

INTRODUCTION TO THE KEMETIC MYSTERY SYSTEM



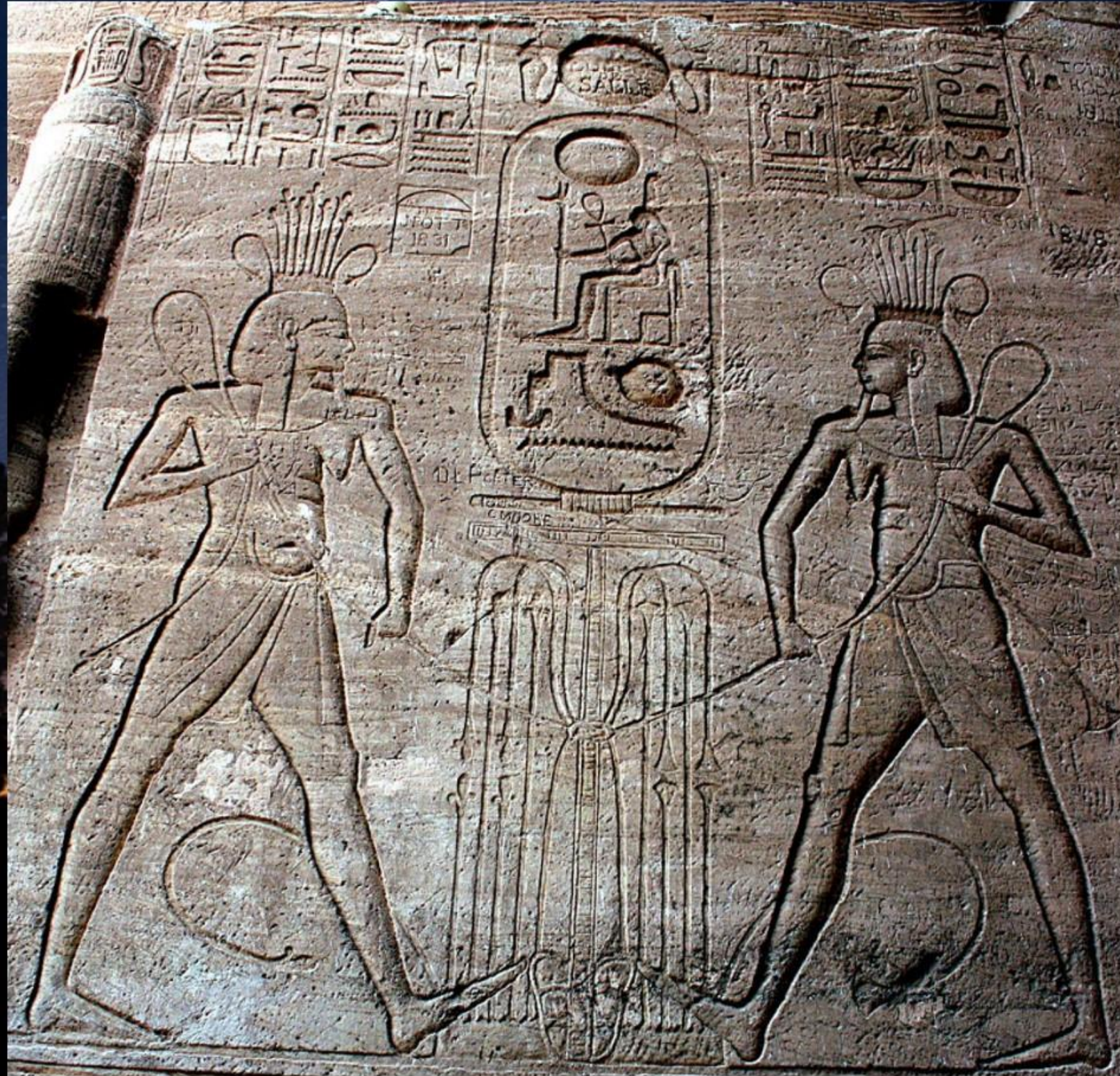
Jabari Osaze
Heru Djedem Ma'at
Aten-Ra
Hm Ntr en Tepy (Co-Chief Priest)
The Shrine of Ma'at

Sebkhet Review: The Wisdom in the Kheper

Behaviors Holding Me Back	<u>Sebkhet 1</u> Corresponding Thoughts	Being KHEPER Thoughts/ Actions
Often Late	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I never have enough time• It doesn't matter whether I get there on time• I'm NEVER on time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>I am HERU ... I am the master of time</i>• How do I plan my day?• I'm usually 5 mins. Late ... How do I save 5 mins?

