

## ORIGINS by Dr. J. F. Rappoport

Many have asked me about the foundations of the Cult of Isis. When did it begin? From whence does it originate? Indeed, the Cult seems to be far more than the dictionary definition of a cult when we meet allies and members throughout the globe, but this does not help answer the question for the young initiate. Herein, I have attempted to distil, as much as need be known for the initiate.

The original Cult was founded, or so they say, by Isis herself and her son, Horus. It was a part of what was known as the Osirian League, a resistance movement against Set and his children. The League, as a whole, consisted of more than merely humans. It included nocturnal beings referred to as The Children of Osiris, said to be akin to the Setites and Cainites, but spared by Horus for their service to his father. It also included shape-shifters that could change themselves into jaguars, crocodiles and wolves. Now however, the League is no more, having long crumbled with time.

Horus established the Osirian League in honour of his father, murdered by Set who then held the throne of Egypt in his hands, either in person or by proxy in the shape of a puppet pharaoh. The Cult of Isis was a part of this who had been taught the magical secrets taught to Isis by Thoth, among others of their own discovery.

The Cult long had sacred duties, lasting millennia at a time, ensuring that immortal beings known as Shemsu-heru, the Followers of Horus, were cared for (and created where applicable).

Many of the secrets held by the original Cult were lost as, during times of Horus' absence and world change, the Cult became fragmented and, in some cases, centred around their own personal gain. Eventually, the last High Priest, Nikos, was betrayed and murdered by an agent of Set who stole part of the secret Great Rite, a powerful magic of Rebirth, known only to the High Priests of the Cult and Horus, himself. When Set used this partial magic he created corrupt versions of the Shemsu-heru, seven twisted, evil, but immortal creatures, which served, not him, but Apophis, and these beings have, thus, been known as the Children of Apophis. They are formidable, and it would be wise to allow only a Shemsu-heru deal with them where encountered. Many of our

number have fallen in foolhardy attempts to engage in this particularly foulest of enemies.

Unfortunately, with the death of Nikos lay the death of many great secrets, including the hekau (magic) of the ancients, known only now by the Shemsu-heru and forbidden by Horus to be taught to any mortals. Horus, is now, the only being alive who knows the secret Great Rite of Rebirth, taught to Isis by Thoth, that brought Horus back from Duat, the Underworld, to lead us in our war against Apophis and all of his agents on Earth.

The Children of Apophis and the death of Nikos all occurred while Horus was last in Duat. When he returned he found much changed, and re-established the Cult, although he withheld knowledge of the Great Rite and the ancient Egyptian magic.

For nearly two thousand years, the Cult has shared its rough times in history, but now we are stronger than ever, and our strength has been increasing from year to year.

Long live Osiris. Long live Horus. Hail to Isis, and extol to Ma'at.

## BELIEFS AND DUTIES

The Cult of Isis, so far as the initiate is concerned, is a religion that worships Isis, the sister-husband of Osiris the Dying and Rising God, and mother of Horus; and practices the magic taught to her by Thoth. Strictly speaking, the magic practised now is but a weak variant on the hekau used in Ancient Egypt, although we aspire to know the Ra-hekau, the Greater Magick that but a few of us are rumoured to be able to use. Once, it is said, the High Priest knew Ra-hekau, but it is said that with the absence of the Great Rite of Rebirth, that Ra-hekau is denied unto her.

Osiris is our Spiritual Father, he who inspires goodness, and is the protector of Ma'at, the harmony of the world. It is towards his ideals that we aspire, it is in his name that we strive.

Isis is our Spiritual Mother, she who was taught great power by Thoth and learnt the True Name (Ren) of Ra. It is she who guides our hand in all that we do and gives us hekau.

Horus is our Founder, he who lives and dies, to live again. He who guides us in our war against Apophis, the Serpent, and Set, the evil one who rests. We seek out and aim to destroy his agents, wherever they may be.

The Shemsu-heru are his immortal agents, who like him live and die, to live again. We protect and aid them in their fight. We are the Keepers of the Crypt and their eyes and ears.

It is our sworn duty to watch and guard over the Shemsu-heru from those who would destroy them, to seek out the agents of Apophis and act against them when we can. His agents include, the Followers of Set, and other night-walkers, and, of course, his Seven Children: Tutu the Doubly Evil, Hemhemti the Roarer, Amam the Devourer, Kharebutu the Fourfold Fiend, Hauhra of the Backward Face, Qetu the Evil-Doer, and Saatetta, Darkner of the Earth.

## MEMBERSHIP

All are welcome in the Cult of Isis, so long as they believe in our cause. When a person first joins she is a neophyte, a new member, on probation and awaiting initiation into full membership.

