



Egyptomorphisms

A PHOTOALBUM BY FLORENTIN SMARANDACHE



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The Egypto-Author

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Egyptomorphisms

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I am honoring an invitation to Egypt, from prof. Adel Muhammad Haridy, from Minufya University, located in Shebin Elkom, to hold a seminar on neutrosophic logic.



steel lines

When I arrived, in December, the temperature was around 20-25°C, but it gets cool in the night. In my Gallup, it had snowed, there was ice on the ground, and it was incredibly cold!

Egyptian modernity



The first Arabic expressions I learned when I was teaching mathematics in French in Morocco (1982-1984) were:

Shukren = Thanks.

In Sha' Allah! = If God wills it!

La = no, *Nam* = yes, *Min fad lak* = please.

at a trot



Pharaoh's throne



I also knew how to count, but in the Moroccan dialect, “two” is *juj*, while in the Egyptian one, they say *nin*.

sneak peak



The numbers look flipped, as if they were mirrored – basically, it's the new Arabic number system, and the one we use today is the old one.

gloomy day

Every Arab country has its own dialect, but they use the language of the Quran (Fusha – considered “classical” Arabic, the lingua franca, but also the holy language of Islam) to understand each other.



whirling waters

The Arabic alphabet has 28 letters, and it's read from right to left, and the books from finish to start, compared to texts in the Latin alphabet. The Arabic alphabet is the second most used alphabet in the world, after the Latin one, and it's used in non-Arabic but Muslim nations too.





Though they look like nonsense, the Arabic letters are relatively easy to learn.

tradition

assembly

Adel Helmy Philipps, physics professor at Ain Sams University, and Walid Zein, his PhD student in nanotechnology, were waiting for me at the Cairo airport.



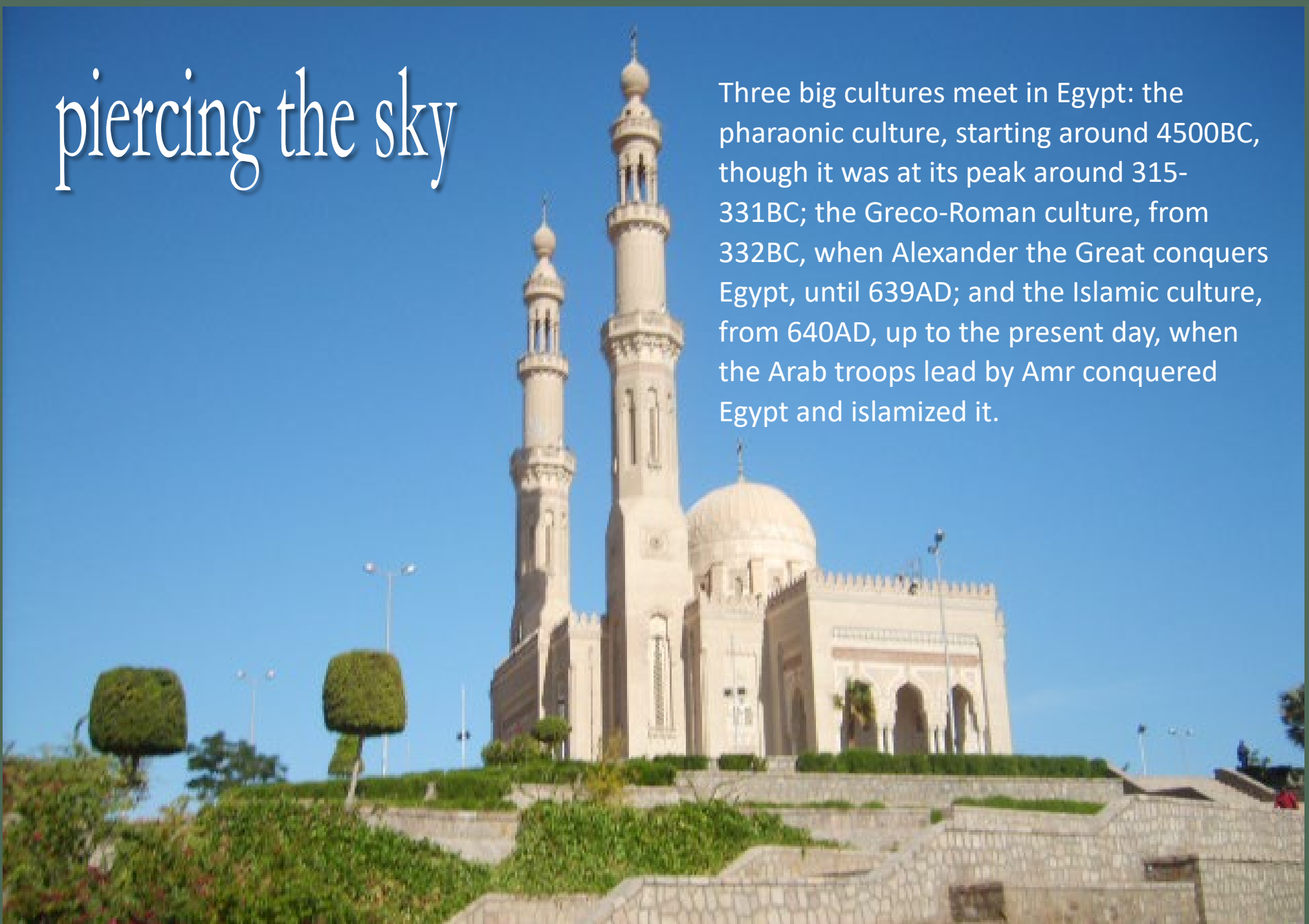
Adel contributes to the “Progress in Physics” paper, where I’m an associate editor (along with Larissa Borissova and Stephen Crothers, while the lead editor is Dmitri Rabounski), with articles on superconductivity, quantic effects, or nanoelectronics.

once upon a time



piercing the sky

Three big cultures meet in Egypt: the pharaonic culture, starting around 4500BC, though it was at its peak around 315-331BC; the Greco-Roman culture, from 332BC, when Alexander the Great conquers Egypt, until 639AD; and the Islamic culture, from 640AD, up to the present day, when the Arab troops lead by Amr conquered Egypt and islamized it.



The Assyrians had conquered the country between 671-664BC. Between 524-404BC (the 27th dynasty, under kings Cambyses, Darius I, Xerxes I, Artaxerxes I, Xerxes II, Darius II, Artaxerxes II) and 342-332BC (the 31st dynasty, under kings Artaxerxes III, Arses, and the illustrious Darius III), Egypt was under Persian occupation.