Sebkhet Review: Finding Smai Tawi in Ourselves

Importance of Brain Symmetry



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Importance of Brain Symmetry

Right Brain

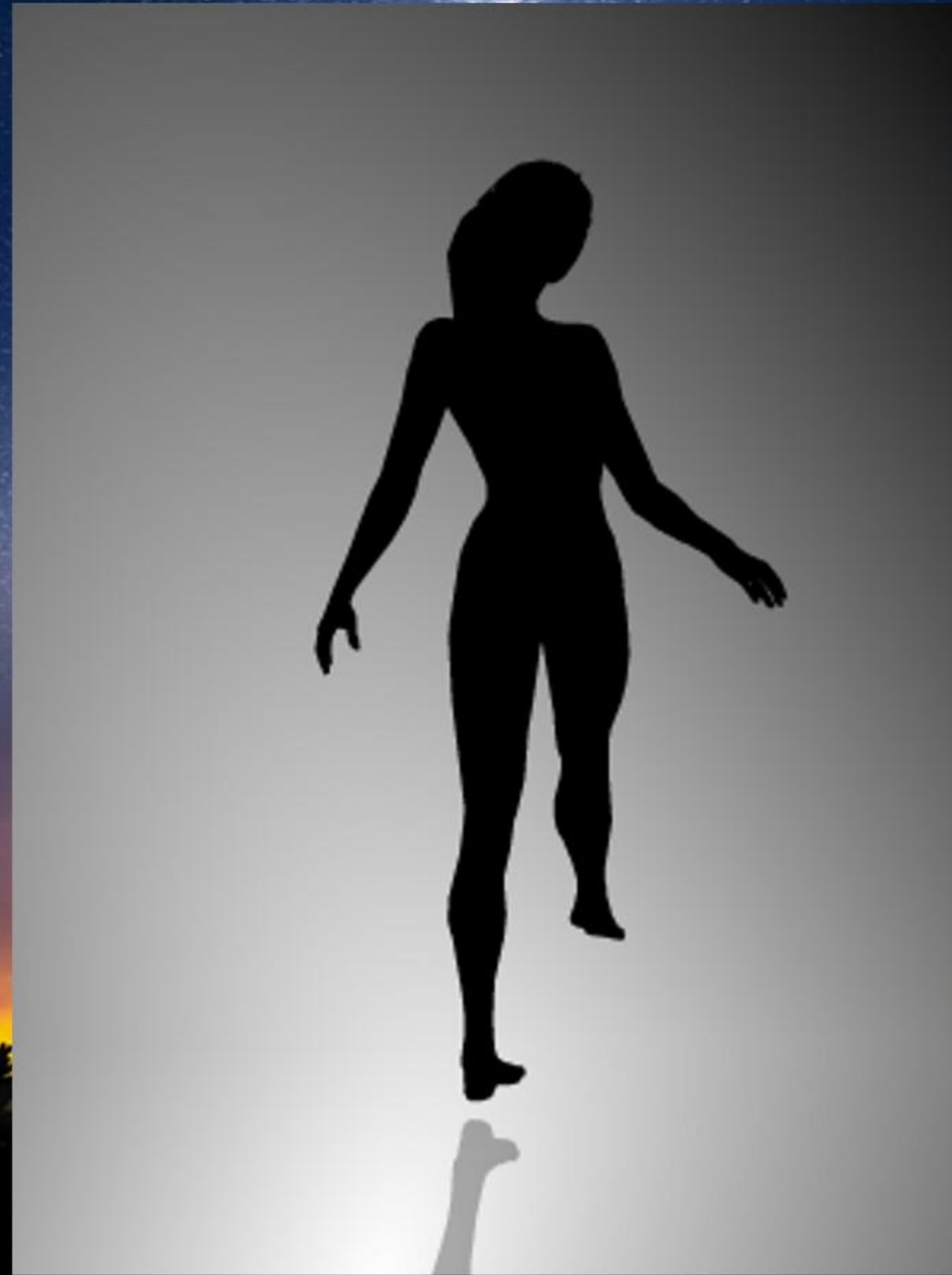
- Creative
- Imaginative
- General
- Intuitive
- Conceptual
- Big Picture
- Heuristic
- Empathetic
- Figurative
- Irregular



