

## The Temple of Dendur: A Guide to its Goddesses and Gods

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The Temple of Dendur (*Tḥt*, Thoz or Tutzis in antiquity), for Isis and the twins Pedesi ('Given by Isis') and Pihor ('Belonging to Horus'). Pedesi is also called *p.šy*, or Agathodaimon, of Tutzis/Dendur, while Pihor is called *p.ḥry*, 'shaykh'.

If you face into the temple, East is behind you (e.g., the statues of Sekhmet at the room's entrance), North is to your Right (the view of Central Park), West is in front of you (deeper into the temple), South is to your Left (e.g., the wall with photos).

The Pharaoh (in this case, the Roman Emperor Augustus), always faces into the temple. In the reliefs on the Northern half of the temple, he is generally portrayed wearing the Red Crown of Lower Egypt, in reliefs on the Southern half, wearing the White Crown of Upper Egypt.

### Pylon (Diagram B):

#### East Face (front)

**Architrave:** Augustus offers a vase to seated Khnum-Re, Hathor and Harpokrates (destroyed). The name of the vase is *ḥnm*, which forms a pun on the name of Khnum, as well as meaning "to join".

The central scene is destroyed.

Augustus offers two vases of milk to seated Osiris and Isis (destroyed)

**Dado:** Hapy and Sekhet carry trays of offerings.

**East Face, North Jamb:** Augustus offers a linen bag, possibly of perfume or eye-paint, to standing Pedesi, in white crown with plumes, and Pihor, in disk and double serpent crown.

Augustus offers two vases of beer to standing Thoth of Pnubs and Tefnut.

Pedesi worships standing Osiris and Isis.

**East Face, South Jamb:** Augustus offers a linen bag (as above) to standing Pedesi and Pihor.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Arensnuphis and Tefnut.

Augustus offers the symbol for marshland to standing Isis and Harendotes (Horus-protector-of-his-father).

**Thickness of South Jamb:** Below a destroyed scene, Augustus offers incense to Horus of Buhen.

Augustus offers two bouquets to standing Pedesi.

#### West Face (rear)

**Architrave:** Augustus offers a scribe's water pot to seated Pedesi.

Below a destroyed scene, Augustus offers lotus flowers to Isis (destroyed).

Augustus offers two vases of wine to seated Pedesi.

**West Face, North Jamb:** Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Mandulis and Satis.

Augustus offers the Upper and Lower Egyptian crowns to standing Harendotes and Nephthys.

Augustus offers incense to standing Pedesi and Pihor.

**Thickness of North Jamb:** Below a destroyed scene, Augustus (destroyed) offers wine to standing Horus.

Augustus (largely destroyed) offers a *šb.t* (or *wnšb*) symbol to standing Isis.

**West Face, South Jamb:** Augustus offers incense to standing Arensnuphis and Amun of Debod.

Augustus offers two sistra to standing Hathor and Harpokrates.

Augustus pours out milk on an altar before standing Osiris and Isis.

**Thickness of South Jamb:** Below a destroyed scene, Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Horus of Miam.

Augustus offers *ankh-djed-uas* to standing Osiris.

### Interior of Pylon

**North side:** Entirely destroyed.

**South side:** Augustus stands before an offering table in front of seated Pedesi.

Augustus offers field/marshland symbol to standing Isis. The offering is of the *dodekaschoinos*, the northern part of Lower Nubia, annexed to Egypt. “Offering land to the mother Isis consisting of twelve *schoinoi* upon the West, twelve *schoinoi* upon the East.” Isis replies, “I give thee goodly land with that which is in it.”

Behind Augustus, separated by a band, unidentified deity with cobra body and woman’s head.

### Pronaos Exterior

#### North Wall:

Top Row, Left to Right:

Augustus offers *ankh-djed-uas* to seated Arensnuphis and Isis.

Augustus offers lotus flowers to seated Pedesi.

Augustus offers incense to two seated representations of Arensnuphis.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to seated Amun of Debod and Satis.

Bottom Row, Left to Right:

Augustus offers the field/marsh symbol to standing Isis and Harendotes. Note Isis’s recarved arm and hand.

Augustus offers a bandage and pot of ointment to standing Pihor.

Augustus offers a *wsh* collar to standing Hathor and Harpokrates.

Augustus offers Ma’et to standing Thoth and Tefnut.

#### South Wall:

Top Row, Right to Left:

Augustus (offering destroyed) before seated Arensnuphis (swathed like Osiris, with crook and flail) and Isis.