secluded beach

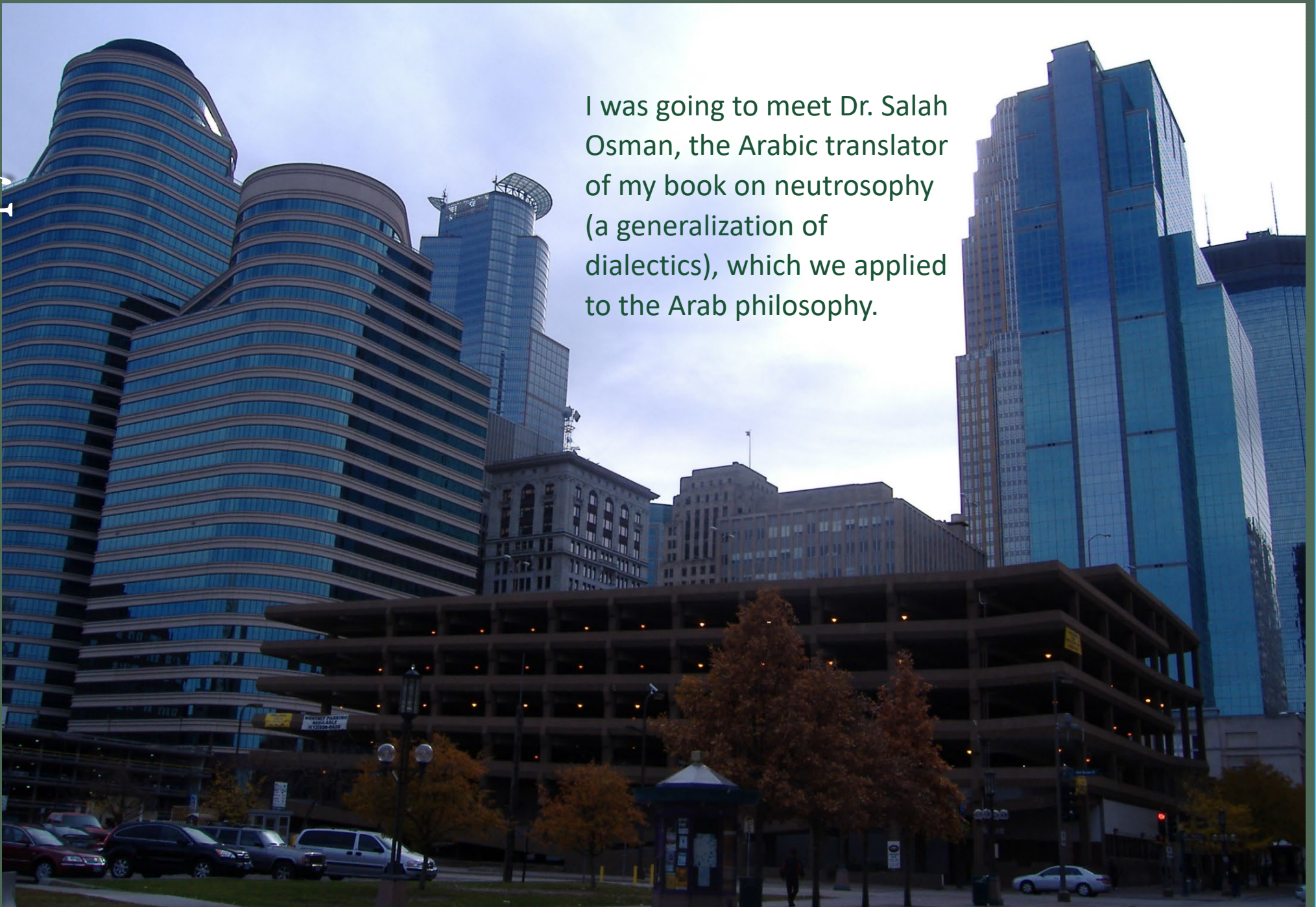




Egypt was an Ottoman province between 1517-1805, but ended Turkish rule in 1914-1922, only to become... a British protectorate.

intriguing road

I was going to meet Dr. Salah Osman, the Arabic translator of my book on neutrosophy (a generalization of dialectics), which we applied to the Arab philosophy.

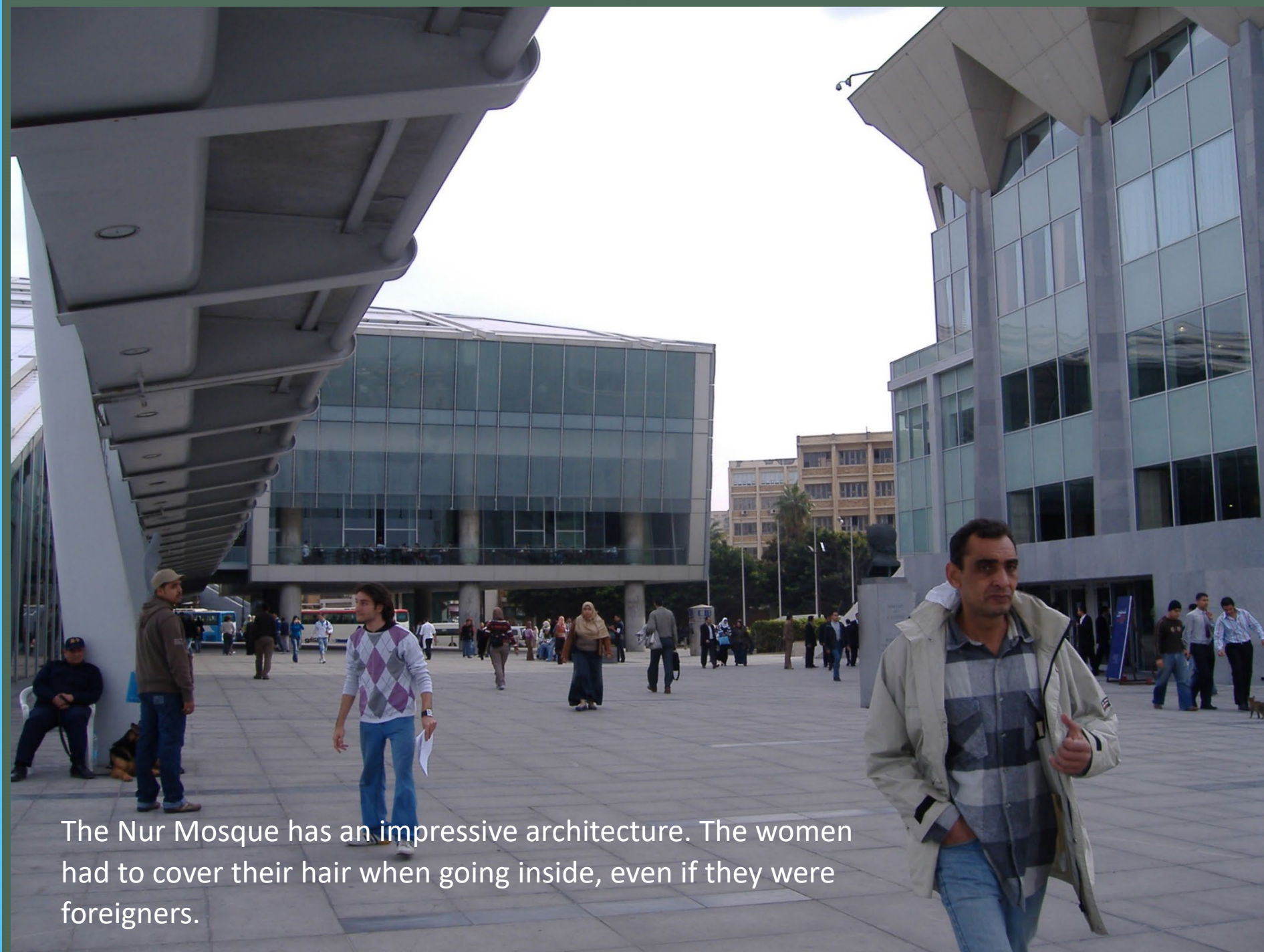




Dr. Muhammad Tawfiq Al-Dawi, who prefaced our book, was going to drive us from Alexandria to Shebin Elkom, roughly 100 miles, with his personal car.

I took the tram from my hotel to the bus stop. I was headed to the museum in a big, chunky, dusty bus, like in Bălcești.





The Nur Mosque has an impressive architecture. The women had to cover their hair when going inside, even if they were foreigners.

Ordinary life

twilight

The Egyptian Museum of Cairo, which opened in 1902, contains over 150.000 pieces exposed over two floors, and has 30,000 art pieces in the storage.

a serene walk

Only 4% of Egypt's surface is inhabited: on both sides of the Nile and in some isolated oases. The rest is a burning hot desert.



standing out

Ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife.

Ancient Egyptians had such big eyes – drawn on the tomb frescoes!



exploring the new old world

In the museum's yard, there's a statue of the French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette (1821-1881), who dedicated his life to discovering and conserving objects from the Nubian Area (1853) and creating an Egyptian museum.





All kinds of guides: Russians, Spaniards, Englishmen, Germans, Italians, Japanese, and even Chinese.

