

## **The artistic development of the sea element in ancient civilizations**

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### **Abstract:**

The subject of this research is aims to the sea element, its definition, the diversity of its visual vocabulary and its implications with legacies in many civilizations since the dawn of history.

**Key words:** Artistic - sea element - civilizations

### **Research Problem:**

The research problem is summarized in whether the sea elements are considered as one of the visual vocabularies affecting the ancient civilizations, and is there evidence of its existence among the first evidence of life on earth, and how the drawings of marine elements varied through over successive civilizations.

### **Research objectives:**

Shedding light on the importance of the sea elements as a visual stimulus with a unique significance through over successive civilizations and eras. And emphasizing the relationship between him and human as main part from the cosmic system and its clear impact on his life in myths and beliefs.

**Research importance:**

The importance of the research is due to highlighting the importance of the sea element in the drawings and beliefs in ancient civilizations. and to show its artistic and aesthetic values and the extent power of it as a visual stimulus and an element of plastic arts. and one of the most important elements affecting in the ancient civilizations is Fish and snakes because they have a strong and philosophical presence in many myths and novels, To consider it a symbol of the restoration of life and their possessions of supernatural powers, Where they were taken in religious rituals as deities praying to them because of their connotations and legendary dimensions and folk tales and amulets and spells against evil spirits and magical practices when going out to war or hunting.

**Research hypotheses:**

The research is based on the historical and descriptive method.

**Introduction:**

The relationship between humans and sea creatures since their existence on earth has made it a powerful visual stimulus. Water is one of the elements that are related to human life, and it is considered one of the basic environmental resources on the face of the earth, and it's including seas, oceans, and rivers water which contain an abundance of sea creatures. The first beginnings of life appeared in the oceans, and the primary algae, fungi, and mollusks were formed, and then the vertebrates that include fish, shells, amphibians and mammals.

It is no wonder that some drawings of cave walls in the Stone Age contain drawings of lakes, swamps, and some sea elements, as well as has comes decorated on daily use tools and pottery.

Ancient civilizations have great attention to the sea element as a symbol of resurrection and the restoration of life and for its supernatural powers and earner of livelihood, and as mentioned in some legends and novels. And it was taken in religious rituals as deities praying to them because of its connotations and mythical dimensions, folk tales, amulets, and incantations against evil spirits, and magical practices when going out to war or hunting.

The sea element also took a great place in art, so it came in its various forms and symbolic connotations to be for the artist a creative stimulus and a fertile visual source that arouses his creative imagination as a visual and plastic element, which had the greatest impact on his life and beliefs.

#### **The sea element in in the Ancient Egyptian Civilization:**

The ancient Egyptians sanctified many sea creatures and elements that live in the waters, and their sanctification came not for themselves, but because they were considered a manifestation of the hidden power of God. They were terrified by their vision of predatory animals and the damage they inflicted on them, so they approached and worshiped them in order to avoid harm, as a continuation of the blessings and prosperity of their country, So The walls of tombs in the era of the Old Kingdom were filled with many illustrated scenes of swamp water and a number of different animals and creatures such as hippos, crocodiles, turtles, fish, frogs, and snakes. (Khaled Abu Al-Hamad, Journal of Architecture and Arts, pp. 12-14).

When talking about the gods, we find that each god took a specific city or territory-specific to him, and each city considered its own god to be greater than all the gods of the neighboring cities, The gods were represented in a composite form that combined human and animal elements, and they also set up temples to make offerings to them. And since the ancient Egyptian believed in the idea of resurrection and immortality when this creature was perishing, they embalmed it by wrapping its body in linen and mats and burying it in its designated tomb, and they took care of the holy land designated for their burial. The ancient Egyptian says: “I gave bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty, and clothes to the one who had no clothes. I took care of Abu Garden and the falcons, cats and sacred dogs and buried them according to the religious rituals, so I painted them with oil and wrapped them in woven linen shrouds.” (George Posner, 2001, pp. 145-146).

