

Egyptian Mythology 101, PT 2: Thoth's Big Adventure
By 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

Thoth – God of Writing, Wisdom, and Magic

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

Nut – Goddess of the sky, especially the night sky.

Khonsu – God of the Moon.

Isis – Goddess of secrets, knowledge, and Magic

Ra: So, where were we?

Thoth: You're getting old, Ra.

Ra: Hmm? Yes, I suppose after several thousand years as a mortal I would do that, wouldn't I, Thoth?

Thoth: I mean, you've had a good run. Since becoming their Pharaoh, you've given the humans a golden age that lasted many lifetimes.

Ra: So I have. So I have.

Thoth: I mean, your previous gig creating the world and the other gods wasn't so bad.

Ra: It wasn't bad at all.

Thoth: So it's not unreasonable that there's this prophecy suggest that there might be an heir for you...

Ra: What was this prophecy again?

Thoth: ::Sighs:: The child of Nut, the goddess of the night sky, shall become Pharaoh.

Ra: How do you know this?

Thoth: I'm the god of knowledge and magic. Prophecy is kind of a thing.

Ra: Well, I'm the god that created you.

Thoth: Yes. Yes you are.

Ra: Yeah... I'm not ready to step down.

Thoth: Didn't say you were, Ra. Just reporting the prophecy.

Ra: Well, everything I say comes into being.

Thoth: Yes it does, Ra.

Ra: Then I say the sky is not allowed to have children on any day or night in the year.

Thoth: What.

Ra: No giving birth for Nut on any day or night of the year.

Thoth: You know she's already pregnant, right?

Ra: Who went and got the sky pregnant anyway?

Thoth: ::exasperated:: Geb did, her husband. The god of the land?

Ra: Ah, good for them. But she can't give birth on any day in the year.

Thoth: I don't...

Ra: I said it, so it has to be true. That's the rules.

Thoth: Well... oh-kay. You have a good one, Ra.

Ra: Yeah, you too. Thanks Thoth!

Nut: So good of you to visit Thoth. How have you been?

Thoth: I've been... good. Um... You're looking very... pregnant.

Nut: So I am! You heard any good prophecies about this kid?

Thoth: Funny you should mention that...

Nut: That sounds ominous.

Thoth: No! No! Totally a good prophecy!

Nut: Oh! Do tell!

Thoth: Well, "a child of the goddess of the sky will one day sit on the throne as Pharaoh!"

Nut: That's great! Wait until Ra hears one of my kids will be taking over for him!

Thoth: Funny you should mention that...

Nut: Hmm? Oh, you already told him?

Thoth: I mean, seemed like the thing to do at the time.

Nut: So, what did he say?

Thoth: That you would not give birth on any day or night of the year.

Nut: I what?

Thoth: Ra said that you will not...

Nut: No, I heard what you said. What kind of dumb...

Thoth: Wait, wait... I've got a totally legitimate, entirely not crazy way to make this work.

Nut: How's that?

Thoth: Well, you know how the calendar's only 360 days?

Nut: Sure. Everyone knows that.

Thoth: Well, I'll get you some extra days.

Nut: Be sure you do!

Thoth: Hey! Khonsu!

Khonsu: Hey Thoth.

Thoth: Traveler...

Khonsu: ::warily:: Scribe...

Toth: Bright Moon, Embracer, Pathfinder, Defender...

Khonsu: Really laying it on thick there, Toth.

Toth: Not at all! Just... y'know... bored and hoping you'd be up for a game.

Khonsu: Oh, what game?

Toth: I mean, I hear you think you're pretty good at Senet (z-net).

Khonsu: Good? I'm the best!

Toth: You think you're good enough to beat the god of wisdom?

Khonsu: Oh, absolutely.

Toth: How about we make it interesting? I mean, you think you're the best and want to brag that you beat the god of wisdom...

Khonsu: Oh, that sounds good.

Toth: What do I get if I win?

Khonsu: What do you want? I really am the best.

Toth: I want an hour of your light, oh Moon in the sky. Your glorious light that rivals that of Ra!

Khonsu: Sure! Whatever! It won't matter when I beat you.

Toth: Great! Now we just need a board...

Khonsu: Never leave home without one! How can you hope to beat me, unprepared like that?

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and dice rolling noises::

Toth: I win!

Khonsu: Oh, that was rough. An hour of my light? Ooh. How about we play again, another hour against getting back the one I lost?

Toth: Sure! Sounds good!

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and game playing noises::

Toth: HAH! I win again!

Khonsu: Two hours? No, this can't be happening! I'm the best Senet player, you must be cheating!

Toth: Your board, your dice, you watched every play!

Khonsu: Whatever luck your having has to break. Double or nothing?

Toth: Absolutely.

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and game playing noises::

Khonsu: Ah! Where did that come from?

Toth: I mean, sometimes the game just works out for you.

Khonsu: Four hours...

Toth: We can play again, double or nothing again, win it all back.

Khonsu: You can't be that lucky forever!

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and game playing noises::

Khonsu: Eight hours! No! No! Again!

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and game playing noises::

Khonsu: Sixteen hours! Double or nothing again!

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and game playing noises::

Khonsu: Thirty two hours? More than a full day? Double again!

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and game playing noises::

Khonsu: 64 hours! What is that? Seven games in a row? How can you be this good?

Toth: I am the god of wisdom.

Khonsu: I have to get my light back. Play me once more!

::Toth and Khonsu make some muttering and game playing noises::

Toth: Let's see, 128 hours? I only needed 120 for five days. Good enough.

Khonsu: ::Exhausted:: What?

Toth: You're not glowing as much as you normally do Khonsu.

