



PROLONGATION OF LIFE AFTER DEATH IN EGYPT

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Abstract

Ancient Egypt civilization is located northeastern Africa along the banks of the Nile and dates from the fourth millennium BCE. “Egypt was the river Nile. It was a narrow carpet of soil enclosed within a rocky slot in the sands” (White, 1963: P.15). Egyptian society was divided into social classes, with the Pharaoh at the very top. After that, noblemen and priests were important and priests controlled the religious affairs of the state. Scribes or record keepers were citizens who were able to read, write while sailors, soldiers, artisans, and merchants belonged to the middle class and had a good financial rank. Peasants cultivated the lands by affiliating to the Pharaohs, temples, and aristocrats. The last social class was slaves and they were considered as prisoners of war who were building monuments and pyramids. One of the substantial facts about Egypt culture is that they believed the body and soul were significant to human existence, in life as well as in death, thus, Egyptians gave immense precedence to build pyramids. Therefore, when studying Egyptian civilization, it illustrates that their funerary practices, such as mummification and burial in tombs, were designed to assist the deceased to find their way in the afterworld. They believed that the body was the link to a spiritual existence in the afterlife. Hence, the main objective of this research is to carry out an in-depth analysis of the reasons for building pyramids and how Egyptians linked them to prolong life after death. The secondary objective is a historical study through the ancient Egyptian civilization to discover the importance of preserving ancient heritage in a country since they are the best indications that exemplified the identity of a country. The research is based on primary and secondary data and secondary data is obtained from both published sources and articles including “*The Black Land*” written by Merlin Peris and “*Everyday Life in Ancient Egypt*” by Jon White. Conclusive evidence brings to light that the Egyptians achieved their religious goals through the creation of the pyramids, and their beliefs in the life after death concept are disclosed through the stuff that they buried which still leads to important discoveries. Also, Egyptians have gifted the world a unique and novel creation which exemplified their identity to the world.

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