

# SECRETS OF EGYPT



# *THE 6 DARKEST SECRETS OF ANCIENT EGYPT*

- THE ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHS LIE. ANCIENT EGYPTIAN PAINTING. ...
- THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS FEEDING THE DEAD. AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS. ...
- THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS MUMMIFYING PETS. ...
- THE HORRIFYING PROCESS OF MUMMIFICATION.



# ANCIENT EGYPT

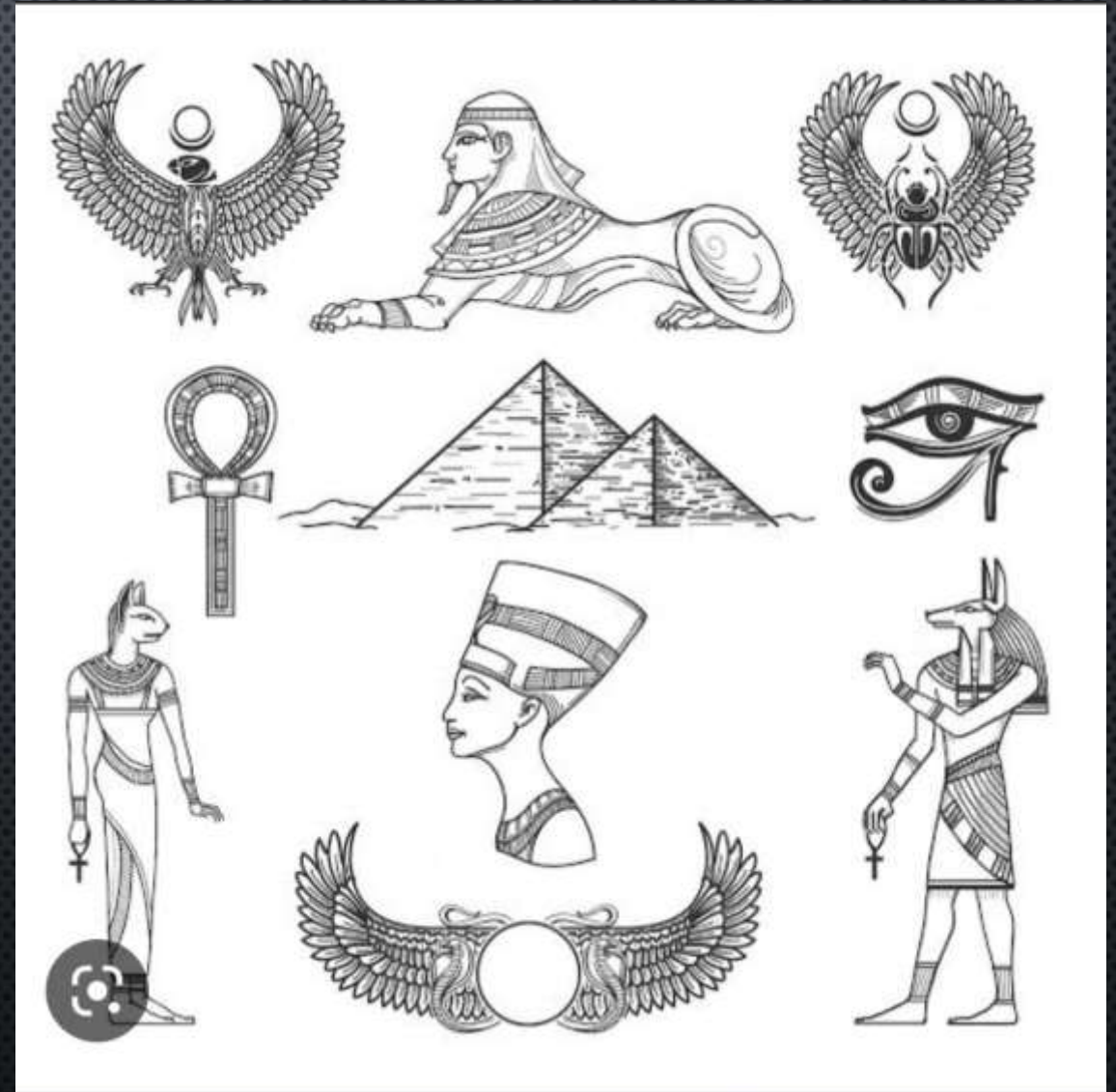
- ANCIENT EGYPT — A LAND OF MYSTERIES. NO OTHER CIVILIZATION HAS SO CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF SCHOLARS AND LAYPEOPLE ALIKE. MYSTERY SURROUNDS ITS ORIGINS, ITS RELIGION AND ITS MONUMENTAL ARCHITECTURE: COLOSSAL TEMPLES, PYRAMIDS AND THE ENORMOUS SPHINX. THE EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS ARE THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS, THE ONLY REMAINING WONDER OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.