Left Brain

- Analytical
- Logical
- Precise
- Repetitive
- Organized
- Details
- Scientific
- Detached
- Literal
- Sequential

Sebkhet Review: Finding Smai Tawi in Ourselves



The Spinning Dancer

Smai Tawi in Practice: The Royal Dynasties of Kemet

Predynastic Kemet

Early Dynastic Period

Dynasty 0

Narmer (Menes)

Scorpion

Dynasty 1

Dynasty 2

Old Kingdom

Dynasty 3

Djoser, Imhotep

Dynasty 4

Khufu

Khafra

Menkaura

Dynasty 5

Dynasty 6

Pepi II

First Intermediate

Period

Dynasty 7

Dynasty 8

Dynasty 9

Dynasty 10

Middle Kingdom

Dynasty 11

Mentuhotep I

Dynasty 12

Queen Sobeknefru

Dynasty 13

Second Intermediate

Period

Dynasty 14

Dynasty 15

Dynasty 16

Dynasty 17

New Kingdom

Dynasty 18

Queen Hatshepsut

Amenhotep III

Akhenaten

Tutankhamun

Dynasty 19

Seti I

Rameses II, Nefertari

Dynasty 20

Third Intermediate

Period

Dynasty 21

Dynasty 22

Dynasty 23

Dynasty 24

Dynasty 25 (Nubian)

Shabaka

Late Period

Dynasty 26

Dynasty 27

Dynasty 28

Dynasty 29

Dynasty 30

Dynasty 31

Greco-Roman Period

Sebkhet 5:

The Old Kingdom and an Introduction to Kemetic Literature



Kemet's Third Dynasty: The Building Odyssey Begins



Djoser Netjerikhet

- Brother of his predecessor Sanakhte
- Military expeditions to extend his rule towards Aswan
- May have dealt with a major famine
- Lengthy rock carving on Sahel Island (Kemet Nubia), may be Ptolemaic forgery
 - Imhotep assists in resolution