**Fig.1****Fig.2**

A group of mummified crocodiles in the Crocodile Museum of Sobek Temple - Aswan

( <https://www.wikiwand.com/ar/سوبيك> ) ( <https://allthatsinteresting.com/ancient-egyptian-crocodile-mummies> )

The fish was considered a symbol of resurrection and the restoration of life and had a doctrinal role. It also became a sacred symbol for some gods and temples were built for it.

They also offered dried fish as "vows" to the gods inside the temples and offerings as a messenger from the flood, for their belief that the deceased will use it when resurrecting him to the afterlife after death, and for their belief in resurrection and immortality.

The ancient Egyptians ate fish fresh or preserved through (salting and drying). They have also known "roe" since the (Age of the Pyramid Builders), which is the "caviar" of the poor, made from the eggs of mullet fish. Evidence indicates that) Esna) was the first city that knew the manufacture of dried fish (fesikh) in history, while it was forbidden for all Priests and kings eat fish when they enter temples. (Mahmoud Maher Taha, 2012 AD, pp. 16-17).

The ancient Egyptian also sanctified the serpent and took it as a protector from evil spirits because it possessed a miraculous power that enables it to change its skin and renew it at all times, making it a symbol of renewal and immortality, Many legends of snake deities appeared and each temple became a dedicated deity, in addition to some prayers, rituals, and magical spells that were held to save the universe from dangers, and the walls of tombs were filled with drawings of snakes as a symbol of goodness and prevention of dangers. (Amal Hashad, The Symbolism of the Serpent in Greek and Roman Funerary Art, p. 124).

The crocodile was called the god (Sobek) and was depicted as a man with a crocodile head, He occupied a great divine position and was considered a god of water and fertility, He was sanctified and his worship spread in several cities and temples were built for him. Earrings were placed in his ears and a crown of feathers on the head of the sacred crocodile for decoration, food, and offerings.

And when the sacred crocodile was dying, it was made for him in special clothes, his body was covered with papyrus legs, tied with linen and sewn with laces on each side, followed by the stage of perfuming and fumigation to increase the care of his beautification or to expel evil spirits through these smells. (Abdul Halim Nur al-Din, p. 441).

The connection of the male hippopotamus with the god (Set or Seth) came in his brutality, strength, and anger during his destruction of the fields. While the female hippopotamus symbolized fertility and represented the goddess (Tweret), who was the kind and benevolent person of the ancient Egyptians, although she has a wide mouth that shows her terrifying teeth and crocodile tail and has lion feet and claws, she was associated with the birth of children and the protection of pregnant women. It rests with its front feet on the sign (Sa or Ankh) a symbol of protection and life and is one of the most popular deities because of its connection to the family and the home and is able to repel evil, it was called (Ibt) and represented the harem in the city of (Thebes) because of its supervision. Mothers were carrying necklaces with their amulets. (J Rashe, 2006, pp. 349-350).

Water turtles were sacred and some of them were eaten (in pre-dynastic times), then a religious order was issued by the god "Ra" to forbid eating them, as there was a prevailing belief that the turtle was a symbol of chaos. It came to Earth in the form of a snake to swallow the sun disc as it is considered an enemy. Flood as it swallows large amounts of flood water and it thus opposes the natural cosmic cycle of life. It came in drawings and pictures on the walls of temples and religious texts and was depicted on eating utensils and magical amulets. (Mahmoud Maher Taha, 2012 AD, pg. 9).

The ancient Egyptians also revered the frog for having the ability to reproduce in large numbers. During the flood season of the Nile, which passes over Egypt every year and destroys many crops and kills animals, the only being that survived was the frog, and it became indicating the flow of life and rebirth. The goddess (Hekat), the goddess of childbirth and protection of children and pregnant women, was taken as a sacred symbol for her and was represented in the form of a woman with a frog's head, where her center of worship was established in the city of (Antinopolis). It was also depicted on magical knives that mothers carry for protection and statues, in addition to amulets and utensils dating back to the "Naqada II" civilization, as well as on the rings worn by males as a sign of fertility. (Hiam Hafez Rawash, 2003, p. 217).

