

146. **1391-1335, Akhenaten, Heretic Pharaoh of Egypt**

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liberate female spirituality.
(RGS.)

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Akhenaten.

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promptly moved the existing capitals
of Memphis and Thebes to the new
self-designed city of Amarna.
(See below.)

Akhenaten's Monotheistic Lineage.

Though the revolutionary concept of
an eternal, absolute, omnipotent and only god
was first proposed by pharaoh Akhenaten (see 56.1.4),
and either adopted by the Hebrews,
whom he seems to have protected, or re-invented by them,
yet the name 'Elohim' (usually translated as 'God')
found in Genesis 1, is the Hebrew variant
of an ancient Semitic name for one god of many
– Ilu among Assyrians and Babylonians;
El among the Hittites and in the Ugaritic texts;
Il, or Ilum, among the South Arabians.
(HM: 27.)

Egyptian sun king, Akhenaten, originally Amenhotep IV, was the ninth king of the 18th Dynasty in Egypt, the Amarna Period. Amenhotep III was Akhenaten's father; mother was Tiye, known as goddess Hathor – Tefnut in Nubia (Sudan). Akhenaten assumed the throne in 1353 BCE and promptly moved the existing capitals of Memphis and Thebes to the new self-designed city of Amarna.

In Amarna, Akhenaten overturned the old gods and goddesses, including the primary God, Amun (also known as Amen, Amon, Ammon, and Amoun).

Existing sites, statues and hieroglyphics of Amon were desecrated or destroyed and replaced by sun God Aten. Such efforts toward a new monotheism left the general population of Egypt in a state of unrest and anger. Translation of Akhenaten is, *He who is in Service to Aten*. The pharaoh Akhenaten came to be known as the heretic king because of his attacks on the previous Egyptian cults, including the God Amen. Apparently, his successor was his wife (consort?), Nefertiti with a reign of four years. Tutankhamen, or King Tut, who abandoned Amarna for Thebes and restored the worship of Amen, followed this ruler. (AHK; DOAE; GSAE.) Further research includes:
Redford, Donald B. *Akhenaten: The Heretic King*. Gilford, Surrey, England: Princeton University Press, 1984. (AHK.)

According to Robert Graves and Raphael Patai in, *Hebrew Myths: The Book of Genesis*, Akhenaten's new monotheism spread from Egypt throughout Assyria, Babylonia, Hittite, Arabia, Phoenicia, and the Israelite/Judaic world.

Akhenaten: Though the revolutionary concept of an eternal, absolute, omnipotent and only god was first proposed by pharaoh Akhenaten (see 56.1.4), and either adopted by the Hebrews, whom he seems to have protected, or re-invented by them, yet the name 'Elohim' (usually translated as 'God') found in Genesis 1, is the Hebrew variant of an ancient Semitic name for one god of many – Ilu among Assyrians and Babylonians; El among the Hittites and in the Ugaritic texts; Il, or Ilum, among the South Arabians. El headed the Phoenician pantheon and is often mentioned in Ugaritic poems (dating from the fourteenth century BCE) as 'Bull El', which recalls the golden bull-calves made by Aaron (Ex 32.1-6, 24, 35) and Jeroboam (I K 12.28-29) as emblems of God' and Zedekiah's impersonation of God as an iron-horned bull (I K 12.11) (HM: 27).

Further Tutankhamen research: 1370, Tutankhamen. (RGS.)

Further Egyptian research:

- Bleeker, C. J. "Isis and Hathor: Two Ancient Egyptian Goddesses." *Book of the Goddess, Past and Present: An Introduction to Her Religion*. Ed. Saul M. Olyan. New York, NY: Crossroads Press, 1988. 29-48. (IAH.)
- _____. "Introduction." *The Book of the Dead: The Hieroglyphic Transcript and Translation into English of the Papyrus of Ani*. 1895. Avenel, NJ: Gramercy Books, 1994. (BD.)
- Edwards, Amelia Ann Blanford. "The Origin of Portrait Sculptures, and the History of the Ka." *Egypt and Its Monuments: Pharaohs, Fellahs and Explorers*. New York, NY: Harper & Bros., 1891. 113-156. (OPS.)
- Erman, Adolf. *Life in Ancient Egypt*. 1894. Tran. H. M. Tirard. London, England: Constable Publications, 1971. (LIAE.)
- Hornung, Erik. *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt: The One and the Many*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1982. (CGA.)
- Lubell, Winifred Milius. "Temples of the Great Goddess." *Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics*. (Revised Edition). 2.1, Issue

- 5 (1982): 32-39. (TGG.)
- Lesko, Barbara S. *The Remarkable Women of Ancient Egypt*. Providence, RI: BC Scribe, 1987. (RW.)
- _____. Ed. *Women's Earliest Records: From Ancient Egypt and Western Asia*. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1989. (WER.)
- _____. *The Great Goddesses of Egypt*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999. (GGOE.)
- Showerman, Grant. *The Great Mother of the Gods*. 1902. Chicago, IL: Argonaut, 1969. (GMG.)
- Witt, Reginald Eldred. *Isis in the Graeco-Roman World. (Isis in the Ancient World.)* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1971. (IG.)

IMAGE: AKHENATEN, EGYPT.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: AKHENATEN, HE WHO IS IN SERVICE TO ATEN, EARLY EGYPTIAN AMARNA PERIOD.

SLIDE LOCATION EGYPT, SHEET 40A, ROW 4, SLEEVE 5, SLIDE #366, 1391-1335 BCE. CO_EGY_S40A_R4_SL5_S366.jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES: CAIRO, EGYPT.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.

