



## ISIS AND OSIRIS

### CAST

RA	God of the Sun
THOTH	God of Wisdom
NUT	Goddess of the Sky



**NARRATOR:** In the beginning Ra, the Shining One, gave light to everything below. He was the sun, rising high into the sky, and he created everything upon the earth. Ra was all-powerful, and the secret of his power lay in his name, which was hidden from all the world. Having this power, he only needed to speak the name of a thing, and it would come into being.

**RA:** Blow, Shu the wind! Fall, Tefnut the rain! Rise, Geb the land!

*(blowing of wind, falling of rain, rumbling of land)*

**NARRATOR:** When Ra uttered the name of each thing, it was. When he called the name of Hapi, the waters of the sacred Nile flowed across the land, giving life to whatever they touched. *(flowing water)* When Ra called the name of Nut, the goddess rose and stretched her shimmering body as far as the eye could see, and she was the sky. *(stretching of the sky)*

**RA:** Man! Woman!

**NARRATOR:** Then as Ra called them into being, humans were born upon the earth, and they populated the land of Egypt.

**RA:** I will descend from the heavens and rule over these creatures.

**NARRATOR:** So Ra descended and took on the form of a regal human with the head of a fierce falcon and ruled over the people of Egypt as their Pharaoh.

For a thousand years he ruled, and there was peace and plenty. During this golden age, the Nile never failed to rise at just the right time each year, perfectly flooding the fields and preparing them for the growing season. Men today still speak of the good times when Ra's reign meant peace and perfection upon the earth. But such a time could not last forever.

Since he had taken on the form of a human, Ra began to age. As the years advanced, his limbs shook with a vague weakness, and his mind grew cloudy.

## 6 Adventures in Literature

**RA:** (*old voice*) What is happening to me?

**NARRATOR:** Perplexed by these changes, Ra summoned Thoth, the god of wisdom and magic. Thoth appeared as a tall, slender man with the head and long beak of an ibis bird.

**RA:** (*loudly*) Bow before your supreme master! I command it!

**NARRATOR:** Thoth fell to his face and kissed the ground before Ra.

**THOTH:** (*muttering*) This is certainly embarrassing.

**RA:** Stop muttering and address me!

**THOTH:** Sorry. Oh, mighty Ra! You have summoned me, and now before you I stand—or actually before you I grovel on the floor...

**RA:** Don't be cute with me! When I first spoke your name, I knew one day I would need your wisdom. So tell me, why am I growing weak?

**THOTH:** You know, I diagnose much better when I am standing.

**RA:** (*sigh*) Fine. You may stand in the presence of Ra.

**NARRATOR:** Thoth rose to his feet. His bird-like features only enhanced the wise look he always bore.

**RA:** Now tell me—what is wrong with me?

**THOTH:** (*muttering*) You mean apart from being an egomaniac? (*pause*) Divine father, the answer is simple. You are growing old.

**RA:** (*incredulous laugh*) Ha! A god cannot grow old.

**THOTH:** No, but you made yourself a bit mortal to rule over the earth, and no man can live forever.

**RA:** Then I will reverse the transformation.

**THOTH:** You cannot. You will continue to weaken until you are no longer able to rule. Already your mind is slipping. For a thousand years your thoughts have kept all things full of light, yet now darkness is creeping into the world. Men are turning evil. They are devouring the flesh of one another.

**RA:** (*angrily*) You are mistaken.

**THOTH:** Impossible. You created me to know these things, and I do. Yet the world is not lost. Another ruler will come after you.

**RA:** (*angrily*) Another ruler? I am Ra, who created all the world! Why would I give up my throne?

**THOTH:** For the good of all that you created.

**RA:** (*yelling*) Ka-kaw!

**NARRATOR:** The power of Ra flamed out—bursting forth like the rays of the sun. (*blast of solar power*) As his falcon beak flashed with fire, all those gathered there fell to their faces before him—even Thoth.

**RA:** (*screaming*) Silence! I am the Shining One! No one will rule but me!

**THOTH:** Testy, testy. Do not punish me for speaking the truth, Ra.

**NARRATOR:** Ra's falcon-eyes burned with malice.

**RA:** (*deadly*) Then tell me exactly what you see. Who will rule after me?

**THOTH:** Hmm. I feel like I'm pronouncing someone's death sentence here.

**RA:** (*yelling*) Speak!

**THOTH:** Very well. If the goddess Nut, the Lady of the Heavens, has a child, he will one day rule in Egypt.

**RA:** (*falcon screech*) Ka-kaw! I have heard enough! If it is a child of Nut that will do this, Nut shall have no children!

**NARRATOR:** Ra raised his staff toward Nut, the goddess of the sky.

**RA:** Nut, descend from the inky abyss of the heavens and appear before me!

**NARRATOR:** From the evening darkness the form of a shimmering, starlight woman settled down to the shining floor of Ra's palace. She, too, fell upon her face before the almighty sun god.

**NUT:** Your humble servant is here, Divine Father.

**RA:** Don't sweet talk me, you traitor! How dare you bear a child who will supplant me?

**NUT:** I do not mean to disobey you, mighty Ra, but there are already five children growing inside of me. It is only natural that they will soon be born.

**RA:** I say what is natural—not you. My words created the world, and they can manipulate it just as easily.

**NARRATOR:** Ra struck his staff against the floor, and it let out a blinding flash. (*sounds of a blinding flash*)

**RA:** Nut, I curse you! I decree that you will never give birth on any day or night of the year! I have spoken, and what I have spoken cannot be altered.

**NARRATOR:** With a wild look Ra turned toward Thoth.

**RA:** Not even you, Thoth, can make your prediction come true. Now begone, all of you! And let no one ever speak of this again. I, the almighty Ra, have spoken!

**NARRATOR:** Leaving the presence of Ra, Thoth and Nut floated silently up into the sky. Thoth wiped tears from Nut's cheeks with his slender hand.

**NUT:** (*weeping*) Thoth, these children must be born! I cannot hold them back forever. I can sense they will be gods of great power. You love me, don't you? Help me!

**THOTH:** I will, my love. You will be called the Mother of the Gods someday.