Nehy in Religious' Texts

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Abstract

The Ancient Egyptian Language is rich of terms and expressions. *nhy* or *nhi* was among these terms. The word *nhy* probably comes from the verb *nhi* which means to pray, wish, covet.

The aim of this paper is to deal with *nhi* or *nhy* in the religious' texts. It will provide an overview of the different writings and the meaning of the word. *nhy/* *nhi* presents the gods as it appeared between their names. It discusses the role and iconography of these gods in the Ancient Egyptian religion.

Throughout out the religious' texts, the term *nhy* appeared in the Pyramids texts, Coffin Texts, Book of the Dead, the Amduat, Litany of Ra, Book of the Day, and Book of the Night. It appeared in gods names such as *nhi*, *nhy*, and *nhi ḫr*.

**Keywords:** *nhy*, *nhi ḫr*, Religious Texts.

I. Introduction

The Ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife and resurrection. They left a lot of texts revealing their rituals and believes. Nehy is mentioned in the religious texts concerning the afterlife.
This includes other gods who adopted the same appellation Nehy or Nehi. There were other gods who took the same meaning of Nehy as \( nh \) and \( nhy-\text{hr} \). These gods were included in this research.

The word \( nhy/\text{nhti} \) has different meanings such as favorite\(^1\), pray for\(^2\), Prayer\(^3\), divine petition\(^4\), supplicant, to ask, to request, to beseech\(^5\). In addition, the word \( nht \) means wish or confide\(^6\).

II. The Religious' Texts

II. 1. Pyramid Texts

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In Pyramid Texts Nehy appeared in PT 301 (Pyr. 449 a, b (W))\(^7\):

\[
iw\ wnis\ rh\ sw\ rh\ rn.f\ nhy\ rn.f\ nhy\ nb\ rnpt\ rn.f\ m\ sHd.w\ pt\ s\ nb\ shd.w\ hr\ hr\ 3\ hr\ hr\ 3\ shd.w\ pt\ s\ nb\ r\ r\ nb\ r\ r
\]

Unis knows him and knows his name: Nehy is his name, his name Nehy is the lord of the year, with the victorious arm, Horus who is over the \(shd.w\) of the sky, who keeps Ra alive every day.

**II.2 Coffin Texts**

On the Sarcophagus of \(ntrw\ htp\)^8, Nehy appeared (CT 307)^9. The texts as follows:


8 It was discovered at Beni Hassan (JE 37565): M.P. Lacau, *Note sur Les Textes Religieux Contenus dans Les Sarcophages De M. Gastang,*
Nehy in Religious' Texts

ink nhy ink R₇ ntr pri m nnw m rn.i pw n hpr ntr b₃.i pw ntr

I am nhy, I am Ra who issued from Nun¹⁰, in this my name of Khepri, and my soul is a god¹¹.

nhi.i… k₃ hw.i m psd m ….. i pw n nhy

I am prayed to (…) (as) a bull, I am invoked in the Ennead in this my name of nhy god¹².

II.3 Book of the Dead

In the Chapter 153 b¹³, Nehy is appeared. The texts can be read as follows:

Annales du Service des Antiquités de L’Égypte 4 (Le Caire, 1904), 246-249.
¹¹ Faulkner, Coffin Texts I, 226.
¹² Faulkner, Coffin Texts I, 226.
I am nhy. I am Ra, who came out of Nun. The god is the Ba-soul. I am Osiris who makes truth, on which Ra lives. I pray (as) a bull, I lament (as) the Nine Gods (Ennead), in this my name of nhy.

II.4 The Amduat

16 The Amduat is a new genre of funerary literature chosen by the Thutmoside kings to decorate their tombs, and describes the journey of Ra through the twelve hours of the night. It was shown integrally in the tomb of king Thutmosis III and Amenhotep II. In addition, the oldest known version, which is in the tomb of Thutmosis I, is very
Nehy was found in the Second hour of The Amduat, his number is (176)\(^{17}\). He is depicted in the lower register of the scene. His name is written above his head as\(^{18}\), and\(^{18}\). The text which describes the scene reads as follows\(^{19}\):

```
wnn.sn m shrw pn ḥnk.sn n nṯr pn ḫḥ m trw ḥkn.sn n.f m rnpwt imy ḫwy.sn
```

fragmentary. The best versions are in the tombs of Thutmosis III and Amenophis II. Some traces of it are still visible in the very badly preserved tomb of Ramesses II. This version frequently appears on the papyri of the Twenty-second Dynasty. For the late period the best version of the Twelfth Division is in the Sarcophagus Room of the tomb of Pedemenopet: A. Piankoff, *The Tomb of Ramesses VI*, Vol. I (New York, 1954), 312; B. Richter, The Amduat and Its Relationship to the Architecture of Early 18th Dynasty Royal Burial Chambers, Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt 44 (Boston, 2008), 73.


