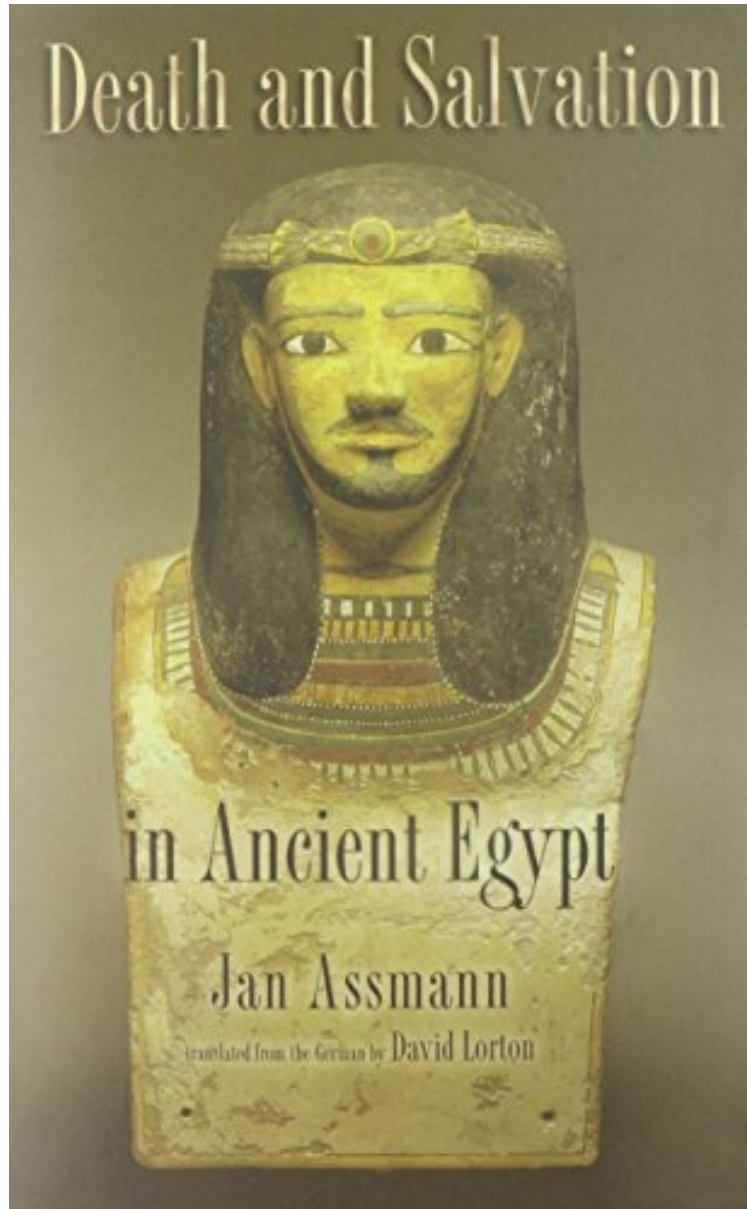


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## Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt

Jan Assmann

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**Jan Assmann : Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good! By LR Another quality book by Mr. Assmann. Everything I've read by this author is well worth it. Those without a lot of background in Egyptology will find it

accessible, and those with familiarity will learn aspects they did not consider or were unaware of. Well researched and well written. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By MR S BULL Transformative. A powerful book. 14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opener By Timothy J. Smith I have been reading a great deal about the Osiris myth; this, together with Tom Hare's book "Re-Membering Osiris" are truly valuable additions to anyone's Egyptology collection. Mr. Assman is a well-established author, and lays on the footnotes with scholarly frequency. His books are dense and a bit dry, but his viewpoint is clearly stated and provocative. I do not agree with his atheism, and find it a bit odd in a man who spends so much time writing about Gods and religion, but I will say that he is stunningly observant and objective in his recounting of the pure source material available to us today. Because his own perspective is clear and unapologetic, it is easy to examine his thoughts and observations from another perspective. Few writers so consistently provoke creative thought in the reader while informing and educating at the same time. Of the books he's written (and that I've read) this book is second only to "The Mind of Ancient Egypt". Buy both! read them!!

"Human beings," the acclaimed Egyptologist Jan Assmann writes, "are the animals that have to live with the knowledge of their death, and culture is the world they create so they can live with that knowledge." In his new book, Assmann explores images of death and of death rites in ancient Egypt to provide startling new insights into the particular character of the civilization as a whole. Drawing on the unfamiliar genre of the death liturgy, he arrives at a remarkably comprehensive view of the religion of death in ancient Egypt. Assmann describes in detail nine different images of death: death as the body being torn apart, as social isolation, the notion of the court of the dead, the dead body, the mummy, the soul and ancestral spirit of the dead, death as separation and transition, as homecoming, and as secret. *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt* also includes a fascinating discussion of rites that reflect beliefs about death through language and ritual.

"*Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt* serves as a compendious introduction to how ancient Egyptians approached their mortality as well as their impending immortality. Throughout, Assmann continues to build upon his vast store of important publications, yet again bringing to his work a deep background in theoretical literature, especially anthropology and philosophy. This gives his work a decidedly comparative flair, citing parallels or contrasts with cultures ancient or modern, Near Eastern or otherwise. Much of Assmann's Egyptological work has become required reading, and *Death and Salvation* will be no exception. Controversial, insightful, incredibly informed, and in constant contact with the primary textual material, this volume will continue to inspire discussion for years to come." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* "Assmann astounds the reader with his deep knowledge of religious texts from all periods of Egyptian civilization and from the Greeks and Romans too. He is equally familiar with evidence from art and architecture. . . . He leads the reader through the maddeningly opaque pronouncements of Egyptian intellectuals about the nature of death, its origin, its meaning, its importance. Every page shines a fresh light on a topic that fascinates us all, but leaves us puzzled. Assmann's book will take its place as classic study and shows again why he is justly regarded as one of the great Egyptologists writing today." *Bryn Mawr Classical* "This very important book represents the fruit of many years of reading, thinking, and writing about the Egyptian conceptions of death and the afterlife, and constitutes a comprehensive analysis of the subject. It is a complex, multilayered interpretation that reveals the great depth and breadth of Jan Assmann's knowledge. He systematically investigates the processes of and reactions to the experience of death, the reconstitution of the body/person of the deceased, and rites and texts that relate to the afterlife." *Gerald Kadish, Binghamton University* About the Author Jan Assmann is Professor Emeritus of Egyptology at Heidelberg University. His books include *The Search for God in Ancient Egypt* and *Death and Salvation in Ancient Egypt*, both from Cornell. David Lorton, an Egyptologist, is the translator of many books, including Erik Hornung's books *The Secret Lore of Egypt and Akhenaten and the Religion of Light*, both from Cornell.