



بحث رقم ٥

The Epithets of the Goddess Hatmehyt

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Abstract:

Egyptian goddess, Hatmehyt was a minor fish-deity whose traces have survived throughout history since the 4th dynasty (2670 BC to 2500 BC) until Roman times (30 BC-641 AD). Her cult was centered in the area around *Djedet*, a city in the Delta known to the Greeks as Mendes. The Epithets of Hatmehyt define different aspects and roles that the goddess plays in the Ancient Egyptian pantheon. In many ways, they reveal her nature as it was perceived by the ancient Egyptians and reflect the different aspects and roles that the deity was able to play in the Egyptian pantheon.

This study aims to identify not only the main titles of Hatmehyt, but also her honorary appellations during the ancient Egyptian periods as well as their developments. These epithets include those that concern mainly Hatmehyt, but were carried also by other goddesses as well as those epithets which were carried only by Hatmehyt. Consequently, the study is an attempt to answer the following question: whether the nominations of this divinity do vary according to the period? Thus, the study sheds more light on the personality of Hatmehyt throughout her appellations.

Geographical epithets of Hatmehyt are the most common and important ones, especially those that connected with the XVIth *Nome* and its capital, *Djedet*. The New Kingdom witnessed the birth of the earliest known title of the goddess which has a geographical aspect: « 1ryt-(ib) 9dt: She who resides in *Djedet* ». This highlights the link between Hatmehyt and her main cult center, *Djedet*. Such geographical title was considered as the most common for the goddess who beards it in the all next periods respectively.

Keywords: Hatmehyt, Banebdjedet, Osiris, Isis, epithet, Dolphin's *Nome*, Mendes, *Djedet*.