### **The sea element in ancient Egyptian art:**

The ancient Egyptian believed in the idea of resurrection and immortality, so he made amulets and wooden and stone statues to accompany the deceased on his journey to eternal life, He also arranged animal mummies inside bronze molds in the tombs, and each mold bore the image of the deity and his descendants. Fish have taken a special place in the manufacture of amulets and were depicted on the walls of temples because of the special protection they provide for them. They pledge to protect those who wear them, whether for the living or the dead, in the face of the afterlife after death.

It was also worn by pregnant women as it symbolized fertility, renewal and reproductive power. It has also appeared on some cosmetic containers, daily-use items, and figurines. The ancient Egyptian also used magical spells to protect against snake bites and was represented on amulets; it also appeared in abundance on kings' crowns and embroidered headdresses as a symbol of divine rule. For example, the cobra and the goddess (Nekhbet) the guardian of the south, and the goddess (Wadjet) were placed on the kings' crowns above their foreheads and necklaces to protect them. (Kamel Hussein, 2002 AD).



**Fig.3**

King Tutankhamun's crown  
carrying a snake and an eagle



**Fig.4**

The era of the modern state  
(1150 - 1069) BC - Nubian Museum in Aswan - Egypt

( <http://www.deirelmedina.com/lenka/Meretseger.html> ) ( <http://www.unesco.org/culture/museum-for-dialogue/item/ar/74/amulet-in-the-shape-of-a-fish> )

A number of pottery vessels that depicted hunting scenes of crocodiles and hippos were found in the "Naqada I civilization", some of which were anthropomorphic forms on its edge or on its outer surface and fixed to the bowl when it was still soft through a suitable adhesive. And the manifestations of civilization increased and painted pottery appeared for the first time (3850-3650 BC), while we find in "Nagada II civilization" great progress appeared in the manufacture of various stone tools and utensils and the drawings that decorate the surfaces of these pots.

with drawings and wavy and spiral lines. Among the most beautiful of them are two pictures on two pages, each depicting crocodiles, one behind the other, as shown in Figure (5), and another depicting four hippos. Figure No. (6). (Muhammad Anwar Shukri, p. 140).



**Fig.5**

Clay pot - Naqada I civilization (3100-2686 BC)  
The Egyptian Museum in Cairo



**Fig.6**

Pottery flask topped with hippos  
Naqada II (3650-3500 BC) – California  
Height 10 - Diameter 11 cm

( <https://aemuseum.weebly.com/bowl.html> ) ( <http://www.ancient-egypt.co.uk/manchester/pages/hippopotamuses%20bowl.htm> )



**Fig.7**

Crocodile mummy mask - 1st-2nd centuries AD - State Museum of Egyptian Art - Munich - Germany

The hippopotamus was also one of the most important elements that were prominently dealt with in art during the eras of the ancient Egyptian civilization, and the ancient artist succeeded in depicting its heavy body and huge head. And there are many amulets that were made of blue and green painted glass, some of which were found in the (Badari civilization )in the pre-dynastic era. Many statues and pieces of furniture, such as the birthing chair used by women during childbirth, as well as cosmetics, and others, were made in the city of Tell el-Amarna. (Khaled Abu Al-Hamad, Journal of Architecture and Arts, p. 14).



**Fig.8**

A chair with a lion's foot

decorated with the bass and the tower



**Fig.9**

(1981-1650 BC)

Material: porcelain

Size: Length 18.4cm x Width 7.2cm x Height 9cm

( <https://www.flickrriver.com/photos/menesje/33553997726/> ) ( <https://www.slam.org/search/Hippopotamus/> )

### **The sea Element in the Civilization of Mesopotamia:**

When studying the mythological texts of Mesopotamia, it becomes clear to us the belief of the Sumerians and the Balbion that the origin of cosmic existence was in the water. The Sumerians followed the theory (water birth), a theory that refers to the moment of human birth when he was a fetus swimming in the waters of the womb, which is his first sea, their vision of the

sea came as the first reason for existence, and it was characterized by chaos and mystery, and in it, the universe was born as a result of the presence of three primary assets in this universe: Absu, which represents fresh water, Tiamat refers to sea water, and Mummu, the son of eternal waters. From the union of those components, the gods were created, represented by the elements of cosmic existence, such as the sky, which was represented in (Anu), the earth (Ki) and the god of air (Enlil), then the succession of the birth of the god of the moon, the sun and the mountains. There were many myths and beliefs related to the marine elements in Mesopotamia, and they were taken as a symbol of a large number of gods and were associated with their spiritual side and their daily life, and every person had a deity to protect him. (Stephanie Daly, (1997) AD, pp. 13-15).