\(^{18}\) P. Bucher, *Les Textes des Tombes de Thoutmosis III et d'Amonophis II*, MIFAO 60 (Le Caire, 1932), 13, 130.

\(^{19}\) Hornung, *Amduat* I, 32; D. Warburton, *The Egyptian Amduat, the Book of Hidden Chamber* (Zurich, 2007), 62- 64.
They are like this. They make (present) offerings to this great god of seasons; they praise him with the year in (of what in) their hands.

In addition, Nehy was found in the Twelfth hour, his number is (892). Nehy is shown in the lower register of the scene. His name is written above his head as $^{20}$. The accompanied text describes their struggle against Apophis who is driven away a last time before the sunrise.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Wnn.sn} & \text{ m shr pn hr mihw.sn ntsn hsfw} \\
& \text{ 3pp m ibt pt m ht mswt ntr}
\end{align*}
\]

They are like this, carrying their oars. They are those who struggle against Apep (Apophis) in the Eastern sky after the birth of the god $^{21}$.

**II. 5 The Litany of Ra** $^{22}$

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$^{22}$ Litany of Ra is entitled "Book of the Adoration of Re in the West, the Adoration of the United One in the West". It can be found together with the Amduat in the tombs of Thutmose III and his vizier User-Amnun. Later, from the time of Seti I, it was used to decorate the first two
Nehy in Religious' Texts

Nehy appeared in two texts in the Litany of Ra. The first one is a text from the tomb of Useramun (TT61). It reads as follows:

\[ nHy.sm\,hwy\,sd.ty\,ss\,w\,twt\,is\,h\,tt\,nhy \]

Nehy, who slays enemies, flaming tongue. You are indeed the corpse of Nehy.

The second text came from the tomb of Sety II. It read as follows:

\[ hry\,sm\,hwy\,sd.ty\,ss\,w\,twt\,is\,h\,tt\,nhy \]

Hornung, Sonnenlitanei I, 80; Hornung, Sonnenlitanei II, 72.
Praise to you, Ra, The one with high power\textsuperscript{26} (Exalted Sekhem)\textsuperscript{27}, Nehy who slays the enemies, with a tongue flaming fire. You are indeed the corpse of Nehy.

II.6 The Book of the Day\textsuperscript{28}

Nehy is shown in the third hour of the Book of the Day. His name is inscribed above his head as\textsuperscript{29}. The accompanying text is read as:\textsuperscript{30}

\begin{align*}
\text{r-\textordmasculine{c}pp tnm st n pt nfr(w)t w\textordmasculine{3}(w)t ir(i).t R^c.w in w3rt}
\end{align*}

\textsuperscript{26} permanent designation of Re in the Litany of the Sun: Ch. Leitz., Lexikon der Ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen VII, (Leuven and Paris, 2002), 168.

\textsuperscript{27} W. Budge, The Gods of the Egyptians I, (London, 1904), 347.

\textsuperscript{28} This book covers the solar cycle along with lists of gods and very few lengthy texts during the 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} Dynasties: J.C. Darnell, The Enigmatic Netherworld Books of the Solar-Osirian Unity: Cryptographic Compositions in the Tombs of Tutankhamun, Ramesses VI, and Ramasses IX, Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis 198, (Freiburg and Göttingen, 2004), 26.

\textsuperscript{29} A. Piankoff, Livre du Jour et de La Nuit (Le Caire,1942), 15; A. Piankoff, Les Grandes Compositions Religieuses dans La Tombe de Pedemenope, Bulletin de l’Institut Francais d’Archdologie Orientale XLVI (Le Caire,1947), 74-76; M. Müller-Roth, Das Buch vom Tage (Zurich, 2008), 324-325.

\textsuperscript{30} Müller-Roth, Das Buch vom Tage, 179-181.
Apopis (Apophis) be confused it (of road), the sky, to prepare (make) a beautiful road for the god Ra by rope\textsuperscript{31}.

II.7 The Book of the Night

The term Nehy is incorporated with the name of a god in the eighth hour of the Book of the Night. His name is written as \textsuperscript{32} and \textsuperscript{33}.

