WORLD HISTORY Day 3 Notes

Ancient Egypt

3250 B.C. **“Scorpion King”** – 1st to **begin** process of unifying Egypt

3100 B.C. **King Narmer [Menes]** (“Catfish King”) first to **unite Upper and Lower Egypt**

* “**Narmer Palette**” [evidence of Narmer defeating his enemy and taking control of Upper and Lower Egypt] – wore a “white” and “red” crown to symbolize the unification

Thought to be divine

* Founded 1st **dynasty**
  + series of rulers in same family
* Established capital at Memphis
* These leaders became known as **PHARAOHS**
  + name not used until New Kingdom
  + responsible for all good things in Egypt – esp. Nile flooding
  + ”Great House” originally used to describe royal palace
  + had power since the beginning of time
  + leaders had political and religious power (**Theocracy**)
    - United States wants “separation of church and state

Pharaohs established **Bureaucracy** (system of government)

~**Vizier** (asst. principle) – carry out orders, collect taxes

~provincial governors = **NOMARCH**

~scribes (records)

~overseers (supervise farming)

~to help Egypt run more efficiently it was divided into

**NOMES** [agricultural villages] with a NOMARCH [governor] for each nome

\*\***Nomarchs** tended to build land / power that at

times rivaled pharaohs

Pharaoh’s were considered **gods**

* took form of **Horus**
  + “Protector of Egypt”
* were seen as human
* expected to behave morally (follow **MAAT**)

MAAT

* goddess – had feather in headdress which would be used to weigh soul
* guiding principle in Egyptian society
* truth, justice, balance, order, right living, etc…
* pharaohs were divinely sent to maintain Maat

Egyptians obeyed the Pharaoh to prevent upsetting the pharaoh and other gods

* if gods were upset this could upset ***MAAT***
* by obeying pharaoh’s – they were helping maintain cosmic order
  + if things went bad – citizens were offending divinity and weakening the universal structure
  + If MAAT is disturbed life becomes unbalanced and ultimately the Nile could flood poorly

AFTERLIFE

depended on type of life you had lived

* only pharaohs felt to have afterlife
  + this changed during the Middle and New Kingdoms
* afterlife was a continuation of the “good life”

Egyptians felt pharaohs continued to rule Egypt after death

* “**Ka**” eternal spirit of pharaoh
  + “Ka” cannot live without the body
  + Egyptians began “Mummifying” bodies to preserve a home for the “Ka”
  + when pharaohs die they become “Osiris” (god of the underworld) and new pharaoh becomes “Horus” (protector of Egypt)

Pharaohs carry **ANKH**

* symbol for life – giving of the gift of life to the deceased (very popular in paintings)
* Sign of life

MUMMIFICATION

* **Anubis** (god of embalming process)
* bacteria causes a body to decay quickly had to remove all liquid from body
* brains taken out - felt brains served no purpose
* cut made in side and organs removed – heart left in [home of ka]
  + heart = center of intelligence/magical part of the body

When body reached tomb – priest would perform “**The Opening of the Mouth**”

* **Spell #23** – priest would touch the mummy’s mouth to enable to regain their senses
* restored a person’s faculties – eat/drink/move around
* Egyptians feared dying abroad because they knew they would not receive this rite and their afterlife would be in jeopardy

Journey to the Afterlife

* underworld below the earth = **DUAT**
* parts of it were full of perils – snakes/lakes of fire/executioners
* priests used “**Book of the Dead**” (Coffin texts [inscribed on coffin], Pyramid texts [inscribed on wall]) to cleanse soul and guide soul through the afterlife [Travel Guide for Underworld] – Passport through the dangers – provide provisions to ensure happiness / success

🡪spells counteracted dangers

* + - if recited correctly – could pass through underworld unharmed
    - Deluxe Version – Richer people
    - “Generic” Version – for poorer people
    - Took a whole night

”**Solar Bark**” – boat in which Ra (sun god) and the deceased pharaoh traveled through the underworld

On way to see Osiris through underworld, the deceased had to pass through 7 great halls each supervised by 3 gods

* unless names could be given for each god, journey was over
* not knowing names would be like arriving in a foreign country without a “passport”

D**eceased pharaoh is required to defend himself**

* **He first addresses Osiris reciting a “declaration of innocence” which is a denial of various evildoings. “I have not oppressed dependents.” “I have not caused anyone to go hungry.” “I have not caused anyone to weep.” “I have not diminished the food offerings in the temples…I have not taken the cakes set aside for the blessed.” “I am pure.”**
* **He does this to assure Osiris that he has lived a reasonably decent life.**
* **Next he begins by addressing 42 gods and denying various faults each are pointing out**
  + **If the deceased knows the secret names of the gods and the places of origin of Osiris, he**

**can please them to judge in his favor.**

* **Lastly the person addresses his heart, beseeching it not to bear witness against him. If the heart does not confirm the person’s innocence the person is lost, but if it confirms the person’s innocence then Horus leads the person before Osiris who assigns the person a place in heaven.**

WEIGHING of the HEART of the TWO TRUTHS

* Heart [life’s DVR] was weighed by Osiris against feather of Maat (Spell #125)
  + Heart is placed on scale – 42 assessor gods (one from each district in Egypt) would interrogate the dead man accusing him of crimes – if he was deemed to have told truthful answers – then Thoth (head of Ibis – god of wisdom) would write that he is “**true of voice**” and can pass to underworld
  + If heart was not heavier than feather your soul would be judged as “sin free” – and person could continue into eternity
  + If soul judged as sinner, it would be torn to pieces by the “Devourer of Souls” or “Eater of the Dead” [hippo, croc, lion]

Early tombs were placed in Pyramids [**Old Kingdom**]

>grave robbing was “big business” – pyramids acted as a “beacon” – telling thieves

to “come and get it”

>tombs were later placed in the “Valley of the Kings”

>tombs were made to resemble “Mini-Worlds” which included everything the spirit would need to

survive in the afterlife

>buried facing east to see rising sun

Tombs were filled with everything the pharaoh would need to continue life in the afterlife

* **TO PLEASE THE “KA”**
  + Pictures of hunts
  + Jewelry
  + Furniture
  + Weapons
  + Ushabtis [statues of workers]
  + Mummified animals
    - Cats – goddess Bast – protect against disease, spirits, rids homes of pests
    - Protected graineries from rodents – saved food supply
    - When cat died its owner would shave his eyebrows
    - If you accidentally killed a cat – you were probably killed