

The Holidays will run much more smoothly if you prepare for it in advance. Make a to-do list at the beginning of December. Review it daily, crossing out what's been done and add anything new.

Isis and Osiris

Geb, the Great God of Earth, and Nut, the Supreme Goddess of the Sky, produced their first offspring, Isis and Osiris, who, while still in their mother's womb, had fallen in love and mated. Isis and her brother/husband, Osiris, formed a perfect union and ruled the world in peace.

Osiris traveled across the lands bearing gifts to all people. It was Osiris who sent forth the sun's rays to all parts of the world both on land and sea.

Osiris evoked anger and jealousy in his brother, Seth, who plotted revenge. Seth attacked Osiris and treacherously murdered him.

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Isis deeply mourned the loss of her brother's husband, Osiris, traveling the land for many days in search of his body, when she learned that Seth had savagely dismembered the corpse and scattered the parts in various places. She grieved and mourned his loss openly. The unconstrained flood of tears down her divine cheeks fell gently into the Nile River, causing the annual inundation so essential for the continuity of all life forms, vegetal, animal, and human. Divine Isis found and retrieved all the parts of her beloved except the phallus. She miraculously mated with the dead Osiris, conceiving the child Horus in a union with her dead husband. Osiris was brought back to life by the magic of Isis, who breathed the wind of life into his nostrils. Osiris was reborn and resurrected in the image of his own posthumous son Horus. Thus, the great god Osiris was



The holidays can be overwhelming if everything's left up to one individual. Delegate responsibilities to other family members. Not only will this ease the burden on yourself it will involve all the family.

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reborn through the child Horus and continued the struggle with the evil Seth, finally vanquishing his powerful enemy and rising to rule the world once again.

It was the wish of Isis that all people living in Egypt honor Osiris. So she made out of spices and wax many replicas of the body of Osiris. The goddess then called together all the priests from all the regions of Egypt and instructed them to take a waxen image of Osiris back to their various districts and bury it with the rites of mourning. Isis told the priests to worship Osiris as a great god and at the same time to sanctify an animal native to each of their districts. Therefore, each region in Egypt claimed to possess the tomb of Osiris and venerated a variety of animals held sacred to the god.

Sweet Temptations Gift Tower



Good things come in threes, and this tower is no exception. The perfect blend of sweet treats, it's triple the delight! It starts with crunchy, Swedish gingersnap cookies, adds North Carolina honey roasted peanuts and finishes with soft, chewy chocolate caramels. In all, it's over 3 pounds of temptation too good to pass up! Stands approximately 12 inches tall.

Price: \$ 30.00

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We learn from this story about endings and death; we learn of faith and commitment; and we come to understand the promise of salvation. The goddess Isis teaches the capacity to feel deeply and to express outwardly the pain brought on by immeasurable grief. We learn to face those difficult moments in our lives when we become separated from our loved ones or when we face the conclusion or ending of something special such as a job, a project, or a relationship. We learn that the aging process and death itself are integral components of the natural cycle. Together, we can grieve with this goddess, knowing that she understands: "Isis cries out with a loud voice and the earth quakes" (Pyramid Texts 1270).

From Isis we also learn forgiveness and acceptance and to cherish those close to us. Isis offers the blessings of faith, hope, and love. Isis teaches us to honor the earth and respect all forms of animal life, for they are manifestations of the divine. The powers of Isis, too, are rooted within the natural world. Her tears over Osiris initiated the yearly inundation of the Nile's water, so vital to all life in Egypt. Isis was the soil of Egypt commingling with the Nile waters to bring fertility. As Life-Giver, Isis was the goddess of all animals, yet the cat, held sacred in ancient Egypt, was special

to her. Her cult creatures also included the cow, falcon, vulture, ibis, crocodile, gazelle, goose, and swallow. On her head she wore the crown of her sacred snake, the asp. Cleopatra, who envisioned herself as the goddess Isis incarnate, chose to die by the bite of the asp.

The many components of the natural world are each sacred, entwined, and interrelated-the seed, the tree, the animal that feeds from the tree, human that feeds from the tree and the animal. Each goes through similar phases of life-birth,

growth, death, and return to the eternal womb (the earth), an endless cycle of rebirth and renewal. For those who believe devoutly in the goddess Isis, nature may be manifest in the various gods and goddesses, but in essence they are really only One. By whatever path you take, whatever name you invoke, whatever rite you perform, you honor the One Divine Feminine.

The ancient Greeks called me Minerva; those living on the island of Cyprus worship me as Venus; the people of Crete hail me as Diana; the Sicilians call me the ancient goddess Ceres. Some call me Juno; some call me Hecate; some Ramnusia or Bellona. let those who are enlightened by the earliest rays of the divine sun, those who exceed all others in ancient lore and worship me by the customs of their ancestors, the Egyptians call me Queen Isis.