III. Discussion

III.1 Different Forms of writing

The term Nehy is written in different forms. The following table contains an inventory of these forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Hieroglyphics</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
<th>Translation</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Hieroglyphics" /></td>
<td>nhy</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
<td>PT 301 (Pyr. 449 a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Hieroglyphics" /></td>
<td>nhy</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
<td>CT 307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Hieroglyphics" /></td>
<td>nhy</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
<td>CT 307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Hieroglyphics" /></td>
<td>nhy</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
<td>BD 153 b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{31} Piankoff, RVI, 392; Müller-Roth, Marcus, Das Buch vom Tage, 179.

\textsuperscript{32} Piankoff, Livre du Jour, 62; G. Roulin Livre du Jour et de La Nuit II (Göttingen, 1996), 104; Müller-Roth, Das Buch vom Tage, 324- 325.

\textsuperscript{33} P. Montent, La necropole royale de Tanis III, Les constructions et Le Tombeau de Chachang III a Tanis (Paris, 1960), Pl. 30- 32; Roulin, Livre du Jour, 104.
<p>| | | | |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhy )</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhi )</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nh, hr^{34} )</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhi )</td>
<td>The beloved one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhi-hr )</td>
<td>Petitioner face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhi-hr )</td>
<td>Petitioner face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhy )</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhy )</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>( nhy )</td>
<td>The Petitioner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table (1) Different forms of writing the word \( nhy \) in Religou’s Texts**

The previous table presents the different forms and meanings of the term Nehy. It shows that the most of the

\(^{34}\) Translated as \( nhi \): Hornung, *Amduat* I, 213; and translated as \( nh \): Ch. Leitz., *Lexikon der Ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichenungen* IV, (Leuven and Paris, 2002), 270.
forms employed the determinative \( Nh \) (Gardiner's Sign-list G21)\(^{35}\) bird. Sometimes, it ends with the determinative of the god (⟨\( \text{nh} \)⟩). Concerning the meaning, it is almost has the same meaning except a translation of Piankoff\(^{36}\) in the tomb of Ramses VI, he translated it as the beloved one. In addition, it was translated as the eternal one\(^{37}\), Guinea fowl\(^{38}\).

### III.2 Nehy as a Deity

#### III.2.1 Iconography

Nehy as a god has different shapes as the following:

- In the 2\(^{nd}\) hour of the Amduat\(^{39}\), He is represented as a man with the year-sign (\( rnpt \)) in his hand while the other hanging. He is wearing a short kilt, long hair wig, and a curved false beard (Figs. 1:3).

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\(^{36}\) Piankoff, Ramesses VI, 391.


\(^{39}\) Richter, The Amduat, Fig. 14.
- In the 12th hour of the Amduat⁴⁰, He is depicted between four deities carrying paddles (oars) on their hands and standing behind a fire-spitting serpent standing on her tail. He is shown as a man with two birds-head and wearing a short kilt and holding an oar in his two hands (Figs. 4: 6).

- A representation of a scene at Philadelphia Museum (E 13621) shows Nehy as a square-headed bird with a short break with wattle at its throat. A uraeus-serpent and a sun disk are shown above her head. The bird has a human hand holding 'nh sign⁴¹ (Fig. 7).

- In the Litany of Ra⁴², Nehy was depicted as mummified baboon-headed body (Fig. 8).

- In the Book of the Day⁴³, He is shown as a man with two birds-head holding an oar (rudder) (Figs. 9, 10).

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⁴⁰ Richter, The Amduat, Fig. 20.
⁴² Hornung, Sonnenlitanei II, 59.
⁴³ Piankoff, Le Livre du Jour, 15, pl. 1; Piankoff, Ramesses VI, Vol. II, Pl. 187; Müller-Roth, Das Buch vom Tage, 324- 325.
- In the Book of the night\textsuperscript{44}, He was depicted as a man with long hair wig while his two hands with closing palms hanging beside his body (Figs. 11, 12).

### III.2.2 His titles

Nehy as a Deity has one title \textit{nb rnp.wt} (the lord of years), this title is mentioned in texts as follows:

- On a statue of Piay (\textit{Pi\texttilde{\i}zi}) in the Egyptian Museum at Cairo (CG 553)\textsuperscript{45}, an offering formula (\textit{htp di nsw}) is reads as follows:

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{htp-di-nsw.png}
\end{center}

\textit{htp di PtH nb t\text{\`{i}w}y nh\text{\`{y}} (nh\text{\`{i}}) nb rnp.wt}

“An offering that may Ptah give, the lord of the two lands, Nehy, the lord of years”.

- Another formula on the statue of Khaemwaset (son of Ramses II) in the Egyptian Museum at Cairo (CG 42147)\textsuperscript{46}, is read as follows:

\textsuperscript{44} Roulin, \textit{Le Livre du Jour}, Pl. XII.
An offering that may Ptah-Tatenen give, Nehy, the lord of years.

