

# ASET

## AND THE BLUE LOTUS

By: Ronni Cherie Pelley

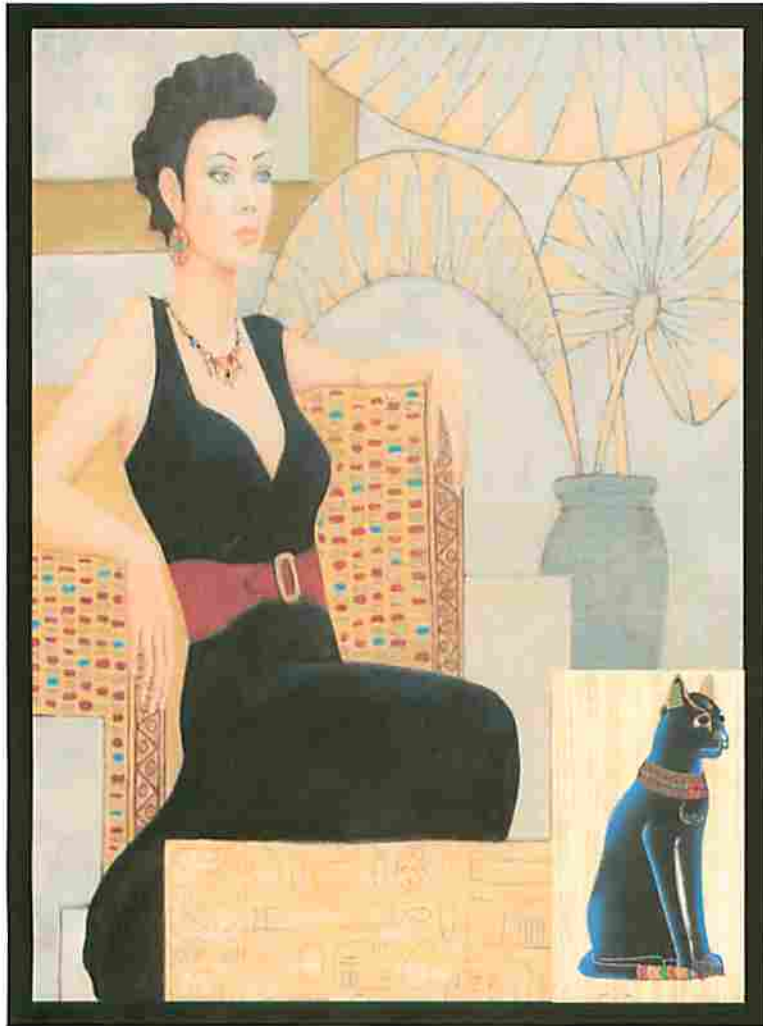


**A**long time ago in the ancient lands of Egypt, where the smooth tan colored sand glistened and paraded into a curve, there lived a beautiful girl named Aset. Before Aset was born, the people of Egypt lived in complete darkness. On the day of her birth, the sun rose and filled the cities with sunlight. When Aset woke the sun came up, and when she slept the night sky, and glowing moon appeared. She lived in Batra with her father and her cat. They had a huge palace with golden pillars, painted walls and red diamond encrusted floors.



One day Aset's father decided to go into town. He loved games and was very competitive. He climbed on his camel and set off across the golden sands.

Meanwhile, Aset remained at the palace. "Bast look at this mirror my father gave me," Aset said to her cat. She held the mirror in front of her face and stared at her reflection. She noticed the scar near her eye. Her father said it looked like a moon, and was a sign of her strength and power. He may have been right, but Aset just thought it looked like regular scar.

