



## God Thoth and Goddess Nut

### Thoth - God of Wisdom

**Other names:** Djehuty, Tehuti, Zehuti

*Thoth*, the ibis-headed god of wisdom, was also associated with the moon. He is another of the more important Egyptian gods, featuring in almost all the myths.

**Appearance:** The Ancient Egyptians drew him in three different forms. Sometimes he is shown with the body of a man and the head of an *ibis* (a wading bird found along the banks of the Nile). This is how he is depicted in this bronze relief. Can you see him? At other times he was depicted as a baboon. The Egyptians also drew him as an ibis, with no human characteristics at all.

It was the wise Thoth who helped the goddess Nut conceive a child. He also helped Isis gather and heal her dead husband Osiris. However, Thoth is most famous for his role in the Final Judgment. As Anubis weighs the heart of the deceased against the feather of Ma'at, it is Thoth who records the outcome and reports to the other gods whether the deceased is to be accepted into the underworld.

P.T.O

## Nut - The Sky Goddess

**Other names :** Neuth, Nuit

*Nut* was the daughter of Shu, the Egyptian god of air, and Tefnut, goddess of water. She was also the sister and wife of Geb, god of the earth.

**Appearance:** Nut's domain was the sky, and she was commonly pictured as a naked woman arching over the earth, with her hands and feet touching the ground. Her body is usually sky-coloured and filled with stars. Some stories tell of Nut swallowing the sun in the evening, and giving birth to it in the morning. Nut is also sometimes depicted as a cow.

Nut is famous for being the mother of some of the most important Egyptian gods: Osiris, Isis, Set and Nephthys. The story of Ra mentions the sun god Ra forbidding Nut to bear any children, for fear of them taking his throne from him. But Nut sought the help of the wise god Thoth, and managed to give birth to her four children. This bronze relief shows the point at which the Goddess Nut first approached God Thoth asking him for his help. Nut is shown in her human form as well as the over-arching sky. Can you see her? Thoth is depicted seated, with the body of a man and the head of an ibis.