Khonsu: Of course not. You've taken so much of my light I'm exhausted.

Toth: Rest now, Moon. As you do, your light will return.

Khonsu: I'll only get one night a month to glow as gloriously as I did before! One night a month I'll be close to my former glory, then I'll fade away again!

Toth: I suppose you will live with such cycles from now on, Khonsu.

Khonsu: No! One more game to win it all back!

Toth: No, Khonsu. Rest now.

Toth: Hey Nut.

Nut: Toth, have you figured this out? I'm due to give birth five times over, but I can't because of Ra's stupid curse.

Toth: Funny you should say that. I have it all worked out.

Nut: Hurry it up then.

Toth: Well, hang on. Can't exactly rush adding days.

Nut: Doing what?

Toth: Well, I got this light from Khonsu.

Nut: How'd you get light from Khonsu.

Toth: I beat him at Senet.

Nut: How? He plays that game obsessively.

Thoth: Does no one remember that I'm a wizard?

Nut: Don't you take that tone with me. You still owe me the ability to give birth!

Thoth: So, I'm going totally going to use Khonsu's light to add 5 days to the calendar.

Nut: And how does a 365 day calendar help me?

Thoth: You can't give birth during any day or night of the year...

Nut: But?

Thoth: These five days aren't part of the calendar year!

Nut: If it's stupid but works.

Thoth: So, there we go. 5 extra days.

Nut: Oh! Giving birth now! We'll call this one Osiris.

Thoth: This one?

Nut: Look, I've got five days to give birth before someone closes this loophole and a lot of extra time being pregnant.

Thoth: Y'know what, we're gods, I'm just going with it. So, look, Ra's going to be pretty pissed when he finds out you gave birth.

Nut: Yeah, I've got a plan for that.

Thoth: Oh?

Nut: Well, someone told Ra about this whole prophecy thing.

Thoth: Oh.

Nut: So that someone is going to take these kids and make sure they grow up somewhere secret and safe until I can calm Ra down.

Thoth: Oh...

Nut: Any questions?

Thoth: No. That's pretty clear.

Nut: Good.

Ra: Fine, Nut. What's done is done. Your kids are welcome here.

Thoth: I present to you Osiris, god of agriculture, vegetation, and fertility. He has been trained and will make you a fine successor when you are ready, Ra.

Ra: This again. Let's not.

Thoth: Next is Isis, wife to Osiris, who I have trained as goddess of magic and healing and to know nearly everything in the heavens and earth.

Ra: I thought that was your gig.

Thoth: Similar, but magic and knowledge are big things so we can share.

Ra: So, who else do you have back there.

Thoth: Next is Set, god of the unknown, the strange, and frightening. He is god of things like eclipses, thunderstorms, earthquakes, and of the desert. But, he's also god of the things we seek in these events, like the safe paths, oasis, and foreign lands.

Ra: You sound like you're going to be quite a character.

Thoth: :Coughs: Yeah. Well, finally we have Nephthys, wife to Set. She is the Mistress of the House, goddess of mothers, women, and mourning.

Ra: You look a lot more like your sister than your titles would suggest.

Thoth: They're close.

Ra: What? Never mind. Whew, that's a full day, I'm tired now.

Thoth: All we did was introduce you to your grandkids...

Ra: That's a lot at my age!

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Isis: That doddering old man is the great Ra?

Thoth: Well, he's seen better days.

Isis: He looks like he's going to fall over dead sitting there.

Thoth: Careful! He created everything just by saying its secret name.

Isis: Well, I know all the secret names in heaven and earth.

Thoth: If you knew his secret name you'd have power over him.

Isis: Ok, every secret name but one. I don't know the old man's.

Thoth: Even with the secret names you don't have the Ra power to do the things the creator of the world does.

Isis: Hmmm... Look at how much he drools! I mean there's a trail of mud where he walks.

Thoth: What are you doing, Isis?

Isis: Well, he's so powerful. If I take this mud and make a serpent... then I fill it with venom with a little of my own magic...

Thoth: Oh, this seems like a Very Bad Idea.

Isis: So, I'll just set this little clay snake on the path here and tomorrow when his eye, the Sun, falls on the serpent it should come to life and bite him.

Ra: OW! :pause: Where did such a creature come from? I'm pretty sure I didn't speak you into existence. Oh. This hurts! Is that... poison? Like, godly poison? That's, oh, that does not feel good. That does not feel good in the divine parts. Ok, everyone I'm going to need some help here.

Thoth: So, sir, you've asked almost everyone.

Ra: Almost? Who's left?

Isis: I am.

Ra: And you can fix this!

Isis: Not exactly.

Ra: So, what good are you?

Isis: Well, I can't save your mortal body, but I can return you as Ra the god. You'll never be able to return to human form, but you'll continue to exist and watch over everything.

Ra: I... oh... But... :sigh: Yeah, I guess I should have done that a while ago.

Isis: I just need one thing, your secret name.

Ra: My? Oh!

Isis: Yes.

Ra: I, but, that...

Isis: Yes.

Ra: Oh, ok. Come here. ::whispers to her::

Isis: This will burn the poison from you, killing only that which is mortal.

Ra: Oh, that hurts!

Isis: And so, Ra returns to the heavens. You can see his eye looking down upon us as the sun.

Toth: And now Osiris shall ascend to be Pharaoh as prophesied! With Isis as queen a second golden age shall begin!

Isis: Until the jealousy of our brother shall end it and begin an era of strife.

Toth: Spoilers.

Isis: Prophecy... But, where are Osiris and Nephthys?

Toth: Probably conceiving Anubis.

Isis: What?

Toth: Umm... spoilers?