



Mythology *of Ancient Egypt*

Joseph Cross

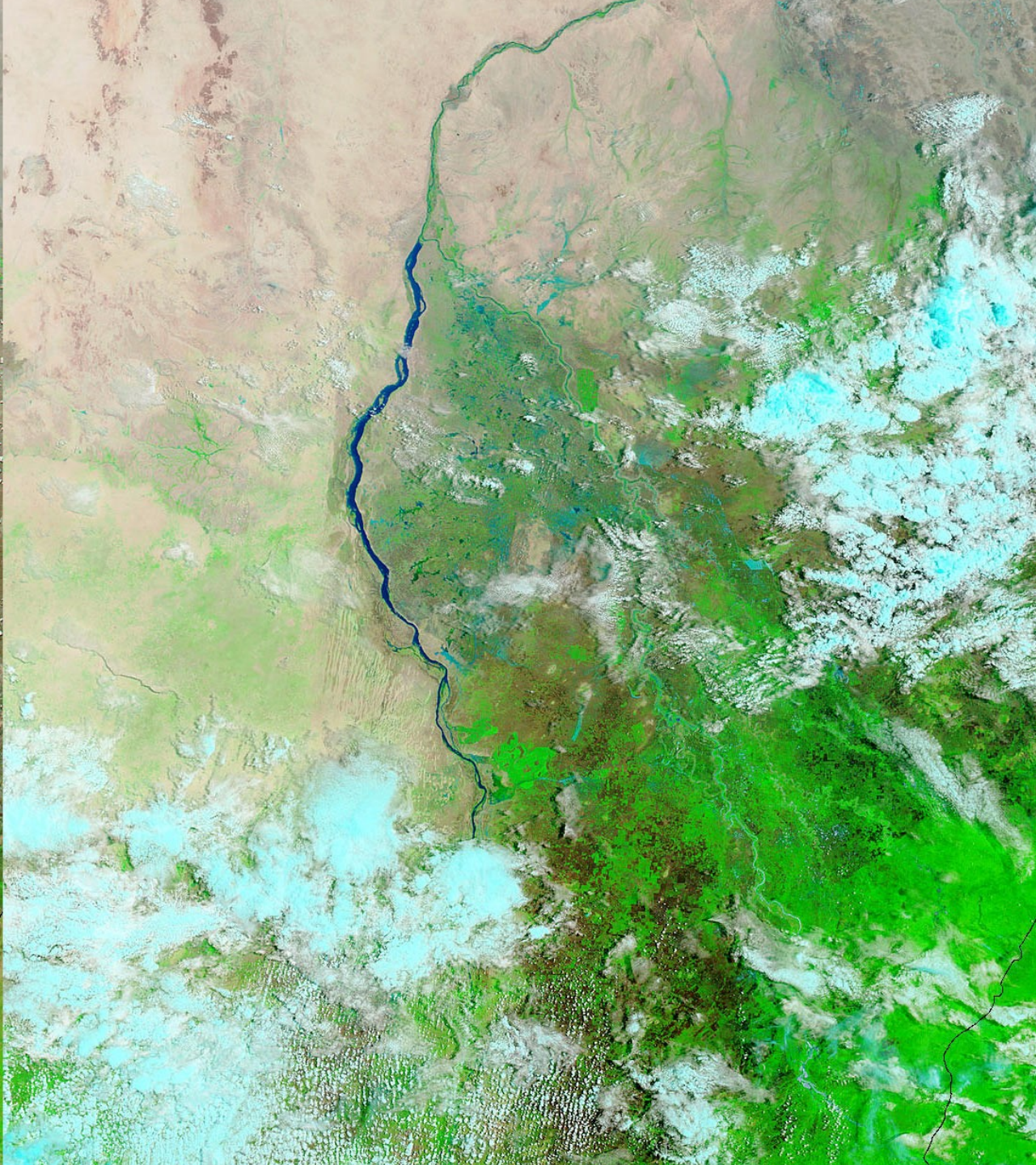
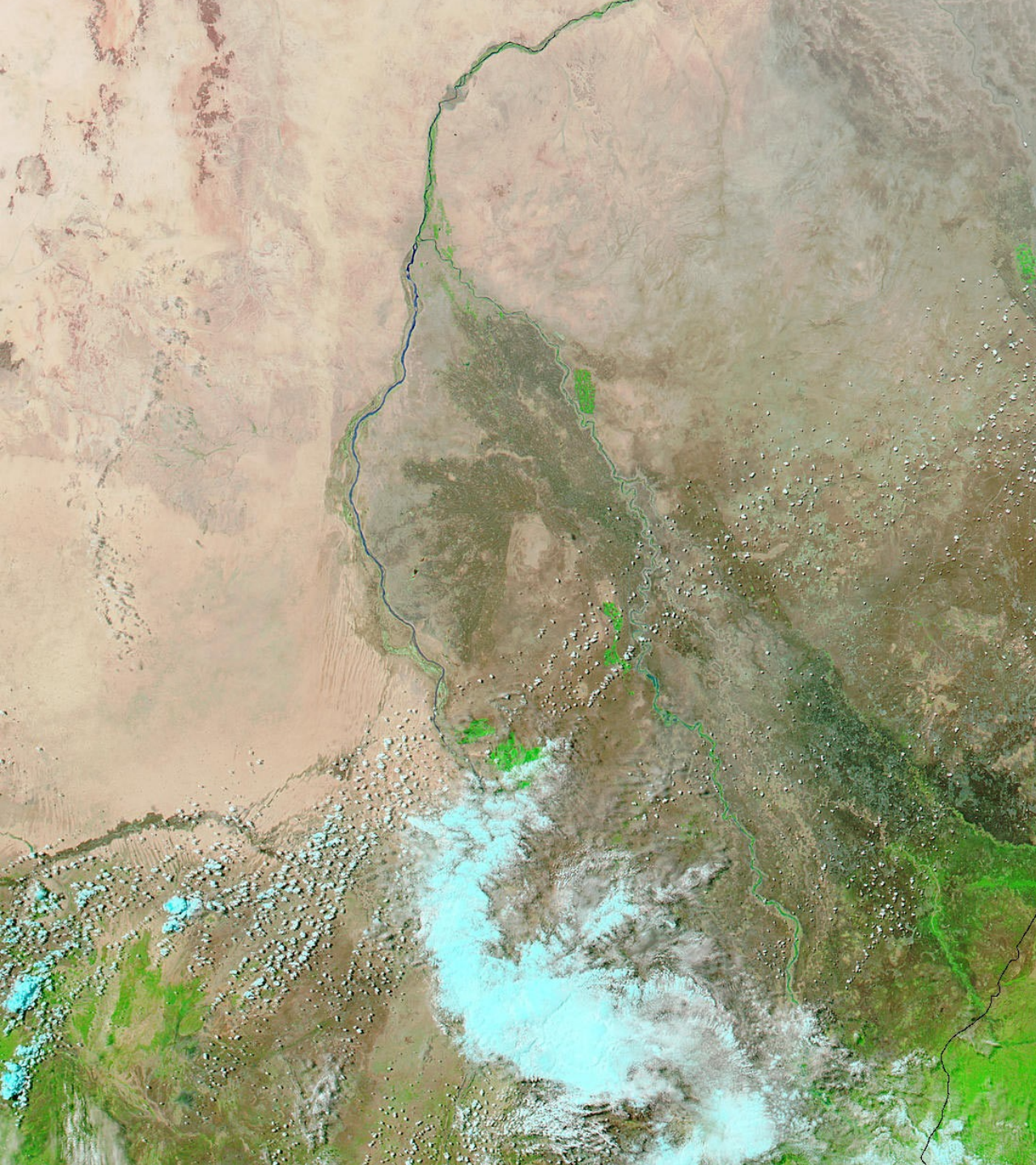
Adjunct professor, Humanities Program

PhD candidate, University of Chicago



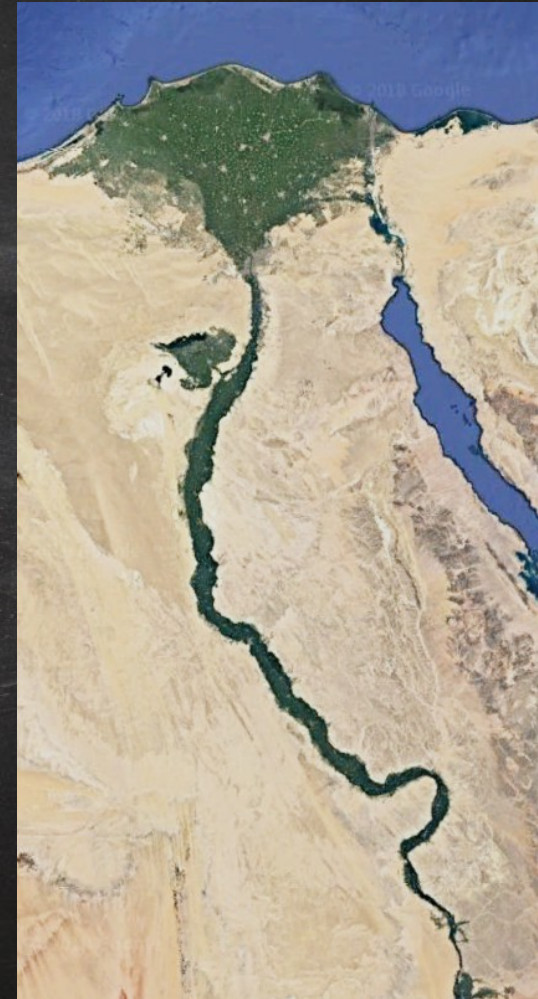






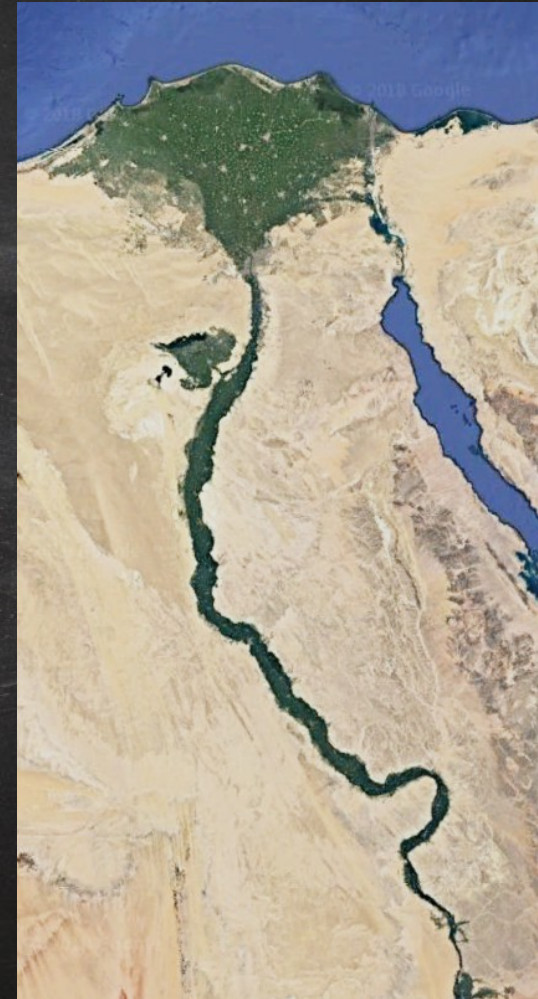
The Nile as part of the Egyptian worldview

