

Egyptian Mythology 101, PT 1: Beginnings
By Nicole and Ryan Robinson

Sources

<https://ancientegyptonline.co.uk/>

<https://www.mythpodcast.com/listen/> (ep 78: Egyptian mythology: the Master Namer)

<https://www.neferchichi.com/>

<https://egyptianmuseum.org/>

Parts

Ra – God of the Sun, the self-created creator of the world and all things.

Shu – God of the air / wind

Tefnut – Goddess of rain

Geb – God of dry land.

Sekmet – Goddess of purification... and destruction.

Ra: (Opening eyes and stretching) Well, this is weird. I exist now. And it's just me here, floating in a white void of nothingness. It sure would be nice if there was some color around.

Hmm, now there is sky and sea. I get it! When I name things, they are created. Wait... if I name something it comes into existence. How can I name it if it didn't exist? Well, now I guess I've created paradoxes! Probably best not to think too much about that.

Huh, it's warm. I wish the air moved more than it does. I'll call that Shu.

Shu: Hi Ra! I'm the personification of the wind.

Ra; Cool. But what about something a bit more refreshing? Like water falling from the sky. Let's call that Tefnut.

Shu: Call what Tefnut?

Tefnut: Me! I'm Tefnut the Spitter.

Ra (to Shu): I make stuff whenever I name it. Still figuring it out. (to Tefnut): Really? 'the SPITTER?'

Tefnut: The Egyptian word also means moist!

Ra: That's... not better. Also, why do you have the head of a lioness?

Tefnut: What's a lioness?

Ra: You know... That is.

Shu: the creature falling into the ocean and drowning?

Ra: Oh...

Tefnut: I should be asking you why I have a lioness head, shouldn't I?

Ra: You have a point. Well, I'm tired of floating here, so let's make Geb, or Land, and Nut (*newt*) the sky.

Geb: Oh, hey Nut...

Tefnut: Oh... they seem very friendly with each other.

Ra: I mean, they're married, just like you and Shu.

::Geb making kissing noises::

Shu: Yeah, but they're... very enthusiastic.

Ra: Isn't love beautiful.

Tefnut: I mean, sure.

::pause::

Ra: Ok, you two... We'd like to get to the ground now. That's why I made it.

::Geb making kissing noises::

Shu: Hey Ra?

Ra: Working on it. ::pause:: Hey, you two, I need to be able to get through there so I can shine light on the ground and make things grow.

::Geb making kissing noises::

Shu: Doesn't seem to be working Ra.

Ra: Ok, Shu, so I'm going to need you to pry them apart.

Tefnut: How's he supposed to do that?

Ra: With a crowbar? Look, just... be the air between the earth and the heavens.

Shu: I mean, I guess. I'll just... get in here... and... push...

Ra: Use your legs, not your back!

Geb: Awww...

Shu: Ok, so I'm pretty wedged in here, Ra.

Ra: Yep, your arms and legs will be the four pillars that hold up the sky.

Shu: Wait... I'm stuck here?

Ra: We'll figure out something to help lighten the load. Besides, you're a god... you can be multiple places and forms at once.

Geb: Wow, being created out of the seas parting is pretty cool. But now that I'm not with my sweetie, ::waves:: hey honey! I'm realizing I'm awfully dry.

Tefnut: Right here!

Ra: Well.... let's make Hapi. (He-be)

Tefnut: That's the Nile River.

Ra: Cool, we have sky, seas, river, rain, land. It's time for people! And here they are.

Geb: We can watch the cyclical patterns of human life. The Nile's ebb and flow makes Egypt the cradle of civilization. Humans give birth, grow up, grow old, and die. Over and over for generations. Human civilizations flourished.

Ra: I'm so proud of my little creations! Look, they figured out hunting, agriculture, wine and embalming in just a few thousand years! Oh! I have a great idea!

Tefnut: What are you doing?

Ra: I'm going to put on my human suit, go down there, and rule them! Watch this... I am now Pharaoh! I'll rule them for a few millennia, then I'll come back up to the world of the gods.

Shu: This is not a great idea. You just turned yourself into a human. Humans die.