IMAGE: NEFERTITI, WIFE OF AKHENATEN: EARLY AMARNA PERIOD, EGYPT.

IMAGE © GSA. DESCRIPTION: AKHENATEN WAS SUCCEEDED BY HIS WIFE (CONSORT?), NEFERTITI WHO REIGNED FOR FOUR YEARS.

SLIDE LOCATION , SHEET , ROW , SLEEVE , SLIDE # , BCE

ON LOCATION: MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES: CAIRO, EGYPT.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.

NOTE 2: ILLUSTRATION TBD, CHRISI KARVONIDES' TEAM.

IMAGE: AKHENATEN, NEFERTITI AND CHILDREN: EARLY AMARNA PERIOD, EGYPT.

IMAGE © GSA. DESCRIPTION:

SLIDE LOCATION , SHEET , ROW , SLEEVE , SLIDE # , BCE.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1986.

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION TBD, CHRISI KARVONIDES' TEAM.

IMAGE: DOUBLE GODDESS NEKHBET AND ISIS ON TUTANKHAMEN'S FUNERARY MASK: VALLEY OF THE KINGS, EGYPT.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: TUTANKHAMEN'S GOLD FUNERARY MASK WITH FAIENCE, PLUS VULTURE GODDESS NEKHBET (NECHBET OR NEKHEBIT) AND SERPENT GODDESS ISIS OR BUTO/WEDJAT * ON HIS BROW: TOMB IN VALLEY OF THE KINGS, EGYPT.

SLIDE LOCATION RE-GENESIS PHASE 2, SHEET 3, ROW 2, SLEEVE 4, SLIDE #244, 1350 BCE.

IT_RPT_S3_R2_SL4_S244.jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES: CAIRO, EGYPT.

NOTE 1: DOUBLE GODDESS VULTURE AND COBRA. (DG: 83-84.)

NOTE 2:

[AKHENATEN'S] SUCCESSOR MAY HAVE BEEN HIS (CONSORT?), NEFERTITI, WITH A POSSIBLE REIGN OF FOUR YEARS. TUTANKHAMEN, OR KING TUT, WHO ABANDONED AMARNA FOR THEBES AND RESTORED THE WORSHIP OF AMEN, FOLLOWED AKHENATEN (RGS). (SOURCE: ENTRY ABOVE.)

NOTE 3:

AMONG THE EARLIEST DEITIES CONNECTED WITH THE PHARAOHS WERE THE GODDESSES OF THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH, THE VULTURE AND THE COBRA. NEKHBET, THE VULTURE, WAS THE GODDESS OF THE SOUTH, AND ESSENTIALLY THE PROTECTOR OF THE KING. IT WAS THIS ROLE OF PROTECTOR THAT PERHAPS CAUSED THE VULTURE TO BE CHOSEN AS HER EMBLEM (OR INCARNATION), FOR THE VULTURE HAVING A LARGER SPREAD OF WING THAN ANY OTHER EGYPTIAN BIRD GIVES A GREATER SENSE OF PROTECTION WHEN SEEN COVERING HER NESTLINGS. ... THE CULT OF THE COBRA [WADJET] WAS [ALSO] VERY ANCIENT IN EGYPT, SO MUCH SO THAT IN HIEROGLYPHS THE CORRECT DETERMINATIVE FOR THE WORD 'GODDESS,' OR FOR THE NAME OF A GODDESS, IS THE PICTURE OF THE COBRA. ...THE COBRA WITH SPREAD HOOD READY TO STRIKE WAS WORN BY ALL PHARAOHS ON THE FOREHEAD AS THE EMBLEM OF ROYALTY (STWE: 114-115; RGS).

NOTE 4: * BUTO IS ALSO KNOWN AS WEDJAT, WADJET, EDJO, AND UDJO.

NOTE 5: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1985-1989.

IMAGE: BUST OF GOD AMON OR AMMON: AMARNA, EGYPT.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: IN AMARNA, AKHENATEN OVERTURNED GOD AMON OR AMMON AND REPLACED WITH SUN GOD ATEN.

SLIDE LOCATION RE-GENESIS PHASE 1, SHEET 1, ROW 2, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #15, BCE.

IT_RPO_S1_R2_SL2_S15.jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: BRITISH MUSEUM: LONDON, ENGLAND.

NOTE 1: GOD, AMUN IS ALSO KNOWN AS AMEN, AMON, AMMON, AND AMOUN.

NOTE 2: EXISTING SITES, STATUES AND HIEROGLYPHICS OF AMON WERE DESECRATED OR DESTROYED (RGS). (SOURCE: ENTRY ABOVE.)

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1998.

IMAGE: AMMON OR AMUN'S TEMPLE: KARNAK, EGYPT.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: AMUN'S TEMPLE INC. GREAT HYPOSTYLE HALL WITH STONE LATTICE WINDOW, KARNAK, EGYPT.

SLIDE LOCATION EGYPT, SHEET 22, ROW 3, SLEEVE 4, SLIDE #740, 1550-1190 BCE.

CO_EGY_S22_R3_SL4_S740.jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: AMMON OR AMUN'S TEMPLE: KARNAK, EGYPT.

NOTE 1: AKHENATEN OVERTURNED THE OLD GODS AND GODDESSES, INCLUDING THE PRIMARY GOD, AMUN (ALSO CALLED AMEN, AMON, AMMON, AND AMOUN) (RGS: 1391-1335, AKHENATEN, HERETIC PHARAOH OF EGYPT).

NOTE 2: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.