A000-Afr-Egy-Meritamen



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| **Meritamen in**[**hieroglyphs**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_hieroglyphs) |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | < | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | i | mn n | mr | i | i | t | | |  | | > | |   Meritamen  *Mrjt Jmn*  *Beloved of [Amun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amun" \o "Amun)* |
| Daughter and [Great Royal Wife](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Royal_Wife) of [Pharaoh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaoh" \o "Pharaoh)[Ramesses II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_II) |

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| **Meritamen** | |
| [*Queen consort*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_consort)*of*[*Egypt*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt)[*Great Royal Wife*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Royal_Wife) *Lady of The Two Lands Mistress of Upper and Lower Egypt  King’s Daughter, his beloved, etc* | |
| [Akhmim6.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Akhmim6.jpg)  Statue of Meritamen | |
| **Died** | [Thebes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thebes,_Egypt)? |
| **Burial** | [QV68](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QV68), [Valley of the Queens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_of_the_Queens), Thebes |
| **Spouse** | Pharaoh [Ramesses II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_II) |
| [**Dynasty**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynasty) | [19th of Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteenth_dynasty_of_Egypt) |
| **Father** | [Ramesses II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_II) |
| **Mother** | [Nefertari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nefertari) |
| **Religion** | [Ancient Egyptian religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_religion) |

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Luxor_Karnak-Tempel_2016-03-21_Statue_Meritamun_01.jpg)

Statue of Meritamen in front of the colossal statue of her father Ramesses II

**Meritamen** (also spelled *Meritamun, Merytamen, Merytamun, Meryt-Amen*; [Ancient Egyptian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_language): *Beloved of [Amun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amun" \o "Amun)*) was a daughter and later [Great Royal Wife](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Royal_Wife) of [Pharaoh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharaoh" \o "Pharaoh)[Ramesses the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_II).



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Family[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Meritamen&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Family)]

Meritamen was a daughter of Ramesses and his favourite wife [Nefertari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nefertari" \o "Nefertari). She appears as the fourth daughter in the list of daughters in Abu Simbel and had at least four brothers: [Amun-her-khepeshef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amun-her-khepeshef), [Pareherwenemef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pareherwenemef), [Meryre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meryre) and [Meryatum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meryatum), as well as a sister named [Henuttawy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henuttawy_(19th_dynasty)" \o "Henuttawy (19th dynasty)). Meritamen may have had more brothers and sisters, but these five are known from the facade of Queen Nefertari's temple in Abu Simbel.

Her eldest brother - [Amun-her-khepeshef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amun-her-khepeshef" \o "Amun-her-khepeshef) - was the crown prince until at least year 25 of the reign of their father. Prince Prehirwenemef is known to have served in the army and is depicted in the battle scenes from Kadesh. The youngest sibling known to us - Prince [Meryatum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meryatum" \o "Meryatum) - would later become High Priest of Re in Heliopolis.

Around the time her mother died (around the 24th or 25th regnal year), Meritamen became [Great Royal Wife](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Royal_Wife), along with her half-sister [Bintanath](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bintanath" \o "Bintanath).

Images of Meritamen[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Meritamen&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Images of Meritamen)]

Meritamen is depicted in quite a few scenes in temples and is represented on several statues.

