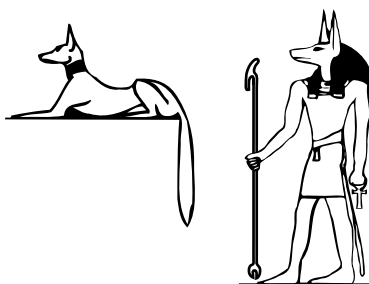


Animal Symbolism

Egyptians' careful observation and profound knowledge of the natural world enabled them to identify certain animals with specific qualities that could symbolize certain divine functions and principles, in a particularly pure and striking fashion. As such, certain animals were chosen as symbols for that particular aspect of divinity.

This effective mode of expression is consistent with all cultures. For example, in the West they use expressions such as: *quiet as a mouse, sly like a fox, ...etc.*

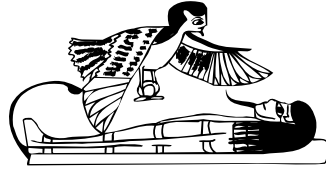
The animal or animal-headed *neteru* (gods/goddesses) are symbolic expressions of a deep spiritual understanding. When a total animal is depicted in Ancient Egypt, it represents a particular function/attribute in its purest form. When an animal-headed figure is depicted, it conveys that particular function/attribute in the human being. The two forms of Anbu (Anubis), in the two illustrations shown here, clearly distinguish these two aspects.



[The particular qualities of the dog are described on page 100.]

Another example is the depiction of *soul* in Ancient

Egypt, which is known as the ba. The ba is represented as a human-headed bird, which is the opposite of the normal depiction of neteru (gods/goddesses) as human bodies with animal heads—in other words, as the divine aspect of the ter-



restrial. The ba is depicted as a stork. The stork is known for its migrating and homing instinct, and is also known worldwide as the bird who carries newborn babies to their new families. The stork returns to its own nest with consistent precision—hence a migratory bird is the perfect choice to represent the *soul*.

[Several examples of animal symbolism will be detailed throughout the book.]