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English

Identifying Two Truths: The Transition and Transformation of the Goddesses Dual Maat during the New Kingdom

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Chapter 125 of the Book of the Dead is one of the prominent compositions which tells us where Ancient Egyptians travelled in their afterlife for their eternal life. In this spell, the deceased tread on the judgment hall named 'the broad hall of Two Truths' (*wshꜥt nt mꜣꜥty*) in order to go through the judgment by Osiris. Following pictures of two goddesses depicted in the judgment Hall, the name of this judgment hall is certainly derived from Dual Maat (*mꜣꜥty*), the reduplicated goddesses of Maat, being involved in Egyptian dualistic notions. Although the reduplication of the goddess Maat in this judgment hall has been discussed by scholars, the reason for the reduplication of this goddess is still unclear. In addition, while some Book of the Dead manuscripts show *mꜣꜥty* as a pair of the same Maat goddess, they are frequently represented as different entities such as a pair of male and female divinities. There is still no convincing explanation for this phenomenon, which makes it difficult to identify who exactly are the *mꜣꜥty* in the judgment hall.

For further understanding of the pair of divinities *mꜣꜥty*, this paper will reconsider the attestation of *mꜣꜥty* in the sources from the New Kingdom, focussing on the Book of the Dead papyri and the other Netherworld Books. The iconographic analysis and comparison of the various depictions of Dual Maat and their subsidiary texts reveal the diversity of the images and roles of these deities in the earliest attestations of the *mꜣꜥty* concept as the goddesses in the judgment hall. Also, a close look and comparison of the sources from the late 18th and 19th dynasties reveals that the roles and forms of Dual Maat in the Netherworld were, in each stage, assigned in concert with their relationship with Re and Osiris.

Keywords: Maat; Book of the Dead; Duality; Development of religious thought



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