

The Judgement Hall Scene from the Papyrus of Hunefer, 1370 B.C.

In my discussion of the Egyptian Tarot I primarily used the Papyrus of Ani. However, the Judgment Hall Scene was pretty much standardized for thousands of years. Various artists reflected slightly different layouts, but the characters were usually the same. Here we see Osiris (Magician) attended by Isis (Priestess) and Nebthys (Temperance) in his temple. Horus (Charioteer) introduces the deceased (Hanged Man, fetal Horus and future "Osiris"). Thoth (High Priest) records the Judgment of Ma'at's Feather (Justice) in the Scales (Khnemu, Wheel of Fortune). Ammit (Devil) stands ready to devour the Heart (Hermit). Anubis (Death) adjusts the tongue over which the Monkey (Fool) sits. Along the top row (arranged from left to right) we find 14 Senior Gods, beginning with Heru-akhuti or Ra (Sun), Tem (Tower), and Shu (Emperor). Then comes Nut (Star), Seb/Geb (Earth), Tefnut/Sekhmet (Strength), followed by a repeat of Horus, Isis, and Nebthys. Then come H*u (Ministrant of Cups), Saa (Ministrant of Discs), Uat-rest (The Way of South, the goddess of dreams), Uat-meh*t (The Way of North, the Full Moon [meh* uatchit]), and Uat-ament (The Way of West, goddess of the abode of dead). Mut, The Vulture Mother Goddess of Egypt is the Empress. Altogether, not counting the repetitions, there are 22 Major Trumps if we take the three "Ways" to represent Lover, Moon, and Judgment. We also find the Four Kings (Sons of Horus) on the Lotus Table before Osiris. Almost all 22 of the Trump Neters appear in their standardized Egyptian format.

The Papyri of Ani and Hunefer are both in the British Museum.

Thoth and the Tarot