

The Khatyew demons in texts of Edfu temple

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English Abstract

This paper presents the findings of a study focused on a particular group of xAtyw demons that are conceptualised at Edfu temple. Apart from their function as bringers of disease or executioners they have other roles such as they help to strengthen the army of the temple protectors, providing protection around the king and Horus of Behdety. The apostrophic spells to Sakhmet and Horus of Behdety against these gangs are very often attested in the temple texts where some of these demonic legions are controlled to extend their harmful to the king. Also it is clear that the knowledge of their names is crucial for giving the king more ability not only to master over them but also to assemble their powers against his enemies and move them to execution.

The second section of the essay has focused on the variant texts which provide a coherent picture of their role as a strong guardians acting protection for Horus of Behdety and his shrine by walking on the four roads.

The third section aims to develop the understanding of these elusive beings through the examination of their names, and epithets which are attested in *Edfou V*.