

The Weighing of the Heart Ceremony

The Afterlife



People in most ancient civilizations were afraid of their Gods.

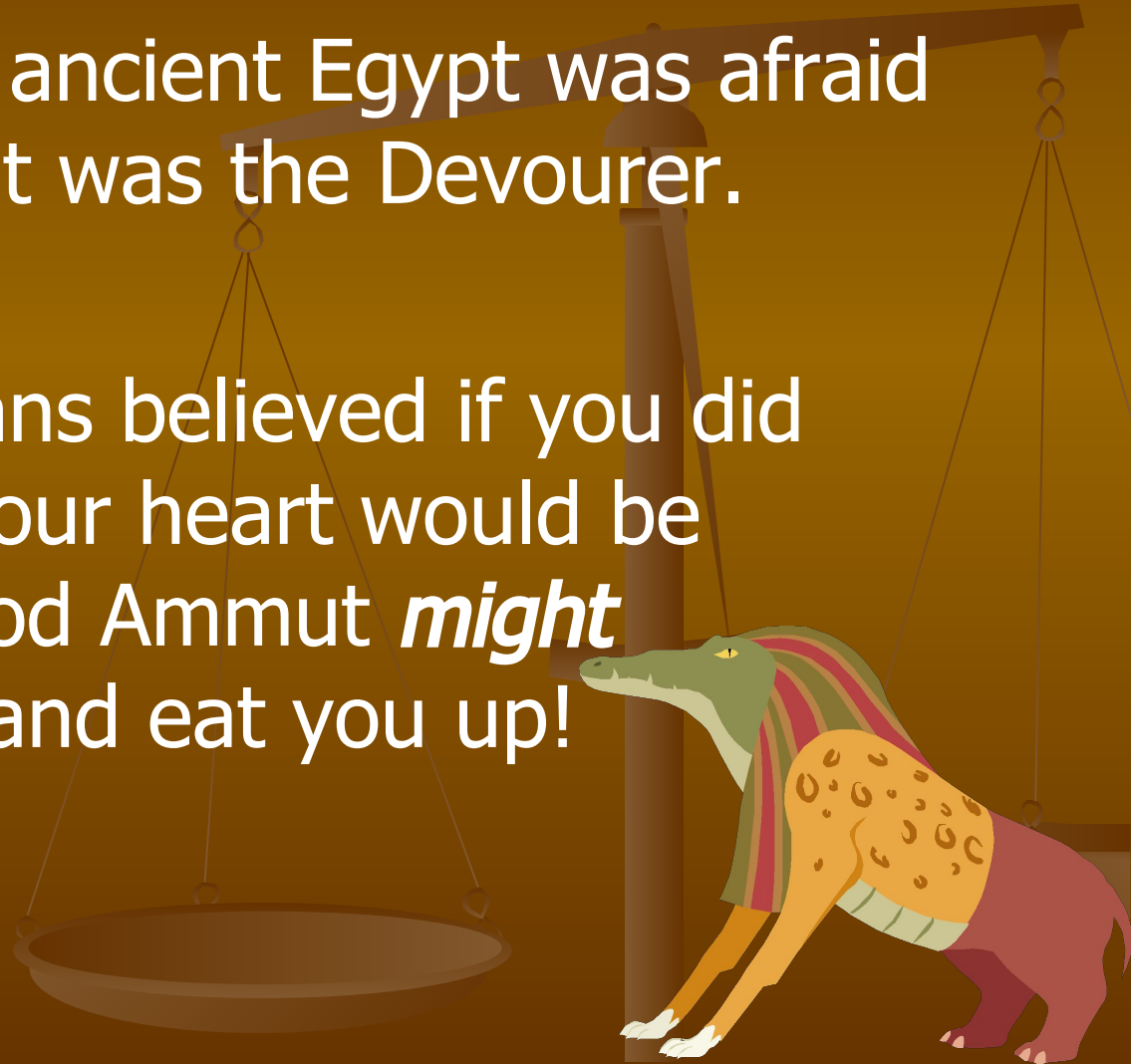
This was *not* true in Ancient Egypt. The Egyptians loved their Gods. They had little fear and great wonder.



There was one exception, though - the God **Ammut**.

Almost everyone in ancient Egypt was afraid of Ammut! Ammut was the Devourer.

