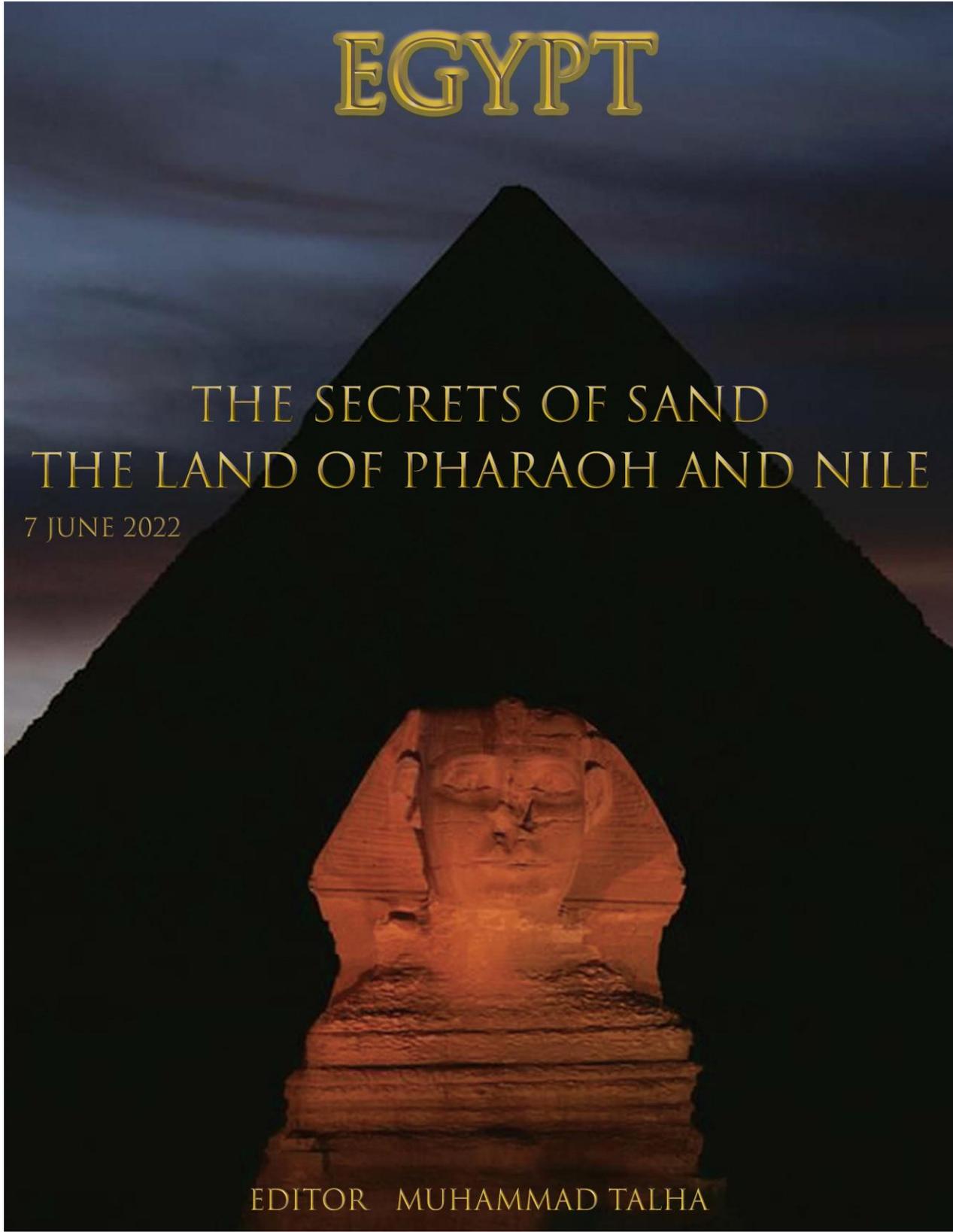


# EGYPT



## THE SECRETS OF SAND THE LAND OF PHARAOH AND NILE

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# THE CIVILIZATION OF NILE

THE EGYPTIAN OR THE NILE VALLEY CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED, AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, ALONG THE BANKS OF THE RIVER NILE IN EGYPT. ITS LONG, NARROW FLOOD PLAIN WAS A MAGNET FOR LIFE, ATTRACTING PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND PLANTS TO ITS BANKS, AND PROVIDING IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STABLE COMMUNITIES. 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,



EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE REGION WAS INHABITED AS FAR BACK AS 700,000 YEARS AGO BY NEOLITHIC AND PALEOLITHIC MAN. TO DATE, THE OLDEST TOOLS FOUND IN THE LOWER NILE VALLEY HAVE BEEN FOUND IN AND NEAR THE CLIFFS OF ABU SIMBEL, JUST ACROSS THE RIVER FROM WHERE, MILLENNIA LATER, THE DESCENDANTS OF THESE PEOPLE WOULD BUILD THE TEMPLE OF RAMESES II. BY PRE-DYNASTIC AMRATIAN TIMES, ABOUT 3600 BC, AGRICULTURE APPEARS TO HAVE BEGUN IN THE VALLEY ALLUVIUMS OF THE NILE. BY LATE PRE-DYNASTIC TIMES, ABOUT 3100 BC, THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN WEALTH CONSEQUENT UPON THE EARLIER AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOMPANIED BY A MORE INTEGRATED SOCIAL SYSTEM AND THE RISE OF THE PHARAOH DYNASTIES.



# THE GREAT PYRAMIDS

THOUGH SOME POPULAR VERSIONS OF HISTORY HELD THAT THE PYRAMIDS WERE BUILT BY SLAVES OR FOREIGNERS FORCED INTO LABOR, SKELETONS EXCAVATED FROM THE AREA SHOW THAT THE WORKERS WERE PROBABLY NATIVE EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL LABORERS WHO WORKED ON THE PYRAMIDS DURING THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN THE NILE RIVER FLOODED MUCH OF THE LAND NEARBY. APPROXIMATELY 2.3 MILLION BLOCKS OF STONE (AVERAGING ABOUT 2.5 TONS EACH) HAD TO BE CUT, TRANSPORTED AND ASSEMBLED TO BUILD KHUFU'S GREAT PYRAMID.

NO PYRAMIDS ARE MORE CELEBRATED THAN THE GREAT PYRAMIDS OF GIZA, LOCATED ON A PLATEAU ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE RIVER, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MODERN-DAY CAIRO. THE OLDEST AND LARGEST OF THE THREE PYRAMIDS AT GIZA, KNOWN AS THE GREAT PYRAMID, IS THE ONLY SURVIVING STRUCTURE OUT OF THE FAMED SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. IT WAS BUILT FOR PHARAOH KHUFU (CHEOPS, IN GREEK), SNEFERU'S SUCCESSOR AND THE SECOND OF THE EIGHT KINGS OF THE FOURTH DYNASTY. THOUGH KHUFU REIGNED FOR 23 YEARS (2589-2566 B.C.), RELATIVELY LITTLE IS KNOWN OF HIS REIGN BEYOND THE GRANDEUR OF HIS PYRAMID. THE SIDES OF THE PYRAMID'S BASE AVERAGE 755.75 FEET (230 METERS), AND ITS ORIGINAL HEIGHT WAS 481.4 FEET (147 METERS), MAKING IT THE LARGEST PYRAMID IN THE WORLD. THREE SMALL PYRAMIDS BUILT FOR KHUFU'S QUEENS ARE LINED UP NEXT TO THE GREAT PYRAMID, AND A TOMB WAS FOUND NEARBY CONTAINING THE EMPTY SARCOPHAGUS OF HIS MOTHER, QUEEN HETEPHERES. LIKE OTHER PYRAMIDS, KHUFU'S IS SURROUNDED BY ROWS OF MASTABAS, WHERE RELATIVES OR OFFICIALS OF THE KING WERE BURIED TO ACCOMPANY AND SUPPORT HIM IN THE AFTERLIFE.

