[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox deity](/wiki/Template:Infobox_deity) **Anubis** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en);[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Template:Lang-grc](/wiki/Template:Lang-grc)) is the [Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greek_language) name of a god associated with [mummification](/wiki/Mummy) and the [afterlife](/wiki/Afterlife#Ancient_Egypt) in [ancient Egyptian religion](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_religion), usually depicted as a [canine](/wiki/Canis) or a man with a [canine head](/wiki/Cynocephaly). Archeologists identified the sacred animal of Anubis as an Egyptian [canid](/wiki/Canidae), that at the time was called the [golden jackal](/wiki/Golden_jackal), but recent [genetic testing](/wiki/Genetic_testing) has caused the Egyptian animals to be reclassified as the [African golden wolf](/wiki/Canis_anthus).[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) Like many [ancient Egyptian deities](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_deities), Anubis assumed different roles in various contexts. Depicted as a protector of graves as early as the [First Dynasty](/wiki/First_Dynasty_of_Egypt) (c. 3100 – c. 2890 BC), Anubis was also an [embalmer](/wiki/Embalm). By the [Middle Kingdom](/wiki/Middle_Kingdom_of_Egypt) (c. 2055 – 1650 BC), Anubis was replaced by [Osiris](/wiki/Osiris) in his role as Lord of the [underworld](/wiki/Underworld). One of his prominent roles was as a [god who ushered souls into the afterlife](/wiki/Psychopomp). He attended the [weighing scale](/wiki/Weighing_scale) during the "Weighing of the Heart," in which it was determined whether a soul would be allowed to enter the realm of the dead.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Despite being one of the most ancient and "one of the most frequently depicted and mentioned gods" in the [Egyptian pantheon](/wiki/List_of_Egyptian_gods), Anubis played almost no role in [Egyptian myths](/wiki/Egyptian_myths).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

Anubis was depicted in black, a color that symbolized both rebirth and the discoloration of the corpse after embalming. Anubis is associated with [Wepwawet](/wiki/Wepwawet) (also called Upuaut), another Egyptian god portrayed with a dog's head or in canine form, but with grey or white fur. Historians assume that the two figures were eventually combined.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Anubis' female counterpart is [Anput](/wiki/Anput). His daughter is the serpent goddess [Kebechet](/wiki/Kebechet).

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## Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

"Anubis" is a Greek rendering of this god's [Egyptian](/wiki/Egyptian_language) name.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)[[7]](#cite_note-7) In the [Old Kingdom](/wiki/Old_Kingdom_of_Egypt) (c. 2686 BC – c. 2181 BC), the standard way of writing his name in [hieroglyphs](/wiki/Egyptian_hieroglyphs) was composed of the sound ***ı͗npw*** followed by a "jackal"[[8]](#cite_note-8) over a [*ḥtp*](/wiki/Hotep) sign:[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) <hiero>i-n:p-w-C6</hiero> A new form with the "jackal" on a tall stand appeared in the late Old Kingdom and became common thereafter:[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) <hiero>i-n:p-w-E16</hiero>

According to the [Akkadian](/wiki/Akkadian) transcription in the [Amarna letters](/wiki/Amarna_letters), Anubis' name (*ı͗npw*) was vocalized in [Egyptian](/wiki/Egyptian_language) as **Anapa**.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|Anubis attending the](/wiki/File:Anubis_attending_the_mummy_of_Sennedjem.jpg) [mummy](/wiki/Mummy) of the deceased. In Egypt's [Early Dynastic period](/wiki/Early_Dynastic_Period_of_Egypt) (c. 3100 – c. 2686 BC), Anubis was portrayed in full animal form, with a "jackal" head and body.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) A "jackal" god, probably Anubis, is depicted in stone inscriptions from the reigns of [Hor-Aha](/wiki/Hor-Aha), [Djer](/wiki/Djer), and other pharaohs of the [First Dynasty](/wiki/First_Dynasty).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Since [Predynastic Egypt](/wiki/Predynastic_Egypt), when the dead were buried in shallow graves, "jackals" had been strongly associated with cemeteries because they were scavengers which uncovered human bodies and ate their flesh.[Template:Sfnm](/wiki/Template:Sfnm) In the spirit of "fighting like with like," a "jackal" was chosen to protect the dead, because "a common problem (and cause of concern) must have been the digging up of bodies, shortly after burial, by jackals and other wild dogs which lived on the margins of the cultivation."[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The oldest known textual mention of Anubis is in the [Pyramid Texts](/wiki/Pyramid_Texts) of the [Old Kingdom](/wiki/Old_Kingdom) (c. 2686 – c. 2181 BC), where he is associated with the [burial](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_burial_customs) of the [pharaoh](/wiki/Pharaoh).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

