

Choose a paper topic in which you report on a specific magic spell or related spells, incantations or magically-based religious ritual(s). Start by interpreting the spell as a typical primary source. Analyze the recitation and content of the spell/incantation, its purpose, the contexts in which it occurs or is meant to be used. Identify the deities it/they call upon, and their relevance or symbolism for the content or context. Discuss the mechanics of the spell—what are the actions, manipulations, and what do they apparently mean or symbolize? How does the recitation/incantations (utterances) relate to the activity? What do the spell or related spells and incantations reveal about the nature of *heka* and magical activity in Egypt. Be sure to include related spells and rituals appearing in M. Meyer and R. Smith, *Ancient Christian Magic: Coptic Texts of Ritual Power* (course textbook), to determine the extent to which the pagan pharaonic magic has continuity with later Christian magic.

Due date: April 27, 2015.

You may identify and choose your own spell or group of related spells or incantations, or you may choose from any of those below.

Find more spells in the Book of the Dead, Pyramid Texts and Coffin Texts:

Allen, T. G. *The Book of the Dead or Going Forth By Day*. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 37. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974 [on reserve & free download from the Oriental Institute web site];

Borghouts, J. F. *Ancient Egyptian Magical Texts*. Nisaba 9. Leiden: Brill, 1978. [on reserve & free download in course materials];

Faulkner, R. O. *The Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts*. Three volumes. Warminster: Aris & Philips, 1973, 1977, 1978 [on reserve].

Faulkner, R. O. *The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1969 [on reserve].

Faulkner, R. O. *The Egyptian Book of the Dead: The Book of Going Forth by Day: Being the Papyrus of Ani*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1994 [on reserve].

To identify primary and secondary sources, students should also consult the *Online Egyptological Bibliography*, a database of Egyptological publications available through the college's Addlestone Library (<http://www.cofc.edu/library/find/databases/index.php#o>). It contains references to most books and articles published in Egyptology from 1822 to 2013. Most citations from 1947-2001 are abstracted here, and the abstracts will confirm their contents. The *OEB* does not contain the full text of articles for download. However, many journal articles in English might be available through Jstore (for), and some books might be available in the college library or through Pascal Delivers, or perhaps through free download (e.g., electronic books, Google Books, or any book published by the University of Chicago Oriental Institute from its web site).

Book of the Dead Ch. 17, "Spell for Going forth into the Day"

ascension and/or "transformation" spells (spells to ascend into heaven. to climb a ladder or staircase to heaven; to transform into a falcon and fly up to heaven:

Pyramid Texts
Coffin texts
Book of the Dead

Book of the Dead, Ch. 125 (Negative Confession, Weighing of the Heart, and heart scarabs, incl. BD 30)

Ritual of the Opening of the Mouth (including BD 23, including BD 21 and BD 22)

Ebers medical papyrus
temple consecration ceremonies
baby birthing rituals

ancient Egyptian sacred drama (ritual & context):

Fairman, H. W., ed., trans. *The Triumph of Horus: An Ancient Egyptian Sacred Drama*.
London: B. T. Batsford, 1974. [Addlestone PJ1961 .T713]

Gillam, Robyn A. *Performance and Drama in Ancient Egypt*. London: Duckworth, 2005.
[Addlestone DT68 .G555 2005].

Ramesseum dramatic papyrus, Memphite theology, etc.

senet game ritual (papyrus Cairo 58037)

ball game ritual, "Book of Overthrowing Apophis" (incl. Book of the Dead and papyrus Bremner-Rhind):

J. Borghouts, "The Evil Eye of Apophis," *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 59 (Aug., 1973): 114-150

assorted related medical spells:

Borghouts, *Ancient Egyptian Magical Texts*.
medical spells from Edwin Smith surgical papyrus
spells to cause an enemies hair to fall out

spells to expell evil influence or exorcise *heka* from the body:

Book of the Dead
Papyrus Ebers, nos. 165-174, 182, 733

spells against crocodiles

J. Borghouts, *Ancient Egyptian Magical Texts*

spells against snake and scorpion bite, including healing statues (*cippi*)

J. Borghouts, *Ancient Egyptian Magical Texts*, 84

spells against 'aa, "ejaculation, evil influence", insemination by demons, deities and evil dead (viz. incubus and succubus), often invoking Mafdet:

C. Leitz, *Magical and Medical Papyri of the New Kingdom*.
J. Borghouts, *Ancient Egyptian Magical Texts*.

spells to protect a pregnant women, mother and child (including use of apotropaic or "magical" knives"):

Borghouts, *Ancient Egyptian Magical Texts*.

Book of the Dead

"Magical Spells to Protect a Child." In Parkinson, R. B. *Voices from Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Middle Kingdom Writings*. London: British Museum Press, 1991. Pp. 129-130.

execration spells

Ritner, R., "Execration Texts." In *The Context of Scripture*, vol. 1, ed. W. M. Hallo, pp. 50-52. Leiden: Brill, 2000.

"A Cursing Ritual." In Parkinson, R. B. *Voices from Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Middle Kingdom Writings*. London: British Museum Press, 1991. Pp. 125-126.