

Thebes, where this new discovery has been made, was the capital of Egypt during the 18th dynasty. It is called No-Ammon in the Bible. It was in upper Egypt, on both sides of the Nile. The portion of the town that stood on the left bank of the river was called Pathyris, as being under the protection of Athor.

Athor, or Hathor, was the goddess of Joy. She was the incarnation of the cow that brought forth and nursed the sun; she was also the goddess of the dead, and provided them with bread and water as they left this world. She was early confused with Isis. The third Egyptian month "Athyr" was named after her. In Thebes she was the goddess of the city of the dead, where the royal necropolis was situated, and immense graveyards—five miles long—of man, and of all animals except the horse and the ass. It was there that in recent years men found the mummy of Ramses II, the oppressor of the Hebrews, and the father of Thermuthis, the King's daughter that found Moses.

Ramses II. is the Pharaoh of Exodus I, 8, who knew not Joseph. Indeed he belonged to a different race from Apepi, the Hyksos King of Joseph. Some years ago a fellah found the mummies of Set, of Ramses II, who was his son, and of Menephthah, the Pharaoh that let the Hebrews depart. This fellah concealed his discovery and took from the jewelry hidden with these mummies, which had been removed from the necropolis to escape robbers, a few articles now and then for sale. He revealed this to his sons on his deathbed. They quarrelled, and one informed the authorities, with the result that Menephthah with his father and grandfather may now be seen by any Hebrew at the museum in Cairo.

Athor, the goddess of Thebes, was represented in the form of a cow, or of a woman with a cow's head, having horns with the sun between them.

Now a cow representing Hathor was found some years ago and is to be seen in the Museum at Turin. But the Hathor just discovered was in position in her shrine, surrounded by all that her worship required. This is quite unique. The new cow, cut in stone life size, covered with gold gilt and paint, and was dedicated by Amenhetep or Amenophus II, the son of Thoutmosis III. Thoutmosis III treated the Hebrews well. We are indebted to him for the obelisks that now adorn New York Central Park, and the Thames Embankment, known as Cleopatra's needles. Now it is very interesting and instructive from a religious point of view to notice:—

(1) That this newly discovered cow, this new representative of Athor, was dedicated by the King of Egypt at a time when the Hebrews were still well treated, and Joseph not forgotten.