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“Great is the god”: Old Kingdom theophoric names in the light of coeval religious literature.

Names are one of the most important cultural expressions of a civilization, and this is even more so in Ancient Egypt, where the name is one of the parts of the human “soul”: this paper has as its main purpose to analyse the structure of a specific category (theophoric names) both from a linguistic and an anthropological point of view, to discover if some links between the preferred divinities (and the actions attributed to them) and the coeval religious literature can be established. The chosen period of investigation will be the Old Kingdom, in the attempt to understand whether the choice of a divinity over another reflected personal devotion, influence of local cults, family traditions, political views, or even simple trends - or a combination of various factors; particular attention will be given to the correspondences between royal names that include the mention of a god/goddess and the corpus of the Pyramid Texts. By studying in parallel the attestations of deities in texts and in names, it will also be possible to see if these two cultural fields overlap or show substantial differences, helping us to reconstruct a more complete overview of the religiosity of the Old Kingdom.