

Hippos [Hippopotami] lived in the Nile River in Egypt and came ashore to eat vegetation. Socially well organized, they were passive unless interrupted by trespassing boats and people. On such occasions they ferociously attacked and killed people with their giant teeth. This dual and unpredictable nature caused them to be associated with the Egyptian God of Chaos, Seth. This is why Queen Tiye refers to her angry husband with a mention of that God. Still, as mothers, hippo cows were impressive, taking care of their young on land and in the water.

Images of a pregnant hippo walking upright as the Goddess Taweret became talismans and amulets for safe labor and birth for human mothers.