- On the Sarcophagus of Seseneb-nef from El-Lisht (Middle Kingdom), an inscription reads as follows:

\[
\text{b3 pw b3 nhh dt pw i'rt nhh nb rnp.wt s'nh dt} \quad \text{It is the ba, the ba of eternity, it is the uraeus.. It is Neheh the lord of years, who lives forever.}
\]

### III.2.3 The Attributes of Nehy

Throughout the religious' texts Nehy has different attributes as the following:

- The deceased knows him as the father of Shu and Tefnut and he keeps Ra alive every day (Pyr. 449a)

- Nehy was the name of the deceased (CT 307).
- The deceased begs him as a bull and he lament as the Ennead (BD 153b).

- In the Amduat, the 2nd hour he is one of the gods whose present offering to the great god of the season. Furthermore, in the 12th hour he is one of the gods who struggle against apep (Apophis) in the east of the heaven.

- In the Litany of Ra, he has a flaming tongue and slays his enemies.

- In the Book of the Day, he is one of the gods who prepare the road for the god Ra.

III.2.4 Nehy with other Deities

Nehy took the same epithet (nb rnp.wt, the lord of years) of Ptah. In addition, Nehy was identified with other god as Sobek, in the corridor around the sanctuary at Edfu temple. The text is read as:

\[ nHy m rn.f n sbk \] Nehy is there, in his name Sobek.

In the tomb of Sety I (the Litany of Ra), a text shows that Nehy is connected with Osiris. It is read as follows:

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50 Hornung, Sonnenlitanei I, 204; Hornung, Sonnenlitanei II, 87.
Indeed, you have raised me to that mysterious shrine that is hidden for Osiris-Nehy, the lord or years.

Nehy was connected with Ptah. The text at Hibis temple is showing that\(^{51}\):

\[\text{The strong bull strikes the disaffected persons with his arm in front of Nehy Ptah in Thebes.}\]

**IV. Nehy in personal Ranks**

Nehy in personal names is rare. It appeared twice on two stelae at the Egyptian Museum of Cairo. The stelae of Nehy-nefer dates back to the Middle Kingdom\(^{52}\). The second appearance was on a New Kingdom stelae of Nehy\(^{53}\).

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\(^{52}\) CG 20258; H. Lange and H. Shafer, *Grab- und Denkstein des Mittleren Reichs I*, (Catalogue General), (Cairo, 1908), 277- 278; H. Ranke, *Die ägyptischen Personennamen I*, (Glückstadt, 1935), 2070.

\(^{53}\) He was an infantry man (TR. 15.5.46.3); Porter and Moss, *Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts,*
V. Who is Nehy?

Some Pyramid Texts refer to Nehy as a manifestation of one of the Horus god (PT 301, Pyr. 449 b) who is in the sky, that he keeps Ra alive every day. Furthermore, Nehy appeared in a number of religious texts from the New Kingdom which leaves no doubt that it was a form of the sun god\(^54\). This suggestion is supported by two texts at Dendara temple. The first text is read as\(^55\) \(\text{pt hrt nhḥ}\) the sky which bears Nehy. The other text is read\(^56\) \(\text{m33 nhḥ m pt}\) Nehy (Neheh) is seeing in the sky. It is clear that is the sun god which is spoken of.

Sethe assumed that Nehy was Ptah, because he was the father of the god according to PT 301, and his epithet in the same spell was "the lord of years"\(^57\). Sandman was not convinced with Sethe's opinion because Nehy as the father of the god was not exclusively limited to Ptah\(^58\).

---

\(^{54}\) Erman, *Wörterbuch der Ägyptischen* II, 290.
\(^{55}\) J. Duemichen, *Resultate, Archäologisch-Photographen Expedition* (Berlin, 1869), Pl. 50.
\(^{56}\) J. Duemichen, *Altaegyptische Kalenderinschriften in den Jahren 1863-1865 an Ort und Stelle gesammelt* (Leipzig, 1866), P1. 113, 1.23.
\(^{57}\) Sethe, Pyramidtexte II, 239-40; K. Sethe, *Dramatische Texte zu altaegypti-schen Mysterienspielen* (Leipzig, 1928), 76.
Nehy took the same epithet (nbr np wt, the lord of years) of Ptah but he was not\textsuperscript{59} Ptah, although Sethe\textsuperscript{60} pointed out that Nehy was Ptah. In addition, Ptah in the Ramesside period received the name as a loan from other gods. Furthermore, Nehy may be connected with Ptah as well as Osiris.