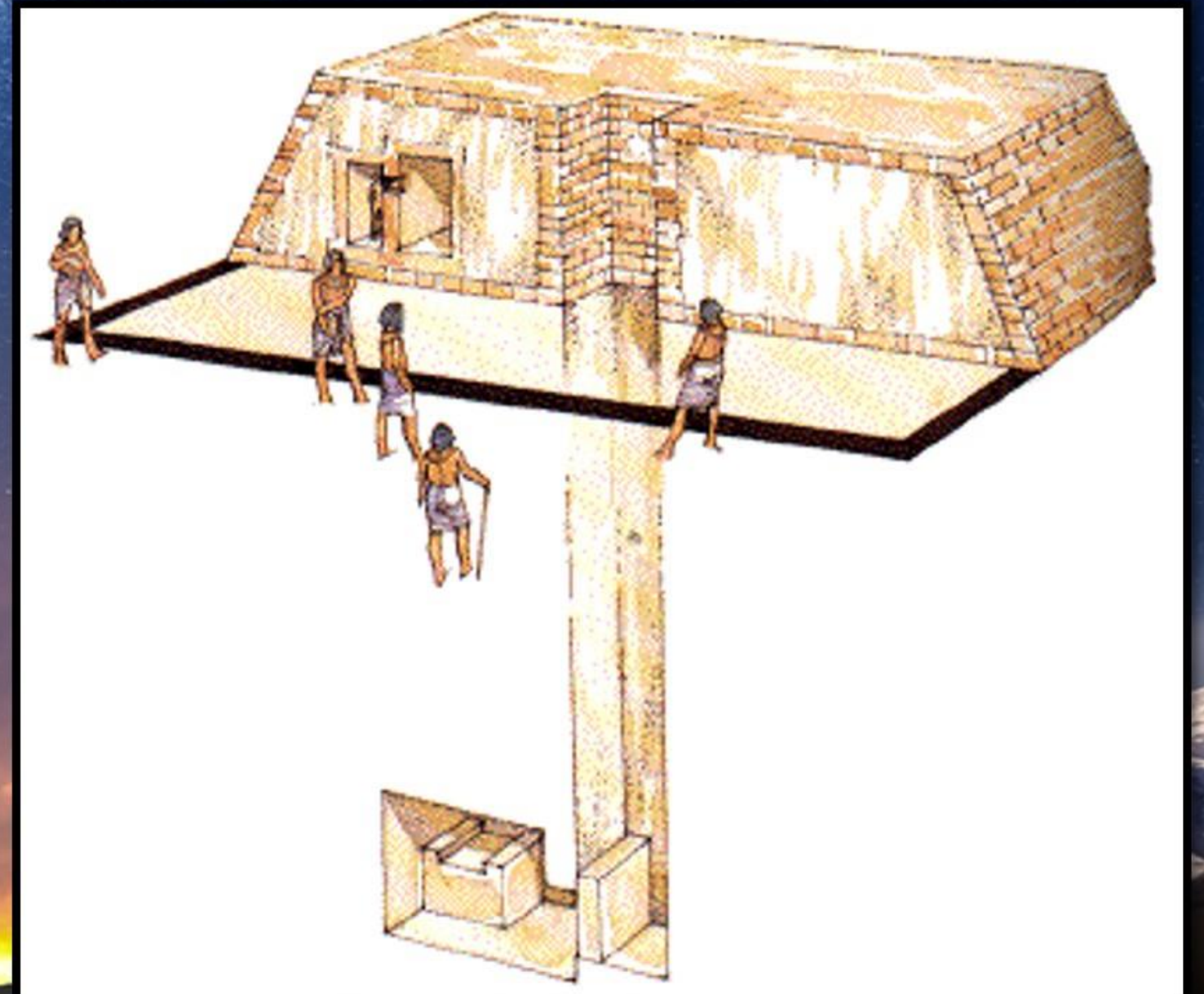
Master Pyramid Builders

- **Chief Architect of Pharaoh Djoser, Imhotep, creates masterful innovation in tomb design:**
 - **Sandpit Burials**



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The Step Mrkhut

Imhotep: The World's First Multi-Genius

- Perhaps the world's first multi-genius, he served as Chief Vizer, Architect, High Priest under Nsw-Bit Zoser
- Designed Step Pyramid (Mrkhut), world's first building in stone
- Well-reknown poet, becomes patron saint of the scribes (performed ink or water libation before writing)
- Wrote many important maxims such as "Eat drink and Be Merry, Tomorrow We Shall Die"
- Reputation as doctor should have cemented him as true "Father of Medicine".
- Wrote medical treatise in same format used in medical journals today
- Is credited for curing 200 diseases: performed surgery and dentistry, used plants for medicines, and understood the position and function of organs and circulatory system



**Imhotep ("I come in peace")
2650 – 2600 BCE
Old Kingdom**

Master Pyramid Builders Continued ...



Snefru: 2613-2498 BCE



The Bent Mrkhut

- Builds or Completes Bent Mrkhut (Huni)
 - However, foundation built on sand
 - Crumbling of corners leads to change of angle from 54 to 43 degrees

Master Pyramid Builders Continued ...



Snefru: 2613-2498 BCE



The Meidum Mrkhut

- Builds Meidum Mrkhut on solid ground, but limestone casing is not properly supported by substructure.

Master Pyramid Builders Continued ...



Snefru: 2613-2498 BCE



The Red Mrkhut

- Builds or Completes Bent Mrkhut (Huni)
 - However, foundation built on sand
 - Crumbling of corners leads to change of angle from 54 to 43 degrees



Five Generations of Builders



The Great Mrkhut

- **Son of Sneferu with Wife Hetepheres I**
- **Reigns 23 years, then succeeded by his son, Djedefre**
- **Leads military expedition to Sinai Peninsula**
- **Takes 20 yrs to build Great Mrkhut, only remaining of 7 wonders of the world**



Nsw Biti Khufu: 2589-2566 BCE

Five Generations of Builders – The Sons of Khufu



Djedefra:

2528 – 2520 BCE

- Might have completed Heru-em-Aket for father
- builds smaller pyramid at Abu Rawash at same height of Great Mrkhut



Khafra:

2520 – 2494? BCE

- Builds smaller pyramid at Giza Plateau at same height of Great Mrkhut due to higher elevation
- Mrkhut still has lime-stone casing at top



Menkaura:

2532 – 2504? BCE

- Builds smallest of the four pyramids.
- First 16 courses (base) made of red granite