Augustus (offering destroyed) before seated Pedesi.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to seated Mandulis and Wadjet.

Augustus offers Ma'et to seated Amun-Re and Mut.

Bottom Row, Right to Left:

Augustus offers incense and milk to standing Osiris-Onnophris and Isis.

<Door>

Augustus offers the symbol for linen to standing Pedesi and an unidentified Goddess with cobra on head which wears the white crown. Altar with libation vessel.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Harendotes and Hathor. Table with two libation-vases and three round cakes.

### **Pronaos Façade:**

#### **North Jamb:**

Augustus offers a linen bag to seated Pedesi.

Augustus offers Ma'et to seated Amun.

Augustus offers sovereignty over Upper and Lower Egypt to standing Arensnuphis.

#### **Thickness of North Jamb:**

Augustus offers two vases of milk to standing Osiris.

Augustus offers incense to standing Pihor.

#### **South Jamb:**

Augustus offers the uraeus to seated Harendotes.

Augustus offers wine to seated Thoth of Pnubs.

Augustus offers sovereignty over Upper and Lower Egypt to standing Isis.

#### **Thickness of South Jamb:**

Augustus offers tray of cakes to standing Isis.

Augustus offers two lotus flowers to standing Pedesi.

**Screen of Pronaos Façade:** Outer side, Augustus offers two vases to Pedesi or Pihor (damaged). Inner side, Augustus offers flowers to seated Pedesi (?)

**South Column, Pronaos Façade:** The god Heh, with notched palm ribs, kneels on the glyph for gold.

**North Column, Pronaos Façade:** Above Horus-Eyes, next to alternating *djed* pillars and Isis-knots.

### **Pronaos Interior**

#### **North Wall:**

Top, Golden Horus falcons protect cartouches that alternate "Caesar", "Autocrator" and "Pharaoh".

Augustus offers sovereignty over Upper and Lower Egypt to seated Harendotes.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to seated Thoth of Pnubs and Tefnut.

Augustus offers something (destroyed) to standing Isis, who has before her an offering stand with a spouted vase and a lotus flower.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Pedesi and Pihor.

In front of Pihor, Demotic inscription, dated by Griffith to 11-10 BCE: "Year 20: before Suni the strategus, the steward of Isis. Pakhôm son of Petusiri the *mr Sn* [chief administrator of a temple, *lesônis* in Greek] saith to Panzor son of Petêsi [Pedesi] the

prophet and the elders and stewards of Thôz [Dendur]. I have no other (?) pledge (?) before Isis (?) [in presence of] the sheykh [*p-Hry*] Pihôr [Pihor], the God of Kolt [*Qlt*, Corte, *Kortia*] as ... liveth ... in the Holy Isle ... except this one piece of silver; we do not ... Thôz, the sheykh Pihôr doth not ... Tmeti of Isis for which he careth. I myself cause this oath above written to be administered to me: I have renounced them before Isis in exchange for the breath (of life) of the kings for ever. Written by Pakhôm son of Petusiri the *mr Sn* with his own hand," (trans. F. Ll. Griffith). Blackman: "Apparently the *lesônis* of Isis renounces the dues from the priests of Pihôr at Dendur rendered to the temple of Isis, for the health of the Emperor," (p. 31 n. 2).

#### **West Wall:**

##### **West Wall, North Side:**

Augustus offers incense to seated Arensnuphis.

Augustus offers four victims to standing Pedesi. A Meroitic inscription is reported here by Bumbaugh, "Meroitic Worship of Isis as seen through the Graffiti of the Dodecaschoenus" (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Chicago, 2009), p. 10.

##### **West Wall, South Side:**

Augustus offers a *hnm* vase to seated Khnum-Re.

Augustus worships standing Isis.

##### **South Wall:**

Augustus offers incense to seated Isis.

Augustus offers incense and libation (of water, onto an offering stand with three cakes and a lotus flower) to seated Pedesi and Pihor.

Augustus offers two vases of milk to standing Arensnuphis, Isis and Harpokrates. Arensnuphis' name has been erased and changed to Osiris.

Couchant lion with incense burner, probably Mihos.

Coptic inscription of 577 CE records dedication as Christian church.

**Door of Antechamber** (This room was used for storing offerings, vessels and furniture of the cult.)

##### **Architrave:**

Augustus offers incense to seated Pedesi.

Augustus offers sovereignty over Upper and Lower Egypt to seated Harendotes and Nephthys.

