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Summary

Hatmehit, translated Chief Fish, was a fish- goddess in the city of Mendes located in the eastern Nile delta. Mendes was the capital of Nome of Kha (the Nome 16 in the Lower Egypt). She represented as a woman wears a fish upon her head and sometimes represented as a whole fish. Hatmehit could also be translated as "Which precedes the fish", the first fish who came out from the primeval water, Or the first of the fish. The name also means Elite of the fish.

Hatmehit was originally worshiped as the principal deity of the region of Mendes, she was assimilated the ram deity Banebdjed, as a husband along with their offspring Horus, and they formed the Mendesian Triad .

The fish- goddess was very popular and revered in the Old kingdom, its fame and position had peaked during late, Ptolemaic and Roman periods. Numerous bronze statuettes of fish are dating to these periods. She was widely adored in the Delta, and with Isis and Hathor in many cities as Dandara, El Minia, Abydos, El Bahnsa and Thebes.

Hatmehit helped Isis in rebirth Osiris since the Old kingdom because she swollen Osiris phallus after the god Seth had tore and thrown it in the water according to the Osirion Legend, as a result its importance increased according to the Ramessum papyrus.

Hatmehit was a protector of the community fishing. She was the goddess of the sky: a protector of the sun boat and the god Horus; In addition being a symbol of rebirth, magic and fertility. So many amulets of it are found because she helps the dead to across the journey in the eternity world.

She plays an important role in the religious rituals such as: playing with sisitrum and burning incenses and finally slaughter the ass ritual.