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End of the Old Kingdom: Pepi II



**Pepi II and
Anknesmeryre II**

Ruled from 2278 – 2184 BCE

- **Comes to throne at age of 6, Mother serves as regent**
- **Rules for 94 years – longer than any ruler in history**
- **As child wrote letter to Harkuf (led Nubia expedition) to bring “dwarf” back safely for “dance of divine”**
- **Also sends expedition to Punt (Ethiopia, Somalia, or Kenya)**
- **Advanced age may have led to strength of nobles and weak central power. Intermediate period follows**
- **Only 3 statues of Pepi II exist (include. Brooklyn Museum)**

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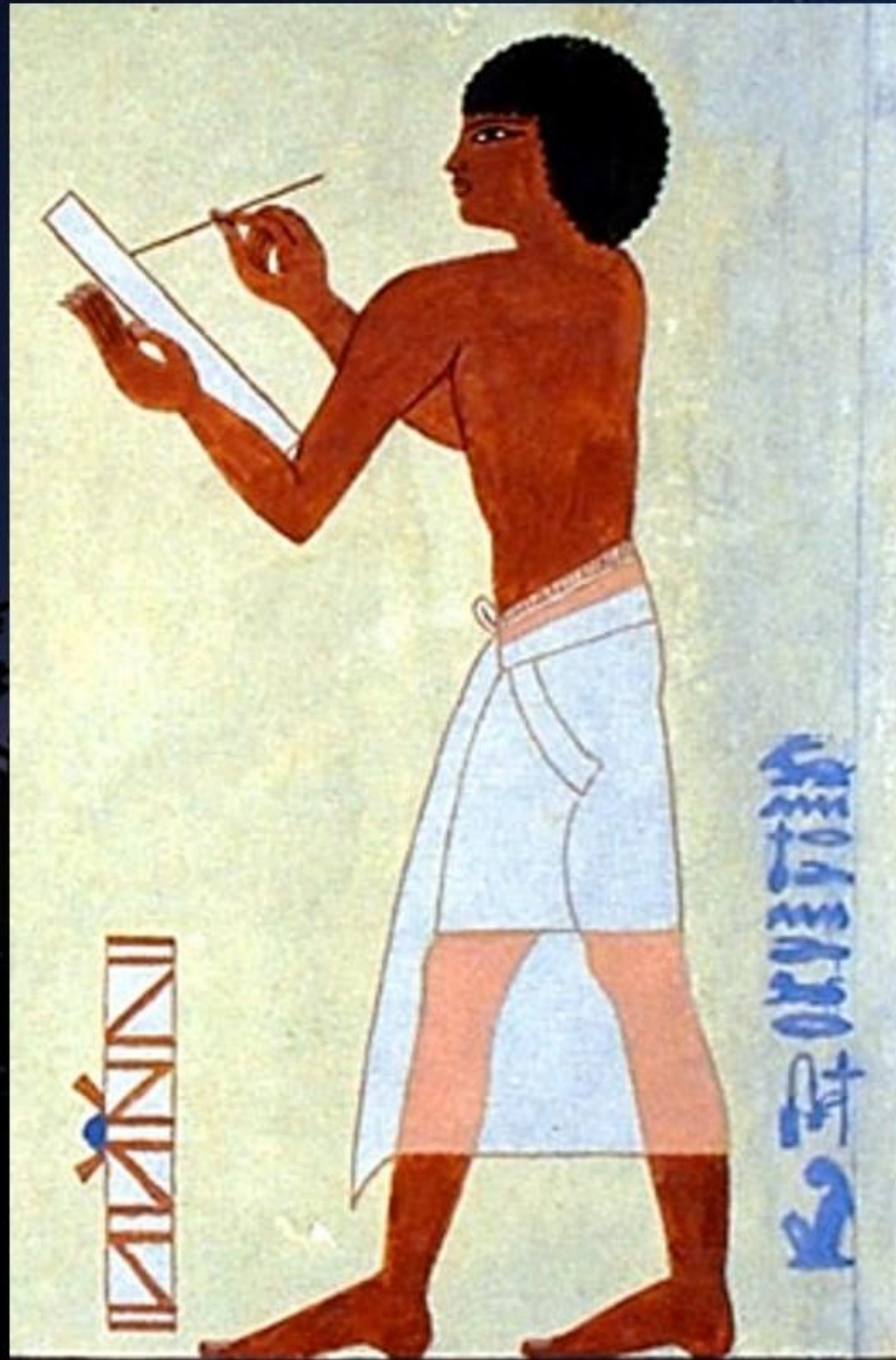


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What is Kemetic Literature?



