gods of the European people), irrational powers and menaces, sometimes animal-like, sometimes superhuman, sometimes incalculable in their evil potentialities, they still have the power to move men's thought.

By far the most thorough, most useful coverage of the gods of Ancient Egypt is this book by Dr. Budge of the British Museum, one of the foremost Egyptologists of the century. In it is presented practically everything known about the high gods, the local gods, demigods, demons, and mythological figures of Khem. Dr. Budge provides full information on the origins of the ancient religion; its peculiarly Egyptian aspects; evolution of cults, rites, and gods; the priesthoods; the heretical aberration of Ikhnaten and the Aten cult; the cult of Osiris; the Book of the Dead and its rites; the sacred animals and birds; heaven and hell, and much other secret wisdom that has been discovered hidden in mummy cases or written on tomb walls. The text is profusely illustrated, with many reproductions of tomb and mummy-case paintings, while many full texts are presented, with both hieroglyphs and translation.

Dr. Budge's book is a standard work in the history of religion. It is also a most useful background book for anyone seriously interested in the life and thought of Ancient Egypt, an expicator of many of the obscurer passages in the Book of Dead.

The Gods of the Egyptians, Volume 1 Details

Date : Published June 1st 1969 by Dover Publications (first published January 1st 1969)

ISBN : 9780486220550

Author : E.A. Wallis Budge

Format : Paperback 608 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Mythology, Northern Africa, Egypt, Nonfiction, History, Religion, Archaeology, Egyptology

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Scott says

While this is certainly the "authority" on Egyptian studies, I felt that it was still a bit over my head, as though it was written solely for college professors and other scholars. There are more modern and less heavy books about Egyptian mythology that tell the same stories without overwhelming you word-wise.

Adam says

Gonna be a long long time in readin', however, bes' lil bathroom book I've dug up in a good long while. Chex yer local lib. The amt o' time for loanage is solid for readin' n' not wearin' uv. Then pick it back a short bit later.

Best part!? Freakin' hieroglyphs in text! So that's way rad. Musta commissioned some bro to make a typeset for that. Man, back in the days was legit.

Kay McCormick says

I enjoyed owning this book and I am anxious to replace it. It was my introduction to Egyptian Religion and Mythology, and kindled my interest in Ancient Egypt, Antiquity, and writing systems generally. Read this book and become the expert Egyptologist on your block, I guarantee it!

Lynn says

Great for any Egyptian library!

Shaun Appleby says

Although originally written in 1904 this work is a compelling overview of Egyptian mythology and theology which makes a logical historical starting point for the erudite student and an excellent general reference. This volume begins with an overview of the cultural and geographic factors influencing Egyptian religious practices then provides a thorough analysis of the major gods, their worship and their mythological significance. The author seems to convey the essential qualities of Egyptian beliefs and helps one overcome one's preconceptions of divinity as familiar to later Occidental practice and world view. Those who suggest Budge is 'dated' merely because of the time which has passed since these volumes were published may be missing something of the subtlety and sympathy with which he consistently treats this subject.

These volumes are both copiously and beautifully illustrated in this facsimile edition.

Peter J. says

Excellent overview of the main actors in the ancient Egyptian faith. It is nice actually knowing what I am looking at in ancient vignettes now.