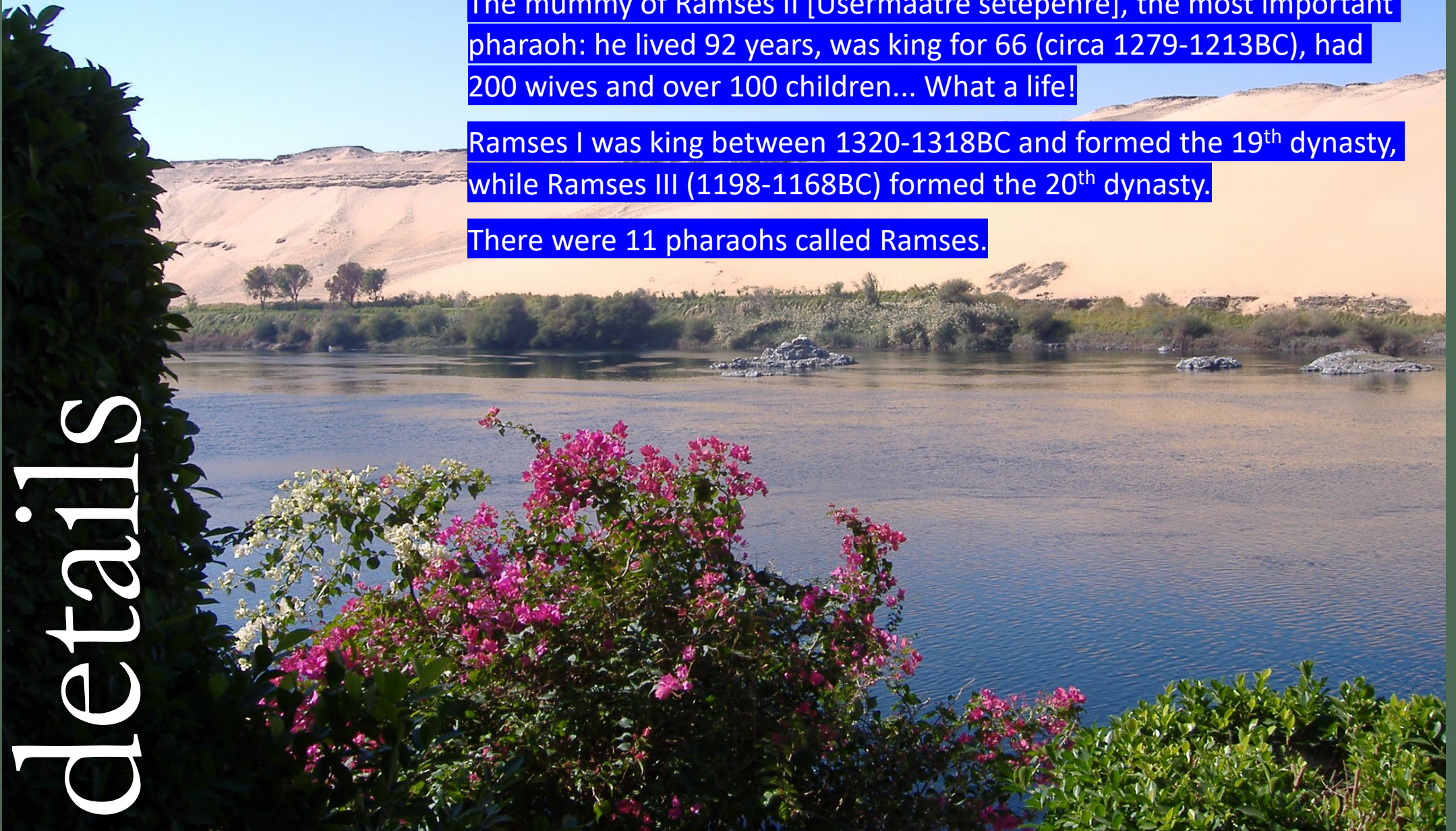
break

details

The mummy of Ramses II [Usermaatre setepenre], the most important pharaoh: he lived 92 years, was king for 66 (circa 1279-1213BC), had 200 wives and over 100 children... What a life!

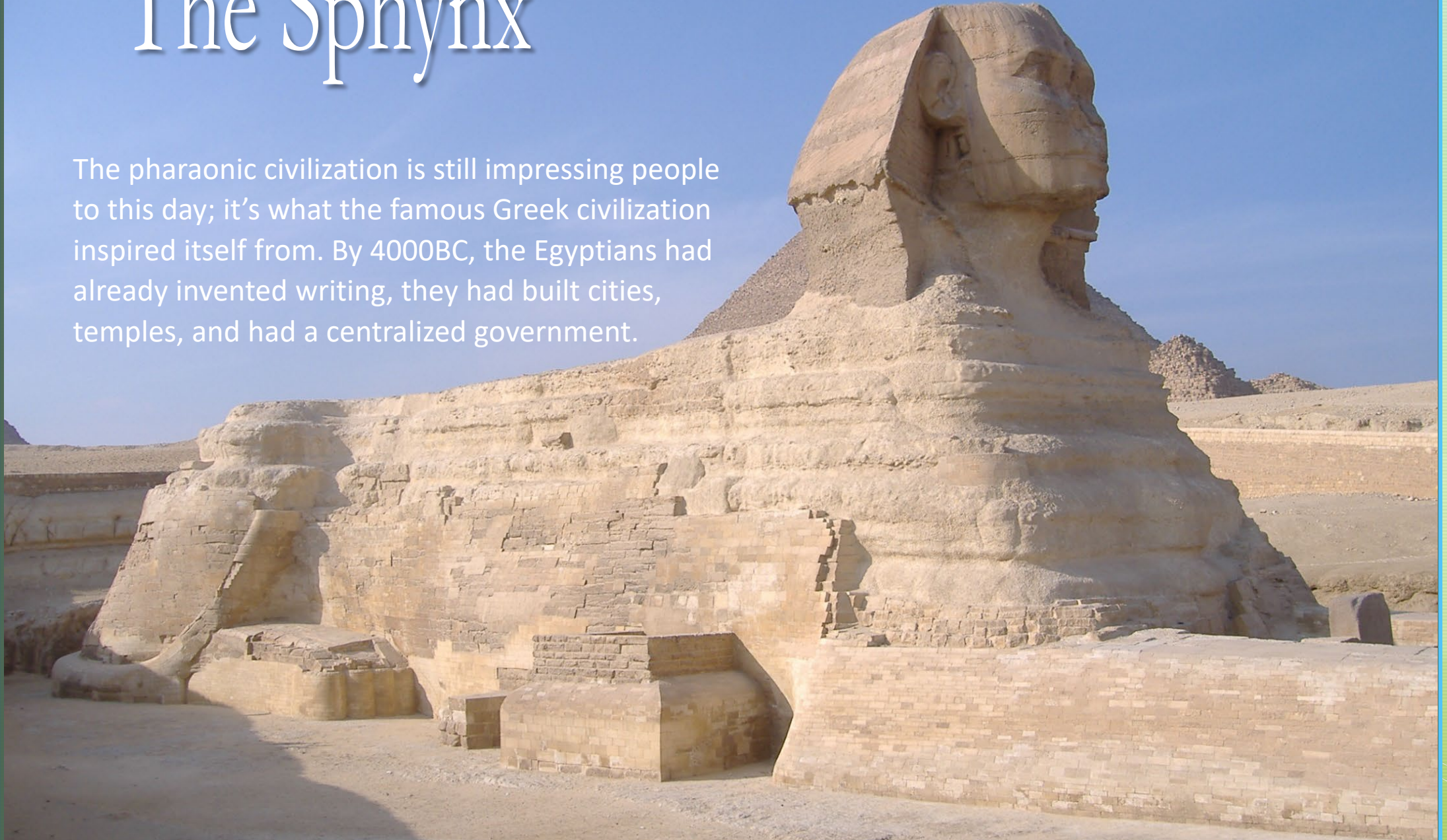
Ramses I was king between 1320-1318BC and formed the 19th dynasty, while Ramses III (1198-1168BC) formed the 20th dynasty.

There were 11 pharaohs called Ramses.



The Sphinx

The pharaonic civilization is still impressing people to this day; it's what the famous Greek civilization inspired itself from. By 4000BC, the Egyptians had already invented writing, they had built cities, temples, and had a centralized government.



freedom

The pharaohs, starting with the 4th (2575-2465BC), and especially the 5th (2465-2323BC), Snefru (2575-2465BC), Khufu (2551-2528BC), respectively Userkaf (2465-2458BC), Sahura (2458-2446BC), etc., pretended they were descendants of the Sun God (and that they're thus divine or semidivine) to maintain legitimacy.



what's left...

The tomb of Tutankhamun, the child-king (1333-1323BC) was discovered in 1923 by American archeologist Howard Carter in the Valley of Kings (near the modern city Luxor). His death mask is made entirely of gold and weights 11kg.

Lucky that the tomb raiders didn't find it!