Kemetic Sesh

- Along with Sumerian comprises some of the world's earliest literature
- By early Dynastic period, Kemetic literature is already well-developed (written in "hieroglyphic" and "hieratic")
- Major forms include:
 - Spiritual (Liturgical) Writing
 - Mrkhuti (Pyramid) Text; Neb Ankh (Coffin) Text; Reu Pert em Heru em Gr (Book of Coming Forth to Day from Night; mis. Book of the Dead)
 - Sebayt (Wisdom) Literature
 - Maxims of Ptah Hotep
 - Instructions of Amenemope
 - Mythic Stories (Prose)
 - Discourse Between a Man and His Soul
 - Story of Sinuhe
 - Monumental Inscriptions
 - Inscription of Nefer-Seshem-Re Called Sheshi

Spiritual (Liturgical) Writing

Mrkhut (Pyramid) Texts

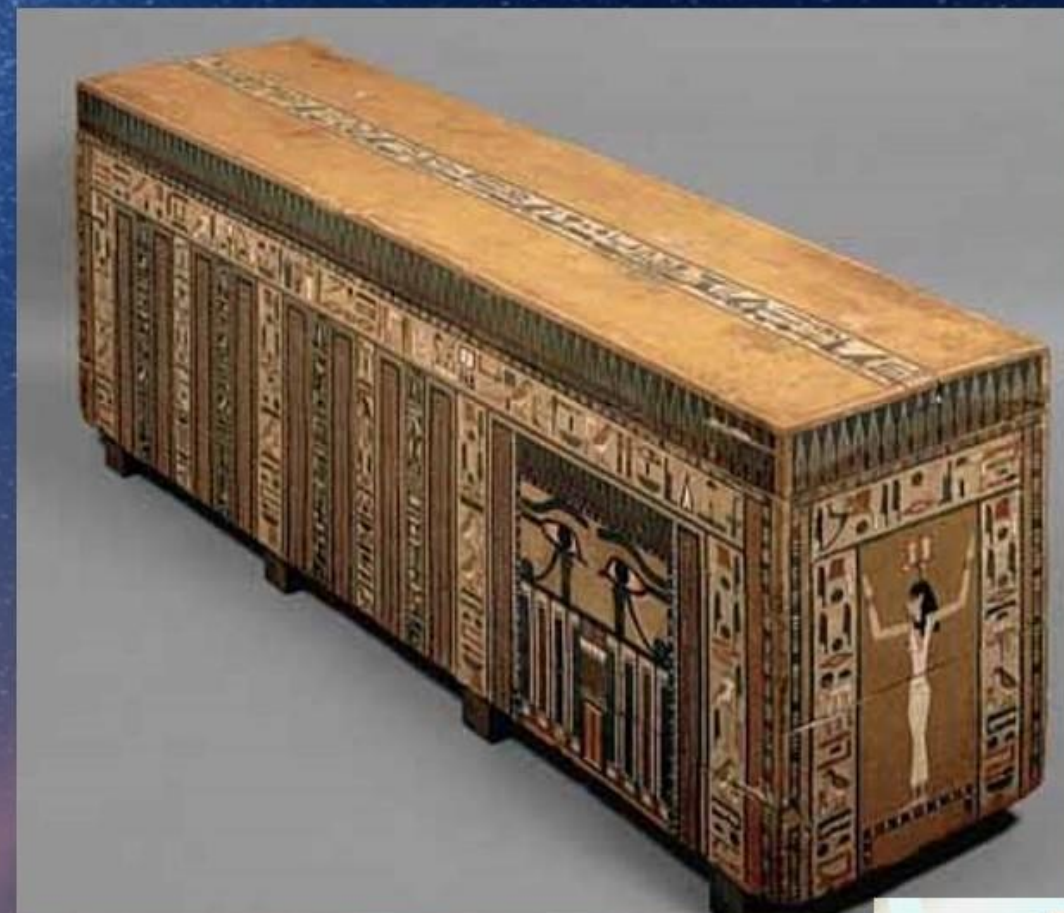
- **Earliest spiritual text in history; carved on wall and coffins of Old Kingdom rulers**
- **First version 228 “spells” or utterances in Mrkhut of Unas (5th Dyn., circa 2375-2345 BCE)**
- **Similar versions on other mrkhuti of 5th and 6th Dynasty rulers, but none of the version of completely the same (to date 759 utterances indentified)**
- **Utterances are focused on transition of ruler to afterworld**
- **Some of the oldest mentions of Ausar**
- **Unlike Coffin Texts and Pert em Heru, these resurrection texts are restricted to royal class**
- **Texts are not narrative, seems to describe ceremonies**