Ra: It's fine. I'll just turn myself back. See, I'll just..... oh shoot. Looks like I can't turn myself back.

Shu: That seems like a pretty big oversight.

Ra: Oops. Well, I guess I'll be Pharaoh until I die. Oh Well, I'll let you know if I need you. I'm going to go lead the people.

Shu: Wow, Ra you really are great at being Pharaoh.

Ra: And turns out even if I am a human, being the creator means I live a bit longer.

Geb: You've been Pharaoh for thousands of years. It's been a golden age; everything works together so that there was no want and no lean years.

Shu: But you are still aging, Ra, and some day will need to step down.

Ra: Worse than that... I've gathered all the gods because I might have accidentally created something bad called Apophis; the serpent of evil.

Tefnut: Why did you create that?

Ra: Not really something I was trying for.

Shu: That seems like a pretty big oversight.

Ra: It may have actually been a side effect of me creating myself.

Tefnut: Some minor side effect!

Ra: So, look, Apophis seeks to devour all that is good and can infect the souls of people. Apparently that turns people against me. So, that's why I invited all of you here.

Tefnut: So what do you want to do about it?

Ra: Ok, I'm thinking, since my eye is the sun, I can turn it on the earth and incinerate all the humans. Thoughts?

Geb: As the personification of the land, you would also incinerate me. Along with the rest of creation. So, I vote against that.

Ra: Good point. That's why bouncing your ideas around is always good. So... how about I send Sekmet instead.

Tefnet: What's a Sekmet? Who's that woman with a lion's head like mine?

Sekmet: I know exactly why I have been created. I will purge the evil from the land. I'm going to kill bad humans until the Nile runs red with blood.

Ra: Wow, it took here just a few hours to kill everyone that had the serpent of darkness in their heart. Sekmet! Wonderful job. Time to.. Um... unexist now!

Sekmet: Nope. I like the thrill of the hunt!

Ra: But you've killed the truly wicked!

Sekmet: But are the others really innocent?

Shu: This seems like a pretty big oversight.

Ra: Wait! Wait! Oh, hell. This is not what I meant. And... there she goes. Still killing....

Shu: Fascinating metaphor for creative works. Once you've created it takes on a life of its own.

Ra: Any helpful ideas?

Sekmet: Oh, night is coming. I guess I can sleep now and pick this up in the morning!

Tefnet: I've got nothing.

Geb: Nope....

Shu: I don't really...

Ra: I know! I know what will save us all!

Shu: This worries me.

Ra: Beer!

Shu: I don't...

Ra: No, listen! In the morning Sekmet will leave her hiding place but just outside it she'll find a huge basin filled with liquid right outside. I mean, that much murder, she's got to be thirsty, right? She drinks all of it, she'll pass out.

Shu: Why would she think that liquid in a basin would be drinkable?

Tefnet: I think she's been drinking blood as she went along.

Ra: All outstanding points! I'll make it RED beer. The only red liquid she's encountered so far is blood, and she likes that well enough!

Tefnet: Does he think that'll actually work?

Ra: Why not!

Shu: I can think of all the reasons.

Ra: Oh, just watch!

Sekmet: ::Yawning and stretching:: oh, now for another beautiful day of hunting peoples. What's this?

Ra: See, big basin of red liquid.

Sekmet: I am thirsty.

Ra: See! Watch how she just chugs it... and, thus the first black-out is created.

Shu: That worked?

Ra: It's good to be the creator.

Tefnet: Isn't she going to wake up eventually?

Geb: And resume the murder spree?

Ra: Let me fix this problem for good. I'll just whisper in her ear. ::whisper noises::

Tefnet: Is her lioness head transforming into that of a beautiful woman?

Ra: And here she is!

Tefnet: How did you do that?

Ra: I changed her name! She is now Hathor, the Goddess of Love.

Shu: Why do I feel like there's something we're missing?

Ra: Well, I had to convince her she'll cause more death, destruction, and pain than she could have ever dreamed of as "The Slayer."

Shu: So, nothing major.

Ra: Oh, that whole Apophis thing? The actual serpent itself is still running around and needs to be addressed... Fortunately I have a plan!