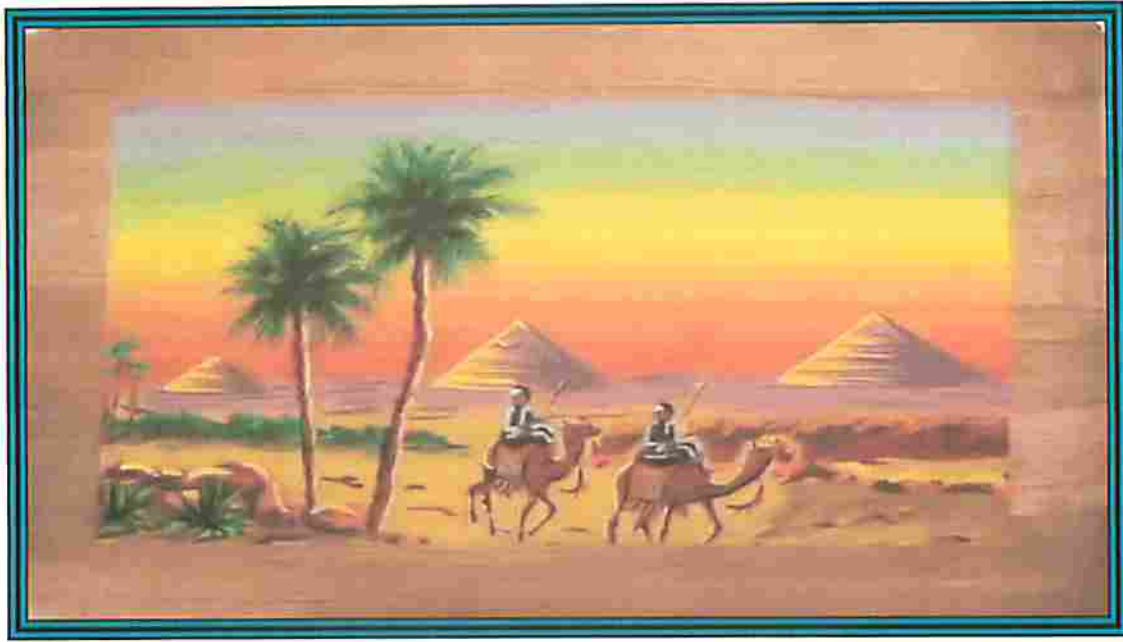




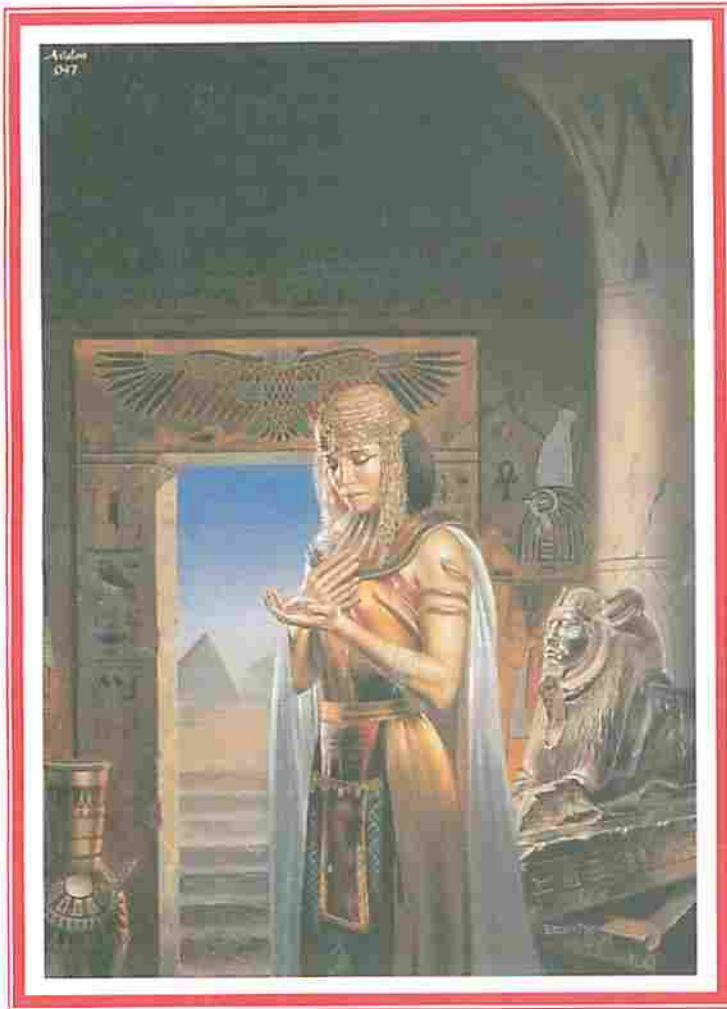
While brushing her hair she saw in the mirror, that the gate leading outside of her palace was open. So she put the mirror in her pocket, put the brush down and walked toward the gate to close it.

