



Ptah, in the form of a mummified man, standing on the symbol for Ma'at, holding a scepter or staff that bears the combined ankh-djed-was symbols.

God of creation, the arts and fertility

Name in hieroglyphs



Major cult center

Memphis

Symbol

the **djed** pillar, the bull

Parents

none (self-created)

Consort

Bastet / Sekhmet

Ptah is the patron of construction, metalworking, and sculpture. He is also the patron saint of carpenters and shipbuilders in general.

From the [Middle Kingdom](#) onwards, he was one of five major Egyptian gods with Ra, [Isis](#), [Osiris](#) and [Amun](#).

He wears many epithets that describe his role in Egyptian mythology and its importance in society at the time:

- *Ptah the beautiful face*
- *Ptah lord of truth*
- *Ptah master of justice*
- *Ptah who listens to prayers*
- *Ptah master of ceremonies*
- *Ptah lord of eternity*

Ptah is the creator god par excellence: He is considered the [demiurge](#) who existed before all things, and by his willingness, *thought* the world. It was first conceived by Thought, and realized by the Word: *Ptah conceives the world by the thought of his heart and gives life through the magic of his Word*. That which Ptah commanded was created, with which the constituents of nature, fauna, and flora, are contained. He also plays a role in the preservation of the world and the permanence of the royal function.

In the [Twenty-Fifth Dynasty](#), the [Nubian](#) pharaoh [Shabaka](#) would transcribe on a [stela](#) known as the [Shabaka Stone](#), an old theological document found in the archives of the library of the temple of the god at Memphis. This document has been known as the Memphite Theology, and shows the god Ptah, the god responsible for the creation of the universe by thought and by the Word.

[\[edit\]](#)Representations and hypostases



[Stucco](#) relief of Ptah with staff and ankh and djed. [Late Period](#) or [Ptolemaic Dynasty](#), 4th to 3rd century BC.

Like many deities of [ancient Egypt](#) he takes many forms, through one of his particular aspects or through [syncretism](#) of ancient deities of the Memphite region. He is sometimes represented as a dwarf, naked and deformed, whose popularity would continue to grow during the [Late Period](#). Frequently

associated with the god [Bes](#), his worship then exceeded the borders of the country and was exported throughout the eastern [Mediterranean](#). Thanks to the [Phoenicians](#), we find figures of Ptah in [Carthage](#).

Ptah is generally represented in the guise of a man with green skin, contained in a shroud sticking to the skin, wearing the divine beard, and holding a sceptre combining three powerful symbols of Egyptian mythology:

- The [Was](#) sceptre
- The sign of life, [Ankh](#)
- The [Djed](#) pillar

These three combined symbols indicate the three creative powers of the god: power (was), life (ankh) and stability (djed).