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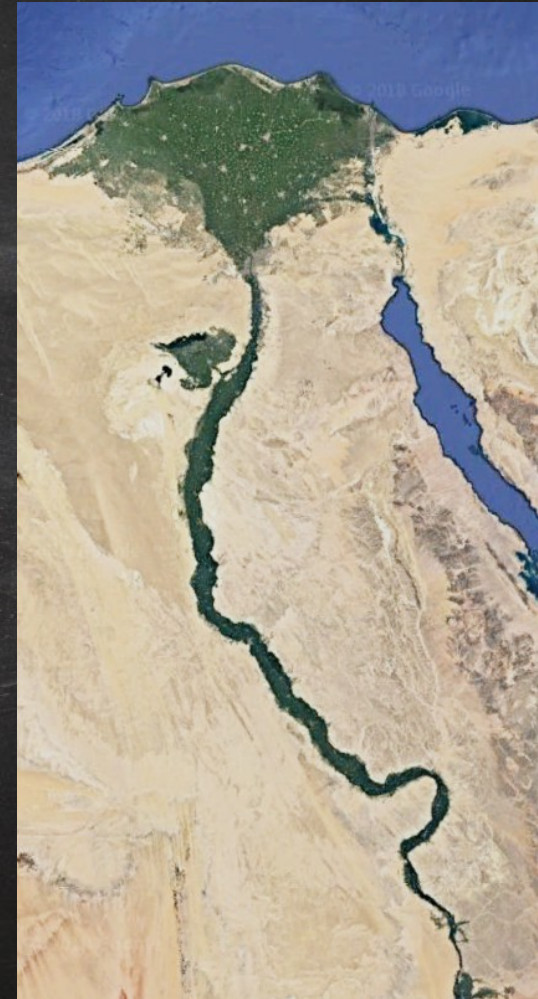
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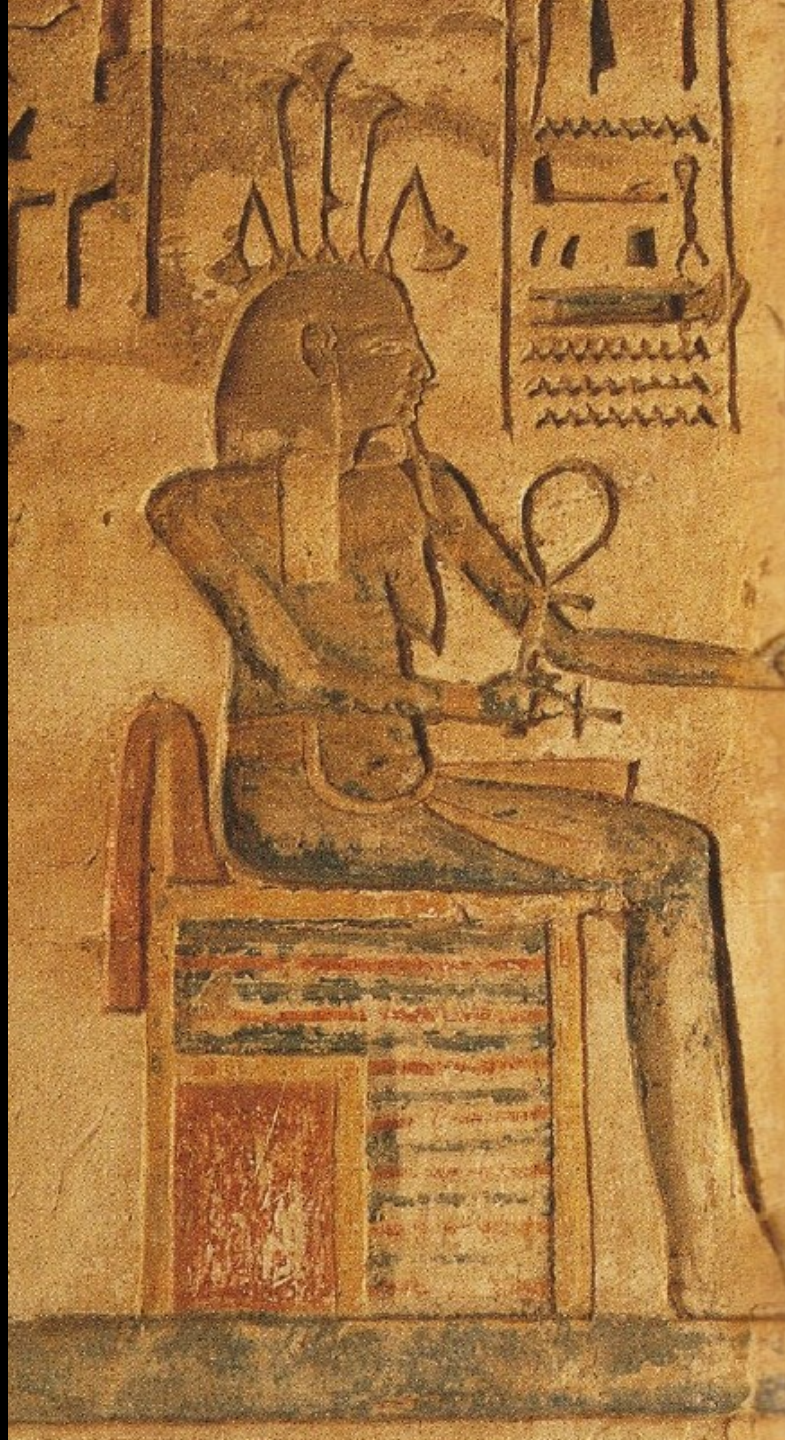
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2. Egypt is the center of the universe (< no other part of the world has something similar)
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4. Egypt is divided into two parts:
 - Lower (north)
 - Upper (south)

Memphis (star), the ancient capital, is at the boundary





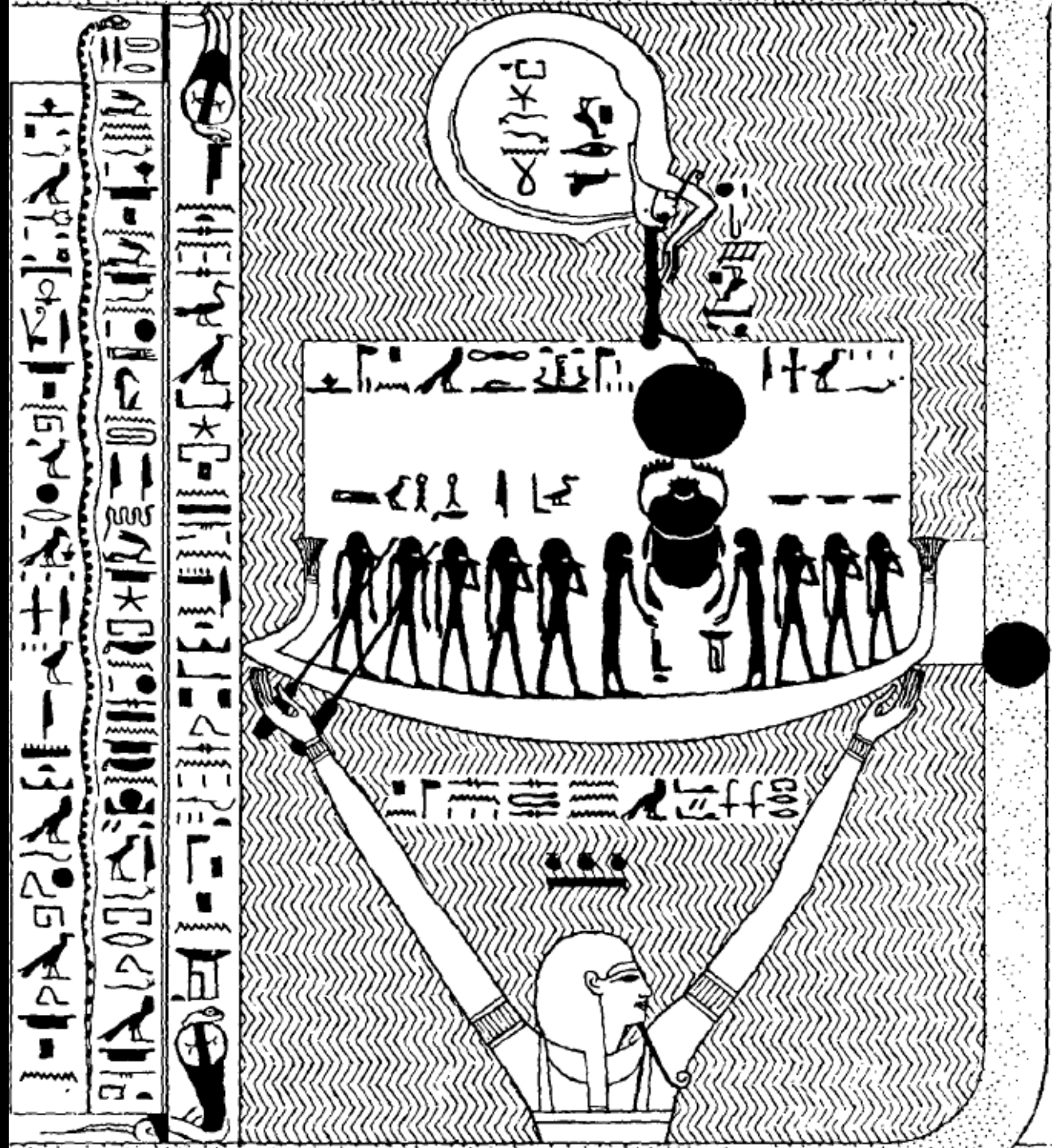




From a Sketch by W.H. Newham, Esq.

