Welcome to our Patreon exclusive series, Deity Deep Dives. I'm your co-host of the Science witch podcast Anjel. For this inaugural episode in this periodically released miniseries, I felt had to be about the Ancient Egyptian Goddess of Math and Science, my patron deity and most closely identifying form of divinity, Seshat. Also today marks 2 years since my tarot teacher and beloved friend Richard passed away and Seshat was also his patron goddess. So as my posthumous love letter to a friend beyond the veil, and devotional to our shared Goddess who took us both as her scions, I want to tell you about Seshat.

Even in this mytho-poetic driven blockbuster 21st century, where ancient gods of Egypt are on the big screen interacting in the MCU, Seshat is still a largely cryptic deity. Most people immediately make the association of knowing her consort, Thoth, ibis-headed God of knowledge. After all, Thoth has become in many ways the favorite God of western occult traditions, and is echoed through popular patriarchal culture in a very present way Seshat is not, but that is also part of her power. She is the goddess of records and the keeping of time. She remembers even if humanity forgets. I feel now her emergence through me and other science witches. This episode is going to be one part scholarly information that I can present references and one part personal gnosis that has come to me and affirms me as her scion; bits of clair-consciousness that has filtered down to me in the quiet moments when I open up and listen. So I hope you don't mind me imparting some of my very subjective anecdotal experience with the Goddess of Math and Science, as I am after all, the co-host of the Science Witch Podcast.

I feel it's important to step back and contextualize that the worship of Egyptian deities has taken place over a longer course of human history than just about any other Gods we still know about, over 3/5ths of recorded history, according to the <a href="Complete Gods and Goddess of Ancient Egypt by Richard H. Wilkinson.">Complete Gods and Goddess of Ancient Egypt by Richard H. Wilkinson.</a> We know of around 1500 distinctive deities that make up this patheon over the course of that long of human record keeping, so there are many Gods and Goddess that don't get the MCU treatment in the patheon. Also, Seshat doesn't quite of the sex appeal of Bast or the glamor of Isis, Goddess of Magick. She is described in the Wilkenson book as the goddess in all forms of writing and notation including record keeping, accounting and census taking as well as being "she who is foremost in the house of books" She is in an over simplified way, the accountant and librarian of the Gods.

She was also the keeper of the cycles, most notably New year and flood times of the Nile. While there are no specific temples to Seshat, she is often invoked as a goddess of scribes and architects and there are recorded rituals for building temples and invoking her. For a civilization to flourish on such a level of complexity, records needed to be stored and referenced. Receipts needed to be kept. For what was knowledge if it didn't preserve itself to be as immortal as the gods themselves?

Seshat held an almost Saturnian sway over pharaohs in Egypt, as iconography of her depicts her recording the length of king's reigns in the manner of their accession on the 19th dynasty carving in the Luxor temple. She marked when kings rose and feel. She is the goddess of astrology and tracking the stars, and she has been invoked since the first days of pyramid building all the way back to the Old Kingdom.

She is also the Goddess of Quality Assurance, a title I have given her as I prayed to her to endure my time as a corporate quality science professional, a tenure of my professional life I have recently ended in pursuit of my true scientific passion. My time and experience as a

microbiologist in food safety was valuable in that it prepared me for what I aim to do next, far more than my time in academia did. I view the time I spent as a food quality professional as valuable for honing myself to be the kind of scientist that can run a lab, deal with clients and flourish in an emerging energy. Also Seshat told me to quit my job finally this past Autumn Equinox, so I'm invoking her to manifest this next phase. My worship of her has taught me the importance of the boring minutiae of record keeping, and treating it as a holy act. Reliefs found in temples of the Old Kingdom (c. 2575–c. 2130 BCE) and Middle Kingdom (c. 1938–c. 1630 BCE) depict her as the recorder of quantities of foreign captives and booty in the aftermath of military campaigns. Complex systems require data entry. Mundane inspection of quality keeps people honest, and scribes were holy arbitrators between people and gods.