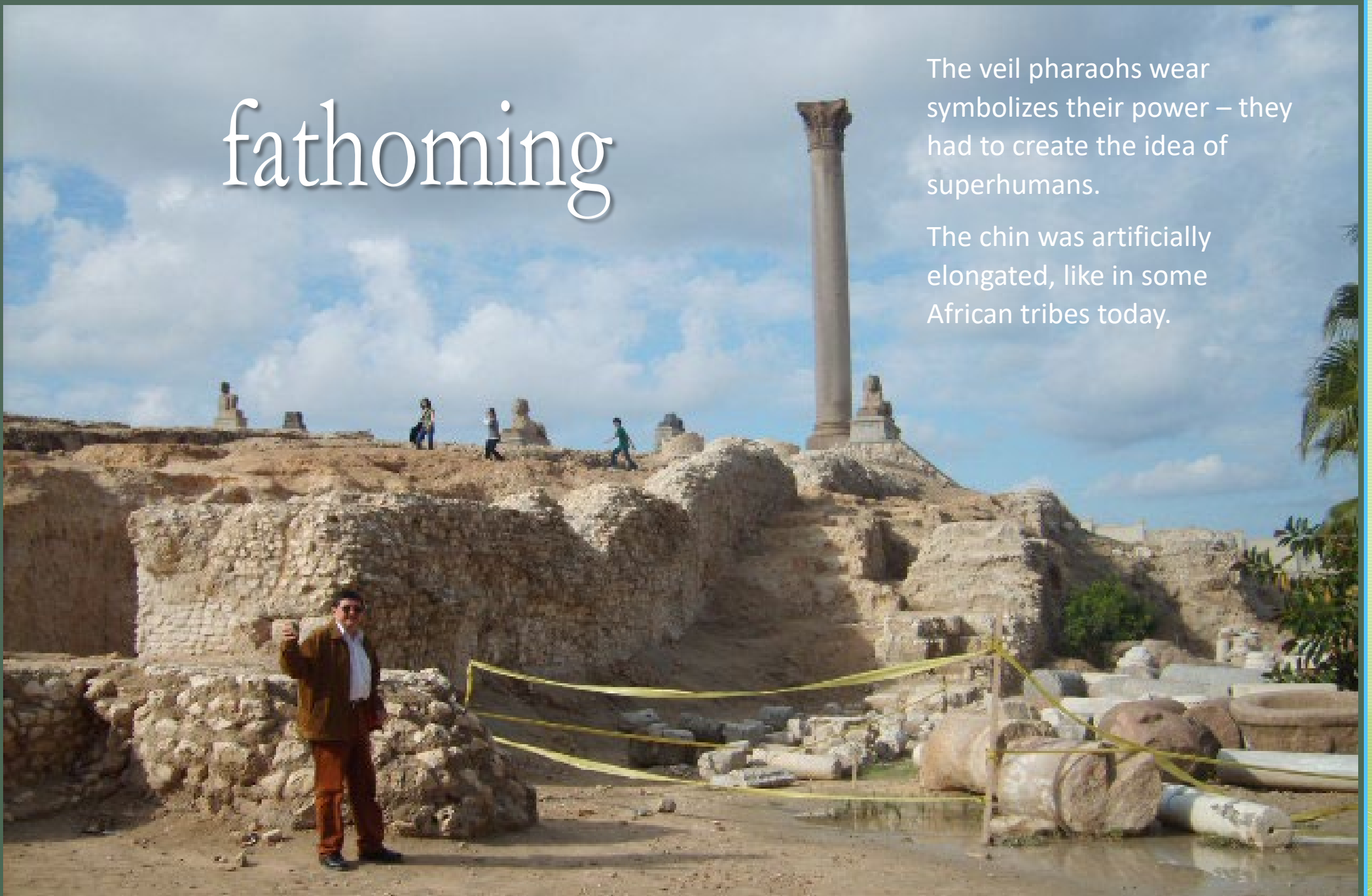
Some tombs were found accidentally (such as a photographer falling in a hole, between rocks).

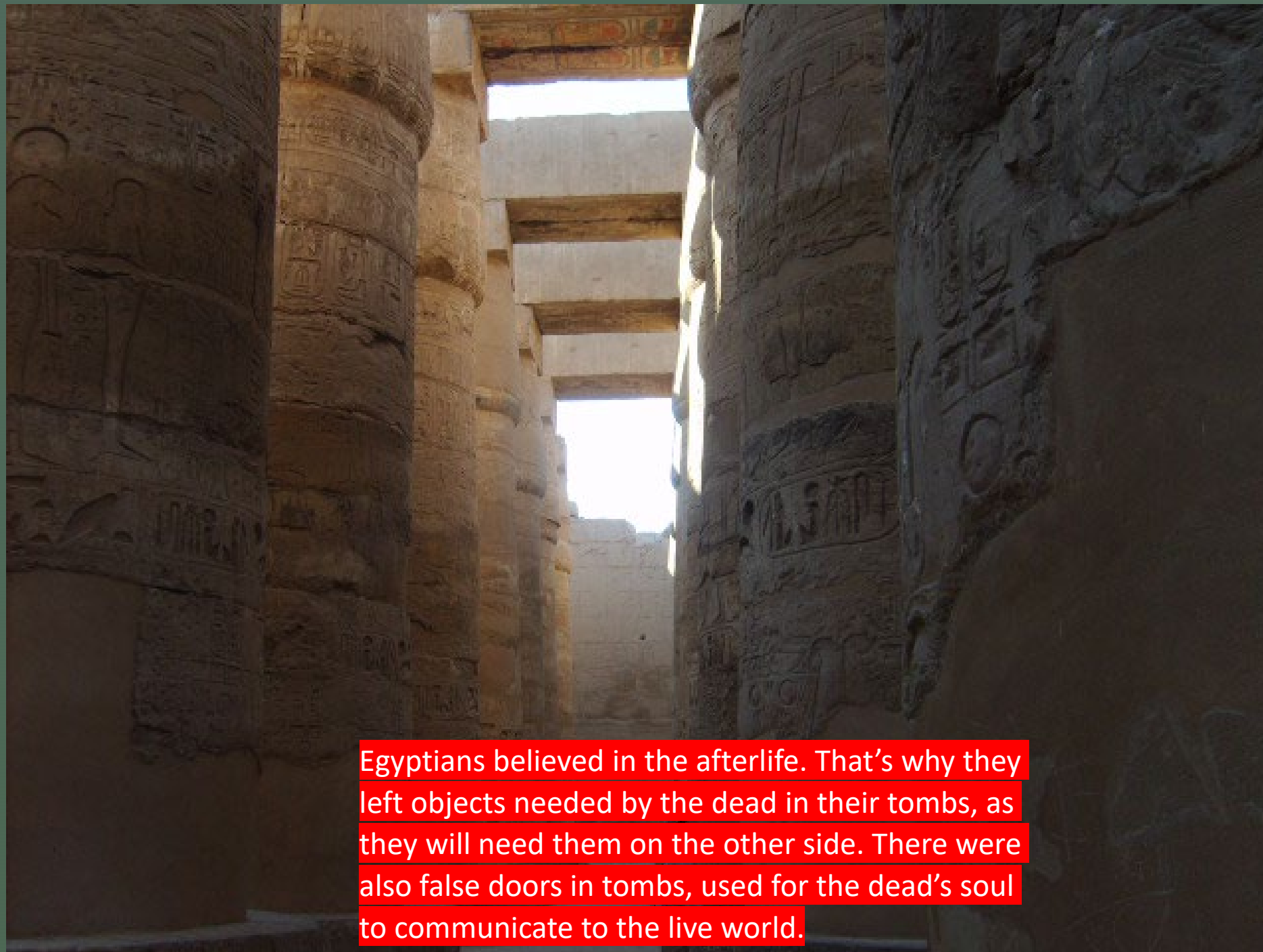


fathoming

The veil pharaohs wear symbolizes their power – they had to create the idea of superhumans.

The chin was artificially elongated, like in some African tribes today.





Egyptians believed in the afterlife. That's why they left objects needed by the dead in their tombs, as they will need them on the other side. There were also false doors in tombs, used for the dead's soul to communicate to the live world.

lost

scouting the past

The cult of personality from the pharaonic times was appropriated by emperors, kings and dictators. Currently, there is a cult of personality of some scientists, for useless, sometimes unproven theories! Same goes for some artists and writers from certain nations.



the headless soldier



The pharaohs were considered of two natures: human and divine. They could change and apply the laws of order and discipline (called ma'at). Outside of ma'at, it was chaos.

