

Osirian Mythology Re-enactment Script

Writer: Anna Thompson, anat@esetsethet.com

Osirian Mythology Re-enactment Script

GEB:	<i>looks at Court</i>	We have summoned this Court as a means to end the disputations between these two brothers caused by, what some believe to be an error in judgement on my part.
	<i>looks at audience</i>	Djehouty Keeper of Texts! Read for us my decision as it was written:
THOTH:		<p>Geb's words to Seth: Go to the place in which you were born, Seth [of] Upper Egypt.</p> <p>Geb's words to Horus" Go to the place in which your father was drowned, Horus [of] Lower Egypt.</p> <p>Geb's words to Horus and Seth: I have separated you Lower and Upper Egypt.</p> <p>Then it seemed wrong to Geb that the portion of Horus was like the portion of Seth. So Geb gave Horus his inheritance, for he is the son of his firstborn son.</p> <p>Geb's words to the Ennead: I have appointed Horus, the firstborn. Him alone, Horus, the inheritance. To his heir, Horus, my inheritance. To the son of my son, Horus, the Jackal of Upper Egypt. The firstborn, Horus, the Opener-of-the-ways..."</p>
		<i>Osiris enters from side, stands beside Ennead between Geb</i>

ENNEAD:	<i>Long pauses between each line Ennead looks at each other in amazement</i>	Look there! Here comes a shadow! Look there! Here comes a Spirit!
		It is Wen-nefer! He has come to see the trial of his son!
SETH:	<i>Looks away from Osiris to look at Geb</i>	Why has my rightful title been taken from me? I am the elder to my brother Osiris. Why am I not now awarded my due?
ENNEAD:		He claims to be elder to his brother. How so?
SETH:		Is it not known and written that I was born early?
GEB:		Only because you pushed through the side of your great mother's belly! You may have been first born but your brother is still your elder.
SETH:		My temperament may not be to your liking but it is still written that I was born firstly. Egypt is mine to rule and I will do it justly. For many years it is I who guard the Sun barque of Re! It is I who is of great length in nose and ears! It is my voice that is heard in the rolling desert sands! I am rightful to rule Egypt, there is no need to have further proceedings.

ENNEAD:	<i>Loud accusation towards Seth</i>	The thresher of un-ripened wheat cannot rule! <i>(pause)</i>
SETH:	<i>Turns to Ennead</i>	I did not kill my brother! I carried my brother on my back for our sister. I pulled him from the waters.
	<i>Turns to Geb</i>	It is not written anywhere in our texts that I harmed my brother!
ENNEAD:	<i>Turns to Seth</i> <i>Turns to Thoth</i>	He has motive! But, it is written that he is innocent!
THOTH:		In our Pyramid Texts, it is written: Extinguished is the flame. The flame serpent is not found in the house of him who possesses Ombos. It is a serpent, which will bite, which has slipped back into the house of him whom it will bite, that it may remain in it”.
HORUS:		This could mean anyone who resides in the province of Ombos!
GEB:	<i>Looks at Seth (long pause)</i>	Was it not by your own words that decreed your fate?
SETH:	<i>Looks at Geb</i>	I said no such thing to anyone!
THOTH:		It is written on our papyrus that... [Isis] walked under the trees, she looked and saw the Ennead as they sat eating bread before the All-Lord in his pavilion. And Seth looked and saw her coming from afar. Thereupon she pronounced a spell of hers and Isis changed

		<p>herself into a young girl of beautiful body, the like of which did not exist in the whole land. Then he desired her very much. Seth got up from sitting and eating bread from the great Ennead and went to meet her, while no one but himself had seen her. He stood behind a sycamore, called</p>
		<p>to her, and said to her ‘I am with you handsome girl!’ She said to him ‘Let me tell, my great lord: As for me, I was the wife of a herdsman and I bore him a son. My husband died and the boy began to tend the cattle of his father. But then a stranger came. He sat down in my stable and spoke thus to my child: ‘I shall beat you, I shall take your father’s cattle and I shall throw you out! So he spoke to him. Now I wish to make you his defender. Then Seth said to her: ‘Shall one give the cattle to the stranger while the man’s son is still here?’” Thereupon Isis changed herself into a Kite, flew up, and sat on top of an acacia. She called to Seth and said to him ‘Weep for yourself! Your own mouth has said it. Your own cleverness has judged you! What do you want!</p>
ENNEAD:		Happenings obscured by marshes!
SETH:	<p><i>Long pause; Looks around waiting for an answer</i></p>	The Kite flew away before I could speak! Shall one give the cattle to the stranger while the man’s son is still here?
	<p><i>Emphasis on Yes</i></p>	Yes! What good is an unskilled herdsman to cattle? The flock would get lost and starve. The herd would dwindle and die!

