

Kassite

Practices

The Kassite filled a power vacuum that occurred with the fall of Old Babylon. Their dynasty was the longest lasting in all of Babylonian history.¹ These people were known for their religious tolerance and adopted the gods of the people they conquered into their own religious practices.

As rulers of Babylon they outwardly took on the customs of the Babylonian peoples and actively promoted the cult of the great Mesopotamian deities.

Regrettably little is known of the Kassite religion as their native language was never written down.

The Kassites brought the use of chariots as weapons of war and honored the horse as a sacred animal. They also introduced the use of kudurrus or boundary marker stones which contained legal inscriptions such as land grants, peace treaties and proclamations by kings.²

Since we do not have archeological evidence of what the specific Kassite religion was like the best we can do is to invoke the deities that we do have names for. Additionally, it would be appropriate to combine elements of Babylonia funeral rites with these deities.

Deities and Important Concepts

- Dur(a), Duri, Tura³
The god of the underworld.
- Harbe
The lord of the pantheon. Depicted as a bird with a back-turned head.
- Kaššu or Gal-zu
Eponymous ancestor god.
- Shuqamuna and Shumaliya
The god and goddess whose shrines were used for the investiture of new kings during the Kassite rule. Shuqamuna is symbolized by a bird on a perch.

Modern Adaptations

- Erect a kudurrus or boundary marker stone near or on the grave of the deceased as a proclamation that the person was honored.
- Incorporate the image of the chariot or a horse for a fallen soldier. Perhaps saying something like 'May you be received in the other world as warrior who rides his/her chariot to glory.'

Sample Readings

None available.

Resources

Kassites

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassites>

¹ "The Babylonians:." Google Books. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 May 2013. p. 44 <http://tinyurl.com/c3fp4u6>

² "Kassite Gods." Kassite Gods. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 May 2013. <http://pierre religion.org/kassite.html>

³ "Kassite Deities." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 05 May 2013. Web. 07 May 2013. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassite_deities