

# **The Book of the Dead**

## **The Papyrus of Ani (1240 BC)**

(excerpts)

### **Ancient Egyptian Religion**

Translated by E.A. Wallis Budge (1895)  
and Allen and Faulkner



The ancient Egyptians believed that when a person died, that person would go before Osiris, the god of the underworld, to have his or her heart weighed. Osiris was usually depicted wearing an atef headdress and holding a crook and flail. If the person was judged good, they could continue on to other challenges and if successful, ultimately join Ra, the sun god, in eternal afterlife. The book of the dead was a guide to navigating the challenges of the underworld and would be personalized with the name of the deceased, a man named Ani in the case of the surviving papyrus we have today. The weighing of the heart took place in the Hall of Maat, the goddess of truth. Thoth and/or Anubis were thought to have actually weighed the heart. Thoth is the god of wisdom and was usually depicted with the head of an ibis. Anubis is the god of embalming/ guardian of the underworld and was usually depicted with the head of a jackal. Horus is also mentioned in this excerpt. He is the son of Osiris and Isis. He is the lord of the earth and was usually depicted as a falcon or a man with the head of a falcon. He was closely associated with the pharaohs. For more, see: <http://interoz.com/egypt/bkofdead.htm>.

### **Hymn to Osiris**

Homage to thee, Osiris, Lord of eternity, King of the Gods, whose names are manifold, whose forms are holy, thou being of hidden form in the temples, whose Ka is holy. Thou art the governor of Tattu (Busiris), and also the mighty one in Sekhem (Letopolis). Thou art the Lord to whom praises are ascribed in the nome of Ati, thou art the Prince of divine food in Anu. Thou art the Lord who is commemorated in Maati, the Hidden Soul, the Lord of Qerrt (Elephantine), the Ruler supreme in White Wall (Memphis). Thou art the Soul of Ra, his own body, and hast thy place of rest in Henensu (Herakleopolis). Thou art the beneficent one, and art praised in Nart. Thou makest thy soul to be raised up. Thou art the Lord of the Great House in Khemenu (Hermopolis). Thou art the mighty one of victories in Shas-hetep, the Lord of eternity, the Governor of Abydos. The path of his throne is in Ta-tcheser (a part of Abydos). Thy name is established in the mouths of men. Thou art the substance of Two Lands (Egypt). Thou art Tem, the feeder of Kau (Doubles), the Governor of the Companies of the gods. Thou art the beneficent Spirit among the spirits. The god of the Celestial Ocean (Nu) draweth from thee his waters. Thou sendest forth the north wind at eventide, and breath from thy nostrils to the satisfaction of thy heart. Thy heart reneweth its youth, thou producest the.... The stars in the celestial heights are obedient unto thee, and the great doors of the sky open themselves before thee.

## **Hymn to Ra**

Hail to you, you having come as Khepri, even Khepri who is the creator of the gods. You rise and shine on the back of your mother the sky, having appeared in glory as King of the gods. Your mother Nut shall use her arms on your behalf in making greeting. The Manu-mountain receives you in peace. Maat embraces you at all seasons. May you give power and might in vindication – and a coming forth as a living soul to see horakhty – to the ka of N.

May you be gracious to me when I see your beauty, having departed from upon earth. May I smite the Ass, may I drive off the rebel-serpent, may I destroy Apep when he acts, for I have seen the abdu-fish in its moment of being and the bulti-fish piloting the canoe on its waterway. I have seen Horus as helmsman with Thoth and Maat beside him, I have taken hold of the bow-warp of the Night-bark and the stern-warp of the Day-bark. May he grant that I see the sun-disc and behold the moon unceasingly every day; may my soul go forth to travel to every place which it desires; may my name be called out, may it be found at the board of offerings, may there be given to me loaves in the Presence like the Followers of Horus, may a place be made for me in the solar bark on the day when the god ferries across, and may I be received into the presence of Osiris in the Land of Vindication.

## **The Declaration of Innocence**

*What should be said when arriving at the Hall of Justice, of Two Truths, purging N [the deceased] of all the forbidden things he has done, and seeing the faces of all the Gods.*

Spell for descending to the broad hall of Two Truths:

Hail to you, great God, Lord of Justice! I have come to you, my lord, that you may bring me so that I may see your beauty, for I know you and I know your name, and I know the names of the forty-two gods of those who are with you in this Hall of Justice, who live on those who cherish evil and who gulp down their blood on that day of the reckoning of characters in the presence of Wennefer. Behold the double son of the Songstresses; Lord of Truth is your name. Behold I have come to you, I have brought you truth, I have repelled falsehood for you.