by the Gods

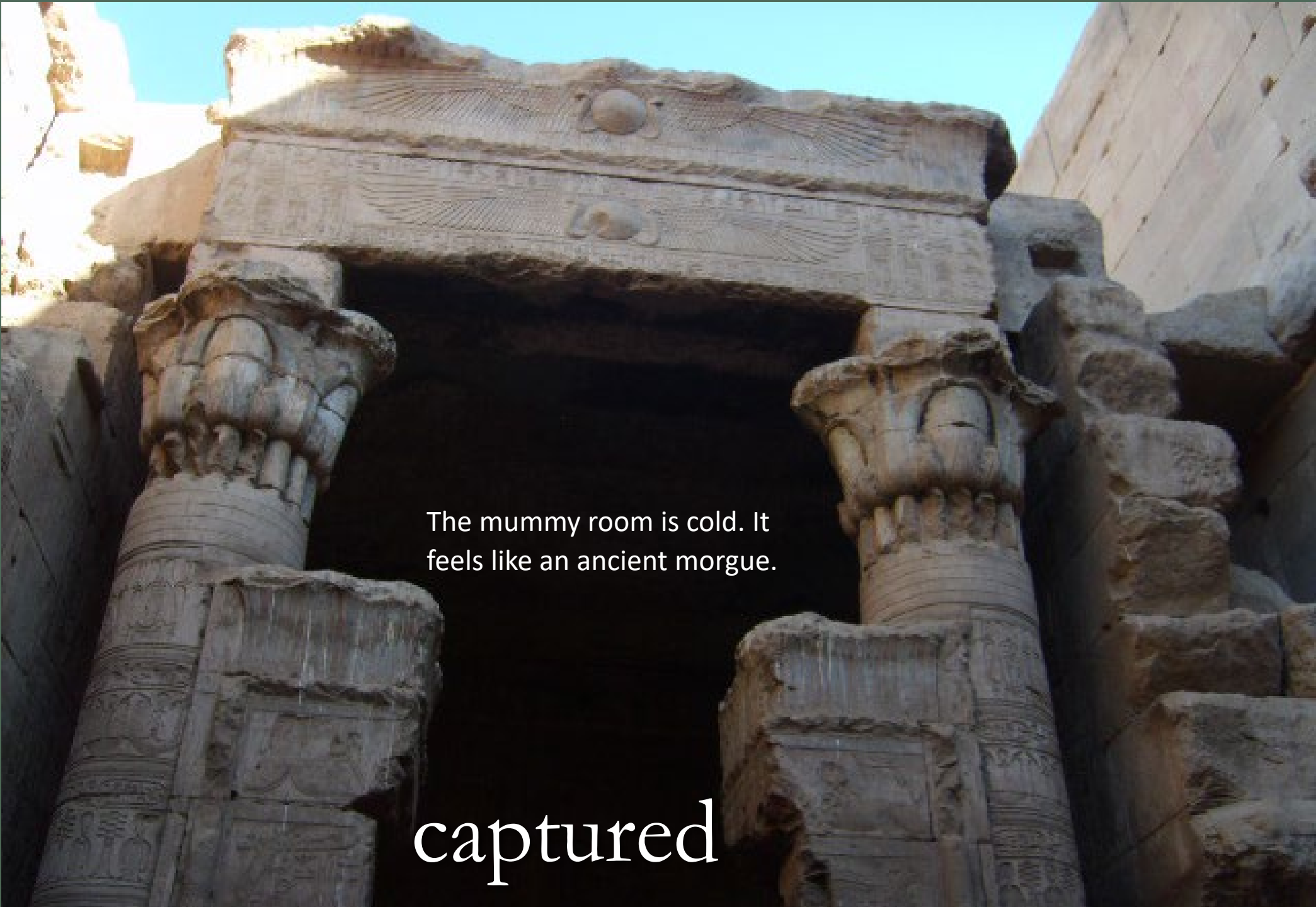


Few knew how to write and read at the time, only the pharaoh's children, priests and high-level civil servants.

the ancient story



The pharaoh's statues kept the souls of the dead (named *ka*), according to Egyptian mythology. The highest rank priests governed entire provinces.



The mummy room is cold. It
feels like an ancient morgue.

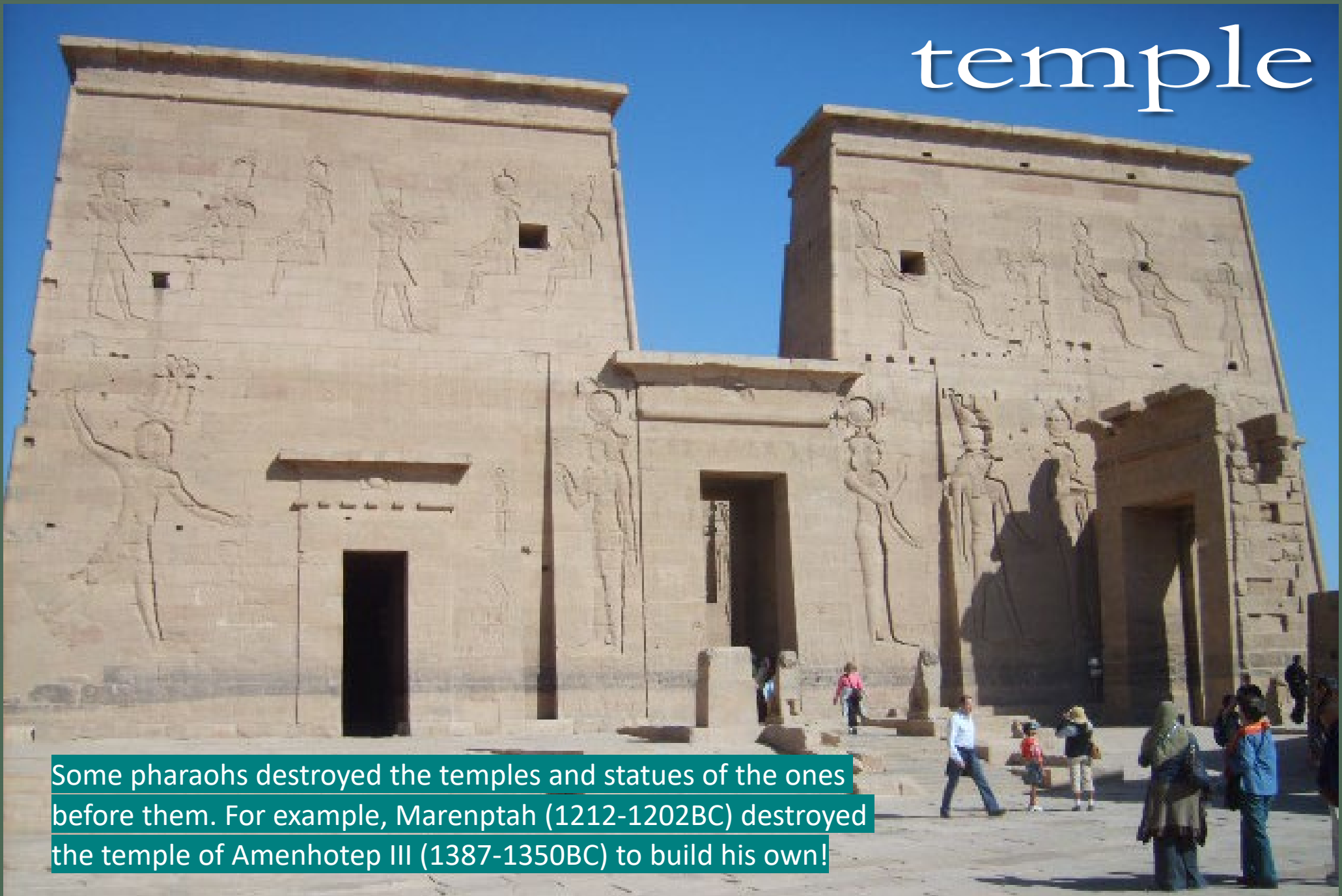
captured

hieroglyphs



Egyptian bas-reliefs are impressive – they are of a red, brick-like color.

temple



Some pharaohs destroyed the temples and statues of the ones before them. For example, Marenptah (1212-1202BC) destroyed the temple of Amenhotep III (1387-1350BC) to build his own!

ancient



Scribes were respected and honored.

They used papyrus.

element



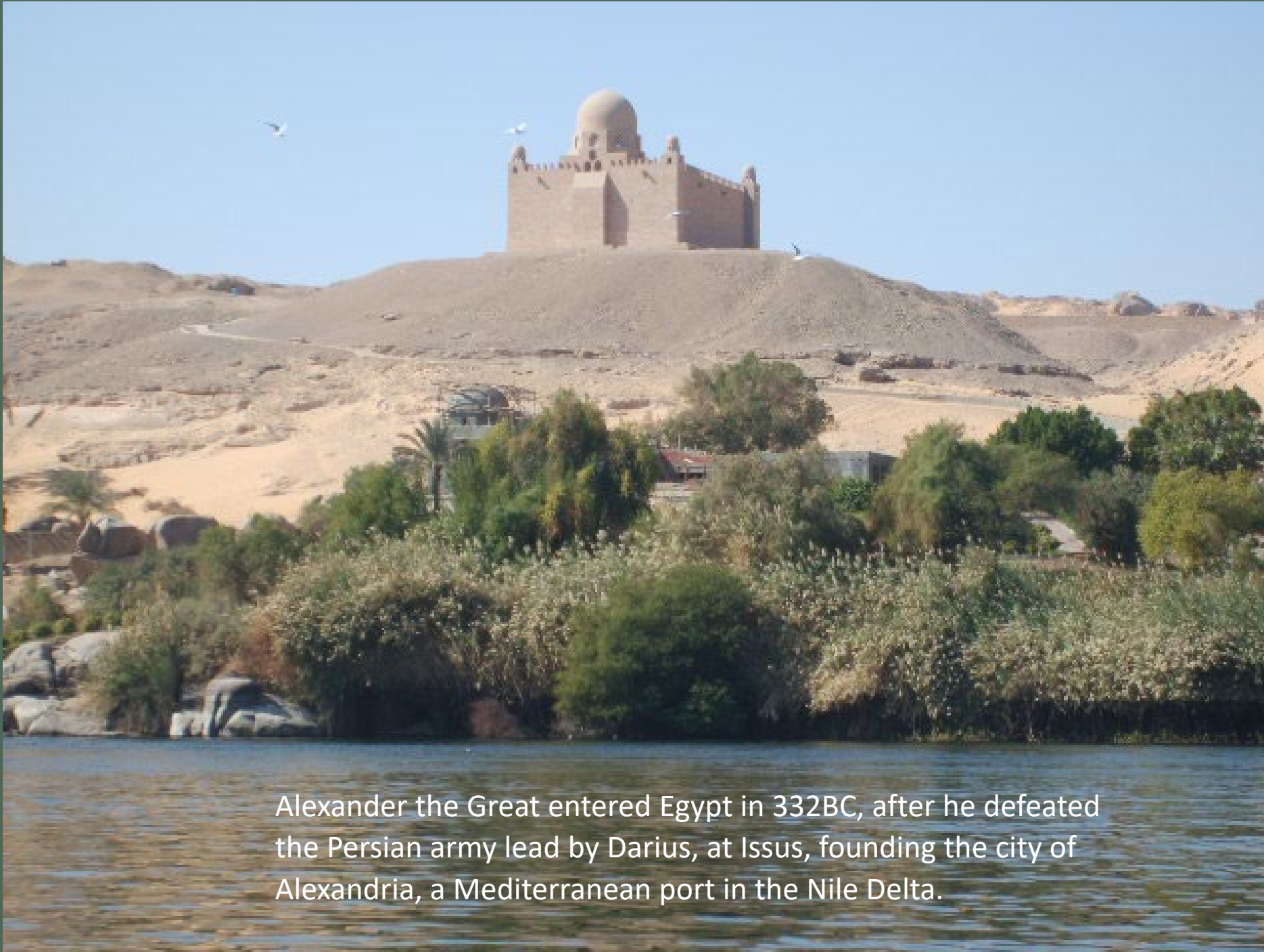
If the mummy has its right arm crossed at its chest, it means it's a pharaoh, and if both arms are crossed, it's a queen (a pharaoh's wife).

