

Horus and Seth

Deep in the heart of a large expanse of swamp and marsh, of papyrus and bugs and water, where the Nile spreads out at the point of the delta, was an island, a floating island. On this island lived the young god Horus. Now Horus' mother was Isis. And he was raised not only by her but by a number of other gods and goddesses who would come and take care of him, especially when Isis was away.

One of these times, when Horus had grown quite a bit, Isis had been gone for a fair stretch of time. Horus during this period became very upset being frustrated and stuck on this island.

And when his mother returned he went straight to her and said, "Mother, it's not fair, I've heard all these stories about the outside world and I'm confined on this tiny little floating island in the middle of this dreary swamp. Why do I have to be trapped here?"

Isis said, "Horus it's for your own safety. It's for your protection."

"Protection from what?" Isis looked down at him, "Again if you are old enough to ask the question, then you are old enough to receive the answer, as terrible as the story may be. You see, Horus, your father was Osiris the Great, the ruler of Egypt, the pharaoh, the king, wise, just and respected by almost everyone, except, especially by his brother, Seth. You see, Seth was so jealous of him, so jealous of all the love and admiration of all of Osiris many subjects. He was constantly plotting to get rid of this idol. I felt this, I knew this and I warned Osiris against this. But, Osiris, in his good hearted nature felt Seth, his own brother, could never do something like this.

One day while I was away, Seth took the chance. He held a great feast in Osiris' honor. He gathered together, other than Osiris, all his own friends and allies. And when everything was in full swing Seth came out with this beautiful chest, and he said, "if you can fit perfectly in the chest, then it will be yours." Everyone tried, one after another, but no one fit, because Seth had made the chest measure to exactly the same dimensions to Osiris' body. So when Osiris lay down he fit perfectly and said, "Ah, the chest will be mine." And Seth said, "The chest will be yours, forever." And he slammed down the lid. Seth and his companions quickly nailed it shut and sealed it with molten lead. And Seth then took the life out of Osiris and he was dead. When I heard about it I was heart broken, but luckily my mind was still functioning. I realized that after Osiris, Seth would come after you, Horus, even though you were still a baby, you were heir to the throne. You were the only thing standing in the way of Seth being ruler himself. So I came and I took you and I placed you on this floating island to keep you safe. To keep you protected because to this day Seth is still looking for you. He wants to get rid of you.

Horus was overwhelmed by all this new information. He never even dreamed of this kind of possibility in his life, that this is where he came from, this kind of battle. The only thought that passed through his mind was expressed then to his mother, "Mother, what became of my father, what happened to his body?" Well Seth and his companions thrust the chest into the Nile to flow off into the sea, hoping it would be lost forever. And indeed it was lost for a long time. But I went and I searched for it long and hard and I

finally found where it made shore; where it had grown roots and grown branches and flowers to protect the body of Osiris the Great. The tree was the most beautiful tree and the king of that land heard about the tree and had it turned into a pillar in his palace. I went to that palace. I retrieved the coffin and brought it back to Egypt. But it didn't end there, because Seth found the coffin. He tore it open and destroyed Osiris' body and scattered it all over Egypt. I had to go and reassemble my own husband's body and put it in a coffin hidden where Seth can't do anymore of his evil deeds.

Horus, now more overwhelmed than before, said to his mother, "Can I at least go visit my father's grave?" I guess you are old enough now, so it is time. Come with me, Horus, and the two of them went somewhere else deep hidden in the swamp. And Horus sat before his own father's grave and he sat there for a long time. Isis left him in peace so he could process all this new information and it was a hard job digesting everything he had just heard. He sat for many days. Then one night he heard his name, "Horus." He thought maybe Seth had found him, he had not given up. He looked around and he heard, "Horus, my son." His mother, no it was a different voice, his father? As soon as that possibility entered his mind, Osiris' spirit came before him. Horus my son, it is me your father. Horus was in shock. You are destined to be the next pharaoh, ruler of this land, ruler of the world. But that cannot happen until you've received the education that you should have received if I had been alive and present during your childhood. But now I will give it to you. And Osiris opened up his mind and all of his wisdom passed into the mind of Horus. And then Osiris opened his body and his spirit and all of his understanding of what it was to be a true warrior passed into Horus. And then as Osiris opened up his heart all of his love for the world and of course humanity and his love for justice, for he had been a just ruler, passed into Horus. And something else passed too. And Horus said, "Father I feel a pain in my heart, what is that? Ah, that is the pain I feel every time I think about the injustice that Seth perpetrated upon me. It tears me apart and keeps me from traveling beyond this realm into the realm of the spirit to rest in peace. Horus suddenly had it, (SNAP) like this spark went up in his mind and something lit a fire inside him that he never experienced before. He had a sense of meaning, of purpose that said, he must bring Seth to justice and peace to Osiris. He told this to his father and his father kinda grinned and said, "Not so fast, Horus. You shouldn't go jumping into things you don't quite understand. Better to take time and be patient, cultivate that inner strength, because without inner strength there can be no outer strength."