In the past, fish were likened to the gods of fertility, and they were taken as symbols of some of the Sumerian deities, among them the god (Ea) and sometimes called (Enki or Oannes). It comes from under the earth (Fig. 10) Just as witches in ancient times used to treat patients by wearing fish skins to confirm their relationship with the god (Ea), those witches appear as doctors on one of the sculptures wearing fish skins to exorcise evil spirits from it. (Fig. 11) According to the "cuneiform texts", the god (Ea) sent seven wise men from the deep waters (Apsu) known as (Apkallu) which means in Sumerian (the Seven Wise Men), and they are men, the upper half of whom are human and the lower half with a fish tail, and sometimes they appear with wings, they are like angels, intermediaries between gods and humans, to teach people the arts of civilization. (Fig. 12). (Charles Fair and Lowe, 1990, pp. 21-23).



**Fig.10**

Statue of "Ea" - 7th century BC  
Iraq Museum - Baghdad



**Fig.11**

Bronze sculpture of a talisman hanging above a patient's bed  
depicting an exorcism scene and a woman  
extending her hand up and praying  
10th century BC - Louvre Museum - Paris  
Height 13.8 cm - Length 8.8 cm - Width 2.5 cm

( <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/6225/adda-seal> )



**Fig.12**

Statue of "apkallu" wearing fish skin - found in the temple of "Ninurta Kalhu" in Iraq - (860-865 BC) - British  
Museum - London

( <https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/414120128215033943/> )

The serpent was embodied in many Sumerian deities, some of them were demigods, and others embodied in the form of a complete deity, as he was guarding rivers and swamps in the ancient Babylonian civilization, The serpent also played an important role in the Sumerian myths, such as the legend of "Enuma Elish" and the legend of "Gilgamesh", which is considered one of the most important myths of the Mesopotamian civilization, which depicted the eternal conflict with the serpent and probably dates back to the fifteenth century BC. He was also depicted as one of the deities installed at the gates and walls of the "Ishtar Gate" (Fig. 13) to protect the city from evil spirits and demons that might attack it. The snake was also associated with several sacred medical myths, where it was famous for its ability to heal and grant eternal immortality due to its ability to change its skin every period and because it was considered the embodied image of God on earth. Poisons that enter into the composition of many medicines lie in his body, which indicates that the snake is a symbol of fertility and nature in general. (Antoine Mortekt, p. 221).



**Fig.13**

(Detailed scene of a serpent deity - depicted on the Ishtar Gate)

Ishtar Gate of Nebuchadnezzar II - decorated with glazed inverted bricks in Babylon - height 14.30 meters - Pergamon Museum - Berlin

( <https://mythsterhood.com/dragon-bones-iguanodon-and-sirrush/> )

( <https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%88> )

### **The sea Element in the Civilization of Mesopotamia art:**

Animals and marine creatures that live in the water were viewed with veneration and glorification as a symbol of renewal for their abundance and a guarantee of eternal existence. better the art of Mesopotamia competed with art in ancient Egypt since the fourth millennium BC. Mesopotamia is famous for its ancient art history. The marine elements were represented in the manufacture of colored pottery vessels, stoneware made of clay, jugs and dishes whose surfaces may take the form of a complete animal figure and coins. The cylinder seals also took a prominent role in the history of the ancient civilization of the East during its early beginnings. Then it developed for the manufacture of amulets and talismans to protect its owner from harm and evil. Then came scenes and symbols of mythical beings with supernatural powers, and sometimes he would combine two animals into one body to capture the powers of both. An oyster dating back to the Sumerian civilization (2800 BC) was also found, containing a substance used as eye shadows in cosmetics for women. We find that women in Sumer love to appear beautiful and are keen to use cosmetics, so they excelled in making natural colors. (Fig. 17).