"Put me down!" Aset yelled. Someone picked her up. Aset tried to see who it was, but the person covered her head with linen cloth. She tried to escape, but struggled because she could not see. The

linen cloth covering her head was filled with flowers. Aset looked closely at the flowers and noticed that they were blue lotus'. The smell of blue lotus flowers made a person fall fast asleep. Aset felt dizzy and soon dozed off.



**W**hen Aset's father returned to the palace, he discovered that his daughter was gone. So he got on his camel and set off across the sands to find her. He looked everywhere, but did not see her. When he arrived at the river, he knew Aset was no longer in Batra. He returned home and locked himself in a room.



Aset awoke and found herself on a small bed in an unfamiliar room, with not much light. She got up and went over to the window to see where she was, but Aset didn't recognize the outside of the palace either.

Then she heard a knock on the door. "Who is it?" Aset asked. The door opened and a man stood in the doorway. Aset had no idea who he was. He was tall and had a gold mask covering half of his face.

"My name is Zuka," he said. "Well Zuka, can you tell me where I am and how I got here?" Aset asked. "You are in Basandilah," Zuka replied.

"Across the river! Oh no! My father will be highly upset. I have to return home immediately!" Aset said.



Zuka laughed. "This is your new home." he said. "What are you talking about?" Aset wondered. "You are Aset. You make the sun rise and fall." Zuka replied. "Yes this is true. But what is so wrong with that?"

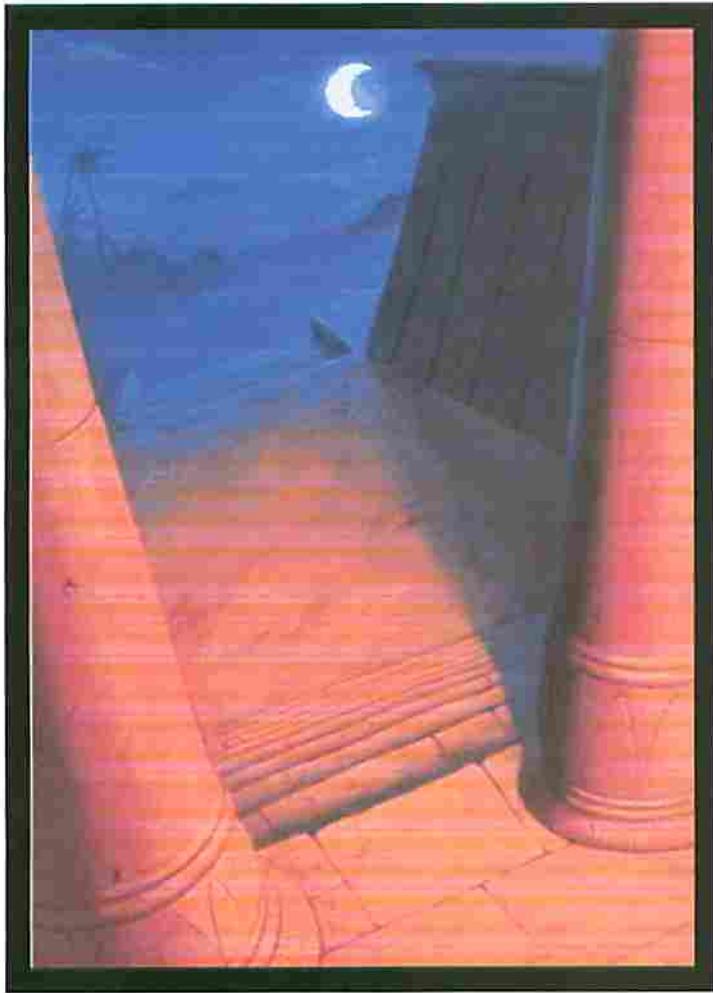
Zuka removed the gold mask from his face. One side of his face was pink and puffy. "The sun burns my skin. One more glimpse and the rest of me will look like this," Zuka pointed to his burned face. Aset looked at Zuka, and his face with sorrowful eyes. "I am sorry Zuka, I wish I could help you, but the sun brings light to the people of Egypt. After all, one cannot live blind in darkness their whole life." Aset explained. "That is where you are wrong!" Zuka exclaimed.



Suddenly, Zuka began spreading blue lotus flowers all around the room. Aset tried to cover her nose and mouth, but there were too many and she fell into a deep sleep. Soon after, the sun set gently.