Spiritual (Liturgical) Writing

Neb Ankh (Coffin) Texts

- Evolution of Mrkhut Texts; Includes several similar versions of utterances
- Begin in First Intermediate Period tombs, but mostly in the Middle Kingdom; 1,185 utterances indentified
- Subterranean realm is littered with traps that the deceased must fend off to prevent “2nd death”
- Primary contributions:
 - Detailed description of the Duat; and resurrection as idealized version of living world
 - After “justification” deceased enter Duat *as* Ausar (WE ARE DIVINE)
 - Descriptions of Ba and Akh (souls)
- Unlike the Mrkhut Texts, Neb Ankh Texts include descriptions of life and afterworld which seems relevant to average person
- Afterlife is for all who live Ma’at



Spiritual (Liturgical) Writing

Reu Pert em Heru em Ger

“Book of Coming Forth to Day from Night” - Misnomered “Book of the Dead”



- Continued evolution of concept of resurrection; once again accessible to average person
- Similar utterances to Mrkhut and Neb Ankh Texts; new lines date to Third Intermediate Period; 1st version belonged to Queen Mentuhotep (2nd Intermediate Period – 13th Dyn.)
- Usually carved in tomb, neb ankhs, but mostly written on papyri
- Includes “spell” 125 known as the Weighing of the Heart (dates from time of Hatshepsut and Tehutimes III, 18th Dyn.) and beautifully rendered illustrations
- Standardized by the 25th and 26th Dyns. (Saite Recension), 192 utterances identified
- 1842 Karl Richard Lepsius publishes first manuscript, creates modern numbering system and coins name “Book of the Dead”

Spiritual (Liturgical) Writing

Reu Pert em Heru em Ger Continued



Organization of Saite Recension Versions

Chapters 1–16 The deceased enters the tomb, descends to the underworld, and the body regains its powers of movement and speech.

Chapters 17–63 Explanation of the mythic origin of the gods and places, the deceased are made to live again so that they may arise, reborn, with the morning sun.

Chapters 64–129 The deceased travels across the sky in the sun ark as one of the blessed dead. In the evening, the deceased travels to the underworld to appear before Osiris.

Chapters 130–189 Having been vindicated, the deceased assumes power in the universe as one of the gods. This section also includes assorted chapters on protective amulets, provision of food, and important places.

Kemetic Sebayt (Wisdom) Literature

- **Not only world's first moral instruction literature but also first complete book**
- **Prisse Papyrus (purchased by Emile Prisse de Avennes) dates to 12th Dyn. and contains portion of Instruction of Kagemni (4th Dyn.) and entire Maxims of Ptah Hotep (5th Dyn.)**
- **Each of the maxims in genre structured to teach one of live life in Ma'at**
- **Major works include:**
 - **Instruction of Kagemni**
 - **Maxims of Ptah Hotep**
 - **Instructions of Amenemope**
 - **Teaching for Merykara**



Ptah Hotep
5th Dynasty (2414 – 2375) Vizier

Mythic Stories

- Kemetic prose demonstrate world's earliest corpus of fiction
- Writing in this genre is very direct, while colorful, there is no description for sake of description
- Origins of Rhetoric are usually described as Greek, but seems it must be Kemet
- Subgenre include:
 - Encomium of the King
 - Personal Lyric
 - Sacred Song
- Literature often underscore approach to living life of Ma'at
- Major texts include:
 - The Discourse Between a Man and His Ba
 - The Elegant Peasant
 - Story of Sinuhe
 - The Shipwrecked Sailor



Shem em Hetep!!! Go Forth in Peace!!!

Next Sebkheth: Kemetic Signs and Symbols

Read the Maxims of Ptah
Hotep and send an email to
group describing a maxim
which is meaningful in your
life