In the litany of Ra, Nehy was the corpse of the sun god. A text inscribed on the sarcophagus of Taho (CG 29305) read as follows\textsuperscript{61}:

\begin{verbatim}
\textasciitilde twt rs h\textsuperscript{3}.t wsir N h\textsuperscript{3}.t b\textasciitilde y (nh\textasciitilde)
\end{verbatim}

You are indeed the corpse of Osiris N, the corpse of Bay\textsuperscript{62} (He-of-the Ba)/ Nehy\textsuperscript{63}.

Furthermore, Nehy was one of the forms or the praised of the god Ra\textsuperscript{64}. He was depicted in the same form in the Litany of Ra\textsuperscript{65}.

\textsuperscript{59} Sandman-Holmberg, The God Ptah, 179.
\textsuperscript{60} K. Sethe, Amun und die acht Urgötter von Hermopolis: eine Untersuchung über Ursprung und Wesen des aegyptischen Götterkönigs (Berlin, 1929), 59, 123, 176.
\textsuperscript{61} M.G. Maspero, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire, Sarcophagus I (Le Caire, 1914), 183.
\textsuperscript{62} Her B\textasciitilde-bird is used instead of nh-bird because in the late Period, it was used as substitute of it.
\textsuperscript{63} C. Manassa, The Late Egyptian Underworld: Sarcophagi and Related Texts from the Nectanebid Period (Wiesbaden, 2007), 111, Pl. 62.
**VI. Concluding Remarks**

- Nehy is translated as the petitioner, the eternal one, Guinea fowl, but the first one was the most popular. In addition, the petitioner is connected with the meaning of the verb *nḥi* as the pray is a supplication for the god.

- Nehy is written with different forms but the Guinea-fowl is more frequently used.

- Nehy was mentioned in the Religious' texts but from the New Kingdom it was depicted in scenes.

- Nehy is depicted as a man holding the sign of the year (Amduat), a man with two birds-head holding paddles (Amduat, Book of the Day), as a bird with a sun-disk and serpent above his head, mumified baboon-headed body (Litany of Ra), and as a man with his hands hanging (book of the night).

- He took the epithet of Ptah but he was not Ptah, he was connected with Ptah as well as Osiris.

- He was a primarily name for one of the Horus god or for the sun (as the texts mentioned in addition to the appearance of the sun disk in his name).

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- Nehy was one of the primitive gods because he keeps Ra alive, preparing the road for Ra, lament as the Ennead, connected with Ptah and Osiris, slaying enemies, and connected with $htp\,di\,ns\,w$ formula.

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Figures:

Fig. (1) The lower register of 2nd hour of Amduat, Tomb of Thumosis III, after: Bucher, P., Les Textes des Tombes de Thoutmosis III et d’Amonophis II, MIFAO 60, Le Caire, 1932, Pl. II-III.

Fig. (2) The 2nd hour of Amduat, Tomb of Amenhotep II, after, Bucher, Les Textes des Tombes de Thoutmosis III et d’Amonophis II,
Fig. (3) Extracted scene from the 2nd hour of Amduat after: Warburton, D., *The Egyptian Amduat, the Book of Hidden Chamber* (Zurich, 2007), 46.

Fig. (4) The lower register of 12th hour of Amduat, Tomb of Thumosis III, after, Bucher, *Les Textes des Tombes de Thoutmosis III et d’Amonophis II*, Pl. XI.
Fig. (5) The lower register of 12th hour of Amduat, Tomb of Amenhotep II, after: Bucher, Les Textes des Tombes de Thoutmosis III et d'Amonophis II, Pl. XL.

Fig. (6) Extracted from the 12th hour of Amduat, after: Schweizer, A., The Sun's Journey through the Netherworld, Reading the Egyptian Amduat (London, 2010), 183.
Fig. (7) Representation of Nehy in front of Ptah, Philadelphia Museum (E 13621), after:

Fig. (8) Nehy at Litany of Ra from Set I tomb, after, Hornung, *Sonnenlitanei II*, 59.
Fig. (9) Nehy in the third hour of the Book of the Day from R VI Tomb, After: Piankoff, *Le Livre de Jour et de La Nuit*, Pl. I.

Fig. (11) Nehi her in the eighth hour of the Book of the Night from the Tomb of Sety I, after: Rouline, *Livre du Jour et de La Nuit* II, Pl. XI.
Fig. (12) Nebi her in the eighth hour of the Book of the Night from the Tomb of RVI tomb after after: Rouline, *Livre du Jour et de La Nuit* II, Pl. XII.