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The Goddess Nut

By Judi Singleton

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Nut the Mother Goddess Of Us All

Her name is pronounced 'Noot'. 'Nuit' means 'night.'

Nut was originally a mother-goddess who had many children. The

hieroglyph for her name, which she is often seen wearing on her head is

a water pot, but it is also thought to represent a womb.

She was the daughter of the air god, Shu and water goddesses, Tefnut.

She was shown in Egyptian artwork as a dark, star-covered naked woman,

holding her body up in an arch, facing downwards. Her arms and legs

were imagined to be the pillars of the sky, and hands and feet were

thought to touch the four cardinal points at the horizon. Far

underneath her lay the earth god, Geb, sometimes ithphallyic, looking

up at his sister-wife. She was also described as a cow goddess, taking

on some of the attributes of Hathor. Geb was described as the "Bull of

Nut" in the Pyramid Texts. As a great, solar cow, she was thought to

have carried Ra up into the heavens on her back, after he retired from

his rule on the Earth.

She is also pictured as a giant sow, suckling many piglets. These

The Goddess Nut

piglets represented the stars, which she swallowed each morning before dawn. Nut was considered to be the mother of the sun and the moon.

During the day, Nut and Geb are separated, but each evening Nut comes down to meet Geb and this causes darkness. If storms came during the day, it was believed that Nut had somehow slipped closer to the Earth.

Nut is the barrier separating the forces of chaos from the ordered

cosmos in this world. Her fingers and toes were believed to touch the four cardinal points or directions.

The sun god Re was said to enter her mouth after setting in the evening and travel through her body during the night to be reborn from her vulva each morning.

She gives birth to the sun in the east and swallows the sun in the west.

In one myth Nut gives birth to the Sun-god daily and he passes over her body until he reaches her mouth at sunset. He then passed into her mouth and through her body and is reborn the next morning. Another myth described the sun as sailing up her legs and back in the Atet (Matet) boat until noon, when he entered the Sektet boat and continued his travels until sunset. As a goddess who gave birth to the sun each day, she became connected with the underworld, resurrection and the tomb.

She was seen as a friend to the dead, as a mother-like protector to those who journeyed through the land of the dead. She was often painted on the inside lid of the sarcophagus, protecting the dead until he or she, like Ra, could be reborn in their new life.

The Goddess Nut

In the Book of the Dead, Nut was seen as a mother-figure to the sun god Ra, who at sunrise was known as Khepera and took the form of a scarab beetle (at noon he was Ra at his full strength, and at sunset he was known as Tem (Temu, Atem) who was old and weakening):

The gods rejoice greatly when they see my beautiful appearances from the body of the goddess Nut, and when the goddess Nut bringeth me forth.

She was also called on to help the deceased in one of the spells of the Book of the Dead:

There were many festivals to Nut through the year, including the 'Festival of Nut and Ra' and the 'Feast of Nut'. But, despite being a protector of the dead, she was a personification of the sky – a cosmic deity – and no temples or specific cult centers are linked to her.

She was thought to be the mother of five children on the five extra days of the Egyptian calendar, won by Thoth – Osiris who was born on the first day, Horus the Elder on the second, Set on the third, Isis on the fourth, and Nephthys the last born on the fifth day. The days on which these deities were born were known as the 'five epagomenal days of the year', and they were celebrated all over Egypt:

1. Osiris – an unlucky day
2. Horus the Elder – neither lucky nor unlucky
3. Seth – an unlucky day
4. Isis – a lucky day, "A Beautiful Festival of Heaven and Earth."
5. Nephthys – an unlucky day

How to pray to Nut. Let her as the mother of us all help us remember we

The Goddess Nut

are all brothers and sisters in this world. Let Nut come into your life and teach you to love your brothers and sister as yourself for we are all one.

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The Goddess Iduna

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Idunn, Idun and .

The goddess who keeps the apples of youth, by which the gods stay ever-young. Loki arranged for the etin Thjazi to abduct her, but then was forced to get her back, a deed which ended in Thjazi's death.

Apples are one of the oldest and holiest symbols of life and rebirth among the Germanic folk, appearing as grave-gifts from the Bronze Age onward.

One wonders what significance the symbol of the apple had here with the apple in the Garden of Eden.

Did the serpent offer Eve immortality. Was she punished for being like the Gods?

Apples are one of the first fruits growing in the wild. No one knows who domesticated the apple. But in the oldest writings it is considered a symbol of immortality.

Pray to this Goddess to claim the god and goddess within you. Claim all that this symbolizes.

About the author: Judi Singleton is the publisher of Jassmine's Journal get your ads in front of the right audience. subscribe to either the free or paid Journal at <http://www.motherearthpublishing.com>



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