Pub. by Colburn & Bentley, London, 1830.

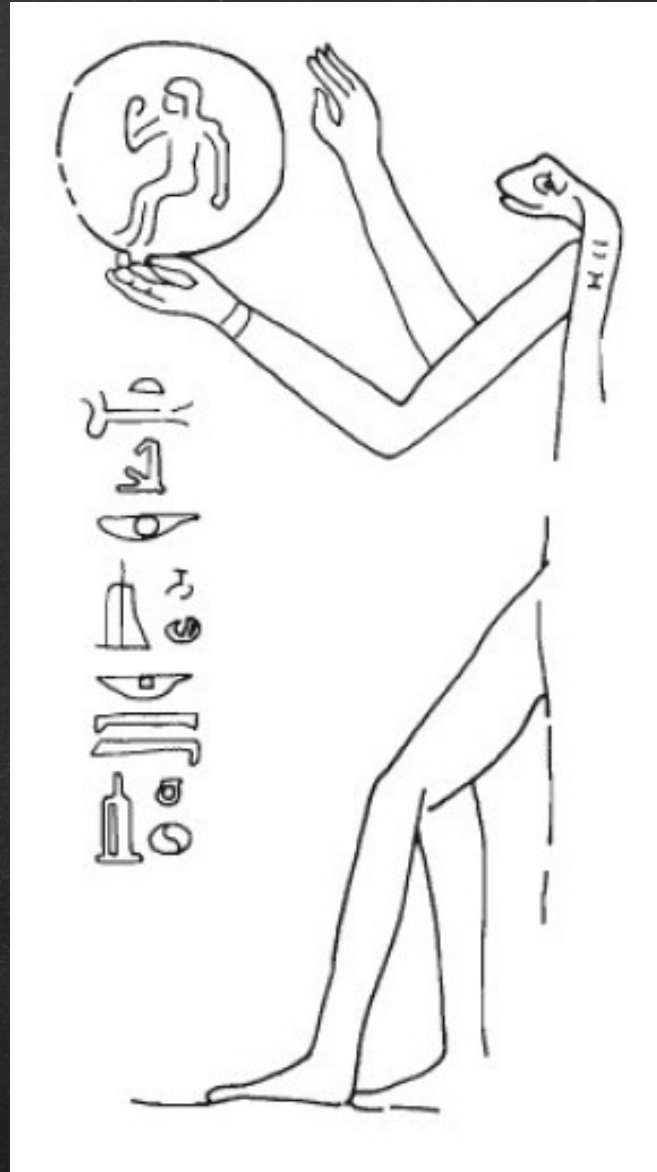
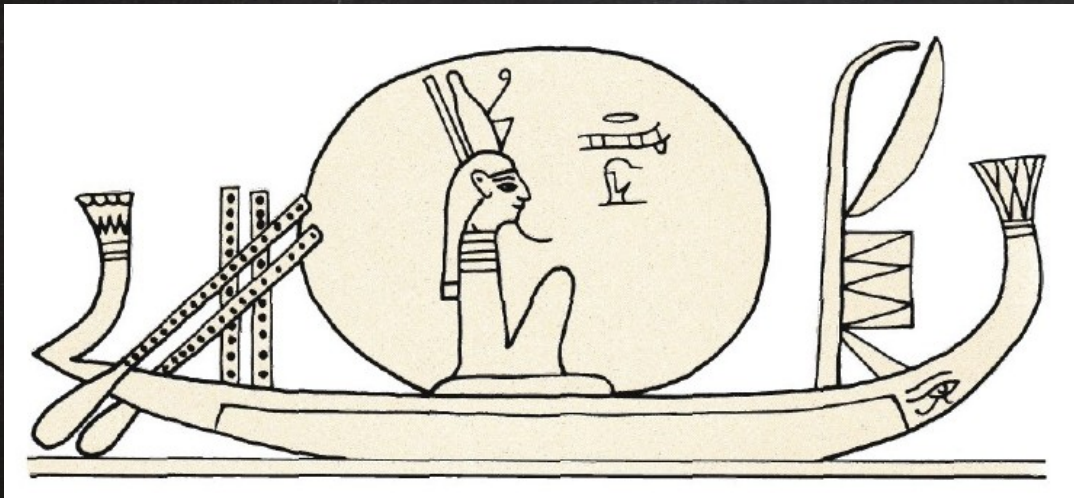
Engraved by J. Clark.