The organs were isolated in hermetically sealed containers.

They also mummified animals.

living the moment

The Nile



Alexander the Great entered Egypt in 332BC, after he defeated the Persian army lead by Darius, at Issus, founding the city of Alexandria, a Mediterranean port in the Nile Delta.

abandoned

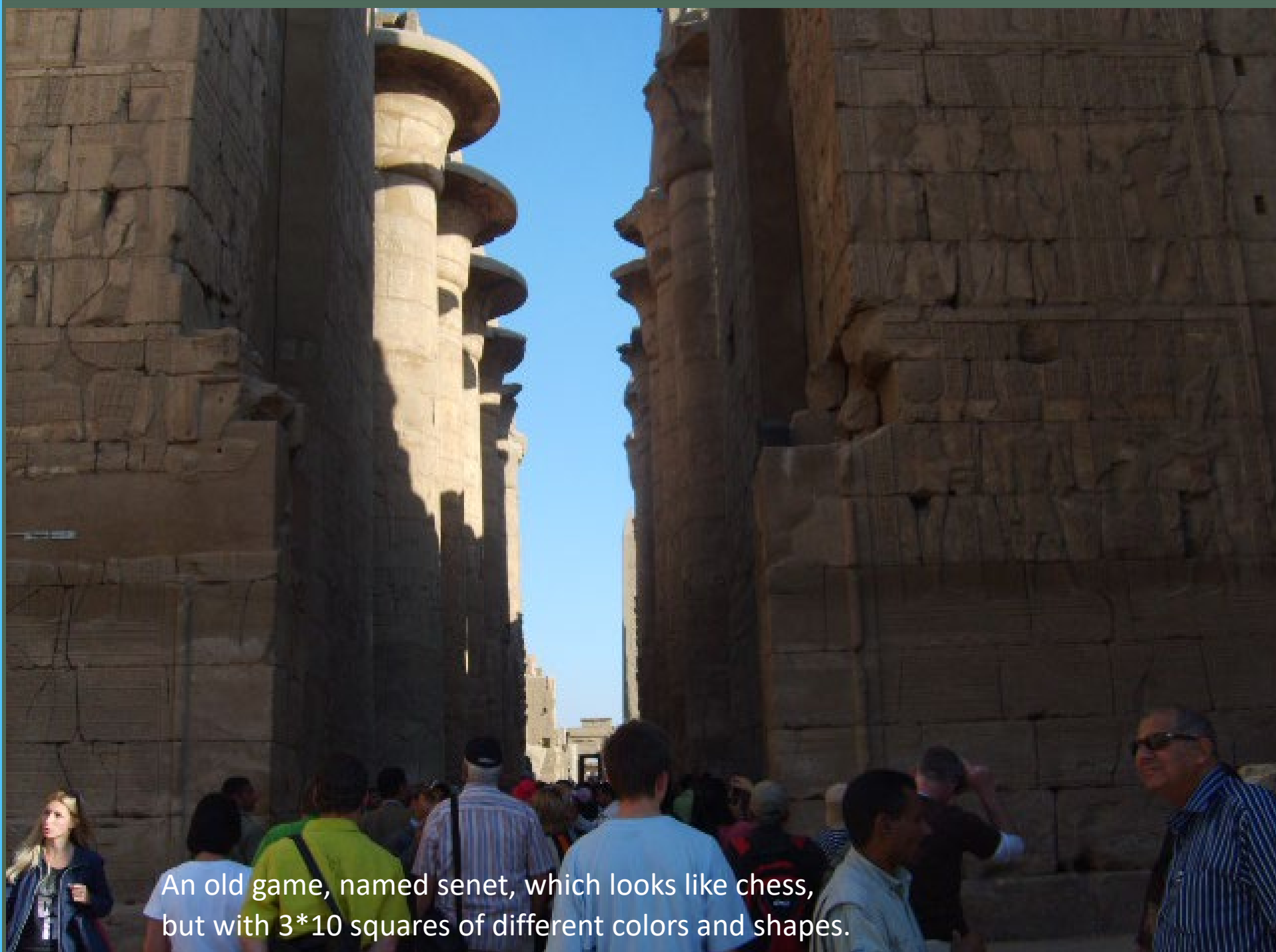
Many sarcophaguses with texts written on them, as well as God figurines, jewelry, clothes, sandals, and drawn weapons.



The Egyptian era molded with the Ptolemaic Hellenistic one.

Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in 332BC, and let his general, Ptolemy I Soter (in 305BC), govern the territory. The Ptolemaic dynasty ended in 30BC.





An old game, named senet, which looks like chess, but with 3×10 squares of different colors and shapes.

throng

the peak



Each city had its own God. They gave Gods offerings.



After the unexpected death of Alexander, at only 33, Ptolemy – one of his generals – took control of Egypt and formed a dynasty that lasted 270 years, having 16 leaders. One of those, Ptolemy V, had the brilliant idea of leaving us on a stone, now called the Rosetta Stone, a paragraph written in three languages: hieroglyphics, demotic Egyptian, and Ancient Greek, in 196BC.

the effect of time

Thanks to the analogies made between those writings, which constituted the same text, Champollion succeeded in deciphering hieroglyphics.

Jean-François Champollion (1790-1832) deciphers Egyptian hieroglyphics for the first time and published the treaty "Précis du hiéroglyphique" in 1824.

