

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the group of deities with solar aspects in the period of the Old Kingdom (ca. 2592–2118⁺²⁵ BC). For this research, five gods were selected: Atum, Shu, Kheprer, Nefertum and Weneg. They were either linked to the sun cycle and light (Atum and Kheprer, evening and morning sun respectively, Shu), or to some particular plants (Nefertum to water lily and Weneg to the so-called *wng*-plant). Some of the deities under survey also represented a part of the so-called Heliopolitan cosmogony and cosmology. A number of Old Kingdom sources (Pyramid Texts, tomb decoration and burial equipment with special focus on the funerary domains and offering formulae, royal names and epithets, personal names, royal annals and administrative sources, namely seals and sealings, papyri from Wadi el-Jarf, Gebelein and Abusir, and titles) are analysed, taking into consideration the attestations for the individual gods and the information concerning the links of the deities to the sun and their solar aspects. Likewise, the roles and functions of these divinities, and their relation to other divine beings are studied. Further research questions are in which social spheres these gods appeared and where they were venerated, if exclusively in Heliopolis and its vicinity, or if there were diverse sanctuaries devoted to them. Besides these analyses, three excursi were incorporated: one of them is devoted to one of the Pyramid Text spells, namely to the so-called the Cannibal Hymn where strong solar influences can be recognised; the second excursus investigates the possible identification of the so-called *wng*-plant; and the last one presents several thoughts on the phenomenon of the origins and roots of the ancient Egyptian solar notions.

Keywords

god; the sun; aspect; Atum; Shu; Kheprer; Nefertum; Weneg; Old Kingdom; Pyramid Texts; tomb decoration; personal names; administrative sources