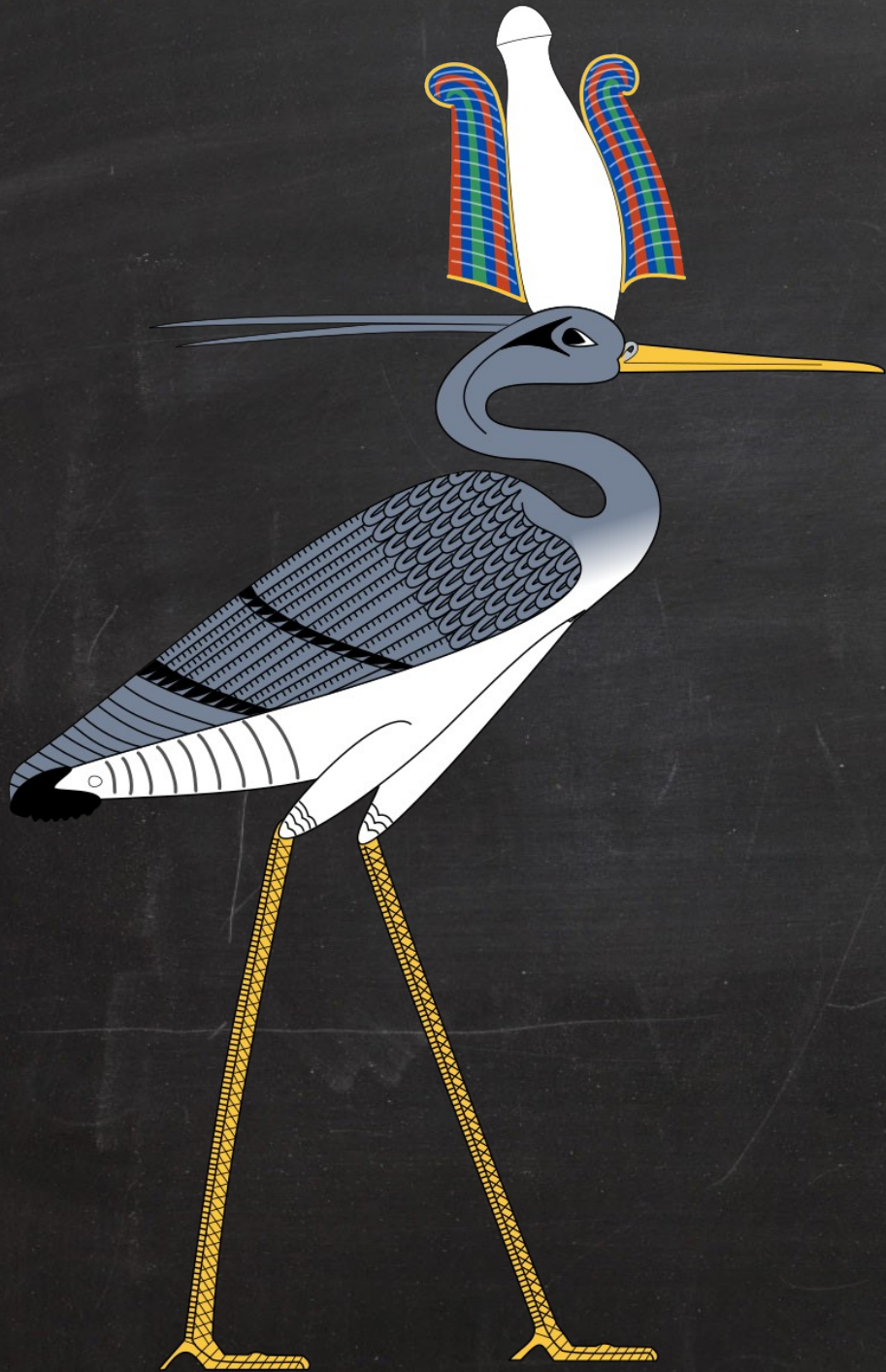
Nun

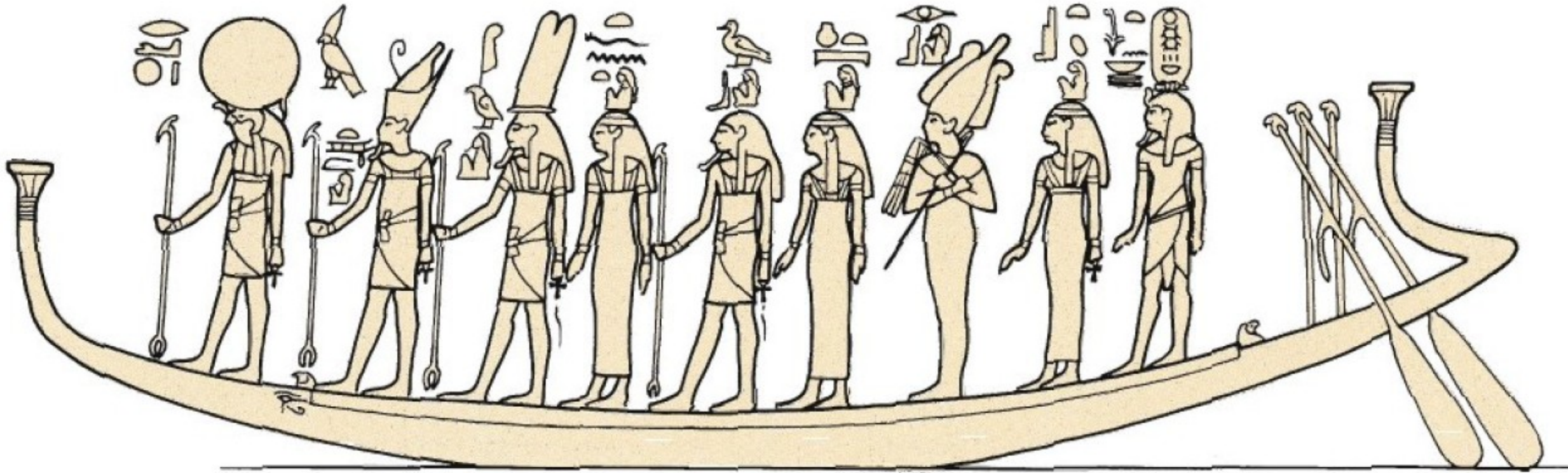


Atum



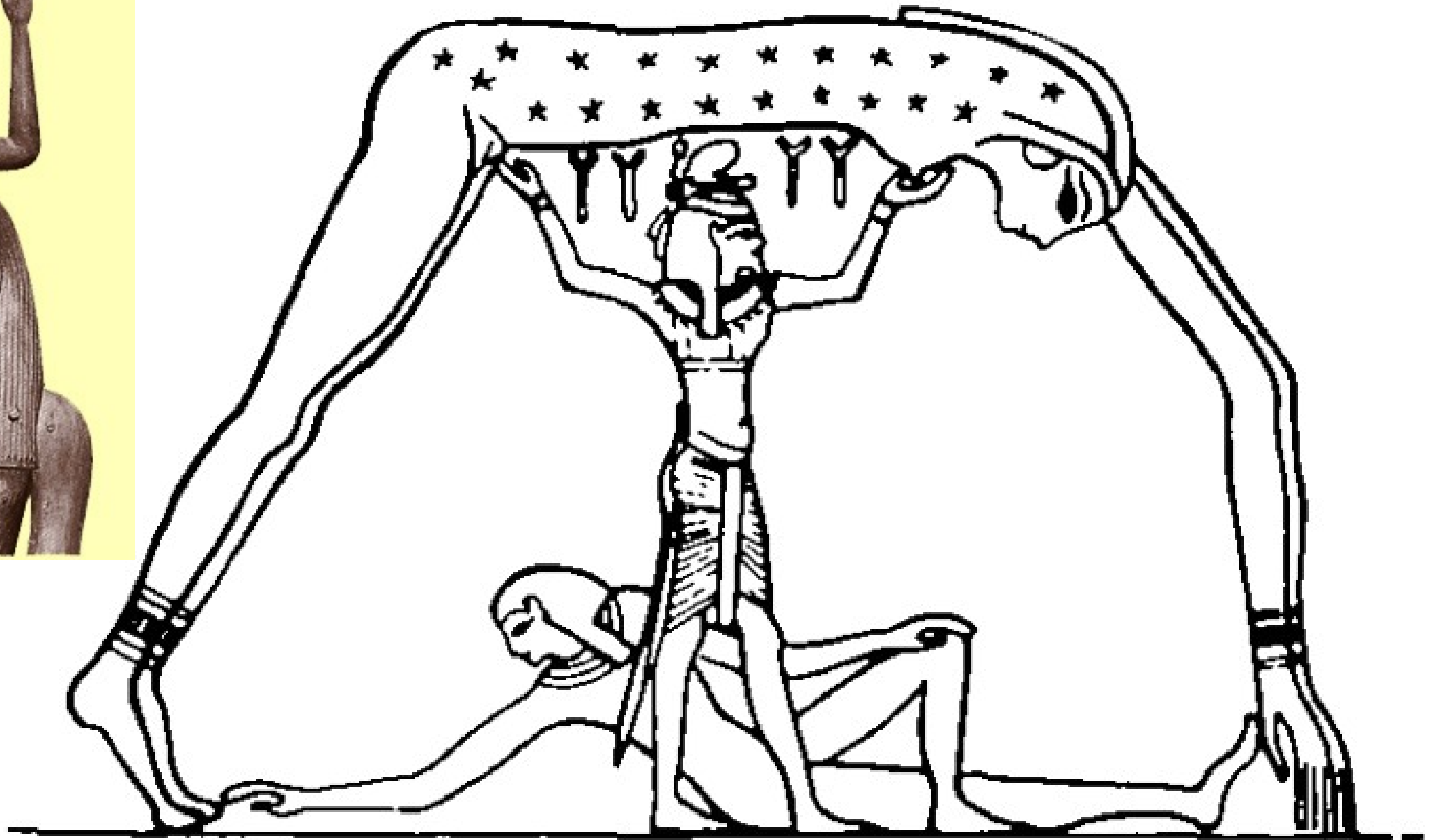
Bennu bird





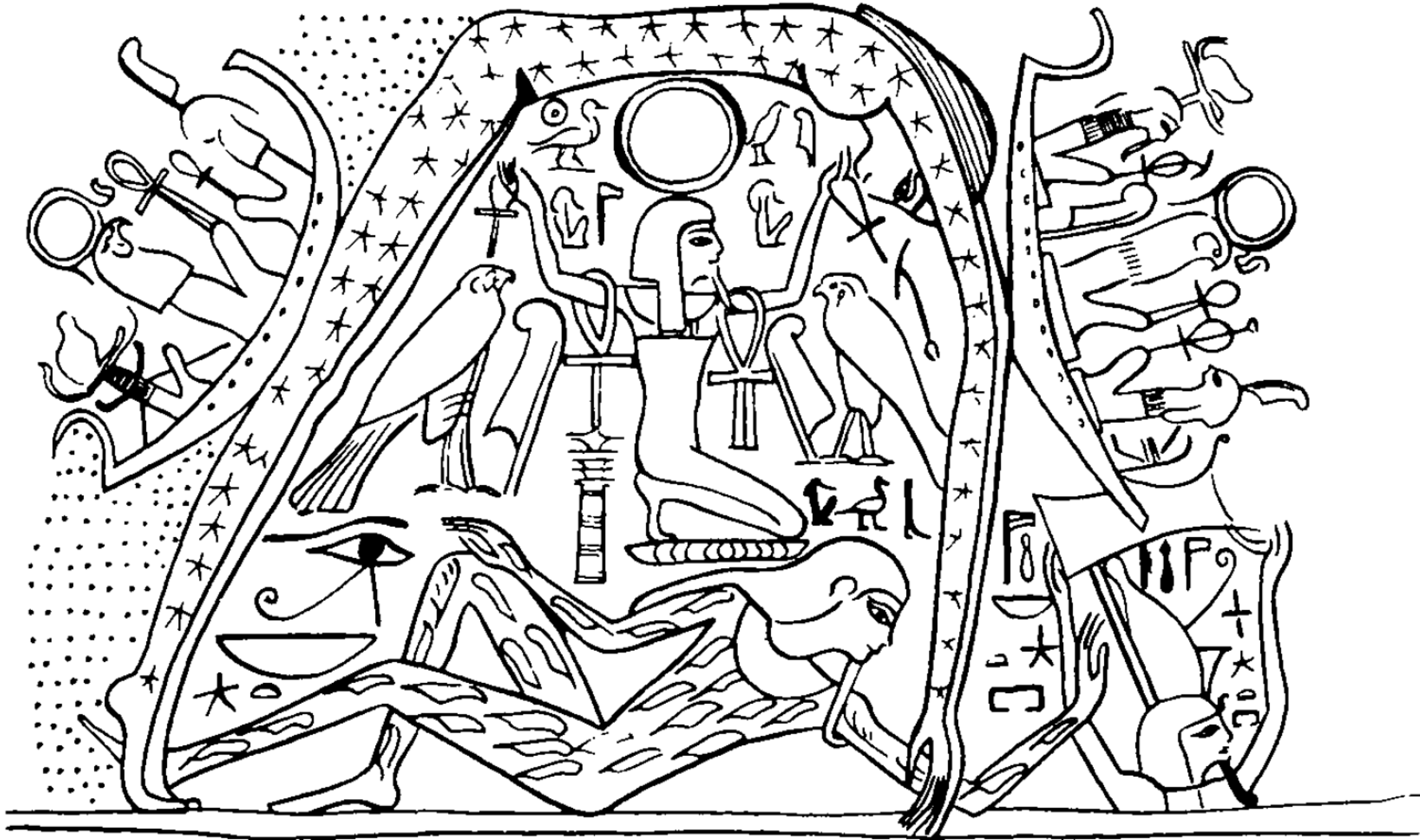
Left to right: Re, Atum, Shu, Tefnut, Geb, Nut, Osiris, Isis, Tutankhamun (as Horus)