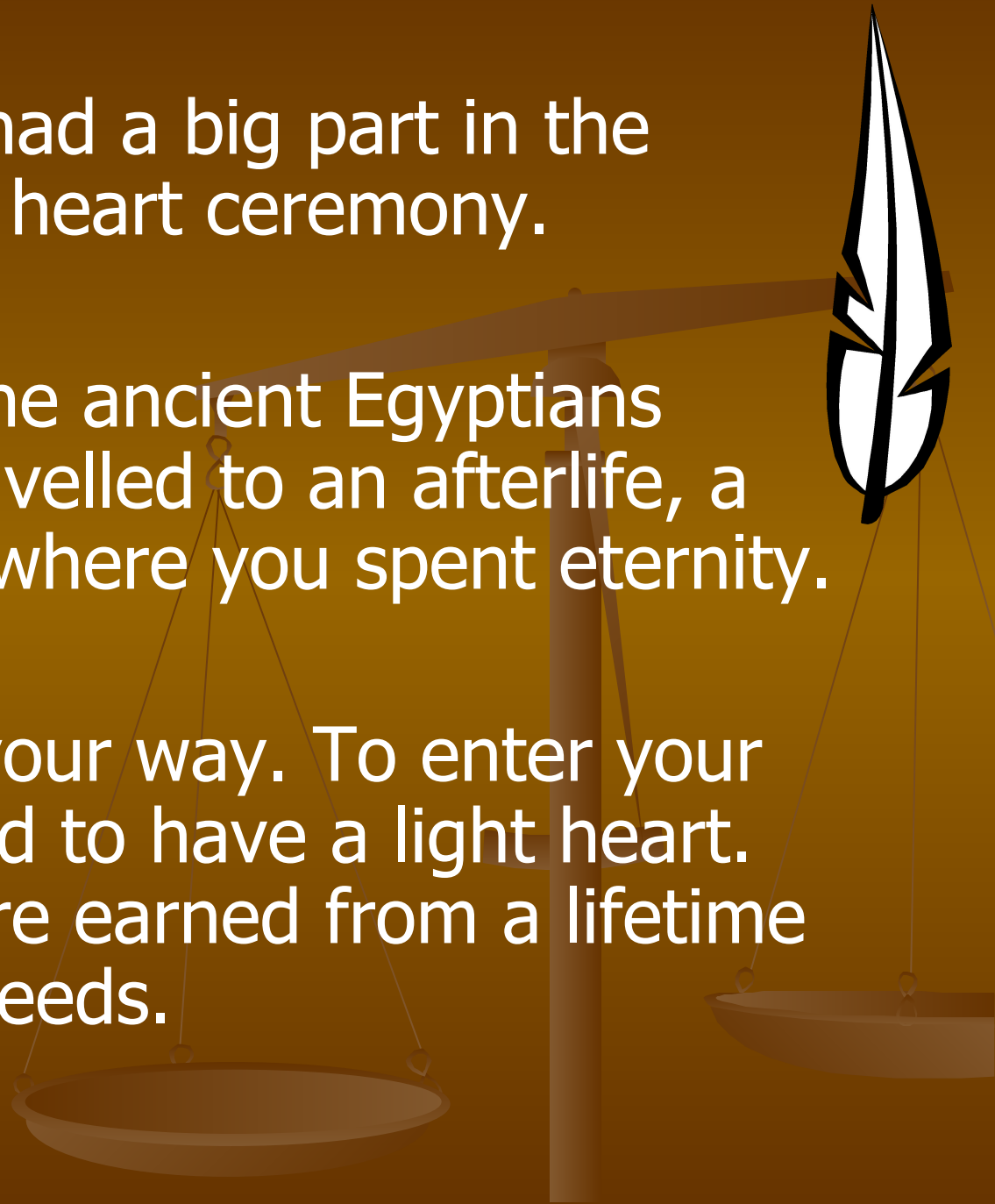
The ancient Egyptians believed if you did something bad, your heart would be heavy, and the God Ammut *might* suddenly appear and eat you up!



The God Ammut had a big part in the weighing of the heart ceremony.

