

acquired great skill in the industrial arts, working in clay, stone, and glass; in wood, ivory, leather, and the textile fabrics; in the coarser metals, bronze, lead, and iron; and in the precious metals, gold and silver.

The religion of Egypt was a strange mixture of various kinds of worship. The lowest form of religion was animal worship, such as was prevalent among the primitive tribes of Africa. The crocodile, the serpent, the hawk, the cow, the cat, and many other animals were held as sacred. Besides this animal worship, we find a complex form of nature worship, the chief object of which was the sun, the source of light and life, whose journey through the heavens was the cause of day and night and an emblem of life and death. With the recognition of a supreme god, the most learned men of Egypt attained an idea which approached that of monotheism. The Egyptians believed in the continued existence of the soul after death. This belief led to the practice of embalming the body of the deceased,



AMUN

that the mummy might be preserved for the return of the spirit. The Egyptians also believed in a system of future rewards and punishments, and that every soul must be judged



JUDGMENT OF THE SOUL BEFORE OSIRIS

before Osiris for the deeds done in the body. The priests of Egypt, who had charge of the religion, were also the learned class. They cultivated philosophy and the various sciences