The Ennead (“group of nine”) – Atum’s offspring

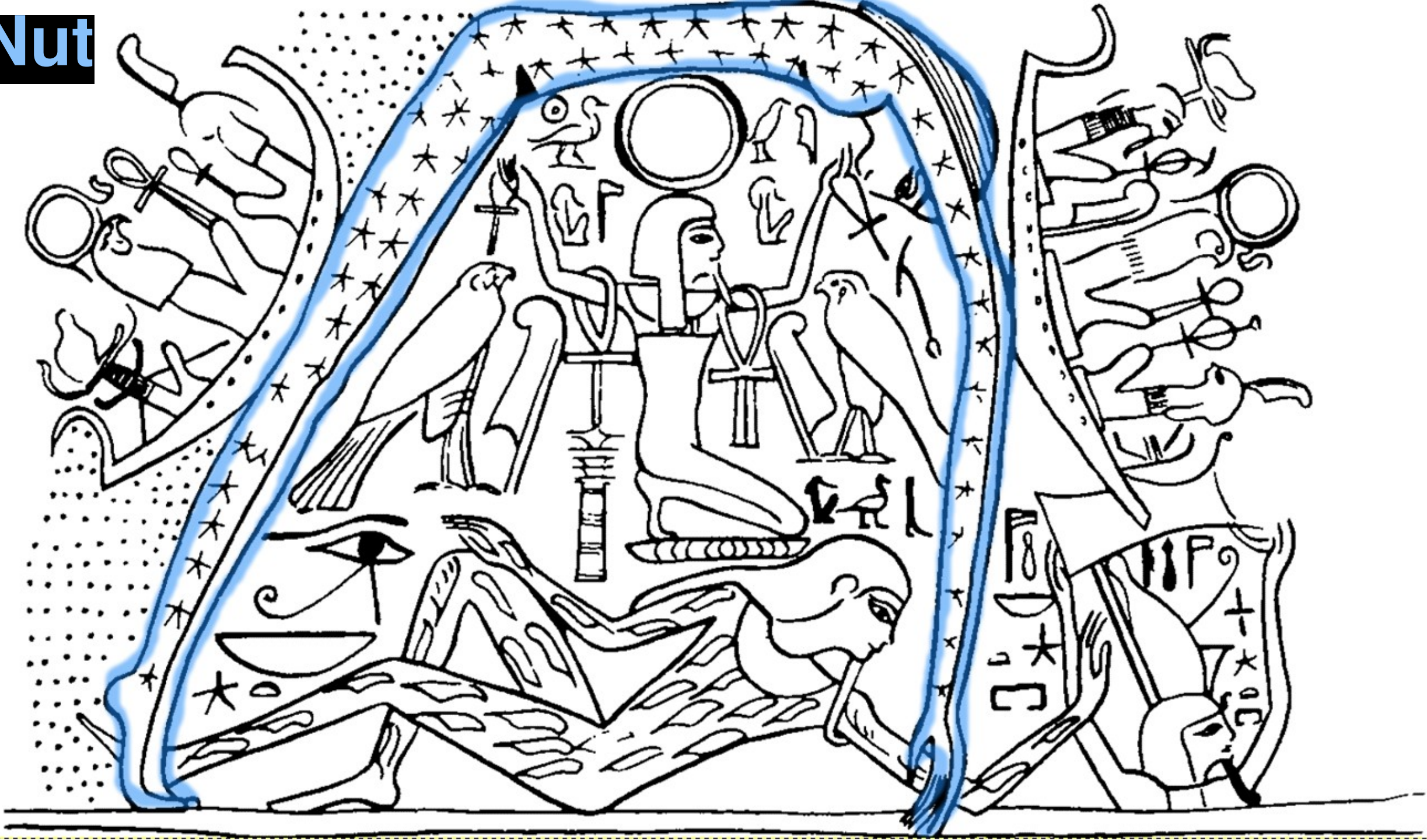


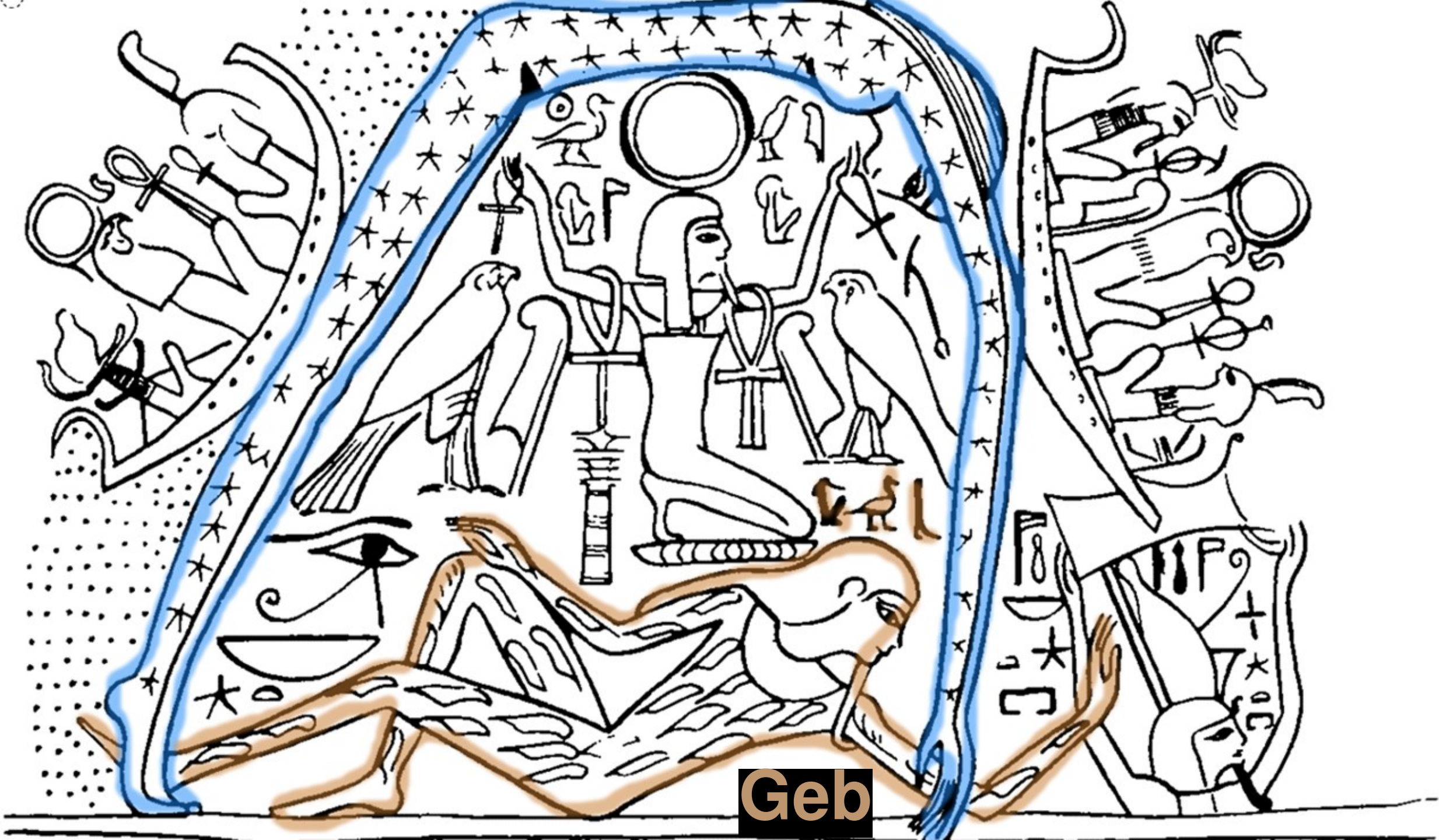
Heka (magic)