( [https://www.almrsl.com/post/985856\\_](https://www.almrsl.com/post/985856_) ) (8-10-2021, 11:44 Pm)



**Fig.14**

Lamashtu - (7-8 BC) - shown with the head of a roaring lion and the ears of a donkey  
She holds a two-headed snake in both hands and dogs breastfeed

( [https://www.pinterest.com/pin/323696291949001253/\\_](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/323696291949001253/_) )



**Fig.15**

Cylindrical seal impressions from Uruk - depicting a mythical two-headed snake



**Fig.16**



**Fig.17**

Dish made of refractory clay - Samarra era - (4000 BC) Oyster from the Sumerian civilization - (2800 BC)

Pergamon Museum – Berlin

([https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%86\\_%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1](https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%86_%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1)) ( [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Shell\\_Ur-Ningirsu\\_Louvre\\_AO209.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Shell_Ur-Ningirsu_Louvre_AO209.jpg) )

### **The sea element in Greek civilization:**

The Greek civilization that was established on the island of Crete is considered one of the oldest and most ancient civilizations throughout history, as its origins date back to (3560 BC), and life at that time seemed primitive and simple, and man lived on fishing and agriculture. And the Lebanese historian (Georgi Zeidan) explains that Greece believed in the existence of three types of deities: the heavenly deities that reside in the sky, the marine deities that live in the seas and water springs, and the

lower deities that reside in dark places in the depths of the earth. Greek mythology differs from all Egyptian, Babylonian and Assyrian myths and depends entirely on divine stories and legends and theories of the emergence of the universe, and is characterized by the multiplicity of marine deities by virtue of the geographical location of the island of Crete and the dependence of its economy on fishing, human used to practice religious rituals, such as offering offerings and worshiping in the temples of the gods, which amounted to dedicating each room of the house to a deity, The Greek historian Homer tells us: “The Greek gods are nothing but human beings who have acquired some divine attributes due to their heroism.”. sea elements were associated with many myths and were embodied in many Greek gods, some of them were demigods and others were transformed into a marine element forever. (Ahmed Saleh Al-Faqih, 2013).

We find that the fish element was embodied in the god (Posedion) the god of the seas and oceans, where his lower body was a fish tail and was depicted holding a fish in one hand and a trident in his other hand. She was a mermaid, Where the connection between women and fish was linked to the female uterus, and this connection is due to the fertility of fish and the huge numbers of eggs that they produce, like the rest of the other organisms. The dolphin element also took great importance in the ancient times of the Greek civilization and considered it the king of fish, as it appeared in many legends, seals, coins and royal palaces, it is considered a symbol of goodness and safety, always coming to help the shipwrecked and to warn sailors of danger.

It has a high degree of intelligence and has a spiritual connection with man. Therefore, it was considered a friend to humans, and its importance appears greatly, especially in the Minoan civilization, where dolphins appeared adorning the ruins of the Knossos Palace in Greece. To protect the underwater kingdom. (Ahmed Atman, 1984 AD, p. 154).



**Fig.18**

Dolphins decorate the wall of the palace "Knossos" - the Minoan civilization - 1550 BC - Crete - Greece

( <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/greece/crete/knossos/attractions/palace-of-knossos/a/poi-sig/504778/359431> )

Snakes were venerated for having distinctive characteristics that humans do not possess, as they are renewable and indestructible, so they can change their skin from time to time, in addition to their ability to grant healing. It lives among the cracks of the earth and guards the gates of the underworld. According to ancient Greek myths and beliefs, it was believed that “humans can gain other hearing and sight if a snake licks their ears or eyes.” There are many Greek gods who have taken the serpent as their emblem. There is a belief that the (Ancient Olympic Games) which are known as (the Delphic Games) were originally considered in honor of the "Snake Delphi", the most feared deity in the underworld. The association of snakes with healing arts also came in ancient times.

It has been proven that the poison has a healing effect if the patient takes it orally, the serpent was associated with (the Rod of Asclepiu) (the wand of healing and wisdom), and was also associated with the (rod of Hermes) or (The Caduceus) a symbol of medicine The snake was also associated with the cup of (Hygieia) the goddess of physical and mental health (the symbol of pharmacy), and these symbols are still used in health systems around the world until now. (Dr. Al-Husseini Al-Husseini Al-Madawi, 2021 AD, p. 91).