missing parts



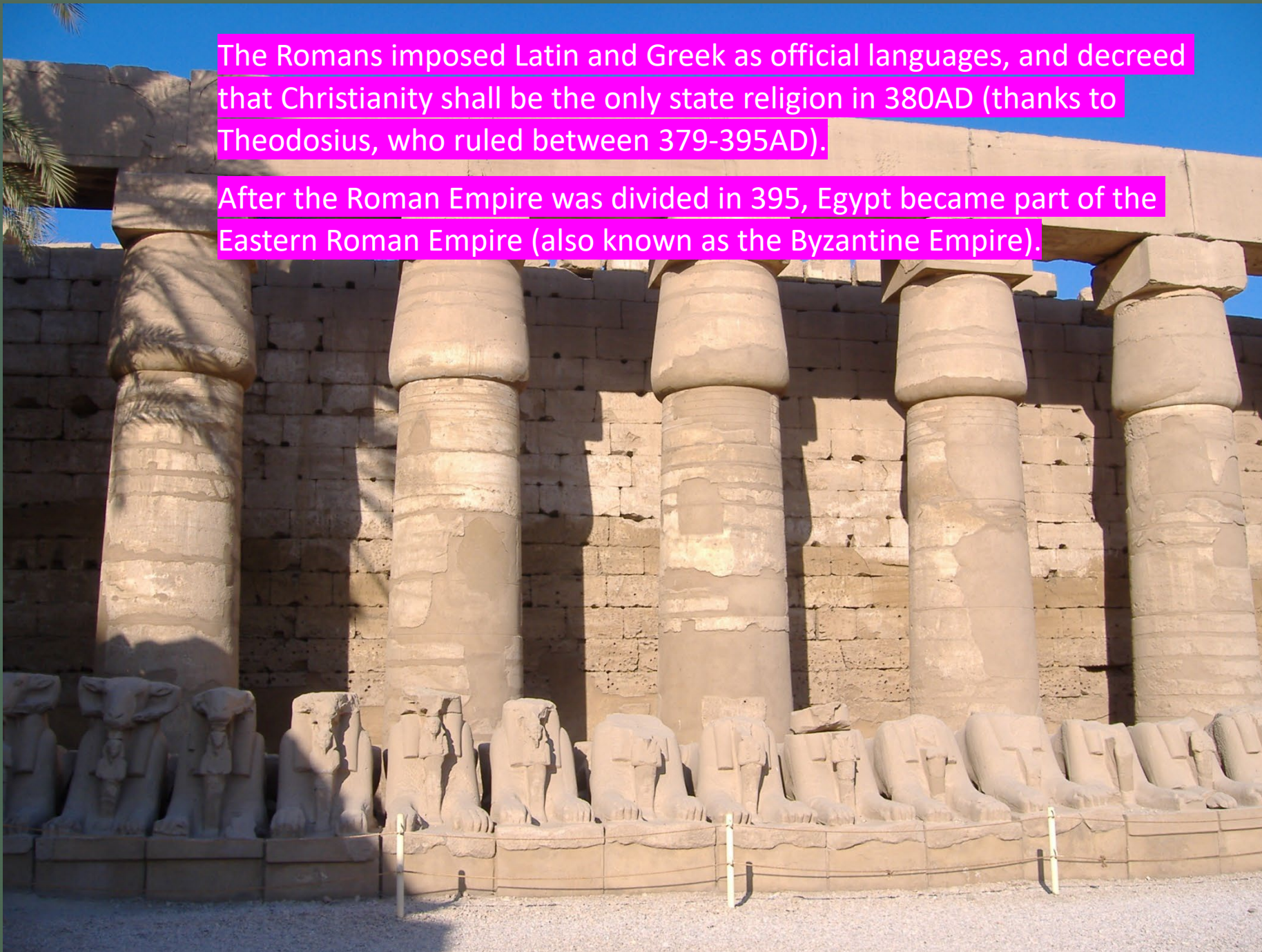
into the caves



The all too famous, beautiful and screened queen Cleopatra VII (69-30BC) was Greek. She ruled Egypt between 51-30BC, and was the lover of Roman emperor Caesar, then of Roman general Anthony, but she suicided (by letting a cobra bite her!) in 30BC, with Anthony, after Augustus (30BC-14AD) conquered Egypt.

The Romans imposed Latin and Greek as official languages, and decreed that Christianity shall be the only state religion in 380AD (thanks to Theodosius, who ruled between 379-395AD).

After the Roman Empire was divided in 395, Egypt became part of the Eastern Roman Empire (also known as the Byzantine Empire).



columns

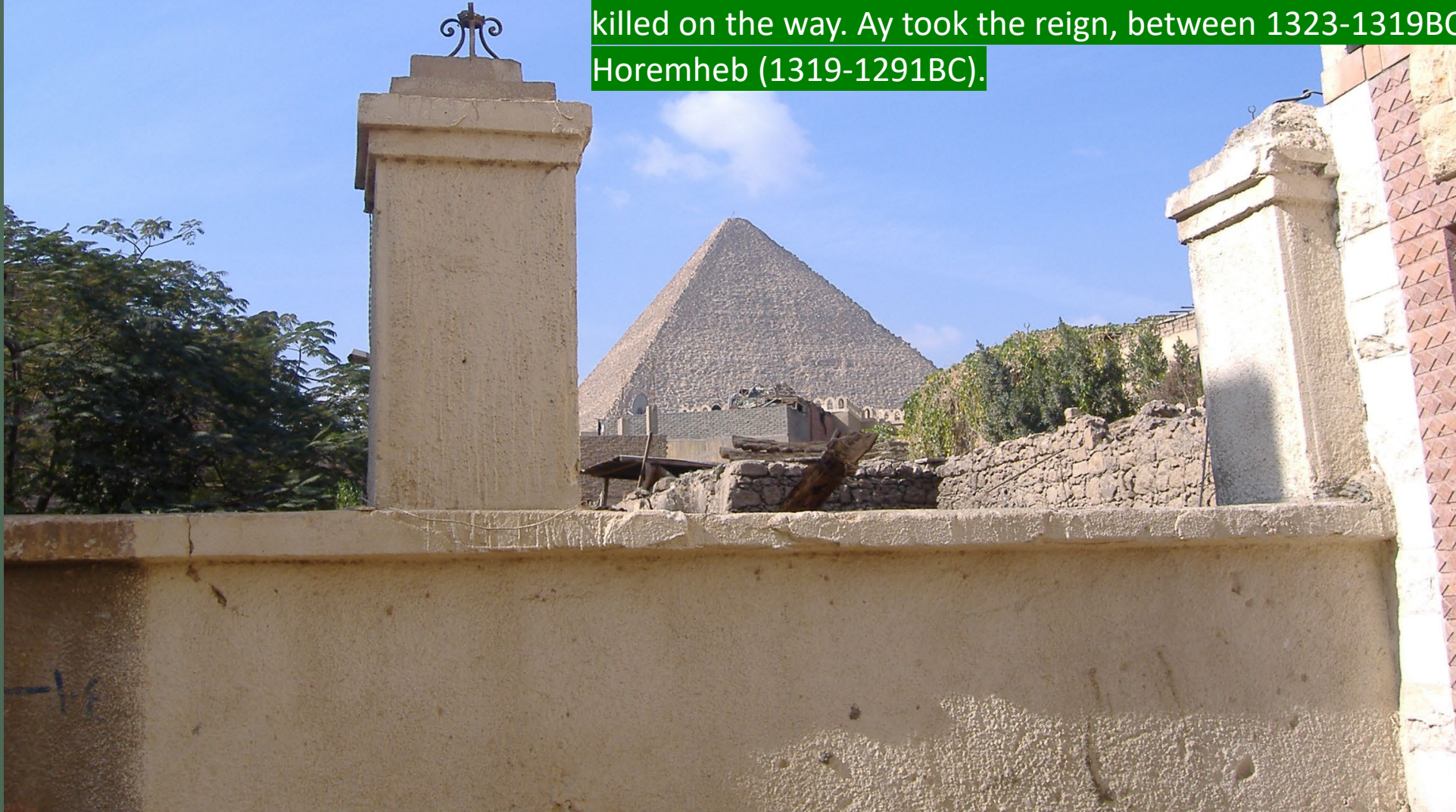
Tutankhamun became pharaoh at 8 years old, and married the daughter of Akhenaten and Nefertiti, named Ankhesenpaaten. Both ruled under the guidance of Horemhed and Ay.



