

About Our Visit

On October 30th, we visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see the Divine Egypt exhibition. The exhibit featured many different artifacts centered around twenty-five major Egyptian gods like Ra, Isis, Amun, and Anubis. The gallery was dimly lit, creating a spiritual atmosphere that made the objects feel alive and powerful. Each section explored different ideas, creating the world, ruling the cosmos, coping with life, and overcoming death, showing how deeply religion was woven into Egyptian culture.

We learned that Egyptian religion was constantly evolving. Gods changed, merged, and rose to prominence over time, like Amun-Re becoming the supreme deity. We also discovered that statues weren't seen as symbols; they were believed to be living embodiments of the gods, activated through ritual. Many pieces, such as the gold statuette of Amun, showed incredible devotion through both size and craftsmanship.

The exhibit also illustrated how religion shaped kingship. Pharaohs weren't just leaders; they were divine, responsible for maintaining ma'at, or cosmic balance. Ordinary people practiced faith too, shown through small amulets and figurines that offered personal protection and connection to the divine.

In the end, the exhibition revealed a culture where art, nature, and religion were inseparable. Divine Egypt helped us see ancient Egyptian belief not as distant history, but as a living worldview built on devotion, symbolism, and balance.

DIVINE
EGYPT









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Egyptian Pendant Necklaces

Amun

Our charm references a statuette of the god Amun. Identified by his characteristic flat-topped crown, which originally supported two tall gold feathers (now missing), Amun stands in a traditional pose with his left leg forward and wears the divine braided beard with a curled tip. He carries an *ankh* emblem in his left hand and a scimitar across his chest.

Statuette of Amun, ca. 945–712 BCE. From Egypt, Third Intermediate Period. Purchase, Edward S. Harkness Gift, 1926. 26.7.14.2



Winged Goddess

This charm evokes a faience figure of a kneeling winged goddess. The sun disk and cow's horns on her head could suggest various goddesses, including Nut, the goddess of the sky, often depicted with outstret ched wings. Similar representations of the goddess Isis, revered for her protective qualities as a wife and mother, are also known.

Winged Goddess probably Nut or Isis, ca. 1070–332 BCE. From Egypt, Third Intermediate Period–Late Period. Purchase, Edward S. Harkness Gift, 1926. 26.7.14.4-c



Bastet

Depictions of the goddess Bastet typically represent her with the head of either a cat or a lion. The cat-headed statuette that our charm is modeled after emphasizes her peaceful traits, such as fertility, though she holds a protective lion-headed aegis against her chest. In her other hand is a musical instrument called a *sistrum*.

Bastet statuette, 664–30 BCE. From Egypt, Late Period/Ptolemaic Period. Rogers Fund, 1926. 58.67



Horus

The falcon god of kingship, Horus, sits atop a collar with ties, signifying gold. This charm recalls a finely executed polychrome inlay in the Museum's holdings that serves as a composite hieroglyph that appears before one of the king's titles, called the "Horus of Gold name."

Inlay of the Horus falcon on the hieroglyph for "gold," 360–343 BCE. From Egypt, Late Period. Purchase, Edward S. Harkness Gift, 1926. 26.7.9.96



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