

Name: Rokaya Ali Massoud Shafei
Date and Place of birth: 4/10/1976 Cairo, Egypt
Degree: Master in Egyptology
Specialization: Egyptology
Supervisor: Professor Dr Mohamed Salah El Kholy
Title of thesis: The Concept of Blood and its Role in Ancient Egyptian Life and Beliefs.

Summary:

Blood is considered one of the most initial elements for a human being, like water and air, since it is the main element in the body. Blood had an important role in ancient Egypt especially in religion, medicine and magic.

Expressions of blood: The most common word for blood in hieroglyphic is *snf*, however, this is not the only word which refers to it but there are many other words like *dsr*, *tr*, *htp*, *ins*. Many verbs related to blood were also found, like *b^sb^s snf*, *shbsnf*, *wnm snf*, *s^m snf*.

The colour of blood in ancient Egypt refers to the defeat of enemies; in the same time this symbol refers sometimes to the enemies themselves and generally to every evil thing in life. According to Harris Pap, for example the followers of Seth were called the Red Ones.

Blood is dealt with in ancient Egyptian stories like "The Conflict between Horus and Seth", "Destruction of Mankind", "Two Brothers", Orbiny Pap, Salt Pap, Urk. and others.

Several gods are substantially associated with blood, such as *ssmw*, the butcher, who slaughtered the sinners in PT spells, Sekhmet, Thut, Isis (*t3yt* the Knot of Isis), Re (*nb dsrw*), Herishef (*b3 imi dsrw.f*), Osiris Lord of the Lake of Blood, and Khonsu who cut the heads of the nobles. Wine was a symbol of the blood of enemies. Drinking wine helps calm (tranquilize) the angry god

In religious books, many spells in the Pyramid Texts and Coffin Texts like the PT 273-274, (The Cannibal Hymn), talked about those kings who ate their predecessors to obtain power in the other world. Metaphoric expressions of blood are also found in the Book of the Dead, Chapters 156 and 17, Book of Caverns, Hathur Book and Edfu volumes.

The research also discusses the role of the heart *h3ty*, which is the central and main organ responsible for the distribution of blood to all parts of the body, in addition to the vessels.

There are medical papyri like those of Berlin, Epres, London, Smith and Lahun, which discuss different diseases of a human being, including diseases of the teeth, head, nose, and others. Some of these diseases are closely associated with blood like urine bleeding and dental diseases in addition to gynaecology.

This research aims to conclude that blood was very important not only in the Pyramid Texts, the Coffin Texts and the other ancient Egyptian religious books, but also in the medical branch. The ancient Egyptians perhaps sometimes reached treatments for diseases similar to those adopted in our modern age.

fa-arch.cu.edu.eg