



## **Ib** ♡ (Egyptian heart-mind)

*Ib* (often transliterated as *jb*) refers to an ancient Egyptian conception of a person's moral character. *Ib* may be thought of as a kind of heart-mind compound, insofar as it embodies capacities that are commonly considered both cognitive (viz. people think and formulate intentions with their *ib*) as well as conative (viz. people's motivations, desires, and religious sentiments arise through their *ib*). *Ib* had a particular role to play in Egyptian soteriology, for it was the deceased's *ib* that was weighed on a scale against the feather of truth/justice [see *maat*] while the deceased formulaically asserted the various sins of which they were innocent. Despite its metaphysical functions, *ib* was still conceived of in terms of the corporal organ, which was preserved inside the mummified body. *Ib*-shaped amulets were also a popular item in Egyptian apotropaic magic.

The moral psychology of the *ib* remains a frontier for Egyptological and comparative philosophical analysis. And the relationship of *ib* to other aspects of personhood which are recognized in different Egyptian texts—such as one's name (*ren*), one's animating life-force (*ka*), one's distinctive personality (*ba*), the rest of one's physical body (*khat*), etc.—would be a productive subject for future comparative explorations related to the morality and metaphysics of personal identity across time and mind-body interaction.

**Kevin DeLapp**

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