Hail Far-strider who came forth from Heliopolis, I have done no falsehood.

Hail Fire-embracer who came forth from Kheraha, I have not robbed.

Hail Nosey who came forth from Hermopolis, I have not been rapacious.

Hail Swallower of shades who came forth from the cavern, I have not stolen.

Hail Dangerous One who came forth from Rosetjau, I have not killed men.

Hail Double Lion who came forth from the sky, I have not destroyed food-supplies.

Hail Fiery Eyes who came forth from Letopolis, I have done no crookedness.

Hail Flame which came forth backwards, I have not stolen the god's offerings.

Hail Bone-breaker who came forth from Heracleopolis, I have not told lies.

Hail Green of Flame who came forth from Memphis, I have no taken food.

Hail You of the cavern who came forth from the West, I have not been sullen.

Hail White of teeth who came forth from the Faiyum, I have not transgressed.

Hail Blood-eater who came forth from the shambles, I have not killed a sacred bull.

Hail Eater of entrails who came forth from the House of Thirty, I have not committed perjury.

Hail Lord of Truth who came forth from Maaty, I have not stolen bread.

Hail Wanderer who came forth from Bubastis, I have not eavesdropped.  
Hail Pale One who came forth from Heliopolis, I have not babbled.  
Hail Doubly evil who came forth from Andjet, I have not disputed except concerning my own property.  
Hail Wememy-snake who came forth from the place of execution, I have not fornicated with a child.  
Hail You who see whom you bring who came forth from the House of Min, I have not misbehaved.  
Hail You who are over the Old One who came forth from Imau, I have not made terror.  
Hail Demolisher who came forth from Xoïs, I have not transgressed.  
Hail Disturber who came forth from Weryt, I have not been hot-tempered.  
Hail Youth who came forth from the Heliopolitan nome, I have not been deaf to words of truth.  
Hail Foreteller who came forth from Wenes, I have not made disturbance.  
Hail You of the altar who came forth from the secret place, I have not hoodwinked.  
Hail You whose face is behind him who came forth from the Cavern of Wrong, I have neither misconducted myself nor copulated with a boy.  
Hail Hot-foot who came forth from the dusk, I have not been neglectful.  
Hail You of the darkness who came forth from the darkness, I have not been quarrelsome.  
Hail Carrier-off of His Portion who came forth from the Silent Land, I have not blasphemed God in my city.

## **Texts Relating To The Weighing Of The Heart Of Ani**

### **The Speech of Thoth**

Thoth, the judge of right and truth of the Great Company of the Gods who are in the presence of Osiris, saith: Hear ye this judgment. The heart of Osiris hath in very truth been weighed, and his Heart-soul hath borne testimony on his behalf; his heart hath been found right by the trial in the Great Balance. There hath not been found any wickedness in him; he hath not wasted the offerings which have been made in the temples; he hath not committed any evil act; and he hath not set his mouth in motion with words of evil whilst he was upon earth.

### **The Speech of the Gods**

The Great Company of the Gods say to Thoth who dwelleth in Khemenu: That which cometh forth from thy mouth shall be declared true. The Osiris the scribe Ani, whose word is true, is holy and righteous. He hath not committed any sin, and he hath done no evil against us. The devourer Am-mit shall not be permitted to prevail over him. Meat offerings and admittance into the presence of the god Osiris shall be granted unto him, together with an abiding habitation in the Field of Offerings (Sekhet-hetepet), as unto the Followers of Horus.

### **The Speech of Horus to Osiris**

Horus, the son of Isis, saith: I have come to thee, O Un-Nefer, and I have brought unto thee the Osiris Ani. His heart is righteous, and it hath come forth from the Balance; it hath not sinned against any god or any goddess. Thoth hath weighed it according to the decree pronounced unto him by the Company of the Gods, and it is most true and righteous. Grant thou that cakes and ale may be given unto him, and let him appear in the presence of the god Osiris, and let him be like into the Followers of Horus for ever and ever.