Arsinoe II as an Image of Goddess Isis

Dr. Zeina Salem
Helwan University
Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management
zeinaegypt@gmail.com

Although Ptolemy I had preserved the cult of ‘Sarapis’ and Isis, it is reported that Arsinoe II greatly distinguished a temple in Isis in the city of Alexandria. Meanwhile, Ptolemy II built many temples for Isis. Consequently, he funded the building of Isis temple and renovated many for Greek representation in Alexandria. In fact, Isis, Horus, and Osiris became the deities of the Ptolemaic kingdom. Accordingly, the Ptolemaic kings and queens6 sanctified themselves with the names of Isis and Osiris.

Arsinoe II was the first Ptolemaic queen to be adorned with the titles of Isis. How and why does this happen? What was the outcome of him? To address these questions, it is essential to start by reviewing Arsinoe II’s background, life, and role, then, discussing the sacred images, temple scenes, manuscripts, and inscriptions that relate in the interactions between Arsinoe II and Arsinoe. Lastly, examining the Egyptian counterpart in their process.

In this paper, it will be approached by the gods who wish to be united with the gods, the Pharaohs, or their family members. Furthermore, it is important to relate to the interactions between Isis and Arsinoe II. Lastly, summarizing the imprint of Isis, how Arsinoe II became the image of Isis.

The Cult of Arsinoe II

Artemis’s Family Background

Arsinoe I, the daughter of King Ptolemy I and Berenice I, was born in 318 BC. When she was sixteen years old, she married her father’s friend’s daughter, Arsinoe II, who was the daughter of King Ptolemy I. Consequently, Arsinoe II inherited the titles of Arsinoe I, and her half-sister Lysandra married Seleucus of Antioch. Arsinoe II grew up in three towns.

In 280 BC, Lysandra was killed in the battle of Cercynia. Consequently, her half-sister Ptolemy in charge of the Egyptian government transferred to the Ptolemaic government. Eventually, he decided to incline to the desk of Arsinoe II. Consequently, Arsinoe II married her younger sister. When the wedding ceremony was over, Arsinoe died her life in 314 BC. Furthermore, he did not allow her to bury her. Lastly, she was buried in the land of Beuthenia.

Arsinoe II married her half-brother Ptolemy III Philadelphus, their marriage was announced as a refutation of marriage of his and his brother Cleomenes.

Her Egyptianization

The her Antinous, Arsinoe II was introduced to the Egyptians, and she freed up two goddesses with Greek names, and she was the second observed Egyptian IX. Arsinoe II appeared with a new iconography and a crown, which was created just for her. She was born to a female ruler and a goddess, unlike the Greek ruler and a demigod who contains the role of the Ptolemaic kings and queens.

Arsinoe II was alsooroughly named the titles and roles of Isis. She even carved out a new iconography related to the cult of Isis in the image of Ptolemy. He was the only king in the world that Egyptianized himself and his wife, in the world that could switch between Egyptians and Greeks as well.

Arsinoe II’s presence among the Egyptian gods and inside its sanctuaries, guaranteed her a prominent religious status that supported the Ptolemaic regime's cult to be fixed forever. On the other hand, the image of Arsinoe II spread across the Mediterranean and in the Ptolemaic kingdom.

Arsinoe’s remarkable statue was also reflected on her female successors, thus, they were able to play major political roles in the Ptolemaic kingdom.

In Philae, Ptolemy Philadelphus was depicted on the left side, Philadelphus is depicted on the right side of the large statue of Horus, the beloved of her brother, Arsinoe. In these scenes the king refers to the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king, the female Horus, the sister and wife (of) the king.

Figure 3 Mendes Stela After the (Mendes Stela): “Arsinoe II, daughter of Ptolemy I, the son of Philadelphus. After her death in 23 BC, she was given a magnificent monument, in Philae of Egypt” dater: 280 BC.

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