In the [Old Kingdom](/wiki/Old_Kingdom), Anubis was the most important god of the dead. He was replaced in that role by [Osiris](/wiki/Osiris) during the [Middle Kingdom](/wiki/Middle_Kingdom_of_Egypt) (2000–1700 BC).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In the [Roman era](/wiki/History_of_Roman_Egypt), which started in 30 BC, tomb paintings depict him holding the hand of deceased persons to guide them to Osiris.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The parentage of Anubis varied between myths, times and sources. In early mythology, he was portrayed as a son of [Ra](/wiki/Ra).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In the [Coffin Texts](/wiki/Coffin_Texts), which were written in the [First Intermediate Period](/wiki/First_Intermediate_Period) (c. 2181–2055 BC), Anubis is the son of either the cow goddess [Hesat](/wiki/Hesat) or the cat-headed [Bastet](/wiki/Bastet).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Another tradition depicted him as the son of his father Ra and mother [Nephthys](/wiki/Nephthys).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The Greek [Plutarch](/wiki/Plutarch) (c. 40–120 AD) stated that Anubis was the illegitimate son of Nephthys and [Osiris](/wiki/Osiris), but that he was adopted by Osiris's wife [Isis](/wiki/Isis):[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

[thumb|left|200px|Statue of](/wiki/File:Statue_of_the_god_Anubis.jpg) [Hermanubis](/wiki/Hermanubis), a hybrid of Anubis and the Greek god [Hermes](/wiki/Hermes) ([Vatican Museums](/wiki/Vatican_Museums)) [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

George Hart sees this story as an "attempt to incorporate the independent deity Anubis into the [Osirian pantheon](/wiki/Osiris_myth)."[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) An Egyptian papyrus from the [Roman period](/wiki/Egypt_(Roman_province)) (30–380 AD) simply called Anubis the "son of Isis."[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

In the [Ptolemaic](/wiki/Ptolemaic_Egypt) period (350–30 BC), when Egypt became a [Hellenistic](/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization) kingdom ruled by Greek pharaohs, Anubis was merged with the [Greek](/wiki/Greek_mythology) god [Hermes](/wiki/Hermes), becoming [Hermanubis](/wiki/Hermanubis).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)[[9]](#cite_note-9) The two gods were considered similar because they both [guided souls](/wiki/Psychopomp) to the afterlife.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The center of this [cult](/wiki/Cult_(religious_practice)) was in *uten-ha*/*Sa-ka*/ [Cynopolis](/wiki/Cynopolis), a place whose Greek name means "city of dogs." In Book XI of [*The Golden Ass*](/wiki/The_Golden_Ass) by [Apuleius](/wiki/Apuleius), there is evidence that the worship of this god was continued in [Rome](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) through at least the 2nd century. Indeed, Hermanubis also appears in the [alchemical](/wiki/Alchemy) and [hermetical](/wiki/Hermeticism) literature of the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages) and the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance).

Although the Greeks and [Romans](/wiki/Ancient_Romans) typically scorned Egypt's animal-headed gods as bizarre and primitive (Anubis was mockingly called "Barker" by the Greeks), Anubis was sometimes associated with [Sirius](/wiki/Sirius) in the heavens and [Cerberus](/wiki/Cerberus) and [Hades](/wiki/Hades) in the underworld. [Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In his dialogues, [Plato](/wiki/Plato) often has [Socrates](/wiki/Socrates) utter [oaths](/wiki/Oath) "by the dog" (*kai me ton kuna*), "by the dog of Egypt", and "by the dog, the god of the Egyptians", both for emphasis and to appeal to Anubis as an arbiter of truth in the underworld.[[10]](#cite_note-10)

## Roles[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

### Protector of tombs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

In contrast to real wolves, Anubis was a protector of [graves](/wiki/Grave) and [cemeteries](/wiki/Cemeteries). Several epithets attached to his name in [Egyptian texts and inscriptions](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_literature) referred to that role. *Khenty-imentiu*, which means "foremost of the westerners" and later became the name of a [different wolf god](/wiki/Khenti-Amentiu), alluded to his protecting function because the dead were usually buried on the west bank of the Nile.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) He took other names in connection with his funerary role, such as "He who is upon his mountain" (*tepy-dju-ef*) – keeping guard over tombs from above – and "Lord of the sacred land" (*neb-ta-djeser*), which designates him as a god of the desert [necropolis](/wiki/Necropolis).[Template:Sfnm](/wiki/Template:Sfnm)

Most ancient tombs had prayers to Anubis carved on them.[[11]](#cite_note-11)

### Embalmer[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

As "He who is in the place of [embalming](/wiki/Embalming)" (*imy-ut*), Anubis was associated with [mummification](/wiki/Mummification). He was also called "He who presides over the god's pavilion" (*khanty-she-netjer*), in which "pavilion" could be refer either to the place where embalming was carried out, or the pharaoh's burial chamber.[Template:Sfnm](/wiki/Template:Sfnm)

In the [Osiris myth](/wiki/Osiris_myth), Anubis helped Isis to embalm Osiris.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Indeed, when the Osiris myth emerged, it was said that after Osiris had been killed by Set, Osiris's organs were given to Anubis as a gift. With this connection, Anubis became the patron god of embalmers; during the rites of mummification, illustrations from the [*Book of the Dead*](/wiki/Book_of_the_Dead) often show a wolf-mask-wearing priest supporting the upright mummy.