The people of Egypt were confused. No one could explain the darkness. They wondered why Aset was not awake. What happened to her?

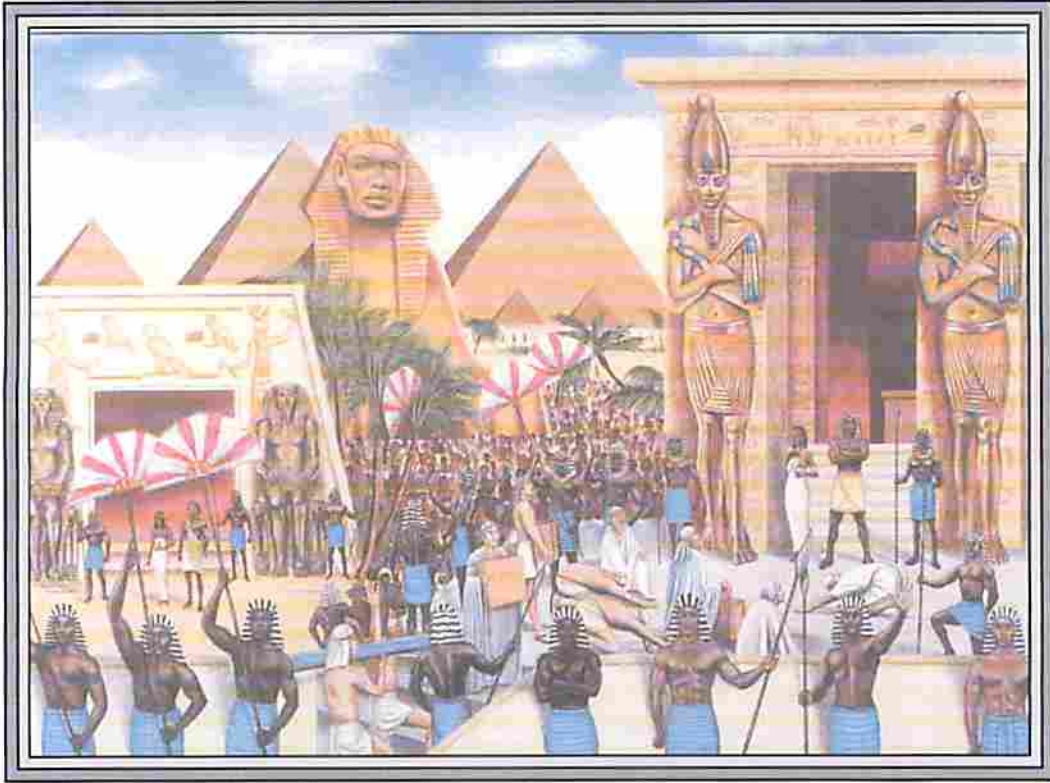
They had no idea Aset was asleep, in the unfamiliar room in Basandilah, where Zuka had left her. Outside, the moon was glowing brighter than it ever had before. The crops died, because they received no sunlight. The weather was cold, and no one could see anything.



One day, Zuka's son Omari, went into the room where Aset was fast asleep. He crept quietly so his father would not hear. He wrapped a linen cloth around his face, so he would not fall asleep from the blue lotus. The flowers were everywhere and he had to walk through piles just to get to her bedside. When he reached the bed he could not help but stare. She was so beautiful. Omari noticed the scar on her face. He thought it looked like the sun, and seeing it reminded him of how much he missed sunlight

Omari left the room where Aset was sleeping with a handful of blue lotus. He went into his father's room and threw the flowers on the floor, then shut the door. Afterwards, he hurried to the

room where Aset and the blue lotus flowers were. He carried her out of the palace and put her on camelback. They rode across the golden sand, under the stars, and across the river to the city of Batra.



When Omari and Aset arrived at her palace, they were greeted by servants. Aset's father came out of his room, and saw his daughter fast asleep on the palace floor. He tried to wake her, but was unsuccessful. "Can I try?" Omari asked. "Whatever it takes to wake her up." Aset's father replied. Omari kissed Aset, and her eyes opened. Aset got up, and the sky began to turn orange and blue, and then the sun rose. She looked at Omari. "Thank you." she said. "How could I ever let the sun rest forever." Omari said. For rescuing her, Aset gave Omari the power of the sky. Aset and Omari were married, and protected each other from Zuka.



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