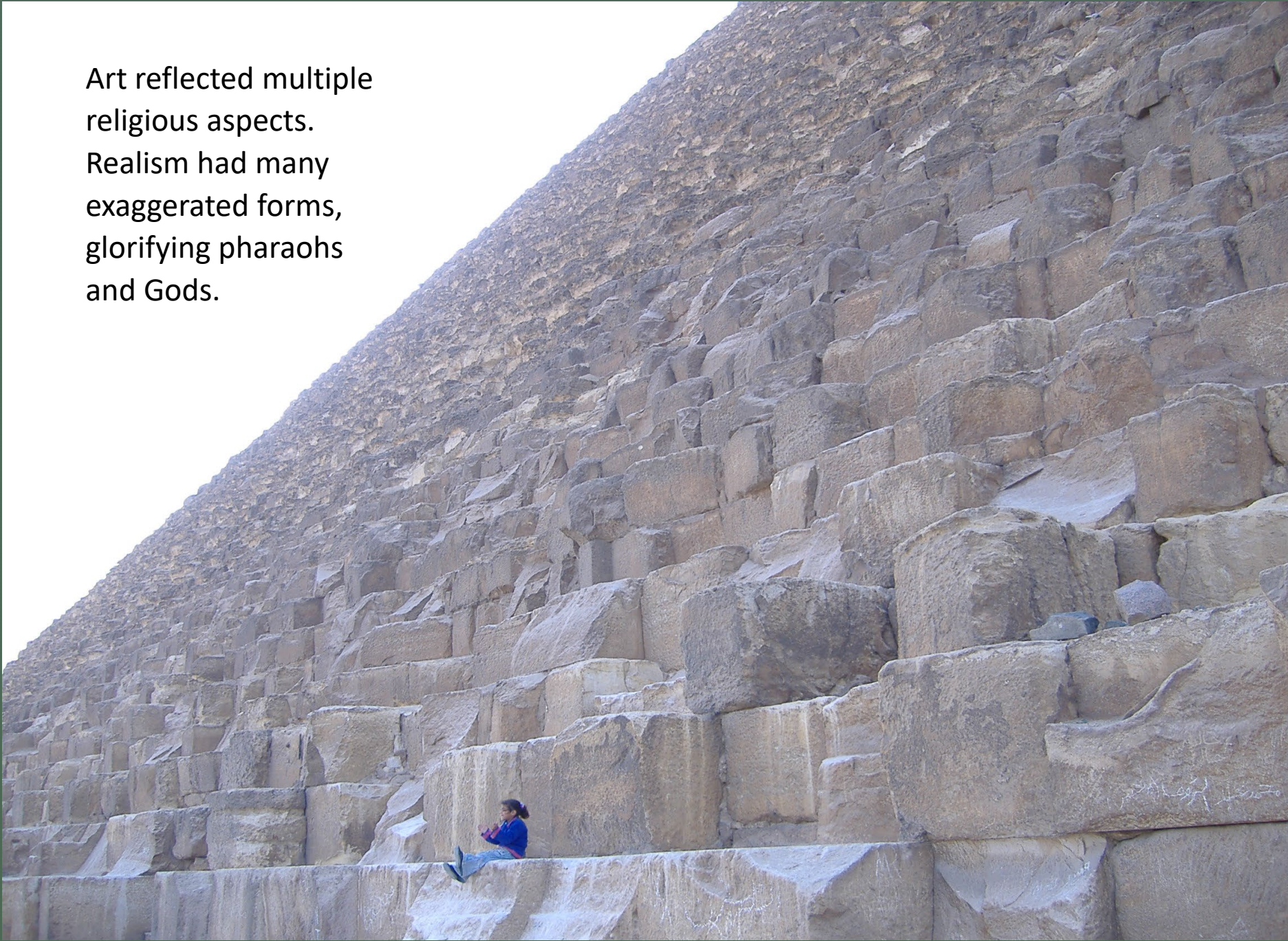
calming colors

to other realms

At 18, Tutankhamun dies. The cause of death is unknown, but the autopsy of his mummy, in 1968, discovered a hit in his cranium. Since he had no heir to the throne, his wife sent a message to the king of the Hittites, Suppiluliuma, to send one of his sons to rule Egypt. The king sent one, though doubtful, but he was probably killed on the way. Ay took the reign, between 1323-1319BC, then Horemheb (1319-1291BC).



Art reflected multiple religious aspects. Realism had many exaggerated forms, glorifying pharaohs and Gods.



daydreamer

Egyptian tombs were raided ever since ancient times,
but the tomb of Tutankhamun remained intact.



sand&wild

In Egyptian mythology, Gods were combinations of humans and animals (lion with a human head, man with the head of a bird, etc.).

Animals were considered sacred and associated with certain deities.





After the Greco-Roman occupation (332BC-640AD), the Arabs lead by Amr Ibn El-Ass conquer Egypt and turn it into a Muslim state.

In 1171AD, Saladin (1138-1193AD), a Kurdish general, founded the Ayyubid dynasty in Egypt. He leads battles against crusaders and liberated Jerusalem, restoring it to Muslim rule in 1187.

four men



The kings of the Ayyubid dynasty bought Turkish slaves, named mamluks (meaning “slaves” in Arabic), to maintain control its vast territories. However, in 1250, the mamluks seize power in Egypt! They even defeat the Mongol armies of the famous Genghis Khan!



In 1517, Egypt is conquered by Selim I and annexed to the Ottoman Empire. Between 1798-1801, Egypt comes under French occupation, because Napoleon Bonaparte wanted to cut off England from its colonies.

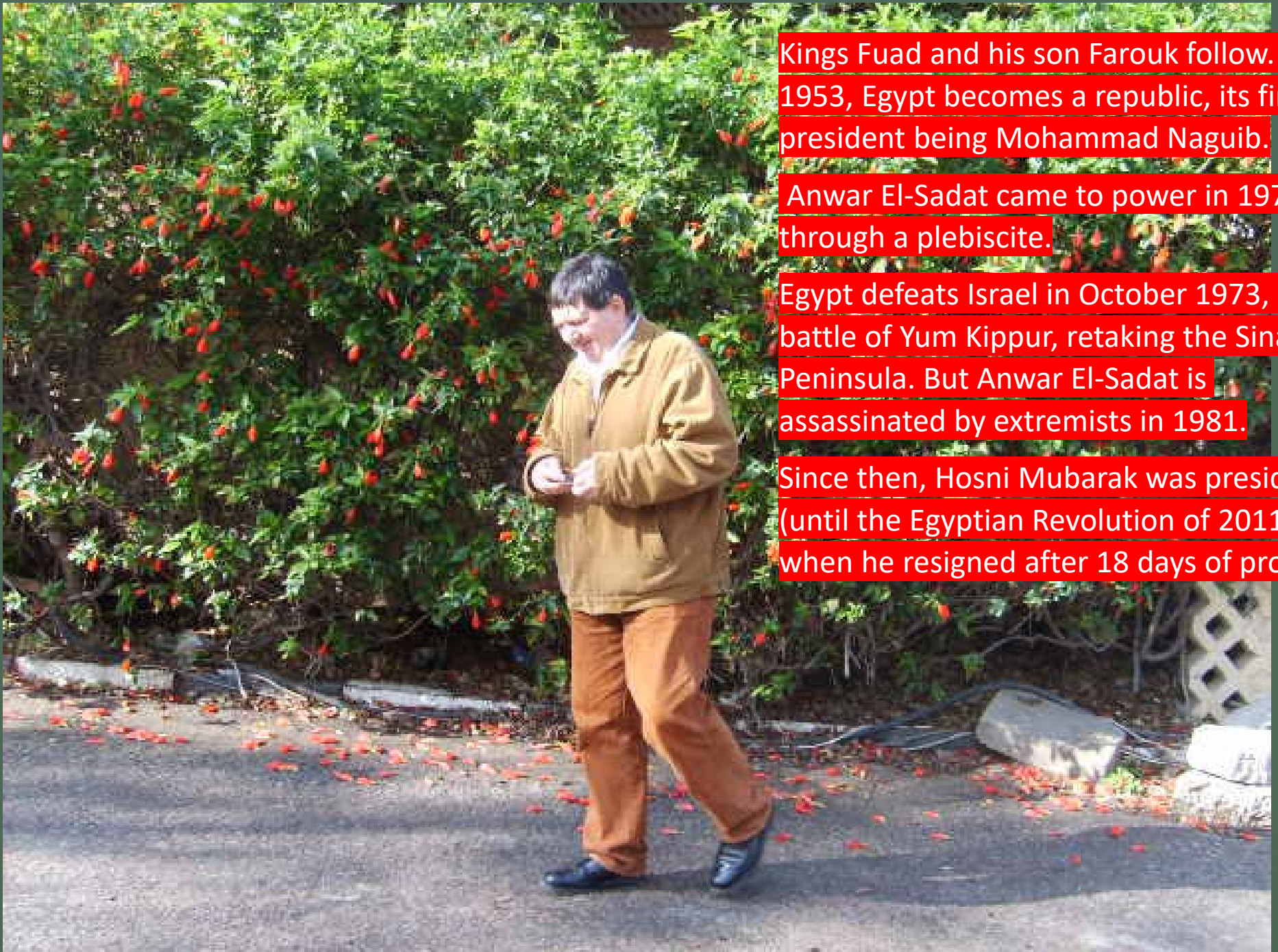
at the museum

In 1805, an Albanian Turk, Mohammed Ali, seizes power and attempts to modernize the country. One of his successors, king Ismael, begins construction of the Suez Canal in 1869. But because of the financial burden and huge debts to Great Britain, the English invade Egypt in 1882. Egypt freed itself in 1922.



a night out

mesmerized



Kings Fuad and his son Farouk follow. But in 1953, Egypt becomes a republic, its first president being Mohammad Naguib.

Anwar El-Sadat came to power in 1970 through a plebiscite.

Egypt defeats Israel in October 1973, in the battle of Yom Kippur, retaking the Sinai Peninsula. But Anwar El-Sadat is assassinated by extremists in 1981.

Since then, Hosni Mubarak was president (until the Egyptian Revolution of 2011, when he resigned after 18 days of protest).

An Egyptian photojournal.

Three big cultures meet in Egypt: the pharaonic culture, starting around 4500BC, though it was at its peak around 315-331BC; the Greco-Roman culture, from 332BC, when Alexander the Great conquers Egypt, until 639AD; and the Islamic culture, from 640AD, up to the present day, when the Arab troops lead by Amr conquered Egypt and islamized it.

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