### Guide of souls[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

By the [late pharaonic era](/wiki/Late_Period_of_ancient_Egypt) (664–332 BC), Anubis was often depicted as guiding individuals across the threshold from the world of the living to the [afterlife](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_religion#Afterlife).[Template:Sfnm](/wiki/Template:Sfnm) Though a similar role was sometimes performed by the cow-headed [Hathor](/wiki/Hathor), Anubis was more commonly chosen to fulfill that function.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Greek writers from the [Roman period](/wiki/Egypt_(Roman_province)) of Egyptian history designated that role as that of "[psychopomp](/wiki/Psychopomp)", a Greek term meaning "guide of souls" that they used to refer to their own god [Hermes](/wiki/Hermes), who also played that role in [Greek religion](/wiki/Ancient_Greek_religion).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) [Funerary art](/wiki/Funerary_art#Ancient_Egypt_and_Nubia) from that period represents Anubis guiding either men or women dressed in Greek clothes into the presence of Osiris, who by then had long replaced Anubis as ruler of the underworld.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

### Weighing of the heart[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|The "weighing of the heart," from the book of the dead of](/wiki/File:BD_Hunefer_cropped_1.jpg) [Hunefer](/wiki/Hunefer). Anubis is portrayed as both guiding the deceased forward and manipulating the scales, under the scrutiny of the ibis-headed [Thoth](/wiki/Thoth). One of the roles of Anubis was as the "Guardian of the Scales."[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The critical scene depicting the weighing of the heart, in the [*Book of the Dead*](/wiki/Book_of_the_Dead), shows Anubis performing a measurement that determined whether the person was worthy of entering the realm of the dead (the [underworld](/wiki/Underworld), known as [*Duat*](/wiki/Duat)). By weighing the heart of a deceased person against [Ma'at](/wiki/Ma'at) (or "truth"), who was often represented as an ostrich feather, Anubis dictated the fate of souls. Souls heavier than a feather would be devoured by [Ammit](/wiki/Ammit), and souls lighter than a feather would ascend to a heavenly existence.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)

## Portrayal in art[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|A crouching or "recumbent"](/wiki/File:Tutanhkamun_jackal.jpg) [statue of Anubis](/wiki/Anubis_Shrine) as a black-coated wolf (from the [Tomb of Tutankhamun](/wiki/KV62)) Anubis was one of the most frequently represented gods in [ancient Egyptian art](/wiki/Art_of_ancient_Egypt).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) In the [early dynastic period](/wiki/Early_Dynastic_Period_of_Egypt), he was depicted in animal form, as a black wolf.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Anubis's distinctive black color did not represent the coat of real wolves, but it had several symbolic meanings.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) First it represented "the discolouration of the corpse after its treatment with [natron](/wiki/Natron) and the smearing of the wrappings with a resinous substance during mummification".[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) Being the color of the fertile [silt](/wiki/Silt) of the [River Nile](/wiki/Nile), to Egyptians black also symbolized fertility and the possibility of rebirth in the afterlife.[Template:Sfnm](/wiki/Template:Sfnm)

Later in the Middle Kingdom Anubis was often portrayed as a wolf-headed human.[[14]](#cite_note-14) An extremely rare depiction of him in [fully human form](/wiki/Anthropomorphism) was found in the tomb of [Ramesses II](/wiki/Ramesses_II) in [Abydos](/wiki/Abydos,_Egypt).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)[[7]](#cite_note-7) Anubis is often depicted wearing a ribbon and holding a *nekhakha* "[flail](/wiki/Crook_and_flail)" in the crook of his arm.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Another of Anubis's attributes was the [Imiut fetish](/wiki/Imiut_fetish).[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

In funerary contexts, Anubis is shown either attending to a deceased person's mummy or sitting atop a tomb protecting it. [New Kingdom](/wiki/New_Kingdom_of_Egypt) tomb-seals also depict Anubis sitting atop the [nine bows](/wiki/Nine_bows) that symbolize his domination over the enemies of Egypt.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

## Gallery[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

<gallery class="center" widths="200px" heights="170px"> File:RPM Ägypten 186.jpg|Anubis mask  
([Roemer- und Pelizaeus-Museum Hildesheim](/wiki/Roemer-_und_Pelizaeus-Museum_Hildesheim)) File:Anubis Mask from Harrogate - rotating animation - HARGM10686.gif|[Cartonnage](/wiki/Cartonnage) Anubis mask  
([Royal Pump Room, Harrogate](/wiki/Royal_Pump_Room,_Harrogate)) File:Egyptian - A Worshipper Kneeling Before the God Anubis - Walters 54400 - Three Quarter View.jpg|A [worshipper](/wiki/Worshipper) kneeling before Anubis  
([Walters Art Museum](/wiki/Walters_Art_Museum)) </gallery>

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

* [*Anubias*](/wiki/Anubias)
* [Anubis Shrine](/wiki/Anubis_Shrine)
* [African golden wolf](/wiki/African_golden_wolf)
* [Egyptian mythology in popular culture](/wiki/Egyptian_mythology_in_popular_culture)
* Other Egyptian deities with canine features: [Khentyimentiu](/wiki/Khentyimentiu), [Sed](/wiki/Sed_festival), [Wepwawet](/wiki/Wepwawet)

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

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## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

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