

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/when-everything-is-human-the-human-is-an-entirely-different-thing/>

In an interview, Vita discusses her study on the representation of monsters and fantastic animals in ancient Egyptian culture. She aimed to take a more anthropological approach, drawing inspiration from how different disciplines view monsters, rather than adhering strictly to traditional Egyptological methodologies. This video involved exploring the ancient Egyptian worldview and understanding fantastic creatures as embodiments of cultural concepts and ideas.

Vita references Jeffrey Cohen's "Monster Theory," particularly focusing on three of his theses related to monsters: their cultural significance, their tendency to escape representation, and their role in reflecting category crises. She emphasizes the importance of these fantastic beings in navigating the liminal space between life and death in ancient Egyptian beliefs.

Additionally, she touches on her research into ancient Egyptian demonology, which reveals that many demon figures are hybrid or composite animals representing different agency in the cultural context. She mentions using anthropological theories to understand how Egyptians viewed these creatures and their roles from a non-traditional perspective.

Vita expresses hope that her work will encourage new approaches in Egyptology, particularly regarding the study of ancient beliefs and their connections to magic and ritual practices. She anticipates further research and is currently working on a monograph titled "Agents of Punishment and Protection," focusing on the agency of these beings in relation to human experiences. The feedback from her peers has been positive, highlighting the significance of her interdisciplinary approach to understanding ancient Egyptian culture.