THE MIDDLE PYRAMID AT GIZA WAS BUILT FOR KHUFU'S SON PHARAOH KHAFRE (2558-2532 B.C.). THE PYRAMID OF KHAFRE IS THE SECOND TALLEST PYRAMID AT GIZA AND CONTAINS PHARAOH KHAFRE'S TOMB. A UNIQUE FEATURE BUILT INSIDE KHAFRE'S PYRAMID COMPLEX WAS THE GREAT SPHINX, A GUARDIAN STATUE CARVED IN LIMESTONE WITH THE HEAD OF A MAN AND THE BODY OF A LION. IT WAS THE LARGEST STATUE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD, MEASURING 240 FEET LONG AND 66 FEET HIGH. IN THE 18TH DYNASTY (c. 1500 B.C.) THE GREAT SPHINX WOULD COME TO BE WORSHIPPED ITSELF, AS THE IMAGE OF A LOCAL FORM OF THE GOD HORUS. THE SOUTHERNMOST PYRAMID AT GIZA WAS BUILT FOR KHAFRE'S SON MENKAURE (2532-2503 B.C.). IT IS THE SHORTEST OF THE THREE PYRAMIDS (218 FEET) AND IS A PRECURSOR OF THE SMALLER PYRAMIDS THAT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED DURING THE FIFTH AND SIXTH DYNASTIES.

# POWERFULL PHARAHOHS OF ANCIENT EGYPT



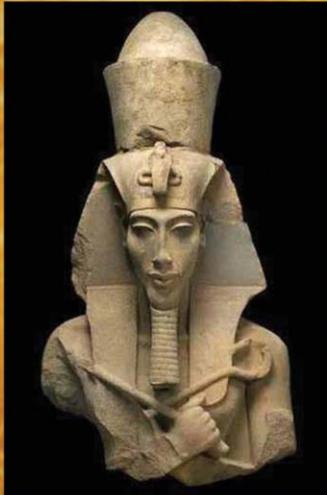
**THUTMOSE III**  
(1481 BC – 1425 BC)

THUTMOSE WAS THE HEIR TO THE 18TH DYNASTY OF EGYPT AND THE STEPSON OF THE PREVIOUS PHARAOH HATSHEPSUT. BEING THE ONLY SON OF KING THUTMOSE II, HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE OVER THE THRONE AFTER HIS DEATH, BUT HE WAS ONLY TWO YEARS OLD AT THE TIME SO HIS STEPMOTHER HATSHEPSUT ASCENDED THE THRONE WHILE HE BECAME HER CO-REGENT. HIS REIGN LASTED FOR 54 YEARS AND HE DIED AT THE EARLY AGE OF 56, BUT HIS CONTRIBUTION TO EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION IS STILL CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST, WIDELY KNOWN AS THE "NAPOLEON OF EGYPT." THUTMOSE HAD A WIDE LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS. THE EXPANSION OF THE EGYPTIAN KINGDOM UNDER HIS REIGN WAS NOTABLE.



**AMENHOTEP III**  
(1391 BC – 1353 BC)

AMENHOTEP'S RULE IS REMEMBERED AS ONE OF ARTISTIC GLORY AND PROSPERITY. HE WAS THE NINTH PHARAOH OF THE 18TH DYNASTY WHOSE REIGN LASTED FROM 1391 BC TO 1353 BC. HE HAD A LARGE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY OF EGYPT WHICH BLOSSOMED UNDER HIS REIGN THANKS TO THE HEALTHY TRADE RELATIONS AT THIS TIME. HE CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO THE FIELD OF ART BY BUILDING MANY MONUMENTS, STATUES, AND STONE SCARABS THAT ARE STILL IN GOOD CONDITION TODAY. MANY TEXTS WERE FOUND ENGRAVED ON THESE SCARABS DURING EXCAVATIONS DEPICTING A VARIETY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS. HE IS CREDITED AS THE PHARAOH WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF HIS OWN STATUES.

