

Ra, or the Sun

Ra was the god of sun. He was born as a man, but once he passed away he transformed into a god. Ra had the body of a man and the head of a falcon and on his head was Sun, a very big bright disc that was burning and glowing intensely. Many believed that Ra created all forms of life, they believed that when Ra wept his tears created man. Ra was a very important god. He floated through the sky on his magical boat where he ruled in all the parts of the created world, the sky, the earth and the underworld.

The underworld was a fierce and dreadful place where people's souls went after death for judgement. If the deceased was successfully able to pass various demons and challenges, then he or she would reach the weighing of the heart. In this ritual, the heart of the deceased was weighed by Osiris against the feather of Maat, which represents truth and justice. Any heart that is heavier than the feather was rejected and eaten by Ammit, the devourer of souls, as these people were denied existence after death in the underworld. The souls that were lighter than the feather would pass this most important test, and would be allowed to travel toward Aaru, the "Field of Rushes", an ideal version of the world they knew of, in which they would plough, sow, and harvest the most wonderful crops.

Every night at sunset Ra would dive with his magical boat into the sea. What laid in front of him was a journey full of risks.

Every night Ra traveled from west to east through the underworld. In the underworld Ra would visit all of the twelve regions of the underworld. He spent one hour in each region. In the first five hours Ra had to face a lot of challenges. He had to pass through the waters of Osiris and conquer the sand realm of Sokar costing Ra a lot of energy. So much that Ra would almost run out of energy and die.

In the sixth hour the most incredible event in the underworld occurs. The soul of Ra unites with his own body! And that made him feel strong again. Ra started to regenerate. All to prepare him for the biggest task of the night.

In the seventh hour a monstrous creature was waiting for Ra every night. When Ra went into the 7th region he came face to face with Apep.

Apep was a serpent like magical creature that used his gaze to overwhelm Ra. They were fighting for the whole hour. At last Ra uses his magical powers to defeat Apep, this doesn't kill Apep but he backs off to fight another night.

In the 12th hour Ra rises from the water in the East ready to flow through the sky in his boat and lightens the sky with his bright yellow rays of light. Some believed that storms occurred on the days he lost the fight, but today the sun was shining as godlike as ever, sailing to the West ready for another night.