* Meritamen is well known for her beautiful [limestone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone) statue, the *White Queen* found at the [Ramesseum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesseum" \o "Ramesseum), the temple complex her father had built. In Kitchen's Ramesside inscriptions, the statue is attributed to [Queen Tuya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Tuya) (mother of Ramesses II), but it is now generally thought to represent Princess-Queen Meritamen. The dorsal pillar contains the inscription: [...Chief of the Harem] of Amen-Re, [Sistrum Player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sistrum" \o "Sistrum) of Mut, Rattle-[player of Hathor ...], [...of Siut/Sai]s, danceuse of Horus, ...[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1)
* She appears on the facade of the great temple of [Abu Simbel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Simbel). The northernmost colossus shows the Bodily King's Daughter, his beloved, Merytamen. Meritamen is accompanied by Princess Nefertari (Bodily King's Daughter), and Queen-Mother and God's Wife, Mut-Tuya.
* The small temple of Abu Simbel dedicated to Queen Nefertari and the goddess Hathor is decorated with 2 large statues of Queen Nefertari and 4 large statues of Ramesses II. The statues of [Nefertari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nefertari" \o "Nefertari) are flanked by two daughters: the Princesses Meritamen and Hennutawy.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1)
* The Abu Simbel Rock stela of Viceroy of Nubia [Heqanakht](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heqanakht_papyri" \o "Heqanakht papyri). The upper register shows Ramesses II and Princess Merytamen worshipping Deities. The lower register depicts the Viceroy adoring Queen Nefertari before offerings.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1) This stela is thought to represent Meritamen in the role of deputy-Queen for her possibly ailing mother.
* In Luxor, Meritamen is depicted twice on statues of her father/husband. The westernmost colossus before the pylon shows Meritamen next to her father. She is given the titles of King's Daughter and Great Royal Wife. She is also depicted on statuary in the forecourt. On the southern colonnade, eastern statue Meritamen is the queen depicted on the left.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1)
* Statue in Tanis (from Pi-Ramesse). Meritamen is depicted standing between the legs of her father. She reaches to about knee height.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1)
* Large statue of the Queen at the Temple of Ramesses II at Akhmin. On the dorsal pillar, the Queen is identified as "... whose forehead is beautiful bearing the uraeus, the beloved of her Lord, the great one [of the harem of Amen]-Re, [sistrum player] of Mut, [menat player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menat" \o "Menat) of Hathor, songstress of Atum, King's Daughter [beloved of ?] .. [Mr]it[I]mn.w." "the fair of face, beautiful in the palace, the Beloved of the Lord of the Two Lands, she who is beside her Lord as Sothis is beside Orion, one is pleased with what is spoken when she opens her mouth to pacify the Lord of the Two Lands, King's Daughter in the palace [?] of the Lord of many festivals [?] ...[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-ReferenceA-2)
* Colossal statue of Ramesses II from Akhmin. The king is accompanied by two daughter-Queens. The Princess-Queen by left leg is identified as Daughter of the King, his beloved, Great King's Wife, Merytamen, may she be young. The Princess-Queen by right leg is identified as Daughter of the King, his beloved, Great King's Wife, Bint-Anath, may she live.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-ReferenceA-2)
* In Heracleopolis, an usurped Middle Kingdom statue was found with Bint-Anath and Meryetamen depicted on the base of the statue.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1)
* In the temple of Ramesses II in El Kab, there is a depiction of an Iunmutef priest and the Princesses Bint-Anath and Meryetamen. Scene includes cartouches and the princesses carry wands.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-3) Bintanat is termed "king's daughter" as well as "king's wife", while no titles are given for Merytamun. Both Merytamen and Bint-Anath have a [modius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modius_(headdress)" \o "Modius (headdress)) without stalks, shake a sistrum, and carry a gazelle-headed wand. They face Iunmutef ("pillar of his mother"), a solar deity often associated with the crown prince.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-4)

Burial in the Queens Valley[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Meritamen&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Burial in the Queens Valley)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Meritamen1.jpg)

Queen Meritamen as depicted in QV 68. Painting after drawing by Lepius

Meritamen was buried at [QV68](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QV68) in the [Valley of the Queens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_of_the_Queens). The tomb of Meritamen was described by Lepsius. An interesting scene in the tomb shows Meritamen consecrating cloth-boxes to Osiris and Hathor. The inscriptions identify the Queen as The Osiris, King's Daughter, Great Royal Wife, Lady of Both Lands, Merytamen, may she live. She is said to be "Bringing a box of clothing, eternally; consecrating the box of clothing three times" (sic).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1)

The sarcophagus-lid is now in Berlin (15274). Meritamen's titles on the sarcophagus lid are given twice. At the head she is described as: "[King's Daughter], Great [Royal Wife], Lady of [Both Lands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Lands), Merytamen, [justified](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plinth_(hieroglyph)#Plinth_use_as_mortuary:_%22Justtified%22)". Over the head she is described as: "The Osiris, King's Daughter beloved of him, Great Royal Wife, Lady of [Both Lands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Two_Lands), Merytamen, justified".[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_note-Kitchen-1)

References[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Meritamen&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: References)]

1. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-1) [***c***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-2) [***d***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-3) [***e***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-4) [***f***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-5) [***g***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-6) [***h***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-Kitchen_1-7) Kitchen, K.A., Ramesside Inscriptions, Translated & Annotated, Translations, Volume II, Blackwell Publishers, 1996
2. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-ReferenceA_2-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-ReferenceA_2-1) Z. Hawass, Recent Discoveries at Akhmin, KMT, A modern Journal of Ancient Egypt, Volume 16, Nr. 1, Spring 2005
3. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-3) Porter and Moss
4. [**Jump up^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritamen#cite_ref-4) Representation in a small temple at El-Kab. (A. Wilkinson : 117) By Christiane Lilyquist, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

* Grajetzki, Wolfram: *Ancient Egyptian Queens – a hieroglyphic dictionary*, London 2005, p. 70