	<i>Looks at Geb</i>	Is that the fate of Egypt? What battles has Horus won? What blood has he shed? He has no experience. He does not know enough of the matters of kingship.
ENNEAD		He has a point!
SETH:		Horus would only be a puppet to his mother's whims!
GEB:		What of this?
SETH:		It is Isis who seeks rulership!
ENNEAD		<i>Pause & wait for Ennead to react;</i> <i>Seth nods his head yes while looking around;</i> <i>Shock and whispers amongst Ennead themselves</i>
SETH:	<i>Seth gets angrier</i>	It is she who has planned all of this and it is she who plans to benefit! Is it not written that she obtained power from Re, not in the guise of aid but under duress? Is it not she that stood at the side of her brother knowing that position could benefit her plans? And it is not Isis that needed to "fashion" a son in order to keep the rulership from slipping her grasp? A young king would be easy for her to sway. And is it not now, since Osiris has become Foremost of the Westerners, that she can co-rule

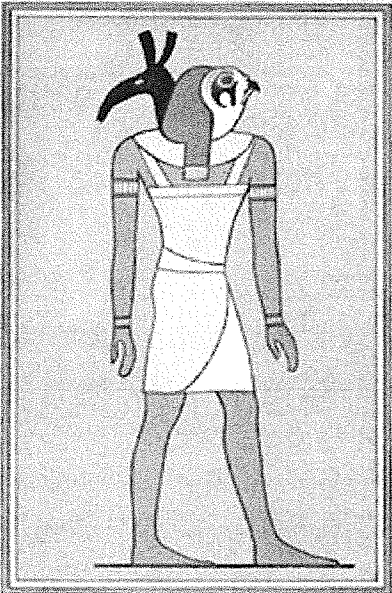
	<i>Turns to Isis, emphasis on And</i>	the Beautiful West? And her attentions were even focused on me. Why else did she call me into the woods in the guise of a beautiful woman? Just to have me coerced into faulty reason? No she has eyes for me for she knows that I will be vindicated and have my rightful place as king. It is she who is most dangerous!
ISIS:		You have always been jealous of your elder brother.
GEB:		My daughter Isis, why have you never conceived whilst Osiris walked among us? Why did you wait for his passing before you bore him an heir?
ENNEAD:		Isis broke with tradition in conceiving Horus! Is that not written Djehouty?
THOTH:		It is so.
ENNEAD:	<i>Ennead amongst themselves</i>	More happenings obscured by marshes!
ENNEAD:	<i>Ennead to Geb (gossiping)</i>	That tradition is unnecessary!
ENNEAD:	<i>Ennead to audience</i>	Not when it comes to determining legitimate heirs!
ISIS:	<i>Turns to Geb Turns to Nephthys</i>	But there was a witness to my knowing my brother! Nephthys was by my side. Nephthys speak! For the sake of my son!

ENNEAD:	<i>Looks at Nephthys</i>	Look she grieves for the loss of her brother!
NEPHTHYS:		Why would a mother stand in defence of her sister's son when her own son has been wronged? It is my son, Anubis, who was the first born heir to Osiris, that should rule!
GEB:		No Nephthys, Your son has earned a coveted place as Usherer of the Westerners, balancer of the scales and the Great Embalmer. No, your son has shown no interest in kingship.
ISIS:		Neither did my sister do what is demanded by tradition. She cannot now seek recognition for her son and deny it of mine!
NEPHTHYS:		I went to Osiris at dusk. Without words we knew one another and he knew not that I was the twilight.
ENNEAD:	<i>Ennead to Geb (pause)</i>	More obscured happenings!
ENNEAD:	<i>Ennead amongst themselves (pause)</i>	She and her sister look much alike!
ENNEAD:		Yes but it is also said that Osiris and his brother look much alike.
ISIS:		Horus is the true heir and rightful ruler! I conceived Horus out of continued love and devotion to my brother.
THOTH:		It is written in our Pyramid Texts:

		The bird comes, the kite comes, they are Isis and Nephthys. They are come in search of their brother Osiris, they are come in search of their brother. Thou who are here, thou who art there, weep for thy brother, Isis, weep for thy brother, Nephthys, weep for thy brother. Isis sits, her hands upon her head. Nephthys has indeed seized the tip of (her) two breasts because of her brother, Anubis being on his belly, Osiris being wounded, Anubis before the fist(?)
ISIS:		The seed of life was still within my brother. We caused that seed to arouse and come out of my brother. I caught the seed and swallowed it.
ENNEAD:		By her magic she had an heir!
ISIS:		No, life was still within my brother, small and fragile. And it is from him at every new year when the Nile rises, and the valleys flood that my brother's pieces reconnect and are made whole. And his seed will cause the land to be fertile once more. My brother's seed is great of Heka. My brother is great of Heka. I am great of Heka!
SETH:		There is no heat in a drowned body. There is no life is a phallus of clay. Yet, I am the one who is Great of Strength and Great of Passion!
HORUS:		I must speak to all of this! I was conceived out of a burning desire and in Heka. The gods deemed it fit that I was born on a lucky day and I am fashioned in the image of Re.