I will quibble with one of the notes that Wilkenson makes about Seshat's iconography in that the 7 pointed star above her head is clearly a cannabis leaf and not a palm leaf. This makes total sense considering that cannabis was used in ancient Egypt widely as a sacrament and functionally in the use of fabric, parchment and shipbuilding. In fact that is one of the things I always turn on people who are 420 friendly about the Goddess of Math and Writing, in that she also has cannabis innate in her images carved over thousands of years ago.

To scribes of ancient Egypt, Science and Spirituality were one in the same. The act of record keeping, tracking the cycles, maintaining inventories that tracked the wealth of the pharaohs; these are all sacred and essential. The very mark the Egyptians are most known for that will echo through human history is the sacred study of aligning and building the pyramids, all acts that were in the domain of Seshat.

One of the ways I honor my Goddess is through books. I have far more of them than I truly have room for, but I cherish them. They are in part one of the reasons that I do this podcast, so I have access to more books and the people who write them. I was always that kid that loved spending time in libraries and when I was a teenager away at math and science boarding school some of my most formative experiences were in the library where we had mandatory study time. To this day the smell of books still turns me on. I keep track of my home library, specifically with my occult books that I have a google spreadsheet that I use to keep up with which ones I need to read for the podcast, which ones have audiobooks, and which ones are signed copies. My signed books are one of my most prized possessions, and in the process of writing a will that I am undertaking, these are about the only valuable assets that I can truly claim to have in my transient and professionally unstable career in the sciences.

It's been a long circuitous path I have taken over the course of 10 years since I left academia. Through that time, I have turned to Seshat in moments of doubt, of despair, of being caught in the Late Stage Capitalism that weighed heavy on my soul and made me feel trapped in jobs that weren't in alignment with what I truly wanted for my life. I acknowledge my privilege that I am not in that situation, and honor the path that got me here because in it I learned a lot, especially the specific information that I need to truly pursue my aspirations to open one of the first psilocybin testing and research laboratories in the US. When I connect to that divine current of Seshat she affirms me in that ability and in that I draw strength.

Among some of the self gnosis information I have gained from her in moments of reception is that scribes in ancient Egypt honed their bodies to be instruments of powerful analytical ability. They could pour precise amounts, they could taste minute quantities of contamination in huge lots of wheat. They could actively shape and cultivate their microbiome to give them the

resulting pheromones for their own purposes. They would record their results but they also recognized they had the power to influence the results they wanted through the very act of creation, and they followed alchemical and astrological pursuits with the connection to the subject that modern materialistic science would consider biased.

At this point in human evolution, science and spirituality were one in the same, and there is power in finding our way back to this current through honoring the wisdom of the natural world, the cycles, and the quieter ways of record keeping. As I continue to participate in the psilocybin industry I try to keep in the forefront of my mind the fact that this is built on indigenous wisdom that was demonized and suppressed by the catholic church. I want to honor this knowledge and respect the people for whom it was the keepers of it and I feel that Seshat helps guide me in this work by helping to bring forth hidden knowledge in a way that honors the history and legacy of that knowledge.

Another bit of personal gnosis that came to me about Seshat was when I was driving through cottonfields in the MS Delta on my way to see one of the last remaining old growth cypress swamps in the world. There, Seshat told me she is an African Goddess, and that I have benefited from white privilege that has a karmic debt to pay to my kin more recently descended from Africa, whose blood soaks this land. She was unequivocal about this, knowledge and empowerment in black excellence in the south is something I must champion and I must use this privilege I have been afforded in this life to actively dismantle the entrenched systems of white supremacy that still hold sway over this place. I have made a vow that if I am to prosper or be able to secure the kind of wealth that does make an impact I have to give a large portion back to education that I received in my home state, specifically to the state sponsored boarding school I went to as a teenager that has connected me to so many other scions of math and science: the Mississippi School for Math and Science. This strongly came to me in the way I have come to know deeply is my truth and I made that vow to my Goddess as I drove through cottonfields and rural highways that embody the place that is the home of American music and so much troubled but profoundly relevant history of this nation. This land my blood is tied to and the place that forged me. While I may not live there, I will always have that connection and obligation to make reparations.

