

Zoom

ANI AND TUTU: A WEALTHY COUPLE

The protagonists are Ani, high scribe of Pharaoh, and his wife, Tutu, high priestess of Amun-Ra. They both dress in white and she wears sistro and necklace. They invested the salary of ten years in this fabulous papyrus.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

The secrets of the pharaohs



"PAPYRUS OF ANI" IS A BOOK OF THE DEAD WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR ETERNAL LIFE. ITS FIRST FACSIMILE HAS BEEN MADE IN SPAIN.

A

fter death, the Egyptians had to pass a series of tests until Osiris, the god of resurrection, allowed them to enter eternal life. To pass these tests, there were a series of sortileges, spells, prayers and litanies to recite. It

was convenient to have them at hand in the other world. At the beginning, these recitations were inscribed in the pyramids: only the pharaohs could afford them. Later they were engraved on the inside of the sarcophagi, so

that the nobles and high officials could enjoy these 'instruction guides' for the afterlife. Later, the texts were democratized and began to be copied in papyrus that were placed in the tombs next to the corpses. Thus, access to the **books of the dead**

—which is what these texts are called— became simpler. There was not only one book of the dead: the texts and the vignettes changed, there were more luxurious and simpler ones, but they used to show the pilgrimage of the

deceased through the Duat, the underworld. Before gaining Osiris' approval and achieving the desired immortality, the deceased had to face serious dangers and evil beings. He also had to pass some examinations, such as the 42

THE PAPYRUS CONTAINS A PASSAGE SIMILAR TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND A PRAYER SIMILAR TO THE LORD'S PRAYER.

HOW MUCH DOES YOUR HEART WEIGH?

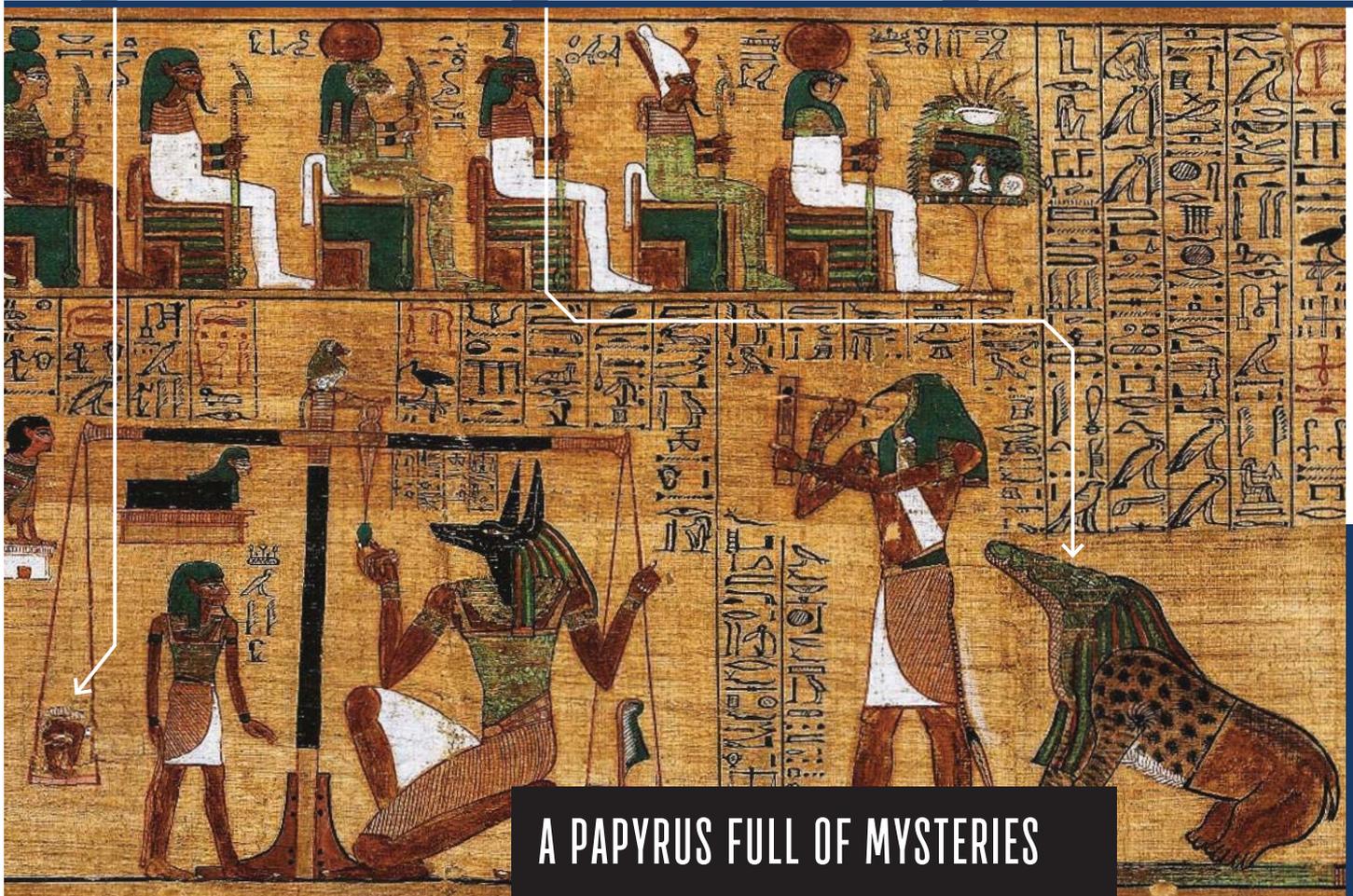
On one side of the scale the heart of the deceased is placed and on the other, an ostrich feather, symbol of Maat, goddess of truth and justice. Tot, god of wisdom, presides over the ceremony.

AMMYT: A DEVIL LYING IN WAIT

Ammyt, the devourer of the dead, waits for the deceased to become a sinner in order to eat his heart and prevent his immortality. Ammyt has the head of a crocodile and the body of a lion and a hippopotamus.

HORUS, THE INTERMEDIARY

In the next chapter to this one, Horus, the celestial god, takes the deceased by the hand before Osiris, the god of resurrection. Horus, who is also the son of Osiris, mediates in favour of the human. The vicissitude continues.



A PAPYRUS FULL OF MYSTERIES

negative recitations where the deceased had to deny having committed 42 sins during his earthly life that were named to him, a formula that is considered an antecedent of the ten commandments. In fact, the book of the dead has been seen for centuries as a sacred text comparable to the Bible or the Koran.

Ani's papyrus, one of the most luxurious, complete and impressive that have been preserved and which has now been replicated in the form of a facsimile by the Spanish company **CM Editores**, includes "the prayer of the blind man, very similar in structure to the Lord's Prayer, written later," says Daniel Díez, of that publishing house. ●

FÁTIMA URIBARRI

MILLENNIAL

The scribe Ani commissioned it in 1250 B.C. It's very luxurious. The books of the dead cost a fortune: most people were buried with only one chapter and usually without decorating.

EXCLUSIVE

Ani must have been very rich. It is a hand-painted papyrus 26.6 meters

long. It was made exclusively for him: his name appears on several occasions. It is richly illustrated and contains hieroglyphic texts.

DIFFERENT

The quality of the images made the texts adapt to the illustrations: the opposite of the usual. It was written by three scribes, but

illustrated by one hand.

IN LONDON

In 1888, Ernest Wallis Budge "bought" for the British Museum the papyrus that had been found in Ani's tomb in Thebes. To transport it, he cut it into 37 sections. A pity.