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Daily Life of the Egyptian Gods

Dimitri Meeks

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OliverAwesome. Detailed and clear.

This work looks at the gods as if they were a newly discovered tribe found in some remote part of the world, describing how their community works. It reveals conflicts as individual gods struggle to gain power over their fellows - or avoid having others gain power over them. The nature of their immortal but not invulnerable bodies, their pleasures and their needs are all considered. The second part of the book cites familiar traditions and little known texts to explain the relationship of the gods to the Pharaoh, who was believed to represent them on earth.

From Library Journal
The Egyptian religion was grounded in a thought system so totally foreign to the Western mind that it presents an almost unbridgeable conceptual gap. The Meekses' Dimitri (Universite de Provence) and Christine (Sorbonne) attempt in this translation of their *La vie quotidienne des dieux egyptiens* (Hachette, 1993) to enable us to enter this strange world by observing the daily life of the gods and appreciating the inner logic of their activities. This is a difficult task because the authors must work from scattered and indirect bits and pieces of evidence with very few patches of satisfying detail. While the work's organization is sound, it also makes an abstract, often dry presentation that is foreign to the Egyptian mind, an inadvertent confirmation of the Meekses' exposition of the conceptual gap. They do not try to conceal the conjectural nature of much of their reconstruction, but perhaps it ought to be emphasized more heavily for the unwary neophyte. Nevertheless, this book does a good job of synthesizing, reconstructing, and explaining a very esoteric subject. Eugene O. Bowser, Univ. of Northern Colorado, Greeley
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