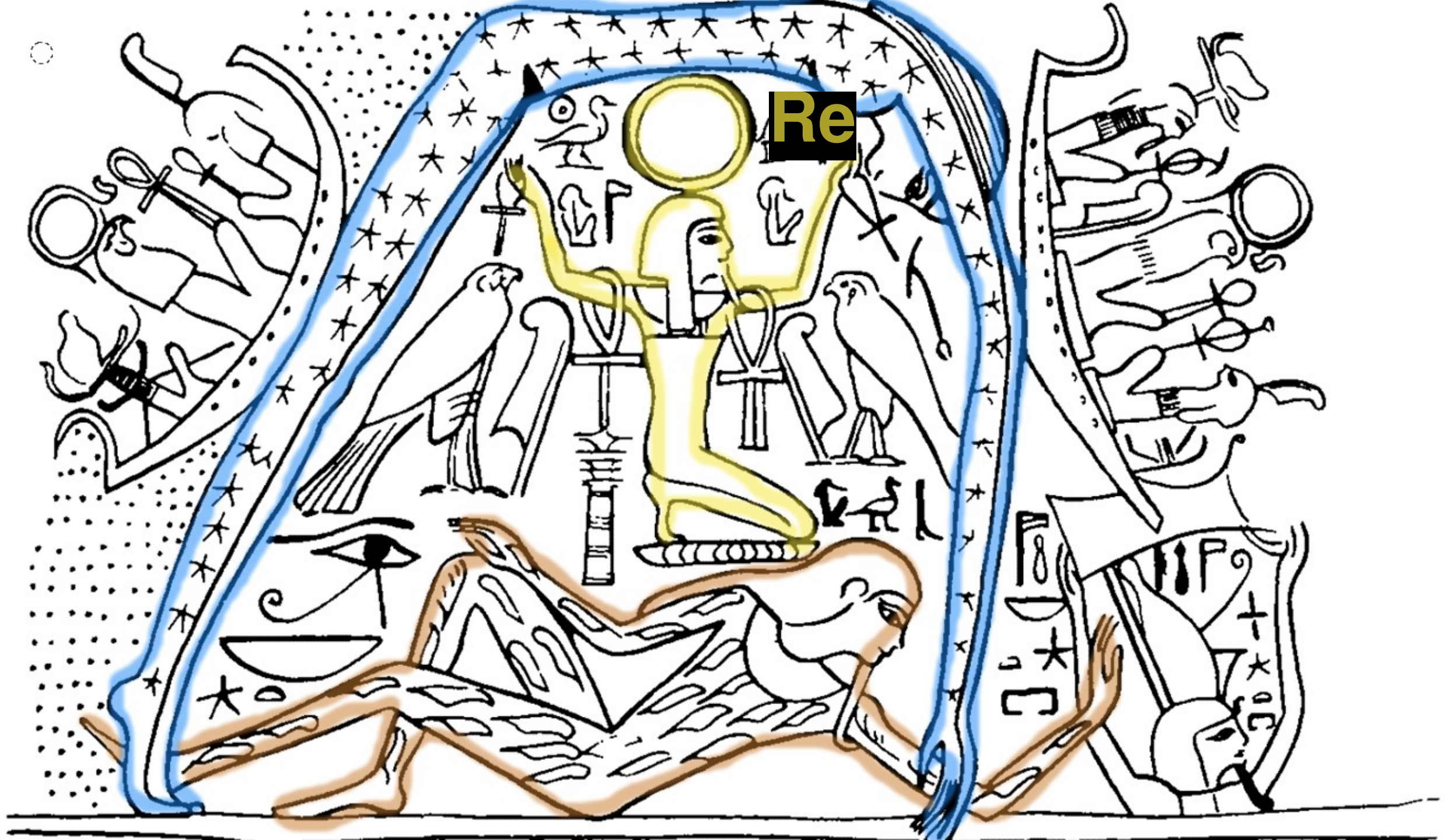


Nut

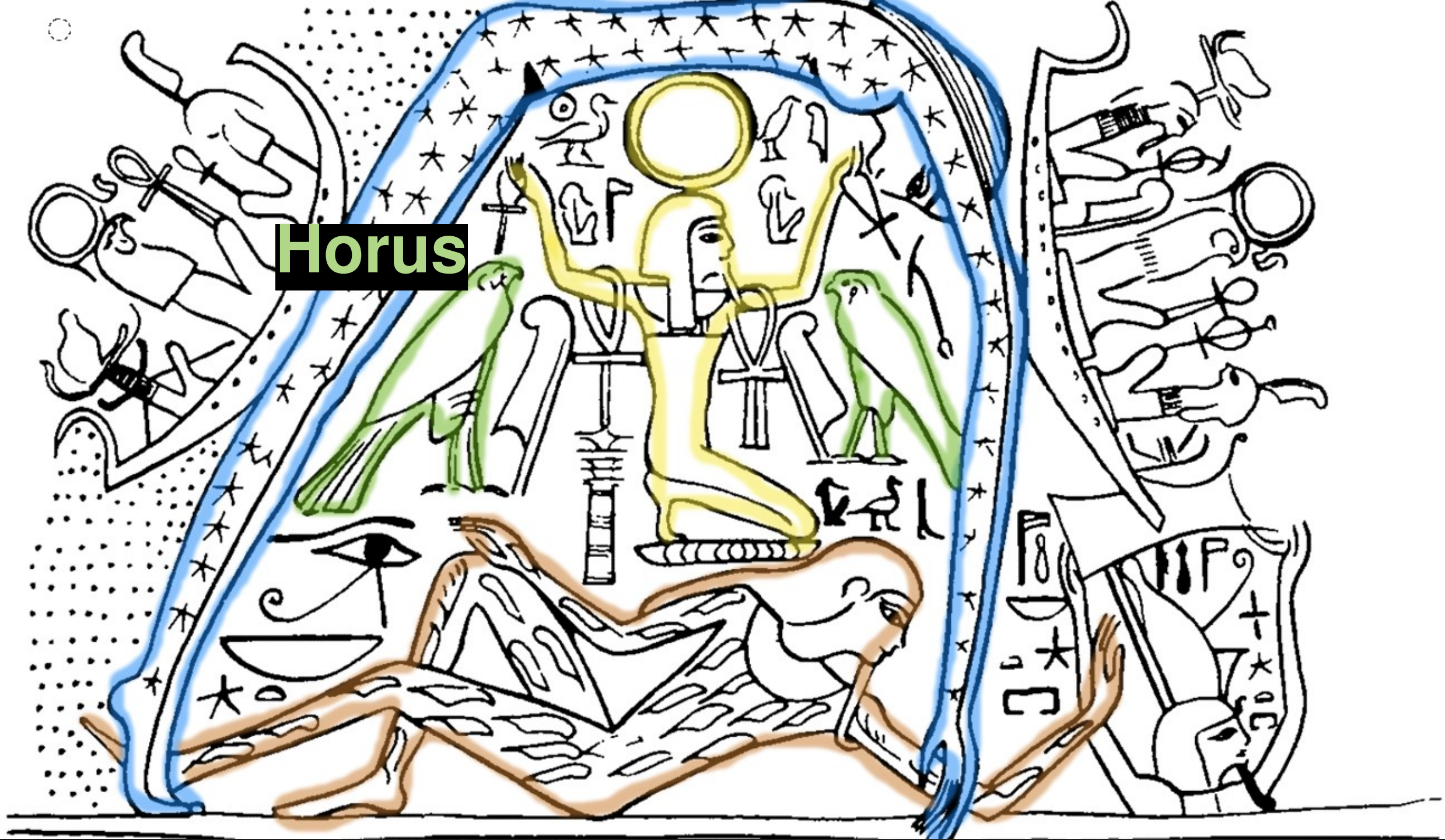


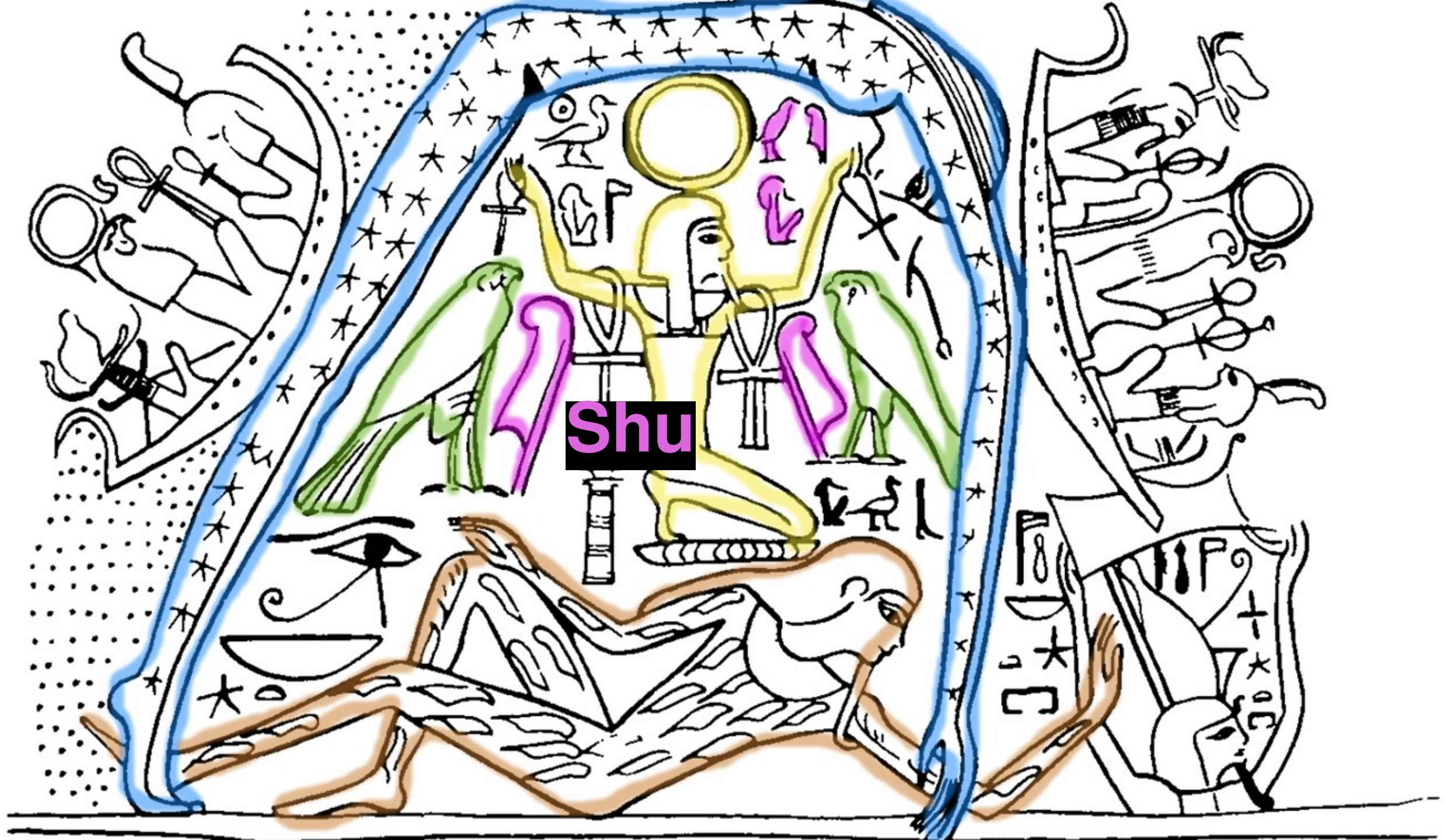


Geb



Horus





Shu





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𓆏
𓆑

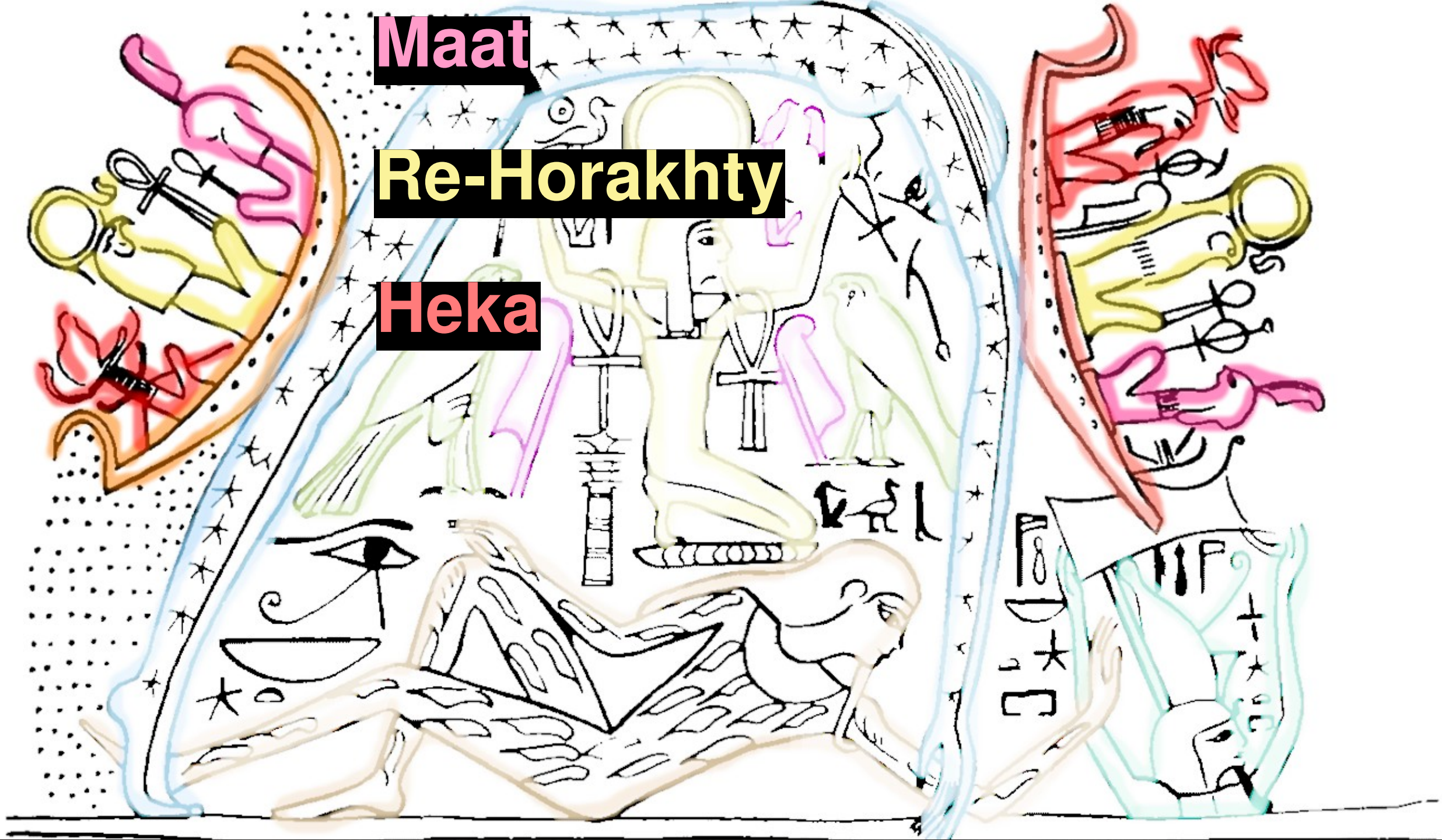
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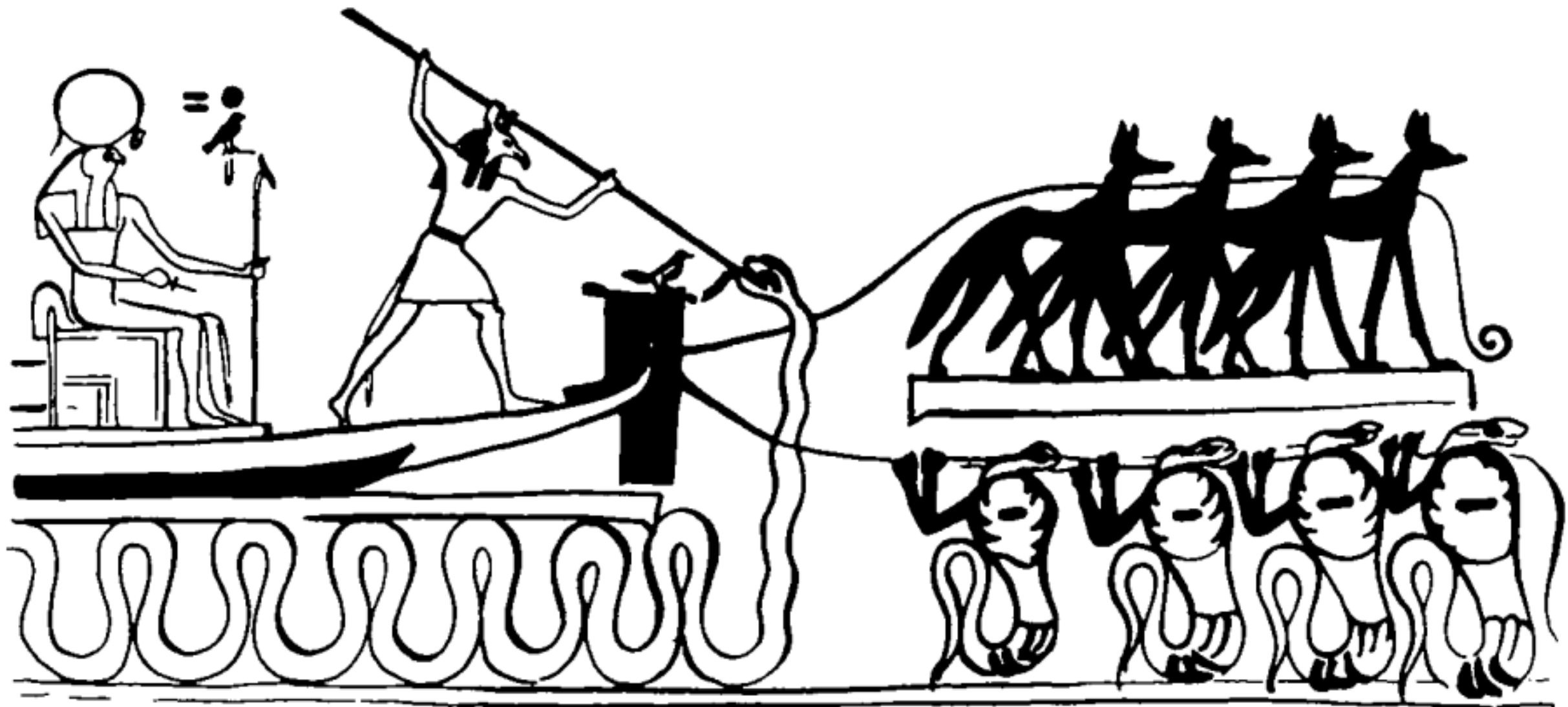
Maat

Re-Horakhty

Heka



Aper



Aper



The Book of the Heavenly Cow

Once it came to pass [under] the Majesty of Re, the self-generated god, that when he had been in the kingship over mankind and the gods combined, mankind proceeded to contrive a plot against the person of Re now that His Majesty, l.p.h., had grown old, his bones being of silver, his flesh of gold and his hair of genuine lapis lazuli. His Majesty became aware of the plot being contrived against him by mankind, and so His Majesty, l.p.h., said to those who were his retinue, "Please summon to me my Eye, Shu, Tefnut, Geb, and Nut as well as the fathers and mothers who were in my company when I was in Nun,¹ and also the god Nun, bringing his courtiers / along with him. It is stealthily that you must bring them lest mankind see and they lose heart as you come back with them to the palace so that they may offer their sound advice. It is within Nun, at the place where I originated, that I shall return."

...The Majesty of Re said, "See, they have fled into the desert, their hearts fearful over what I might say to them." Then they said unto His Majesty, "Send out your Eye that it may smite them for you, those who have conspired so wickedly. No eye is as capable as it to smite them for you. May it descend in the form of Hathor."