Augustus adores seated Osiris and Isis.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to seated Pedesi.

##### **North Jamb:**

Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Thoth of Pnubs.

Augustus offers two sistra to standing Hathor.

Augustus offers the sign for marsh/fields to standing Isis.

Lion seated on haunches with reed between fore- and hind-paws, clump of lotus flowers behind.

##### **South Jamb:**

Augustus offers Ma'et to standing Amun-Re, with offering stand on which is spouted libation vase and lotus flower.

Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Arensnuphis.  
Augustus offers two vases of milk to standing Arensnuphis.  
Lion, as on North Jamb.

### **Door of Sanctuary**

#### **Architrave:**

Augustus offers incense to seated Thoth of Pnubs.  
Augustus offers a pot of ointment and a bandage to seated Pedesi and Pihor.  
Augustus offers two vases to seated Osiris and Isis.  
Augustus offers two vases to seated Harendotes.

#### **North Jamb:**

Augustus offers two vases of wine to standing Hathor.  
Augustus offers a uraeus wreath to standing Pihor.  
Augustus offers the sign for marsh/fields to standing Isis.

#### **South Jamb:**

Augustus offers a *wsh* collar to standing Isis.  
Augustus offers two lotus flowers to standing Pedesi.  
Augustus offers the crowns of Upper and Lower Egypt to standing Osiris or Arensnuphis (identification effaced).

**Pronaos Ceiling, Central Panel:** Nekhbet and Wadjet, Goddesses of Upper and Lower Egypt, as vultures, facing West into the next chamber, wearing their appropriate crowns. Upper Egypt, with white crown, has cobra's head, Lower Egypt, with red crown, has vulture's head.

**Dado, Interior of Pronaos:** Augustus leads a procession of alternating figures of Hapy and Sekhet bearing produce into the temple.

**Sanctuary Stela:** Top, Pihor ("Pihor son of *Kwpr*, greatly praised in the Underworld"), facing South, worships seated Isis ("Isis given life, Mistress of Abaton, Lady, Mistress of Philae, Mistress of Southern Foreign Lands").

Below, Pedesi ("The Osiris, greatly praised in the Underworld, Pedesi son of *Kwpr*"), facing North, worships Osiris-Onnophris ("Osiris... Onnophris, great God, Lord of Abaton").