- Neophyte / Accolade – The neophyte is a probationary member of the Cult. They must study and understand the Testaments of the Cult before they are considered ready to become a full Initiate. It is usually expected that the neophyte shows some dedication and tendency towards hekau, especially if she intends to go on to be an Apprentice.
- Initiate – The Initiate is a full member of the Cult. Without proceeding to learn the occult ways of Isis this is as far as any member may advance. The vast majority of the membership tends to remain in the Initiate level with members loyal to the cause, but lacking either the dedication, or desire to advance further in occult study. Therefore, required duties of Initiates tend to be limited, and they are often called upon for what aid they can supply within their day-to-day spectrum of activities.
- Apprentice °4-°1 – If the Initiate wishes to continue with her occult study then she is titled an Apprentice of the Cult. The Apprentice must learn and study the occult ways (often under the guidance of a mentor, although these days increasingly without), and advance in her understanding of Ma'at. Duties may be expected of the Apprentice from occasion as they receive insight as to the true nature of the Cult of Isis (wary to give away its secrets too soon to avoid another incident of treachery as with the last High Priest, Nikos). Apprenticeship has four degrees through which one must travel in order to progress to the next rank.
- Watcher (Lesser) – Watchers are accomplished (°3+) Apprentices whom then dedicate their lives to the observation of troublesome areas. They actively observe possible agents of Apophis, or evidence of his taint, and report back to higher authorities. Watchers rarely act upon their discoveries, but observe and report. They may also report on artefacts and discoveries of note.
- Searcher (Lesser) – Searchers are accomplished (°3+) Apprentices who then dedicate their lives to the seeking out and retrieving artefacts and other related items to the Shemsu-heru. Some of their duties may double that of a Watcher at times, but they may, at times, act upon their discoveries, if they feel capable of success, else they should report back and action can then be decided upon.
- Custodians – Custodians are chosen only from promising (°2+) Apprentices, and are responsible for tending the khat of a Shemsu-heru in death to ensure that no harm comes to it while it is in Duat. Most Custodians dedicate their entire lives to this one duty, at times not only tending to the khat, but also the ka.
- Retainers – Retainers are those that a Shemsu-heru has chosen to accompany him in his deeds. If the Shemsu-heru should die the Retainers will usually become the first generation of Custodians. Retainers are chosen by the Shemsu-heru alone, and cannot be a title achieved any other way.
- Disciple – Any Apprentice who dedicates their lives to greater occult understanding so that they may be better allies to the Shemsu-heru.
- Adept – Once an Apprentice reaches °1 they may be considered an Adept. An Adept may also be known under other names according to what paths they have chosen.
- Watcher (Adept) – A Watcher Adept's duties go beyond that of a Lesser Watcher and extend to discovering evidence of Apophis not only on a "street" level but also within entire governments or international organisations (legal or illegal).

- Searcher (Adept) – Extending beyond the Lesser Searcher, the Adept seeks out greater items than before, including the lost tombs of Shemsu-heru.
- Priest – A teacher of the Ma’at, custodian of the faith. It is the duty of the Priest, firstly, to know the teachings of Osiris and Isis; secondly, it is to pass on those teachings to the Apprentices. It is the Priest who ordains and initiates the Neophyte. There are three degrees of Priesthood, the duties and responsibilities differ with each degree. A Priest of the second degree will act less as mentor and more as Vizier for a particular area within the Cults domain.
- High Priest – A Priest of the first degree and the leader of the Cult, one of the few Cult members to have regular contact with Horus, himself.

The sad truth is, however, that there are, more often than not, more titles than there are members in any given area. The Cult may be growing, but it is still weak in many parts of the world and the membership is fragile, even at this our strongest time since its reformation.

## HEKAU

Hekau is the Egyptian word for magic. While the true Hekau of the Ancients is practised only by the Shemsu-heru themselves, the Cult of Isis styles their own magic after that ancient magic.

Sensuality, sex and their power in ritual and social interaction have always played a part in Cult magic. Hieroglyphics, Demotic Egyptian chanting and geomantic architecture continue to empower rituals. Amulets with powerful symbols, including the scarab, ankh, djet pillar and faïence images of ancient gods are not even difficult to find 2,000 years after the final fall of Egypt to invaders.

Alchemy, oracular Astrology and Enchantment of amulets and statues, and Healing (mostly towards fertility) are among the standard teachings of the Cult, although there are many members who explore other aspects of Isis’ limitless powers.

Those who study it, do so because they believe in the cause, they believe in the struggle to restore Ma’at and to defeat the agents of Set and Apophis. They believe in the preparation for the Great War between Horus and Apophis. Perhaps this is why so few Cult of Isis members Awaken to the True Magick or Ra-hekau.

