

The historical indication and the religious symbolism of the hippo in ancient Egypt.

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Introduction;

The care that the ancient Egyptian gave in raising their animals pushes us to search the origin of their religious dogmas, they sanctified many animals that were related to their lives, they didn't sanctify the animal itself but appreciated a creation secret within it, and type of the creator ability according to their believes.

Egyptians were horrified by the scene of predatory animals and the damage they cause, they thought and found the solution to protect themselves from their evil is by worshiping them, and they worshiped the hidden soul that is manifested inside the animal, based on that the animal gods were only manifestation of the almighty hidden god.

The walls of the rulers of the modern polity had many images of different kinds of animals that were drawn in the cemeteries since the ancient polity and the coming eras like hippo, crocodiles, turtles and frogs. The frog appeared in bonds drawn on the (Merorca) cemetery walls, turtle appeared in water on (Moho) cemetery, while cat disappeared in the drawings of that era and the fields' rats as well while they appeared in the drawings of the middle polity in sons of Hassan cemeteries beside the images of bird hunting and fishermen battles, at that era they used to live in caves and cemeteries.

The scientific name of the hippo is (Hippopotamidae) it is a mammal, species the double fingered which has only 2 kinds of animals the dwarf hippo and the hippo. They are considered large sized mammals with short legs, big mouth and head, four fingers and herbivores, with the crocodile they are considered the most appeared animals in the drawings of the ancient Egyptian polity where they appeared twice on the wall of (Khanam-Hotob) in a view of fishing where they appeared beneath the boat, also in a view of bird hunting.

The crocodile appeared in (Okh-Hotob) cemetery between 2 boats. The (Senbi) cemetery had a view of 6 hippos.

The modern polity cemeteries also had many images that showed hippo and crocodile but one of the most beautiful ones were at (Entef) cemetery in a view of hunting birds with sticks where a crocodile appeared eating a fish in an image similar to the one on (Kagmny) cemetery from the ancient polity. The images of hippos from the ancient polity era were more vital and had more movement, at (Idwet) cemetery we see a crocodile waiting for hippo to give birth to eat the newly born animal, at (Kagmny) we see a hippo attacking a crocodile.

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