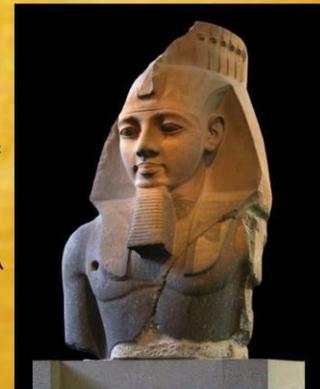


**AKHENATEN**  
(1380 BC – 1334 BC)

AKHENATEN, ALSO KNOWN AS AMENHOTEP IV, WAS AN ANCIENT PHARAOH OF THE 18TH DYNASTY. HIS REIGN LASTED FROM 1353 BC TO 1336 BC AND WAS NOT MUCH ENJOYED BY HIS PEOPLE DUE TO THE UNPOPULAR REFORMATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE. THE EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN USED TO WORSHIPING A LARGE NUMBER OF DEITIES, BUT AKHENATEN TRIED TO CHANGE THIS RELIGIOUS TRADITION TO MONOTHEISM, OR THE WORSHIP OF ONLY ONE GOD. THIS GOD WAS ATEN, A KIND OF SOLAR DEITY RELATED TO THE GOD RA. THE PEOPLE AND FUTURE PHARAHOHS WERE SO UPSET BY THE CHANGE THAT AFTER AKHENATEN'S DEATH THEY DESTROYED HIS STATUES AND RETURNED TO THEIR SAME OLD METHOD OF WORSHIPING. HE WAS ELIMINATED FROM THE LIST OF KINGS AND ALMOST NO TRACE OF HIM WAS FOUND UNTIL THE DISCOVERY OF HIS REMAINS AT AKHETATEN. LATER, HIS SON TUTANKHAMUN REVERSED HIS FATHER'S RELIGIOUS REFORMS.

**RAMESSES II**  
(1303 BC – 1213 BC)

RAMESSES II WAS THE THIRD PHARAOH OF THE 19TH DYNASTY AND ONE OF THE GREATEST PHARAHOHS OF THE NEW KINGDOM OF EGYPT. EGYPTIANS OFTEN CALL HIM "THE GREAT ANCESTOR." RAMESSES IS SAID TO HAVE HAD A VICTORIOUS MILITARY CAREER THAT HIGHLY BENEFITED THE KINGDOM. HE LED SEVERAL MILITARY EXPEDITIONS AND CONQUERED MANY ENEMIES LIKE THE HITTITES, SYRIANS, AND NUBIANS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT NO PHARAOH HAS EVER SURPASSED HIS ARCHITECTURAL TRIUMPHS. HE BUILT AN EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF MONUMENTS SPREAD ALL OVER EGYPT THAT ARE NOW A PROUD PART OF EGYPTIAN HERITAGE. HE DIED AT THE AGE OF 90 AND WAS BURIED IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS. RAMESSES' UNUSUAL CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUED AFTER HIS DEATH TOO WHEN HIS REMAINS WERE SENT TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL AUTHORITIES IN FRANCE FOR RESTORATION. THE EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAD TO ISSUE A PASSPORT FOR THE DECEASED PHARAOH'S BODY TO ASSURE A LEGAL AND SAFE RETURN. PROPER DOCUMENTS WERE PREPARED WITH A PASSPORT THAT HAD "KING (DECEASED)" WRITTEN AS HIS OCCUPATION. THE MUMMY WAS RECEIVED AT THE AIRPORT WITH EVERY MILITARY HONOR DUE TO A KING.





NEFERTITI SPEAKS:  
SANDS OF TIME  
RELEASED MY  
ANCIENT IMAGE  
TO AWAKEN YOU TO  
THE ARTISTRY AND  
SPLENDOUR

THE END

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