		I do not doubt my mother's devotion and love for me but I also do not disbelieve my mother's drive for greatness. She is gifted and skilled and many men have come to her seeking her wisdom and guidance. She is the Great Protectress that needs not protection herself!
	<i>Turns to Seth</i>	My brother says that I have not won any battles, but I have won many battles against my brother!
SETH:		With thy mother's help!
HORUS:	<i>Turns to Thoth</i>	Yes some of the battles I have won with her aid but is it not written that she aided you and even spared your life during one of our battles? Djehouty?
THOTH:	<i>Starts...</i>	It is written....
SETH:	<i>Seth holds up his hand in Stop gesture & then storms off</i>	That will not be necessary!
		<i>Geb leads Ennead out</i> <i>Isis & Nephthys stand beside Thoth to hold up shroud</i> <i>Horus, Thoth and Osiris stay</i> <i>Horus faces his Ba</i>
HORUS:		This is all too great for me today!
BA OF HORUS:		All that was said cannot be unsaid for it is now written.

HORUS:		And what more could I have said? What more was there to say?
BA OF HORUS:		Have you proven yourself?
HORUS:		Am I fit to rule? I was tailored for this role. What do I need to prove? Geb has chosen. And what of my brother? Despite his misfortunes he persists!
BA OF HORUS:		He has been cast to play his role, to make balance. So has my mother too been cast.
HORUS:		Was my brother not there to help pull my father from the Nile? It is written that he carried him on his back. How did my brother come to know of my father's whereabouts? Was he travelling with my mother? What for?
BA OF HORUS:		She took solace in her brother's arms.
HORUS:		Why would my mother conceive me under the cover of marshes? Why did it need to be obscured?
BA OF HORUS:		It is written that she was there to hide from her brother.
HORUS:	<i>Horus off to one side</i>	But he was there with her! I do not doubt my mother's love for me but I question her motives.

<p>BA OF HORUS:</p>		<p>Why should a son rule while the father is still alive?</p> <p>Perhaps it takes a wise father to place a son who is ready above himself. You were right when you said your mother harbours ambitions! In the</p>
		<p>guise of protecting you, she might eventually rule the whole world – or, at least, be worshipped around the world. For now, though, Egypt must be ruled and you have to vanquish Seth, even if he is your father, and prove that you are ready and worthy. In spite of all his protestations, believe me, he will be pleased!</p>
	<p>Horus will walk centre stage and Seth will come back to the front stage and Horus will stand facing the audience. Seth will stand with his back to Horus away from the audience. Horus will then turn his face to the right. As Horus turns his face, Seth will then look over his own and Horus' left shoulder</p>	<p>ANTWEY - Ending</p>  <p>Horus-Seth</p>

	<p>Wait for Horus and Seth to finish</p> <p>Geb will lead Ennead back in and stands in a line across the front of stage.</p> <p>All actors on stage line up with Geb and Ennead.</p>	
GEB:		We have summoned this Court as a means to end the disputations between these two brothers.

Osirian Mythology Re-enactment Script

Concept: This is a re-enactment of Osirian mythology with most of the story coming from established and agreed upon aspects of the story of the Contendings of Horus and Seth. There are also mythology story pieces taken from primary resources such as the Shabaka Stone and the Pyramid Texts (as listed in the centre column).

Together with new interpretations added by Anna Thompson, Daniel Kolos and Mark Thompson along with the established existed story line, this re-enactment means to portray another view point on this mythology.

Who: There are 6 main speaking actors: Horus, Seth, Thoth, Isis and Nephthys. There is one silent main character, Osiris. There is also an Ennead of gods. There will be a minimum of 6 of them and they will speak as a Greek chorus

Venue: This re-enactment is to take place during the during the SSEA (Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities) Scholar's Symposium which is November 2, 3 and 4th, 2007. We have been asked to do this script twice on the Sunday morning (4th). It will be held at the ROM on the 4th floor in the lecture hall.

Audience: SSEA members of the public, grads and undergrads of Egyptology, Egyptologists and professors of Egyptology from around Canada and possibly from USA and UK.

STAGE POSITIONS

Ennead will stand as a group. Two rows of 3 or 4 people to the far right of the front lecture area.

Geb will stand front and center at the back of the lecture area.

Thoth will stand to Geb's right.

Osiris will appear to Geb's left next to Ennead

Nephthys will stand on lecture area to the left (across from the Ennead)

Isis will stand to her right closer to audience but on lecture area

Horus will stand to lecture area left closer to Isis across from Ennead but will be standing amidst the first couple of rows of audience.

Seth will stand to lecture area center and right. Closer to Ennead but will also be standing amidst the first couple of rows of audience.

