Global Literature

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09/02/2023

Tale of Two Brothers

The "Tale of Two Brothers" is an ancient Egyptian story from the reign of Pharaoh Seti II, dating back to around 1200 BC. It tells the story of two brothers, Anubis and Bata, and their differing fortunes. Anubis is the elder brother, who is trusted and respected by everyone in the community, including the pharaoh. Bata, the younger brother, is impulsive and prone to rash decisions. Despite this, he is still loved by his brother and the community.

The story revolves around a series of challenges faced by the two brothers. Bata kills a lion and is accused of murder, but Anubis comes to his defence and proves his innocence. Later, Bata is faced with a difficult decision to either stay with his wife or go to the pharaoh's palace to serve as a soldier. In the end, Bata chooses to stay with his wife, but Anubis goes to the palace in his place and is ultimately killed.

The story concludes with the pharaoh granting Bata all of Anubis' possessions and privileges, in recognition of his loyalty and devotion to his brother. The tale highlights the values of loyalty, bravery, and the importance of making wise decisions, and is considered a classic example of ancient Egyptian storytelling.