



بحث رقم ٤

Goddess Hatmehyt in Dendara Temple

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Abstract:

Egyptian goddess, Hatmehyt was a minor fish-deity. Her cult was centered in the area around Djedet, a city in the Delta known to the Greeks as Mendes. In the Greco-Roman period, the cult of Hatmehyt grew and she gained popularity that allows her to appear alongside the great deities of the Egyptian pantheon .

Different legends and several offerings scenes dedicated to Hatmehyt are realized in different locations in Dendara Temple complex, precisely in the parts dedicated principally to the god Osiris. Moreover a number of Hatmehyt's epithets which define different aspects and roles that the goddess plays in the Ancient Egyptian pantheon are connected to the city of Dendara and its temple. The numerous presences of the goddess in this place of cult and the different epithets of the goddess relating to Dendara prove that a special cult was devoted to the goddess Hatmehyt in this place.

This research concludes that the main reason for the presence of a special cult devoted to the goddess Hatmehyt (a native deity of Lower Egypt) in Dendara temple (a great place of cult in Upper Egypt) returns back to her relationship with god Osiris and his wife and sister goddess Isis. In mythology, Hatmehyt played a small but significant role in the myth of Osiris; she helped goddess Isis in her search for the dismembered god's body parts and became thus associated with her.

Moreover, Hatmehyt assumed several epithets which show that she has played the same role of Isis. Hatmehyt also played the role of the protector of Osiris; she was the one who helped him to get rid of his enemies. This confirms clearly that Hatmehyt in the temple of Dendara was regarded as the sister of Osiris, which means that she was manifested there as an aspect of Isis .

Keywords: Hatmehyt, fish-goddess, Egyptian pantheon, religion, Dendara, Osiris, Isis, Djedet.