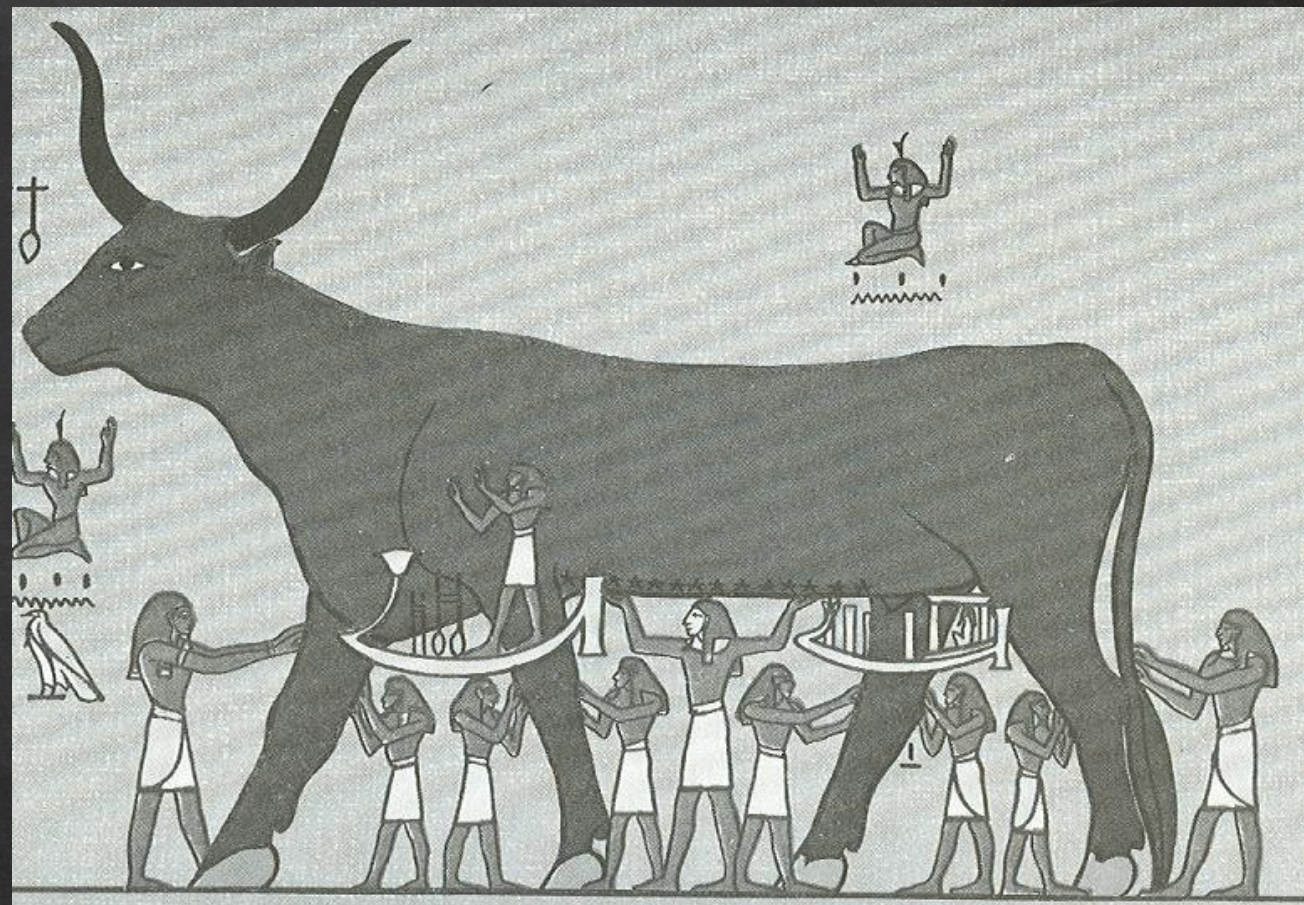
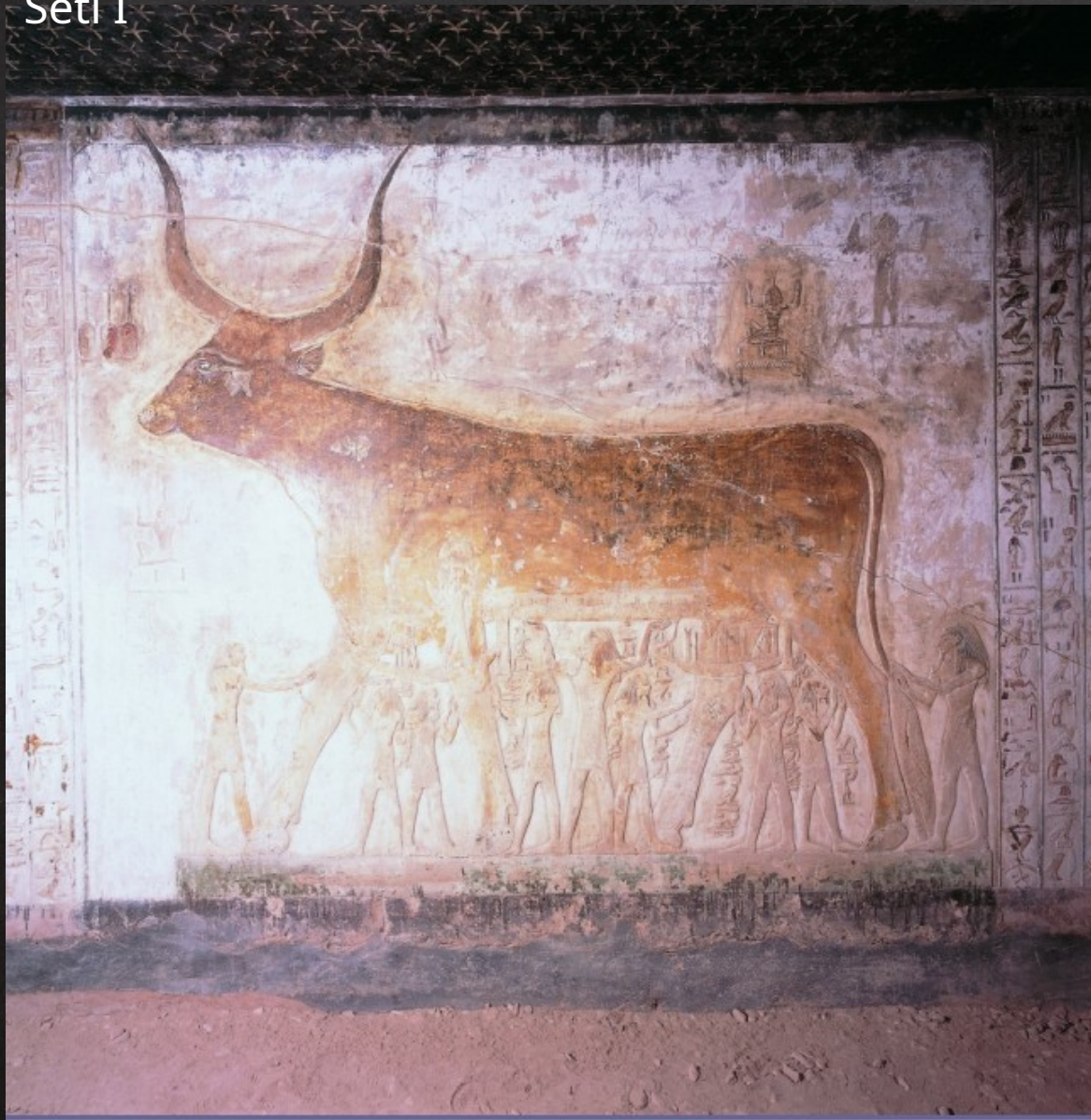
Then this goddess returned after she had slain mankind in the desert. The Majesty of this god said, "Welcome, Hathor! Have you accomplished that for which you set out?" This goddess replied, "As you live for me, I have overpowered mankind, and it was agreeable to my heart." The Majesty of Re said, "I shall gain power over them 'as king'. / Hold off decimating them!" *And so Sakhmet came into being.*⁴

The nightly beer-mash for wading in their blood starting from Heracleopolis.⁵ Re said, “Please summon to me speedy emissaries whose pace is as swift as a body’s shadow.” So these emissaries were brought immediately. Then said the Majesty of this god, “Run up to Elephantine and fetch me red ocher in quantity.” So this red ocher was brought to him. The Majesty of this great god assigned the Side-locked One who is in Heliopolis⁶ to pulverize this red ocher, while maidservants were engaged in grinding barley for beer. This red ocher was then added to that beer-mash so that (it) was just like human blood. Seven thousand *hebenet*-jars of beer were thus produced.

Then the Majesty of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt Re came with these gods to inspect this beer—it was the eve / of the day when the goddess was to slay mankind during her⁷ days of journeying south. The words spoken by the Majesty of Re, “How good it is! I shall preserve mankind from her.” Then said Re, “Transport it please to the place where she said she would slay mankind.”

This god then said to Nut, “It is in order that I may be uplifted that I have placed myself on your back.” “What’s this?” asked Nut. *And so ‘she’ came to be there in both the heavens.*¹⁴ The Majesty of this god ‘said’, “Stay far away from them! Lift me up! Look at me!”¹⁵ *And so she became the sky.* Then the Majesty of [this] god was visible within her. She said, “If only you would provide me with a multitude!” [*And so ‘the Milky Way’ came into being.*]

Image accompanying the myth in the tomb of Seti I



Modern drawing of the image





Make a female figure, standing to the south of you, and draw a goddess upon her in the middle of her, and a snake standing erect upon its tail, with her hand upon its belly and its tail upon the ground. (Recite), “O you to whom Thoth gives praise while the dignity of heaven is upon you and toward whom Shu extends his arms, may you save me from those two great and mighty gods³⁶ who dwell in the east of the sky, who guard heaven and guard earth, and who are with enduring mysteries.” Then they are bound to say, “How great he is when he goes forth to see Nun!”

Words recited after being purified on new crescent day and on half-month day in accordance with this ancient procedure. The one who recites this spell shall stay alive in the necropolis, and respect for him shall be greater than (for) those who are upon earth. If they ask, “What are your names?” (answer), “Eternal Recurrence and Eternal Sameness.” Then they are bound to say, “[He is truly] a god,” and to say, “He has reached us here by this route.”

I know the name³⁷ of that god whose face is that of Arsaphes.³⁸ I am one to whom an amulet is affixed in the evening. I am Re / amid his Ennead, his entourage with magical power. I shall pass by uninjured, (for) I am one belonging to the flame, which is the *ba* of fire. I have no eradicators among men, gods, spirits, and the dead or in anything in this whole world.

Pharaoh Akhenaten and Aten









تمثال ضخم للملكة نفرتيتي / الملكة

Hieroglyphic text in vertical columns, likely a religious or funerary inscription. The text is arranged in approximately 12 columns, with some lines containing decorative elements like zig-zag patterns. The hieroglyphs are finely carved into the stone surface.



The lands of Khor and Kush²
and the land of Egypt:
you set every man in his place,
you allot their needs,
every one of them according to his diet,
and his lifetime is counted out.
Tongues are separate in speech,
and their characters / as well;
their skins are different,
for you differentiate the foreigners.
In the underworld you make a Nile
that you may bring it forth as you wish
to feed the populace,
since you make them for yourself, their utter master,
growing weary on their account, lord of every land.

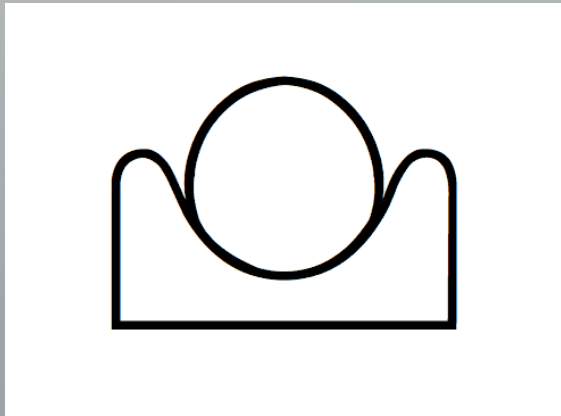
For them the Aten of the daytime arises,
great in awesomeness.

All distant lands,
you make them live,
for you set a Nile in the sky
that it may descend for them
and make waves upon the mountains like the sea
to irrigate the fields in their towns.
How functional are your designs,
Lord of eternity:
a Nile in the sky for the foreigners
and all creatures that go upon their feet,
a Nile coming back from the underworld for Egypt.³









Osiris, Isis, Horus, and Seth



Horus

Seth



**Wedjat eye /
Eye of Horus**



Nepthys

Osiris

Isis