"What is inner strength, father? What are you talking about?"

"Look inside yourself, look deeper than you ever looked before."

Horus tried to do that, and Osiris helped him out. He made his eyes clear. Horus felt as if a barrel had been thorn from his forehead and he saw his true essence. His essence was as vast as the universe itself. His wings and glory spread over the heavens, the glorious speckled feathers that were the stars and his eyes illuminated with such a light that they burned as brightly that they were in fact the sun and the moon. Horus was in his true form. And as Osiris looked up and saw the great winged falcon god Horus risen to glory, he realized that Horus was about to embark upon the road of destiny and he had done all he could have done for him. And so he said farewell and returned to the grave.

For his part Horus was up there, flying high up in the sky, his eyes glaring down. His new felt power inside of him combined with the thought and feeling of the meaning and purpose that he had a few moments before and thought that now he could bring peace to Osiris. And not just that he also felt all the rage had been boiling within him when he heard about his father. Oh! He was done and he was eager. He didn't stop to think about the patience that Osiris had recommended. No, he gathered up all of his energy and sent his spirit into the sun and the moon and into his great glaring eyes. And all the energy he could muster, he used it to pier down into the Earth to see if he could find any trace of or sign of his Uncle Seth, to see if he could catch him. Look, and as he was looking, Seth was down on the surface of the Earth. Now he had tried to find the son, Horus, years ago and he had failed because Isis had hidden him well. But he thought, not too big a deal, because surely Horus when he grows up will come looking for me. So he had always kept a careful watch about him in case the day would come and the day had come.

He sensed that the spirit of awareness had entered into the sky into the sun and the moon that hadn't been there shortly before. He thought to himself, AH, the sun and the moon seem to be looking for something as well. What could it be? There is only one being that could possibly have the energy to rise up so high and so great. And that has to be the son of Osiris and Isis. And there is only one thing that I can think he would be looking for so intently and that would be me. So Seth went and hid himself and he thought of a plan. He didn't think too long because he didn't think getting rid of Horus would be too difficult. After all what kind of an enemy would throw himself up into plain view of everyone in the world to be seen, so he can be caught by his own enemy. This wouldn't be a hard fought death. Instead of turning himself into something massive and terrifying he turned himself instead into a black pig. A wild pig, a boar, and he quickly ran off, he scurried to the river Nile. Horus was sitting there gazing down at the surface, looking everywhere he could find. He saw the black pig rolling around in the mud at the side of the Nile. But he didn't think twice about it, a black pig in the mud the most normal thing in the world. After all he had grown up sheltered. He didn't realize the kind of trickery that the world and Seth especially, might throw his way. No, he looked elsewhere. And then suddenly a great swap of mud and filth SPLAT, smacked on the side of his sun eye. What caused that? He looked around everywhere and again saw the black pig in the mud. No boar could throw mud that high, why would it. He looked elsewhere. When suddenly again splat it hit the eye and darkened it somemore. As he was looking big globs of mud and filth after globs of mud and filth hit him again and again and again. Until soon his eye was growing dark and he was having a hard time seeing with it. He called on the moon and the moon was looking all around but could see no sign. And as he was turned away Seth saw his opportunity. Rearing himself up he flung himself as a black pig right up through the sky with one final splat against the sun he hit it. There was a spark of light and the sun eye went dark. Horus could no longer maintain the shape that he found through his father. His spirit withdrew and he was lying on the side of the Nile rolling around in the shape of a human, holding his injured eye just crying out. Seth had seemed to have already won the battle and it had only just begun. He quickly took the damaged eye and he retreated down into the deep subterranean depths of the world where there was water and hid it there so that he would keep an advantage over his opponent. He rose himself back up to the surface and changed himself into a massive

