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### MAGIC STATUE, AHA

Egypt  
Middle Kingdom, 2040-1782 BC  
Hippopotamus tooth  
Height 16 cm Width 4.9 cm Depth 2.9 cm

The naked figure of the god Aha has a broad head on a stocky body standing with bent knees. A lion's mane and ears frame the figure's face. The arms with clenched fists hang close to the body and had probably held metal ser-pents. The phallus is broken off, as is the left leg and the lion's tail. A peg under the right foot was used to attach the figure to a base.

Gods similar to Bes were revered as long as four thousand years ago. They were depicted with a naked human body, bent legs, and the mane and tail of a lion, to show that they were very powerful. The male god was called Aha, 'The Fighter', and held snakes in his hands. The female counterpart of this god held lizards or rabbits; her name is lost.

#### Provenance

Former private collection France; private collection G.B. Göttingen, Germany, acquired prior to 1980

#### Literature

C. Loeben: *Aegyptiaca Kesteriana 2 – Bes, Rahden/Westphalen 2020*  
R. Drenkhan: *Elfenbein im Alten Ägypten, Leihgaben aus dem Petrie Museum, Kestner Museum Hannover 1987*