Monumental Gate: East Face

1			
2		7	
3			8
4			9
5			10
6			11

**B**

32			
40	39	38	34
41			35
42			36
43			37
44			38

West Face

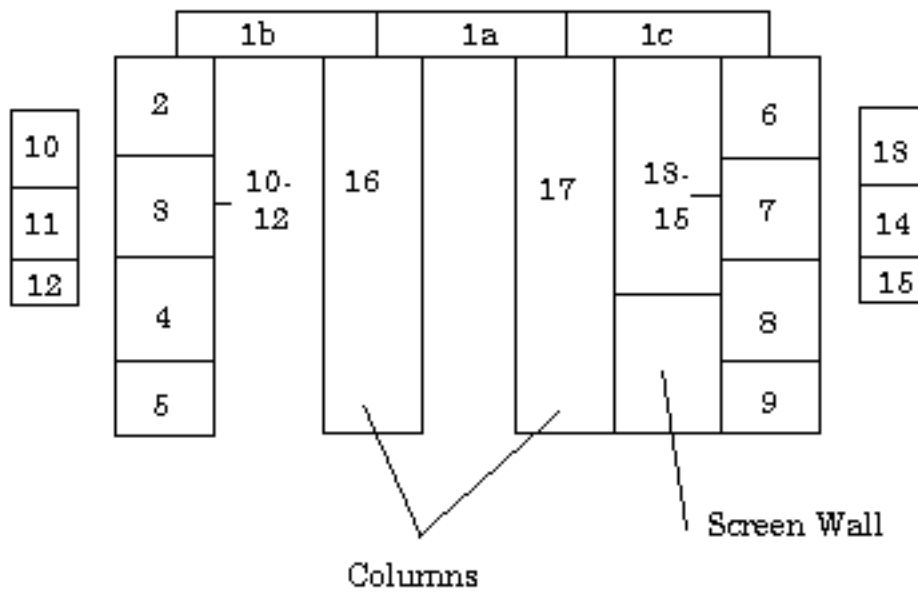
Interior of Gateway: South Side

	16		
12			20
13	17		21
18			22
14	18		23
15			24
	19		

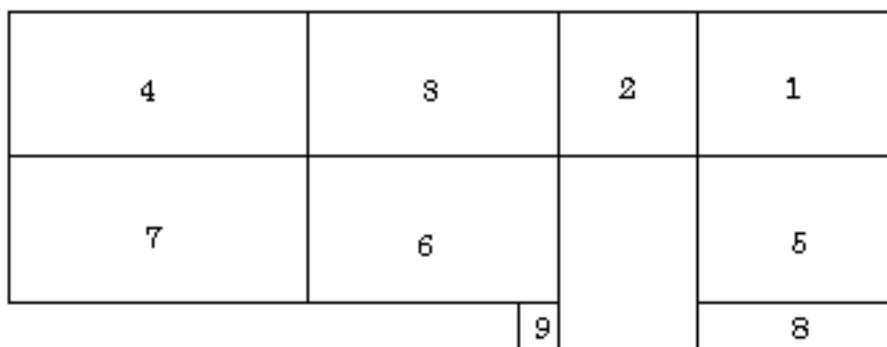
Interior Gateway: North Side

28			24
29			25
30			26
31			27

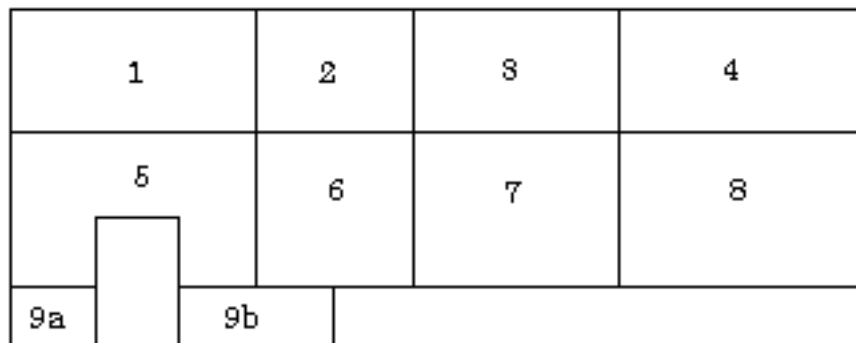
Pronaos Facade: C



Exterior South Wall: D



Exterior North Wall: E



The Interior Pronaos Walls: G

South Wall

1	
2	3
4	
5	

North Wall

6	
8	7
10	9
11	

West Wall

12		
13		16
14		17
15		18

The Antechamber Door: J

1			
3	2	8	9
4			10
5			11
6			12
7			13

The Sanctuary Door: L

1			
3	2	8	9
4			10
5			11
6			12
7			13



## God Locator

AMUN: B35, C7, E4

AMUN-RE: D4, J4

ARENSNUPHIS: B4, B35, C8, D1, E1, E3, G16, J5, J6, L6 (?), inside of columns (C16, C17)

HAPI: B15, B23, B27, B31, G5, G15, G18

HARPOKRATES: B36, E7, G4

HATHOR: B7, B36, D7, E7, J11, L10

HEH: C16, C17

HORUS: B5, B13, B21, B29, B42, 1a, 1b, 1c, C2, D7, E5, G7, J8, L3

ISIS: B2, B5, B10, B18, B30, B33, B37, C4, C10, D1, D5, E1, E5, G2, G4, G9, G14, G15, J2, J12, L2, L4, L12, upper sanctuary frieze

KHEPRI: south door

KHNUM: B7

KHNUM-RE: G13

MA'ET: D4, E8, J4

MAHES: J7, J13

MANDULIS: B41, D3

MUT: D4

NEKHBET: ceiling

NEPHTHYS: B42, J8

OSIRIS: B2, B10, B22, B37, C13, G4, J2, L2, L6 (?), lower sanctuary frieze

OSIRIS ONNOPHRIS: D5

PEDESI: B3, B8, B10, B14, B17, B34, B40, B43, C6, C11, D2, D6, E2, G3, G10, G17, J3, J9, L5, L8, screen wall (?), inside screen wall, lower sanctuary frieze

PIHOR: B3, B8, B43, C14, E6, G3, G10, L8, L11, screen wall (?), upper sanctuary frieze

SATIS: B41, E4

SEKHET: B15, B23, B27, B31, G5, G15, G18

TEFNUT: B4, B9, E8, G8

THOTH: B9, C3, E8, G8, J10, L9

WADJET: D3, ceiling

UNKNOWN: D6