Isis, She of the Throne

Borderless version: 8.5” x 11” (216 mm x 279 mm)
Border version: 8” x 10” illustration on 8.5” x 11” white paper
Pen & Ink + Digital Paint
Archival Ink Print on Velvet Fine Art Paper
260 gsm, Textured Matte

Isis (Coptic: Ēse; also: Iset or Uset), meaning “She of the Throne,” is hailed as a mother goddess, the divine emanation of magic, and the great healer. The side profile of Isis is rendered in a naïve art style, or a style in tribute to Egyptian tomb paintings during the New Kingdom (1570 – 1544 BCE). Her skin is a yellow tone, reminiscent of sandstone, colored the way deities were colored—brown or sienna toned when depicting a male deity and light sandstone or yellow toned when depicting a female deity. Here, Isis is portrayed as wearing Hathor’s headdress—a red sun disk between cow horns.

The oblong plaque in front of her at her feet is her name in hieroglyphs. Inscribed within her throne are variations of heka (hekau), meaning “magic.” The ideograms form passages relating to high priests and their spells, words of power and enchantment, empowering the illustration as a battery that will charge and amplify your magic and spell-crafting when done in the presence of Isis. Behind the throne is the phrase, “I will be your protection,” a passage commonly found in the spells of Egyptian antiquity. The back wall features passages from the Book of the Dead, as copied from the tomb of a high priest.

The panel behind Isis’s head is not my own art; it’s a common illustration found in the tombs of royalty and high priests, featuring Horus, with the falcon’s head, holding the crook (heka) and flail (nekhakha). The crook is a symbol of sovereignty while the flail is a symbol of prosperity.

To his front and back are depictions of Apis (or Hep). Here, Apis is represented as Apis-Atum, noted by the sun disk between his horns. Although the depiction here might also signify Hathor, mother of Apis, the skin coloring in the painting would suggest the depiction to be a male divinity, hence more likely Apis.

As talismanic art, where this print is placed, the Queen of Heaven, the Giver of Life, Lady of the Words of Power shall be present in unconditional support, and magic shall thrive.