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## Senior Research Abstract: The Changing Role of Isis in Egyptian Mythology

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*Abstract for Senior Research:  
The Changing Role of Isis in Egyptian  
Mythology  
By Tara K. Ellison*

I am exploring the changing role of Isis in Egyptian mythology and her relationship to the socio-political order. One method of analyzing Isis' position in Egypt is to examine the myths, religious rituals, and political terms regarding kingship. Isis was closely linked to her husband/brother Osiris and their son, Horus, so I address their roles in society as they reflect on Isis. Using a historical framework, I discuss the nature of myth, as well as the actual Egyptian myths, and the theologies surrounding Egyptian myths. It is then easier to interpret written and pictorial references to Isis as someone within the religious tradition might understand her position. This analysis will begin as Egypt unites under one pharaoh and through the Roman period, as Isis remained an important goddess. Her role fluctuated within a changing society, especially as politics were increasingly governed by the Western world. Egyptian mythology was the basis for both political and religious ideology, and Isis was ultimately central to this matrix. There is little research regarding the role of Isis, and other Egyptian goddesses, compared to the analyses of gods such as Osiris and Horus. This paper will strengthen our understanding of the continuing role of the goddess in ancient Egypt.