

The Esthetic Values of depicting the Crocodile in Pre- Dynasty and Old Kingdom

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Abstract :

The ancient Egyptian contemplates everything in nature and analyzes it and concludes from it religious and worldly matters, and to strongly associate him with the animal through which he learns everything that benefits him and harms him, and sometimes has the power to fear or wish to protect it.

The crocodile was an important part of the life of the ancient Egyptian and there was a religious and worldly relationship with him.

The crocodile was used in the ancient Egyptian language in various forms of art and a symbol of different things and actions.

The crocodile was a part of the ancient Egyptian's daily life, as he faced him daily on his journey of hunting and searching for food, so he photographed him in different situations to highlight the danger he poses to his life, so we find that he was sainted in some areas such as Fayoum, Kom Ambo, Dandra and Gablen and others for his strength, ferocity and high fertility, besides his association with Nile, as he was known as a lord of water according to his nature as it is said that the Nile stems from his race, and he also knew that he Lord of the forest areas and swamps for his stability in them. He was photographed as a God in different images, sometimes a full crocodile, and another showed a human body and a crocodile's head, called "Sobek" topped with two feathers, and a bull horn in the middle of which was the sun's disk, and he held in both hands the scepter of the Was and the sign of Ankh the symbol of life, and usually appears sitting on altar and represents in green and is mentioned as the son of The god "Neith" and that he is the heir of the god "Geb" the lord of the earth in the texts of the Pyramids, and he was associated with the king and the monarchy and became a symbol for royal power, his reverence dates back to the pre-dynasty era, and to affirm his sanctity made him an artistic element because he believed that his reverence gives him benefit and keeps him away from harm.

Keywords:

(Crocodile- Crocodile in Egyptian art- old kingdom- SobekPre-Dynasty –)

The Introduction:

Signs of animal sanctification appeared in Egypt throughout the ages, since prehistoric times, and we see this through carefully drawn and sculpted animal shapes, correct proportions, and great care. All of this is due to man's sanctification of animals, either to benefit and benefit from them, or fear and desire to repel evil from him, and the gods have taken animal forms or a mixture of human and animal forms.

The crocodile was named in the hieroglyphic language "MSH" and occupied a great place in ancient Egypt, where crocodiles were lying on the banks of lakes. of harm to humans.

The ancient Egyptian described him as (with a good-natured face) and considered him the protector after his alliance with other gods, as his union with the god Ra and his protection for him in the sun's journey through the land of the dead.

The crocodile god was called "Sobek", and he was symbolized as the god of the Nile who created the Nile and its floods, and it was said that "the Nile stems from its race" due to its control and its association with the Nile and the flood every year. A creator represented in the form of a human with the head of a crocodile or in the form of a full crocodile, and he was most likely wearing a wig over his head with feathers with a sun disk surrounded by two horns or represented by the crown of Atvoim holding in both hands the wand of the "Was" and the ankh sign "ANKH" symbol of life. It has been sanctified in many places, including (Al-Jabal-Ben-Dandara-Sais), but its main home is Fayoum and Kom Ombo, and its sanctification dates back to the prehistoric era.

The research attempts to answer the following:

What is the nature of the crocodile that influenced ancient Egyptian thought?

- The reasons for the veneration of the crocodile and how they perceive it?

What are the aesthetic and symbolic values of the crocodile in ancient Egyptian art?

- What is the way to express the crocodile and the meanings associated with it in the ancient Egyptian language and writing?

The research aims to achieve the following:

- Clarifying and showing the artistic and symbolic values of the crocodile in ancient Egypt from the pre-dynastic era until the era of the Old Kingdom, to see the extent of the development of thought and its impact on art and the study of some models from different periods.

- Demonstrating the ability of the ancient Egyptian artist to use the crocodile animal to symbolize and indicate the benefit or harm it faces through sculpture, photography and illumination.

Research Methodology: The research follows the historical/analytical/descriptive method.

search limits:

Time limits: from the pre-dynastic era to the era of the Old Kingdom.

Spatial boundaries: Arab Republic of Egypt.

Results:

Explain the reasons for revering the crocodile and how they perceive it.

Study some models from different periods.

Knowing the reasons for his merging with some other deities.

- Shedding light on the development of the artistic, aesthetic and symbolic values of the crocodile in the arts

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