I also owe a great debt to indigenious communities especially the Hopi nation where I taught 5th and 6th graders on the reservation math and science for one of my favorite periods to my time in academia. It was during this point, I had my most significant encounter with things I could not explain and shook me out of my very dogmatic atheist phase and back into my practice of witchcraft. This encounter deserves its own actual episode but in summary, the Corn Woman imparted to me some of the sacred blue corn in a dream and with it came the knowledge that indigenious wisdom is needed to save humanity. I have held this gift for over 10 years now and as I proceed with this exciting new frontier in science that is only possible because of indigenious wisdom, this important mission is forefront in my mind and Seshat is there to help me honor my vow to the Corn Woman.

I first was told about Seshat at Pagan Pride in Portland OR in 2017 by <u>Queen Mother Imaku</u>, a Khemtic practitioner and priestess. I had gone up to her with tears in my eyes after I heard her sing ancient Khemetic in a prayer ceremony to about 60 people that attended. I felt this intense

current of emotion from her song in a way that was ineffable and resonated with me. When I talked to her, she told me I was feeling this emotion because I was hearing my own language spoken for the first time. I asked her if there was a goddess of science because prior to that I didn't know her name and she had come up in conversations about Egypt in the past, and that's when Mother Imaku told me to go find Seshat. I knew with that same ineffable certainty that this was the Goddess who has been speaking to me my whole life, who has stood by me as I have always known, but didn't have a name for until then.

After I learned who Seshat was, I went to Richard who was a great lover of all things Egypt and who had studied under <a href="Israel Regardie">Israel Regardie</a> but never bothered to get his degrees in the <a href="OTO">OTO</a> because he didn't like the bureaucracy and didn't want to pay the money to show off what he already knew. He was delighted that I knew of Seshat and imparted all his knowledge of her as he saw in me a fellow scion. He listened to my past life impressions in ancient Egypt as a kind but wary practitioner of the Occult who had decades of time as a professional psychic and tarot reader and had heard all the claims about people having past lives in Egypt. He told me my impressions and personal gnosis seemed the most authentic to anyone else who he had encountered and that he felt we both had a frequency to our connection through our worship and reverence of Seshat. Now that he is on the other side, in the realm of the ancestors, I feel him still with me, looking out for me and affirming my connection to our Goddess and my sacred destiny.

So to close out this very personal and meaningful inaugural episode of Deity Deep Dive I would like to share one of Richard's Poems he wrote in 1992

Oh Ruby of the blood red rose, it pains to watch thee wither, and paint thy cheeks with powdered blush when once flushed like Crimson rivers.

Back! Back! Back to Egypt where thy Soul doth fly, to slip unnoticed inside some long forgot sarcophagi!
Far beneath the din of Cairo's roaring traffic rushing by, there to take thy rightful place sublime, made for thee before our race, light-hewn, traded 'way eternity for time, yea traded 'way eternity for time!

Thank you for tuning into this episode of our Patreon exclusive series. episodes on upcoming deities will feature deities including Ninkasi, Malek Taus, and Wadjet. If you would like to browse stickers we have of these Goddess, we have them available for sale on our <u>Etsy</u>. If you have a deity that you would like to hear featured in this series, please consider joining our Patreon.

Until next time, Live long and Prosper and Blessed be.

Complete Gods and Goddess of Ancient Egypt by Richard H. Wilkinson.

last remaining old growth cypress swamps in the world

Queen Mother Imaku

Israel Regardie

OTO

In this inaugural episode of Deity Deep Dives, Anjel testifies their devotion to Seshat, Egyptian Goddess of math and science and "she who is foremost in the house of books". This episode is one part information about the Goddess Seshat and one part personal gnosis as Anjel shares their devotional practice and how it has inspired this podcast and their scientific aspirations. This episode is also a dedication to Anjel's tarot teacher, friend and mentor, Richard Stratton who passed away around this time in 2020. Anjel shares a poem written by Richard about Egypt as they bonded in their love of the Goddess of books and record keeping.