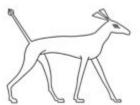
SETIANISM is the religious veneration and emulation of a God named **SET**.



The Sha or "Typhonian Beast"—the most important symbol for Set.

Also known as **SETH**, **SUTEKH**, and **TYPHON**, Set is the Egyptian God of storms, otherness, and the nighttime world. He is both a warrior who saves the world from terrible chaos monsters, and a trickster who challenges His fellow Gods whenever They grow complacent. He is one of the oldest Gods to still be worshiped on this planet; His following goes back more than 5,000 years, predating Judaism, Christianity, and Islam by centuries.

Unlike other Gods, Set does not give commandments or judge humanity for its "sins." He is not here to micromanage our lives or legislate our morality. He is here to ritually fight the **isfet serpent** and to keep the world alive for *everyone*—including those who shun Him—as well as to share His strength with the chosen few who catch His interest.

Set is often conflated with "Satan" in contemporary Western culture, but this is a fallacy. Set was not "the ancient Egyptian devil," but a proper God in His own right. He is there to ensure that some kind of forward movement is happening throughout every level of existence. Sometimes this means making trouble for the other Gods (as when Set slays **Osiris** or challenges **Horus**), and sometimes it means saving Them from evil (as when Set saves the Creator, **Atum-Ra**, from the isfet serpent each night).

The isfet serpent is the true "adversary" in Egyptian religion. The hieroglyphic for its name is a snake, its body looped in multiple coils, its flesh pierced with butcher knives. It is not a being created or controlled

by any god, but something more like a living black hole, a vapid non-entity that seeks to *eat* everything.



The isfet serpent.

Since it is not a created being to begin with, the isfet serpent can never be completely defeated or destroyed. Set ritually fights the beast each night to prevent the destruction of the multiverse.

This combat myth is also a metaphor about *sleep*, in which the Sun God Ra "dies" each night and travels through **Duat** (the Other Side) to be "reborn" at dawn. As we sleep, we can encounter all kinds of frightening dreams and nightmares. The isfet serpent is "the stuff nightmares are made of," and Set is "the stuff nightmares are *afraid* of." This story represents the hope that we will all wake up again after going to sleep—even when we enter the sleep of death.

Set is strongly identified with the **Big Dipper**, which the ancient Egyptians called **Khepesh** ("the Bull's Thigh"), and which they described as being Set's iron "bone," "foreleg," "semen," "testicles," or "sicklesword." As a divine weapon, Khepesh is comparable to **Mjollnir**, the Hammer of Thor in Norse polytheism. Setians also believe the Dipper represents an "astral gateway" in Duat that leads to **Deshret**, the **Desert of Set** between all possible universes. This realm buffers our created multiverse from the chaos outside, and it is home to the **Imperishable Ones**, deceased mortals who are blessed with Set's immortality.

Setian religiosity is unique because Set demands SELF-DETERMINATION from His followers, not blind obedience. For this reason, there is no prescribed way for Setians to believe or practice. Some of us identify as Kemetic polytheists, or Pagans who reconstruct the ancient Egyptian religion. Others identify as Hermeticists, Gnostics, Thelemites, or even Chaos Magicians. Setians can combine their love for Set with

any other religious traditions we personally value, including Christianity.



The <u>Alexamenos Graffito</u>, the earliest known image of Christ, in which he is depicted with Setian features.

Many other faiths perceive human beings as mere "property" or "playthings" for the Gods; but in Setianism, Set is the Setian above, and the Setian is Set below. Your Will and His Will are one, and your autonomy is absolute. No other sentient being has any right to interfere with your autonomy—not even a God—unless you violate someone else's autonomy first. Setians therefore come in all shapes, sizes, ethnicities, and identities. We do not have to identify by our birth sexes, nor must we carry our pregnancies to term. Set does not tell anyone how to live their lives or what to do with their own minds and bodies, and neither do Setians. We believe every person is the sovereign ruler of their innermost self, and we utterly reject all religions that teach otherwise.

