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Speech 201

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Informative Speech on the most Metal Goddess You've Never Heard Of

I. Introduction

- A. While you'd never want to cross a god, it seems like every pantheon has a goddess whose bad side you'd never want to be on. The Hindus have Kali, the Romans have Bellona, the Greeks have too many to name. But the Egyptians have one you'd never want to look at funny, let alone cross.
- B. I am a lifelong mythology nerd, so this is like, my jam. My mom once lost me in an Egyptology exhibit once.
- C. I'm going to explain a little bit of Egyptian myth surrounding the war goddess Sekhmet.
- D. If you ever need to summon an ancient deity to have your back, I'm going to tell you why you ought to have Sekhmet on speed dial.
- E. Main points include:
 - 1. The creation myth of Sekhmet
 - 2. Her cults and influence in ancient Egypt and the greater ancient world
 - 3. Current influences on modern society

Transition: Let's get to the gore, shall we?

II. Body

- A. What's in a name? Sekhmet (Also called "She who is mighty" or more bluntly, "She who mauls" or "Lady of Slaughter") was created from the Eye of the Sun God Re. And it gets more metal than that.
 - 1. After Re (the Egyptian sun god and creator deity) noticed that humanity was not paying him due tribute, he decided they needed to be taught a lesson. (Egyptian

- gods work on the Santa Claus rule of “the more people believe in you, the more powerful you are”) So, he plucked out his eye and created a goddess with it so fearsome nobody would forget tribute ever again.
2. Unfortunately Sekhmet was a little too good at her job and began a mass slaughter on a scale so broad all of the other gods began to complain that there weren’t enough people to go around anymore, so Isis (goddess of magic and later Queen of the Heavens) noticed Sekhmet’s love of drinking blood from her victims and hatched a scheme.
 3. A massive amount of godly-strength wine was dyed and thickened with clay from the Nile. Sekhmet, believing it to be blood, chugged it, and became so drunk she became (Mostly) harmless. Depending on which myth you read she either became Hathor (a cow goddess), Bast (a cat goddess), or just mellowed out in general and was allowed to remain as Re’s enforcer.
 - a) Sekhmet was initially titled “The eye of Re”; both Hathor and Bast were given this title as well, as well as the shared origin from being created of Re’s eye, implying they share a deeper connection than simply all having the same enforcer job.

Transition: Sounds like Sekhmet was someone well avoided - so why was she such a popular figure in Egyptian myth?

- B. Sekhmet, despite her horrifying origin story, was a revered figure in Egyptian myth.
1. Her cult center was in Memphis, where rituals involving copious amounts of booze led to drunken worship of the goddess.
 - a) After drinking the spiked Nile, Sekhmet supposedly washed up in Memphis and met her husband Ptah.
 - b) Items from her cultists are frequently discovered there and throughout Egypt.

2. She was also worshipped by doctors as she was supposedly so scary that plagues ran away from her.
 - a) She was also said to cause the plagues.
3. Being commonly associated with the destructive aspects of fire, her counterparts Hathor and Bast are often similarly paralleled with the loving warmth and the protection/festivity of fire respectively
 - a) This further expands upon the relationships between the other Eyes of Re.
 - b) Hindu goddess Durga supposedly became the war goddess Kali when in the throes of rage, much like Hathor is sometimes portrayed as becoming Sekhmet when enraged. This connection seemingly is meant to portray the motherly love turning into wrathful protection aspect often found in ancient myth.

Transition: So why is this valuable information to know today?

C. Sekhmet actually has some cultural relevance today!

1. She is worshipped in some capacity as an early representation of an early example of Gaslight, Gatekeep, Girlboss.
 - a) Ancient Egyptian society was considered almost kind of egalitarian (rulers Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra)
 - b) She is commonly seen in a protofeminist light.
2. She's generally one of the more well known Egyptian gods.
 - a) Outside of Isis for, well, unfortunate reasons, she's most likely the most well known goddesses.
 - b) Since you worship gods by naming them according to Egyptian myth, I'm really trying to get on her good side.

III. Conclusion

- A. In this creature feature I featured the creature Sekhmet.
- B. I talked about her
 - 1. origin myth,
 - 2. relevance to ancient Egypt,
 - 3. and modern influence
- C. And I hope that this speech taught you a little more about Egyptian myths, culture, and scary fire goddesses.