

ISSUES OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Ankh: The Original Cross

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The symbolic representation of both physical and external life. It is known as the original cross, which is a powerful symbol that was first created by Africans in Ancient Egypt.

The Ankh is commonly known to mean life that the language of Ancient Kemet (land of the blacks) renamed Egypt by the Greeks. It is also a symbol for the power to give and sustain life, the Ankh is typically associated with material things such as water (which was believed by the Egyptians to regenerate life), air, sun, as well as with Gods who are frequently pictured carrying an Ankh. The Egyptian king is often associated with the Abkhazia also, either in possession of an Ankh (providing life to his people) or being given an Ankh (or stream of Ankhs) by the Gods. This can be seen in the picture of Ankh f King Senwosert below who is holding two Ankhs to his chest. There are numerous examples that have been found that were made from metal, clay and wood. It is usually worn as an amulet to extent the life of living and placed on the mummy to energize the resurrected spirit. The

gods and the Kings are often shown carrying the Ankh to distinguish them from mere mortals. The Ankh symbolized eternal life and be stowed in mortality on anyone who possessed it. It is believed that the life energy emanating from the Ankh can be absorbed by anyone within a certain proximity. An Ankh serves as an antenna or conduit for the divine power of life that permeates the universe. The amulet is a powerful talisman that provides the weather with protection from the evil forces of decay and degeneration.



The loop of the Ankh is held by the Gods. It is associated with A set (Isis) and As at (Osiris) in the Early Dynastic Period. The Loop of the Abkhazia also represent the feminine discipline or the (Womb), while the elongated section represents the masculine discipline or the (Penis). These two sacred units then come together to form life. Because of its powerful appeal, the Ankh was used in various religious and cultural rituals involving royalty. In the treasures of Tutankhumn, the Abkhazia was a major artifact found in the tomb. The circle symbolizes eternal life and the cross below it represents the material plane. The Ankh is called the "Crux Ansata," it is of Egyptian origin and can be traced to Early Dynasty Period, appearing frequently in artwork of various materials and in relief, depicting the Gods.

It is usually hill to the nose of the deceased king by the gods to represent the breath of life given in the afterworld. The ankh also resembles a key and is considered the key to eternal life after death. Its influence was felt in every dynastic period and survives as an icon possessing mystical power throughout the Coptic Christian era. The Ankh of the God Anubis (shown in the picture to the right) is related to the protection of the dead, that of Sekhmet War, Hapi related to the living waters of the Nile and Amen, the spirit God, the breath of life.