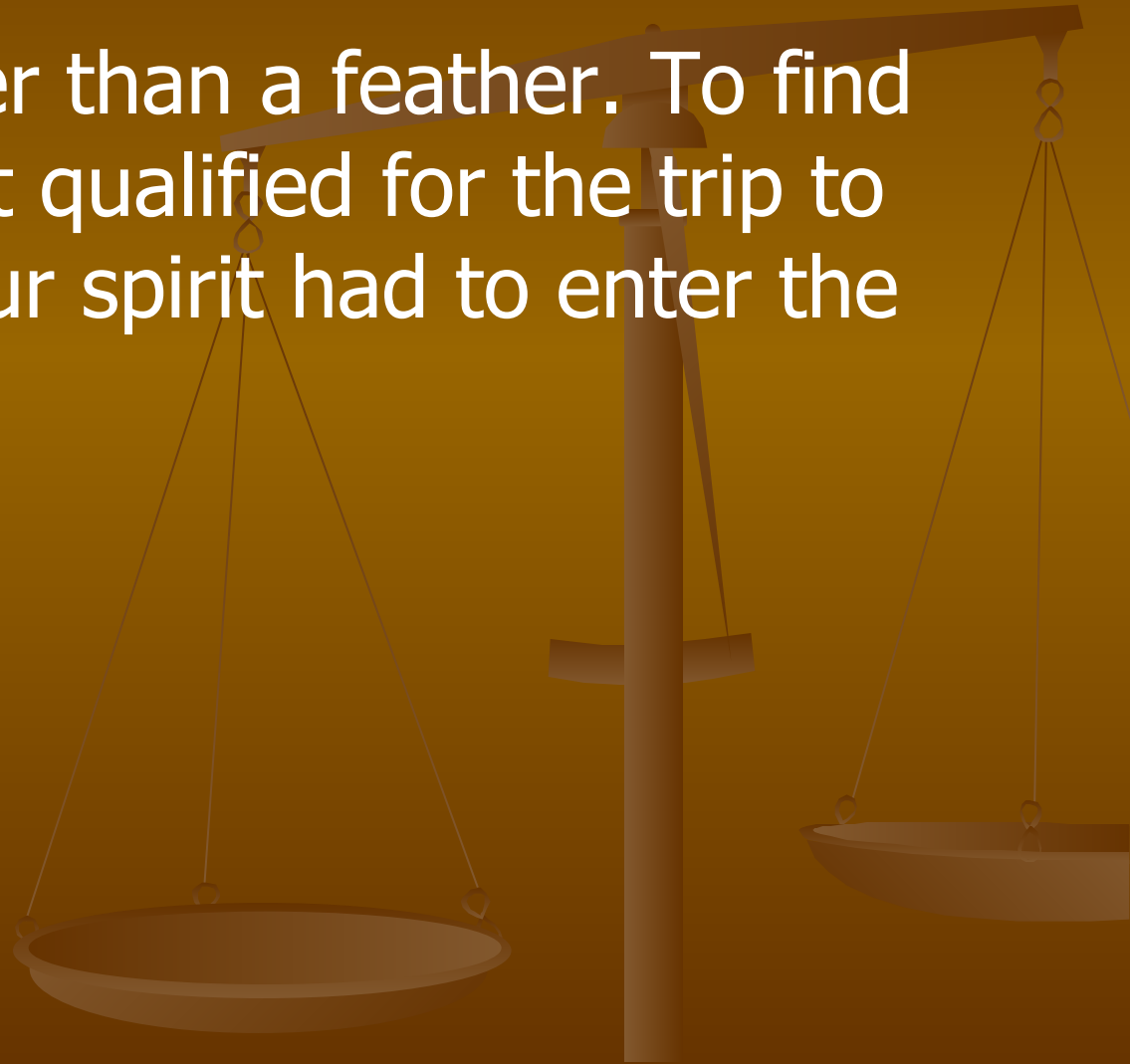
When you died, the ancient Egyptians believed you travelled to an afterlife, a heavenly place where you spent eternity.

You had to earn your way. To enter your afterlife, you had to have a light heart. Light hearts were earned from a lifetime of doing good deeds.



After you died, the ancient Egyptians believed your heart had to be weighed.

It had to be lighter than a feather. To find out if your heart qualified for the trip to the afterlife, your spirit had to enter the Hall of Maat.



First you had to plead your innocence
to the Gods and your fellow men



Then the God Anubis would lead you into
the Hall of Maat and weighed your heart



The God Thoth recorded the findings.
(In ancient Egypt, everything was
recorded and written down.)



If your heart was light, you were considered to be pure and free from sin. This meant you had passed the test and entered your afterlife. Lead by Horus to Osiris.



BUT, if your heart was heavy
because your deeds were dreadful,
the God Ammut *would* suddenly
appear ... and eat you up!