hippopotamus. And he stood towering over Horus, who was rolling around rising on the surface.. “Some opponent you are. Well I might as well make this quick,” he said opening his huge hippopotamus mouth and laughing at him. “I’ll get rid of you and finish the job began when I started to get rid of your father.” He raised himself up. At that moment there was a flare of such anger and such hatred inside of Horus that it woke him back up. And with one last shred of courage and will power he raised himself just as Seth was lifting up his feet to crush him. He picked up his spear and with great trust shoved it right up between the rear legs of the hippopotamus. Seth let out a terrible scream and he crumbled to the ground. Horus quickly raised his spirit up and shot it right up into the gapping black hole where the sun had been. He occupied it with his spirit and sent forth great feathery rays of light to either side. And now in the terrific shape that will still always be remembered in Egypt the great winged disk he descended to the Earth and he pinned Seth to the surface and he quickly chained him down. And then there was stillness and in that stillness he couldn’t hold his form anymore. The sun or the gapping black hole that was the sun, retreated back up to the sky and Horus was again in human form fallen to the Earth and holding his damaged eye. Luckily for him, Thoth the great hero of the wise god had seen the whole battle. He saw where Seth had hidden the eye deep in the subterranean taverns underneath the Earth. He went down there and retrieved the eye.

And in the form of a baboon came up to Horus and he looked down at Horus and said, “Horus, the only way I can return this eye to you is if you put yourself back into your true form.” Horus just rolled there and said, “I can’t, I can’t. It’s too hard I can’t. “ “You must,” said Thoth.

And in that voice Horus heard all the wisdom and all the authority and also all the caring he recognized in his mother’s voice and most recently in his father’s. And it reminded him of his father’s mention of inner strength and he looked deep inside and he found recesses of his soul that had strength that he didn’t know existed and with this gathered up. He sent his energy upward, upward, upward and with great effort managed to put himself back up there in the heavens, with the great wings stretched over, one eye the moon and one eye a flaring black wound. Immediately Thoth transformed himself into an Iris, a beautiful bird. He lifted up the damaged eye raised it into the heavens and returned it to the hole in the sky. Immediately he went to work cleaning up the one side and mending it as he went. And with that as he sealed the one edge there was a flare of light. He kept on working moving slowly but steadily across the surface of the sun cleaning it up, healing it, repairing it, cleaning it, healing it, repairing it. Until very soon the sun was actually restored to its former shining glory. Horus gave an immense thank you to him and Thoth returned to the Earth.

Horus then looked down with his blazing sun eye and shining moon, he looked down on the surface and he saw his evil Uncle Seth stilled pinned to the ground where he had left him. And in himself he felt that same fire he felt when he first started this battle. He felt that fire that said kill him, get rid of him. And he was ready to do so and he knew that he could. But then he remembered how when he first jumped into this it almost cost him his life. His father had advised him patience and he paused for a second to think of this. His father was also a lover of justice. So he took a deep breath and he held himself back.

Instead he called on his mother and through her he called on all the other gods and goddesses, who assembled all around Seth. And they began trying him in the divine court. And the court case went for a long time. And one god after another god made their case and one god after another god made their argument. Even Osiris returned from the dead to make his point. And still the court case lingered on. And Horus began to think was I right to do this should I have not killed him the first time. But always he knew it was better not to sink to the level of Seth and become a killer like his uncle. Rather see where this took him. And indeed it turned out well. Horus, the court found in Horus favor and soon he was installed as the new pharaoh, the great godly ruler, of Egypt and the world. For Seth's part he was given a simple yet effective punishment. Seth was commanded from then on to take Osiris' body on his back and to carry it from the world of the living over the horizon and into the world of the dead. Horus kept his eyes fixed on Seth while he carried out his sentence making sure there was no funny business what so ever. .And so it was that Seth doubled over carrying Osiris body on his back crossed through the sky and past the horizon. And as he did son Horus suddenly felt that pain that he got from his father suddenly disappear. And he knew that he had brought justice to his Uncle Seth and peace to his father. And he himself felt a great deal of peace, but for how long?