The depiction of Apis in the Graeco- Roman Tombs of Egypt
By

Wahid Omran and Nagwa Zoair

Introduction

The cult of the bulls was distinguished during the Graeco-Roman Egypt, especially the cult of the bull Apis. Memphis was his main –cult center, which his cult there was connected with the chief god Ptah, and one priest was responsible for both cults. Memphis also contains subterranean galleries for the dead mummified bulls as Osir- Apis.

The Ptolemies paid a great attention to the cult of Apis and shared in the coronation of the New Apis and in the funeral of the dead one. They integrated the cult of Serapis, the chief god of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, as the Hellenization form of the Egyptian Osirified Apis bull. The Romans also paid homage for the cult of Apis inside and outside Egypt.

Problem

Apis's importance during the Graeco-Roman period added for him new aspects in the funerary and burial customs of the people in their tombs. The research try to recognize for what are the new attributes of Apis in the Graeco-Roman tombs as a funerary god?, and if the god acted the roles of other gods or assimilated in functions with other gods? .

Conclusion

Apis was a main figure not only in the decorated Graeco-Roman tombs of Egypt, but also upon the stelae, the Mummy Coffins and Mummy Cartonage of Egypt. He appeared as a burial god; equated with Osiris and Dionysos, his connection with Serapis in the Hellenistic Egypt portrayed him as the protector of the kingship of Egypt, the Ptolemaic and the Roman rulers depicted themselves under his homage. And also exported to the Hellenistic world with Isis as her husband, and his cult was appeared in the Roman Isaeums in Rome and the other Hellenistic temples consecrated for her with his Egyptian figure as a bull.

Apis was the carrier of the deceased in his netherworld, and he appeared in the judgment's court of the deceased. He also acted the role of Isis and Nephtys as guardians of the deceased in his tomb, as they did with Osiris, and also as protectors of the fetish of Abydos.