

Exodus 8

Read Exodus 8:1-32: God used the 10 plagues to mock their idols. It was like a game to show how useless and ineffectual they were. There is only one God. The point was to show that the featured benefit was not real. The Egyptians worshipped frogs. God was mocking their false hopes in these pretend powers of nature. God is always killing our idols, so that we can see that life and help only comes from him. In this case, their frog gods died and stunk up the land. Their idol for life brought death. Their idol for protection in childbirth accompanied the loss of all of Egypt's firstborn. She who supposedly brought health would be associated with terrible sores and boils.

Heket: The Egyptian Frog Goddess

Heket is an important figure in ancient Egyptian mythology, representing fertility, childbirth, and magic. She is often depicted as a woman with a frog's head, symbolizing her role as a goddess of creation and regeneration.

Symbolism and Attributes

- **Frog Connection:** Frogs are associated with fertility and renewal due to their life cycle and the abundance of frogs in Egyptian wetlands, especially during the Nile's annual flooding.
 - **Role in Birth:** Heket was considered a protector of women in childbirth. It was believed that she assisted in the delivery process, helping to ensure safe births.
 - **Magical Powers:** She was also associated with magic and transformation, often invoked in rituals for protection and healing.
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Mythology and Worship

- **Mythological Narratives:** Heket is frequently mentioned in creation myths where she assists Ra or other deities in their endeavors. She embodies the themes of life and death, crucial to the ancient Egyptian belief system.
 - **Cults and Temples:** Worship of Heket was prevalent, particularly among women seeking fertility or those experiencing tumultuous pregnancies. Shrines and offerings were common practices to venerate her.
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If Pharaoh had not reneged and changed his mind, we would not have had more miracles and signs from the follow-on plagues. Again, the magicians figured out a way to mimic God's miracle. Pharaoh is learning that Moses has a serious connection.

Next, God is killing their lice god. Their protector against misfortune could not have done a worse job at being associated with the 10 plagues. This healthiness good-luck charm was associated with a nation breaking out in boils.

The Egyptian god associated with lice is **Bes**. Bes is considered a protective deity, often depicted as a dwarf with a lion-like face. He was revered as a guardian against evil spirits and misfortunes, particularly in relation to childbirth and family life. Bes was also thought to provide protection from pests, including lice, which were a significant nuisance in ancient Egypt.

Bes had various aspects, including:

Characteristics of Bes

- **Appearance:** Often shown with a protruding tongue, a beard, and sometimes wearing a feathered headdress.
- **Role in Family:** He was worshipped for ensuring safety and well-being in the household, especially for women and children.
- **Cultural Significance:** Amulets of Bes were commonly used to ward off evil and provide health.

Next, God mocked their *lord of the flies*. This creature was depicted both as a fly or as a beetle. This idol supposedly was responsible for nature's cycles and new transformation every spring. Instead of a showcase of new birth and beginnings, the god of the flies was on hand to see massive fatalities. Beetle jewelry was extremely prevalent.

The Egyptian god associated with flies is **Khepri**. Khepri is often depicted as a scarab beetle or a man with a scarab for a head. He is associated with creation, the movement of the sun, and rebirth.

Khepri's Attributes and Symbols

- **Symbolism of the Scarab:** The scarab beetle was revered in ancient Egyptian culture, symbolizing transformation and the concept of renewal.
- **Role in Creation:** Khepri was believed to roll the sun across the sky much like a beetle rolls dung, representing the cycle of life and death.
- **Connections to Other Deities:** He is part of the sun god Ra's cycle, highlighting his importance in ancient Egyptian mythology.

Khepri's significance stems from his association with the natural cycles of life and the sun's daily journey.

The ancient Canaanites worshipped idols including Baalzebub (the Lord of the Flies). Their version of the fly god was a protection against pestilence. You can see the humor that God has here. The 10 Plagues are pure pestilence.

It is easy to laugh at these people; but we need to remember that we may just be chasing a more modern version (gods of power, wealth, sex, physical fitness, production, cars, etc...). God will show us that this is not where it's at if we become reliant on anything except him.