- JUST AS LIFE AROSE FROM THE WATERS, THE SEEDS OF CIVILIZATION WERE FIRST SOWN ALONG THE BANKS OF THE NILE. THIS MIGHTY RIVER, WHICH FLOWS NORTH FROM THE HEART OF AFRICA TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, NOURISHED THE GROWTH OF THE PHARAONIC KINGDOM. THE LONG, NARROW FLOOD PLAIN WAS A MAGNET FOR LIFE, ATTRACTING PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND PLANTS TO ITS BANKS. IN PRE-DYNASTIC TIMES, NOMADIC HUNTERS SETTLED IN THE VALLEY AND BEGAN TO GROW CROPS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR FOOD SUPPLY. SEEN AS A GIFT FROM THE GODS, THE ANNUAL FLOODING OF THE RIVER DEPOSITED NUTRIENT RICH SILT OVER THE LAND, CREATING IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR GROWING WHEAT, FLAX AND OTHER CROPS. THE FIRST COMMUNAL PROJECT OF THIS FLEDGLING SOCIETY WAS THE BUILDING OF IRRIGATION CANALS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

- THE SUN WAS A PRINCIPAL DEITY WHOSE PASSAGE ACROSS THE SKY REPRESENTED THE ETERNAL CYCLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND REBIRTH. THE PHARAOHS WERE SEEN AS GODS, DIVINE REPRESENTATIVES ON EARTH WHO, THROUGH RITUALS, ENSURED THE CONTINUATION OF LIFE. AFTER DEATH, THEY BECAME IMMORTAL, JOINING THE GOD IN THE AFTERWORLD





- THE EGYPTIANS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE BODY AND SOUL WERE IMPORTANT TO HUMAN EXISTENCE, IN LIFE AND IN DEATH. THEIR FUNERARY PRACTICES, SUCH AS MUMMIFICATION AND BURIAL IN TOMBS, WERE DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE DECEASED FIND THEIR WAY IN THE AFTERWORLD. THE TOMBS WERE FILLED WITH FOOD, TOOLS, DOMESTIC WARES, TREASURES — ALL THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE — TO ENSURE THE SOUL'S RETURN TO THE BODY SO THAT THE DECEASED WOULD LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



- THE GIGANTIC PYRAMIDS WERE CONSPICUOUS TARGETS FOR TOMB ROBBERS, WHOSE PLUNDERING JEOPARDIZED THE HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE. SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS OF KINGS HID THEIR TOMBS IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ELUDE THE ROBBERS. IN THE DESERT VALLEY NEAR THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF THEBES, NOW CALLED LUXOR, THEY PREPARED THEIR ROYAL TOMBS BY CUTTING INTO THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. DESPITE EFFORTS TO HIDE THE ENTRANCES, THIEVES MANAGED TO FIND THE TOMBS, PILLAGING AND EMPTYING THEM OF THEIR TREASURES.





- ONE TOMB WAS SPARED, HOWEVER: TUTANKHAMUN'S. ALTHOUGH HIS RESTING PLACE WAS DISTURBED TWICE BY ROBBERS, THE ENTRANCE WAS RESEALED AND REMAINED HIDDEN FOR OVER 3,000 YEARS. ITS DISCOVERY BY THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGIST HOWARD CARTER IN 1922 IS CONSIDERED THE GREATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND IN HISTORY. CARTER SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE WORKING ON THE TOMB, REMOVING ITS TREASURES TO CAIRO, AND DOCUMENTING AND STUDYING ITS CONTENTS, INCLUDING THE PHARAOH'S GOLD COFFINS AND MASK. TUTANKHAMUN'S MUMMY REMAINS IN HIS TOMB, THE ONLY PHARAOH TO BE LEFT IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS.





- TODAY, EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS ARE STILL MAKING IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES, AND THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF ROYAL MUMMIES IS SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON THE GENEALOGY OF THE PHARAOHS. THE ONGOING DECIPHERING OF HIEROGLYPHIC WRITINGS AND RESEARCH ON THE LIFE OF THE PEASANTS ARE ALSO ANSWERING MANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE EVOLUTION OF EGYPTIAN CULTURE. THE PHARAONIC RELIGION GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH DEATH; HOWEVER, THERE ARE AMPLE INDICATIONS THAT THEY WERE A HAPPY LOT WHO KNEW HOW TO ENJOY LIFE



- THE MOST IMPOSING TOMBS ARE THE FAMOUS PYRAMIDS, SHAPED LIKE THE SACRED MOUND WHERE THE GODS FIRST APPEARED IN THE CREATION STORY. THESE WERE INCREDIBLY AMBITIOUS PROJECTS, THE LARGEST STRUCTURES EVER BUILT. THEIR CONSTRUCTION WAS OVERSEEN BY HIGHLY SKILLED ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS. PAID LABOURERS MOVED THE MASSIVE LIMESTONE BLOCKS WITHOUT THE USE OF WHEELS, HORSES OR IRON TOOLS. THE CONSCRIPTS MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY A DEEP FAITH IN THE DIVINITY OF THEIR LEADERS AND A BELIEF IN IMMORTALITY. PERHAPS THEY THOUGHT THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD IMPROVE THEIR OWN PROSPECTS AT THE FINAL JUDGEMENT IN THE AFTERWORLD.