How does a person become a Setian? Well, if you happen to agree with anything you have read here in this document, it is possible that you are **ALREADY** one of Set's Children without even realizing it. If you think this might be the case, find a spot where you can be alone and say aloud, "Great Set! Please give me the truth!" Then keep your eyes peeled for the next few days. If you are truly a Setian, Set will give you a sign that only you will be able to recognize. Then you will know He is with you, for sure!

If you are indeed Setian, here are some simple steps on how to conduct a Setian rite. (These are only offered here as a starting point; individual Setians should feel free to alter these steps according to their own needs and preferences.)

1. Prepare a ritual space.

Whether you are indoors or outdoors, find a nice spot where you feel secluded and safe.

2. Observe a moment of silence.

Light a candle (preferable red or black), then stand or sit quietly for at least two minutes.

3. Invoke Set.

Raise both your arms into the air and recite an invocation like this one:

"Great SET! O dreaded Sovereign of the sky! Look down upon me with Your fathomless Eye, and greet me as Your friend and ally!"

4. Observe an additional moment of silence.

Reflect on the fact that you are Set on earth, and He is you in heaven.

5. Articulate the purpose for your rite.

State your will to Set (whether it is to bless a friend, banish negative energy, etc.). You must clearly articulate your intent in your own words.

6. Make an offering to Set.

The Egyptians made votive offerings by dedicating food to their Gods and ingesting it during worship. In this way, they actually "shared meals" with their Higher Powers. Since most of Set's sacred animals are herbivores, it is recommended that you offer Him vegetarian meals only. (He especially loves lettuce!)

7. Recite a closing litany.

For example:

"Thank You, Great Set, for Your audience! I acknowledge many Gods, but You are the greatest! I hope and I pray that I make You proud somehow! SO MOTE IT BE!"

To cite this document, please cite as:

Marian, G.B. (2023). *Setianism: A brief introduction* (2nd edition). Ypsilanti, MI: **DesertOfSet.com**.

Want to learn more about Setian beliefs and culture? Visit these links!

The Art of Setken

Setken.com

Ethical Chaos

SmarmyKemeticPagan.Wordpress.com

First Church of the Holy Jackass

DesertOfSet.com/First-Church-of-the-Holy-Jackass/

In the Desert of Set

DesertOfSet.com

In the Desert of Set Podcast

DesertOfSet.com/Episodes/

KHPR: The Voice of Darkness

KHPRvod.org

Set-Tetu-Ra

SetTetuRa.Wordpress.com

The Temple of Set

Xeper.info

Words and Images of Joan Lansberry

JoanAnnLansberry.com

Aquino, M.A. (2016). *The Temple of Set* (volumes 1–2). Scotts Valley, CA: CreateSpace.

House of Netjer Kemetic Orthodox Temple. (2015). Strongest of the Gods: A devotional anthology in honor of Set. Joilet, IL: Lulu. URL: https://www.lulu.com/

Lansberry, J. (2019). *Images of Set: Changing impressions of a multi-faceted God.* Oxford, UK: Mandrake of Oxford.

Levenda, P. (2013). The Dark Lord: H.P. Lovecraft, Kenneth Grant, and the Typhonian Tradition in magic. Lake Worth, FL: Ibis Press.

Morgan, M. (2005). *The Bull of Ombos: Seth & Egyptian magick*. Oxford, UK: Mandrake of Oxford.

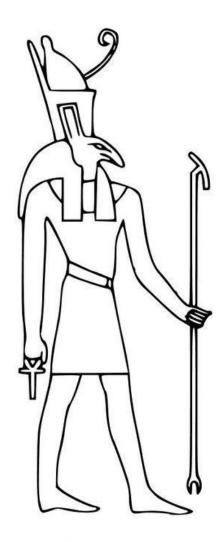
Scott, R. (2019). Behold! The Prince of Darkness: A complete introduction to Setian religion. Independently published.

Te Velde, H. (1977). Seth, God of confusion: A study of His role in Egyptian mythology and religion. Leiden: E.J. Brill.

Webb, D. (1996). *The seven faces of darkness: Practical Typhonian magic.* Smithsville, TX: Runa Raven.

Set is mighty...

...and so are YOU!



Setianism

A Brief Introduction

DesertOfSet.com DesertOfSet.com DesertOfSet.com