

Some Remarks on the Religious concept of loosing fetters in the Coffin Texts

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Abstract:

This paper is focusing on the multifaceted concepts of releasing fetters through the different spells of the Coffin Texts. According to ancient Egyptian belief, the religious and the magical spells intended to help the dead person to begin a new life without fetters and ties. These mortuary texts are directly connected with the Egyptian creation myths and the separation of the sky from the earth by Shu. Also the justified deceased who has been loosen his fetters will be given a new life, accompaniment the sun boat in the solar cycle and a great amount of offerings with Theben and Hermopolitan Enneads.

Key words :

The Coffin Texts, losing fetters, the Egyptian cosmos, Osiris legend.

In this issue, I intend to discuss the means by which the deceased was thought to have loosen from all fetters and bonds in the Hereafter. Many other mortuary rituals touch upon this myth such as the resurrection and removing the mummy bandages [1] in order to wake up from the Death [2] and go forth from the tomb to join with the eternal life. Also the relevant texts are very popular in the light of other known legends such as the Osiris legend and the formation of the Egyptian cosmos and the primeval Ogdoad in the Mythical age.

1- Spell 63 § 272.

One of the texts asserts that the deceased is given his loosen from fetters by Seth as:



s3w.tw s3w tw sfhh.k wt.k sfhh.k k3sw.k mi sth imy hnbt.

Guard yourself, guard yourself Your limbs are released, your bonds are loosed like Seth who is in Hent [^a 3].

2- Spell 105 § 112

Here the deceased is coming forth into the day to meet the bull who is given the loosen fetters to pass him in the Underworld.



Prt m hrw irt hprw m rmt i k3 rdi n.k int.tw snfhfh i k3 nhf^cw in šw

going out into the day and assuming human shape, o bull, I give you the loosen fetters , o bull, you are not grasped by shu [^b 3].

The invoked bull in this text may bears a small indication to the celestial bull as the first ancestor who brought the cosmos into existence. Also it may refers to the separation of the sky from the earth in the First Occasion by Shu.

3- Spell 218 § 196.

With regard to this spell, the deceased takes off the mummy bandages and wakes up to see the sunshine as:

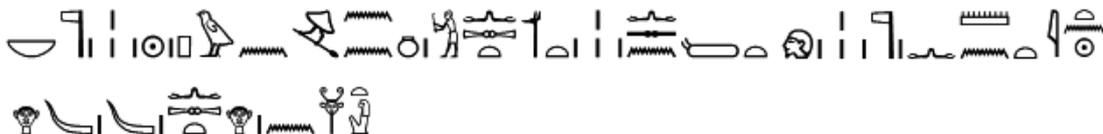


rwd ksw N pn [wnn] .f htrw.f 3ww r(dw) .n.f šmt i3hw.

The bones of this deceased are firm and the lengthy lashings are loosed and the movement of the sunshine has been given. [^c 3]..

4- Spell 334 § 181.

The focus of this spell is to set free of the necks on the day of tumult as:



Nb ntrw hrw pw n hnnw n tst wsrwt n snt tpw ntrw n mnt itn hr ^cbwy n tst hr n b3t.

Lord of the gods on the day of tumult before necks were not knit on, before the heads of the gods were cut off, before the sun was firm on the horns, before the face of Bat was knit on [^d 3].

Here the two Enneads bears some indications to the primordial gods who are connected with the act of creation in the theben and Hermopolitan creation cosmogony.

Conclusions

The mortuary connotation and rituals of releasing fetters and bounds in the Coffin Texts is closely assembling what are mentioned in the Pyramid Texts. These religious and magical spells intended to assist the deceased's journey without obstacles in the Hereafter. Also they were part of cosmic texts regarding the different creation myths where the celestial bull has been removed from his fetters to give the moment of separating the sky from the earth eternity by Shu. With regard to the previous texts two gods are invoked to release the deceased from all bonds and ties. The first one was the Orion who has the power to make the dead person free and able to see the divine chapel. The other one was the pure falcon who is called to rise again from the primeval water to grant the deceased the chance to begin his new life without fetters. Also loosing from ties and fetters means a new life, rebirth in the solar cycle, performing activities of the daily life and having offering with theben and Hermopolitan Enneads in the sky. On the day of tumult a reborn is giving by the necks weren't knit on, the heads of the gods weren't cut off, the sun wasn't firm on the horns and the face of Bat wasn't knit on .

Endnotes

- A- CT, 63 (CT I 272).
B- CT, 105 (CT II, 112).
C- CT, 218 (CT III196).
D- CT, 334(CT IV 181).
E- CT, 635 (CT VI 257); FECT, II, P.216.
F- CT, 691 (CT VI 322*1).
G- CT, 691 (CT VI322 *5).
H- CT, 764 (CT VI 394).

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