



● Isis:

The following quote says a great deal about this goddess of the Egyptian people:

Isis wails like the wind, she shrieks in tempest, she carries the fragrance of spices and flowers throughout the country, she takes on the shape of a swallow, one of the swiftest birds and

typical of the rapidity of the wind, she employs the element of which she is mistress to revivify the dead Osiris, she possesses wings, as do all deities connected with the wind, and like the rest of her kind, she is constantly travelling up and down the land. - (Spence, Lewis; The Myths Of Ancient Egypt; p. 81; George G. Harrap & Co. London, 1915).

Isis was the daughter of Nut and Ra. She married her brother Osiris and together they had Horus. The Mexican goddess *Tezcatlipoca* of the Aztecs was very similar to Isis, who was thought to hold the qualities of Maat. Isis was the provider of life and food to the dead, bringing the cleansing air of heaven into the underworld. Both Isis and Nephthys were attributed with magical abilities, especially those of resurrection. Isis was also known as *Khut* and *Useret*.

● Maat:

The word *maat* in ancient writings, refers to a concept rather than a goddess. It was not until later times that Maat became a deity. The concept of Maat was a way of life employed by the Egyptian people, deemed as the ideal. Maat was an ordered, level and symmetrical system of which the qualities of truth, righteousness and of justice were the main focus. The western concept of this is balance, but it does not create an adequate picture of what these people perceived as being "balanced". Maat has an opposing force, or opposite, which is *Apophis* (Isfet). The concept of Maat is intrinsically entwined in the ways and writings of the Freemasons; the origins of which can be traced back as far as Ancient Egypt.

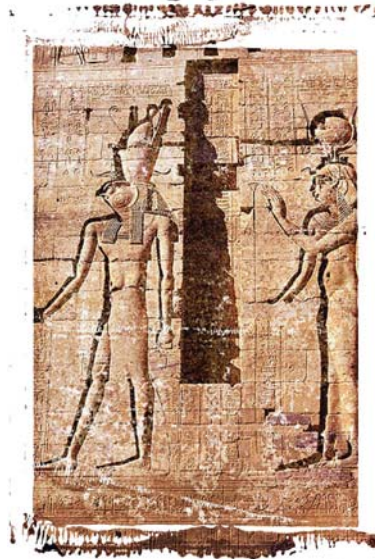
● Nephthys:

Nephthys (*Nephtys*) was the wife of brother, *Set*; sister of *Isis*; and mother of *Anubis*. Also written as *Nebt-het*, her name means literally *lady of the house or of the sky*. She represents the invisible - birth and death; that which is yet to come into being, and the unknown.

Although some sources claim that she had an affair with *Osiris* (hence *Anubis*), others do not. She remained faithful and helpful to her sister, *Isis* and is also associated with corruption.

● Nut:

Nut (*Rhea*) is Goddess of the day Sky. She was the mother of five children, in order of birth: *Osiris*, *Horus the Elder*, *Set*, *Isis*, and *Nephthys*. These children were born on five extra days created from light won by *Thoth* in a game of tables with *Silene*. Due to her infidelity, *Nut* had been cursed by husband, *Ra*, to never give birth to any children, in any day or night of any year. Clever *Thoth* created five extra days, enabling *Nut* to have her children. Daughter of *Shu* and *Tefnut*, in some writings, she is the wife of *Geb*. Other myths state that *Nut* was the wife of *Ra*, but she was loved by *Geb*, and in



returning his affections, brought upon herself the wrath of *Ra* in the form of a curse.

● Osiris:

Osiris (also *Ptah-Seker*) was thought by the ancients to be both a man and a god. Born of *Ra* and *Nut*, he married his sister, *Isis* and was the father of *Horus the Child*. *Osiris's* life came to an unfortunate end when his jealous brother, *Set*, murdered him and dismembered his body. Wife, *Isis*, magically reconstructed him and according to some legend, conceived a child with the reconstructed God. Following this, he died, becoming one with the stars and hence becoming the Ruler of the Kingdom of the Dead. He represented yesterday or that which has passed, and his son, *Horus*, represented today - that which is presently occurring.

● Poseidon:

Poseidon was ruler of the sea and a god of horses. He married *Amphitrite* and

together they had many sons including *Pegasus*, *Orion* and *Polyphemus*. Most of the sons were either brutal or monsters. *Poseidon* was a violent god, who was thought to cause earthquakes. His Roman equivalent is *Neptune*.

● Ra:

Sun god *Ra* (*Ptar*, *Re*, *Helios*) was identified with *Ptar*, in the Egyptian great city of *Memphis*, and was considered to be an earth god. God of architecture, art and creative skills, in other parts of Egypt, *Ra* was seen as a sun god, and there is a legend which says that he brought life to the first island that rose out of the waters. He is father of *Osiris*, *Set*, *Horus the Elder*, *Isis* and *Nephthys*.

● Silene:

This moon goddess was challenged by the Egyptian *Thoth* to a game of tables. She staked some of her light and the seventieth part of each illumination and lost. The contest was an attempt by *Thoth* to gain light to create more days in which *Nut* could give birth to her children, following a curse due to her infidelity, by husband, *Ra*.

● Thor:

Thor was the Norse god of agriculture, and was god of the common people, guarding over home, land and later on, connected with war, thunder and marriage. He is depicted with a magical hammer, a belt of strength and iron gloves. *Thor* was closely associated with the Roman *Jupiter*, having similar qualities. The day of *Jupiter* is Thursday, but the word Thursday comes from *Thor's-day*.

● Venus:

Venus was the popular Roman goddess of vegetation, beauty and love, and is closely associated with the goddess *Aphrodite*. In ancient times, there were many forms of the *Venus*: *Venus Felix* (good fortune), *Venus Genetrix* (had son *Aeneas*), *Venus Victrix* (victory), and *Venus Verticordia* (chastity).