**Fig.19**

Ancient stone for the sceptre of the god Asclepius – Turkey

**Fig.20**

Illustration of the wand symbol of Asclepius

( <https://principleintopractice.com/2014/03/31/where-to-start/> ) ( [أسقلبيوس](https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/أسقلبيوس) )



**Fig.21**



(illustration)

**Fig.22**

The staff of Hermes - Vatican Museums - Vatican City

( <https://www.flickr.com/photos/68248702@N05/6838120493> ) ( <https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/هيرميز> )



**Fig.23**



**Fig.24**

A statue depicting the goddess "Hygieia" holding  
a snake shedding its venom into a cup

3rd century BC

State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg

Illustration (pharmacy symbol)

( [https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/أفعى\\_\(رمزية\)](https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/أفعى_(رمزية)) ) ( <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hygieia> )

Shells and oysters belong to the water world and came with mythical connotations because they possess magical powers that lie within them, where we find that the shape of the pearl inside the oyster is similar to the shape of the fetus inside the woman, so the woman always takes it as an amulet by wearing a necklace of snails and oysters. The symbolic value of the shells in the Greek civilization was represented in the goddess (Aphrodite) and was named so in the Greeks, while it was called (Venus) among the Romans, the goddess of the sea, and the (protector of sailors), the goddess of beauty, love and fertility, she was born inside a shell in the sea. She took the chance as a symbol for her. She was represented in many oil paintings, murals, and some pottery. (Dr. Abdul Muti Shaarawy, pp. 302 - 304).



**Fig.25**

Tempera oil painting depicting the birth of Venus

- "Sandro Botticelli" (1485-1486 BC)

- "Uffizi Galleries" - (172.5 cm - 278.9 cm)

( [https://www.marefa.org/%DA%A4%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B3\\_\(%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9\)](https://www.marefa.org/%DA%A4%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B3_(%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9)) )

### The sea element in Greek civilization art:

Greek art was interested in depicting the gods and myths of the marine elements and in view of the rise of the "Minoan civilization", which is one of the oldest civilizations of Greece, where it flourished at sea and commercially (1450-2700 BC), It contributed to the flourishing of Greek culture and the spread of art to the countries of Egypt, the Levant, the countries of Asia Minor and Africa, and they were called (the peoples of the sea). (Ahmed Saleh Al-Faqih, 2013).

Mosaic art also flourished extensively during the construction of public baths such as the Baths of Caracalla (Bruma) and the Baths of Poticosos in (Ostia), and some houses and buildings in the Roman era, where the artists' skills appeared in showing and depicting the movements of their twisted tails, most of which came in the form of fish. The coins of the ancient Greek islands were also minted before (500 years BC). With drawings and engravings of marine elements, fish and dolphins have become the hallmark of currency this time. Also, turtle, crab and octopus appeared on some ancient Greek coins during (6th century BC). (Asmaa Saad Eddin, (2015) AD).



**Fig.26**

Pottery container for storing liquids  
(1500 - 1700 BC)  
Archaeological Museum of Heraklion - Greece  
( <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/legion-of-honor-pompeii-show-1986994> )  
(<http://maritimehistorypodcast.com/ep-012-minoan-thalassocracy/> )



**Fig.27**

A painting that combines some marine elements  
mosaic, colored glass pieces and stone  
Archaeological Museum - Naples – Italy



**Fig.28**

"Electrum" Silver Coin for Crab - (420-472 BC)

From Acragas, Sicily - State Museum - Berlin



**Fig.29**

"Electrum" Silver Turtle Coin - (320-375 BC)

Belonging to the Greek island of Aegina

State Museum – Berlin

( <https://ikmk.smb.museum/object?lang=en&id=18203386&view=rs> )

### **Terminology:**

\* **The vow:** ancient worship and Islam came and this worship continued, and it was mentioned in the Holy Qur'an in several places, which is that you impose upon yourself what is not obligatory for the occurrence of a matter, it is something in your hands to offer to those you love.

\* **Roe:** hard roe (plural roe) is the fully-ripened eggs released or lumpy in the ovaries of fish or other aquatic animals such as shrimp, scallops, or sea urchins. Roe is a seafood that is cooked in different dishes.

