

Source #5; *Bes and Santa Claus*. The ancient Egyptians may have known him as a minor but very popular deity, Bes, grotesque, pot-bellied and cheerful. The Romans called him Janus and sought his blessings at the outset of any new venture. On his festival on the first of January (the month named after him) he was treated with special cakes; mutual good wishes were exchanged and people made presents of sweets for one another to serve as a good omen for the new year. In the West he is ubiquitous as the corpulent and jolly Santa Claus, the dispenser of boons and gifts, especially to children, who knows our thoughts, words and deeds and bestows rewards accordingly.

Psalm 75:5-7 (KJV) LIFT NOT UP YOUR HORN on high: speak not with a stiff neck.

6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south [but from the north].

7 But God [in the north] is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.



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