

Ptah



Pth

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In [Egyptian mythology](#), **Ptah** (also spelt **Peteh**) was the deification of the primordial mound in the [Ennead cosmogony](#), which was more literally referred to as **Ta-tenen** (also spelt **Tathenen**), meaning *risen land*, or as **Tanen**, meaning *submerged land*.

It was said (in the [Shabaka Stone](#)) that it was Ptah who called the world into being, having dreamt creation in his heart, and speaking it, his name meaning *opener*, in the sense of *opener of the mouth*. Indeed the *opening of the mouth* ceremony, performed by priests at funerals to release souls from their corpses, was said to have been created by Ptah. [Atum](#) was said to have been created by Ptah to rule over the creation, sitting upon the primordial mound.

In [art](#), he is portrayed as a bearded [mummified](#) man, often wearing a [skull cap](#), with his hands holding an [ankh](#), [was](#), and [djed](#), the symbols of [life](#), [power](#) and [stability](#), respectively. It was also considered that Ptah manifested himself in the [Apis](#) bull.

In [Memphis](#), Ptah was worshipped in his own right, and was seen as Atum's father, or rather, the father of [Nefertum](#), the younger form of Atum. When the beliefs about the Ennead and [Ogdoad](#) were later merged, and Atum was identified as [Ra](#) (*Atum-Ra*), himself seen as [Horus](#) (*Ra-Herakhty*), this led to Ptah being said to be married to [Sekhmet](#), at the time considered the earlier form of [Hathor](#), Horus', thus Atum's, [mother](#).



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

Since Ptah was the primordial mound, and had called creation into being, he was considered the god of craftsmen, and in particular [stone](#)-based [crafts](#). Eventually, due to the connection of these things to [tombs](#), and that at [Thebes](#), the craftsmen regarded him so highly as to say that he controlled their destiny. Consequently, first amongst the craftsmen, then the population as a whole, Ptah also became a god of [reincarnation](#). Since [Seker](#) was also god of craftsmen, and of [re-incarnation](#), Seker was later assimilated with Ptah becoming **Ptah-Seker**.

Ptah-Seker gradually became seen as the personification of the sun during the night, since the sun appears to be *re-incarnated* at this time, and Ptah was the primordial mound, which lay beneath the earth. Consequently, Ptah-Seker became considered an [underworld](#) deity, and eventually, by the [Middle Kingdom](#), become assimilated by [Osiris](#), the lord of the underworld, occasionally being known as *Ptah-Seker-Osiris*.

Legend has it that Ancient Egyptians believed saying Ptah's name would give the spouse of the speaker great fertility.

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