\* **Caviar:** in French Caviare (in Persian (Khaoyar), which is a salty egg extracted from the roe of some types of fish such as sturgeon.

\* **The god Ra:** He is the sun god among the ancient Egyptians, and Ra was a major god in the ancient Egyptian religion in the era of the Fifth Dynasty during the 24th and 25th centuries BC, and was symbolized by the sun disk at noon.

\* **Nagada I:** This civilization extended from (4500-3500 BC) in the region between Luxor and Abydos as a civilization that came after the Badari civilization, followed it and surpassed it. It represents a homogeneous cultural unit, but it is difficult to call it a state, and this stage is characterized by red ceramic formations decorated with geometric shapes, and later developed for the manufacture of pots and flasks, all of which were hand-made and decorated with drawings of animals and scenes of hunting, fighting or worship.

\* **Nagada II:** This civilization extended from (3500-3200 BC) and belongs to the city of Nakhen, which is located between Esna and Edfu. This era is characterized by a rapid development in knowledge and technology. The pots were made of stones and pottery, and these products were not only for the purpose of meeting personal items. Metals were also started to be produced and forged. There was also a great change in the way the dead were prepared and buried, especially for the upper class of people. The second Naqada civilization was distinguished by the fact that it laid the foundations of agricultural civilization and that it made great strides in the stone and metal industries.

\* **Cuneiform texts:** It is a type of writing engraved on clay tablets, stone, wax, metal, and others. It was in circulation among the ancient peoples of southwest Asia. It is the second oldest method of writing whose use has been monitored by the ancients (after pictorial writing).

\* **The legend of Enuma Elish:** is the Babylonian creation story. Her name Enuma Elish comes from her first two words. It was discovered by Henry Layard in 1849 in the antiquities of the Ashurbanipal Library in Nineveh, Iraq, and was printed by George Smith in 1867.

\* **The Gilgamesh Legend:** It is one of the most important myths of the Mesopotamian civilization dating back to (2100 BC. M), which tells about the truth of eternal immortality. It was written in cuneiform script on 11 clay tablets and was found in (the city of Nineveh, Iraq).

\* **Ishtar Gate:** It is a historical fortress and one of the greatest achievements of the Babylonian civilization. It was built in 575 BC in Babylon and was decorated with drawings of the god Marduk and imaginary mythical creatures of bulls, dragons and lions. (Shams al-Din Fares - The Historical Sources of Mural Art - Page 30-31)

\* **The Minoan civilization or the Minoan civilization:** named after its founder Emperor Minos, it is considered one of the oldest civilizations of Greece and Europe in general and dates back to the Bronze Age. The Minoans excelled in mining and extracting minerals and worked in sea navigation and trade with abroad. Cities prospered and luxurious palaces and temples were built.

\* **The Delphi snake:** one of the most feared deities in the underworld. It was worshiped at night with hymns and rituals accompanied by panic and fear and to prevent its evil. Apollo killed it in the city of Delphi (Greece) and created the city of Delphi.

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## **Results and Recommendations:**

### **Results:**

-The Nile River abounded with various types of marine creatures and elements that secured the means of life for all living creatures and were a major reason for the establishment of the greatest civilizations on earth since the dawn of history.

-The geographical location of Egypt, Iraq and Greece helped in building a long history and heritage that contributed to the establishment of their civilization and heritage.

-The marine elements occupied an integral part of popular beliefs, and its influence appeared as an intellectual, cultural and popular heritage, expressing the customs and traditions of the peoples.

-Clarifying the development of the artistic style of the marine element in the arts of different civilizations.

### **Recommendations:**

- The researcher recommends shedding light on the importance of studying the emergence and development of the concept of the marine element across different civilizations, benefiting from its visual connotations and plastic value, and addressing its vocabulary through artistic print works.

-Encouraging scientific research in dealing with intellectual, mythical and popular heritage and the extent of the different connotations and symbols of marine elements in different civilizations to help build thought and spread awareness and culture in society.

-Praising the role of plastic arts and their effective impact on raising awareness and spreading culture in society.

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