

## Some Issues of Egypt Civilization and Its Impact on The Culture

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study examines the emergence and development of art in ancient Egypt, a process spanning over 4,500 years, and its profound impact on both the civilization and the broader history of human artistic expression. **Method:** The research utilizes a historical and comparative approach, analyzing key monuments and artistic works from various periods in ancient Egypt, alongside relevant archaeological and textual evidence, to assess their cultural significance. **Results:** Egyptian art represents a critical stage in the evolution of human creativity, characterized by monumental architecture, sculpture, and painting, which not only served religious and funerary purposes but also conveyed deep insights into the Egyptian worldview, emotions, and spiritual beliefs. **Novelty:** This article highlights the unique role of Egyptian art in shaping the human experience, as it was among the first to express complex human feelings and individual identities within a broader cultural framework. The study underscores the far-reaching influence of Egyptian art on subsequent civilizations, contributing to the cultural and artistic development of the ancient world.

## INTRODUCTION

No one who is familiar with history can dispute the place occupied by Egypt and the Egyptians in the history of mankind and the fact that it was one of the cradles of world culture. As is known, the history of the formation of primitive people as humans and the formation of human relations coincides with the southeastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, the lands of Palestine, the Arabian Peninsula, and Mesopotamia. Egypt is also among these regions, and it is here that the first settlements of mankind and communities based on living together were formed.

The first factor that ensured the development of the Egyptians was their favorable nature. Their mother river, the Nile, overflowed every summer, and the black mud contained in its waters settled on the lands on the banks, forming fertile soil. Wild wheat grew abundantly in such soil under natural conditions. These and similar climatic advantages created conditions for the development of agriculture in Egypt. For this reason, the people of the valley called their land "Misr", "Black Land" (in Greek, "Egypt") [1].

The second factor that ensured the development of the Egyptians was their peace-loving, hard-working, creative people and their leaders. One of such figures was the great reformer Manes, who lived in the 4th millennium BC. During these times, there were two states on the banks of the Nile, stretching for about 7,000 km. The first was the Upper Nile, located along the southern banks of the Nile, and the second was the Lower Nile,

located in the northern part of the Nile, reaching the Mediterranean Sea. In Egypt, the words Upper and Lower refer to the course of the Nile River. Manes united these two states and founded the Egyptian state based on peaceful and prosperous development. Its capital was the city of Memphis.

Another characteristic of the rulers of Egypt was their patriotism and peace-loving attitude. They adhered to the principles of social justice, tried to ensure the well-being of the people, and did not engage in wars of aggression. A peaceful and prosperous life created conditions for creativity and innovation. Historical data indicate that for several thousand years, peaceful development reigned in Ancient Egypt, and society was built primarily on humanity. About this period in the history of Egypt, V.V. Razanov figuratively says, "... from this period, such a life full of joy and meaning began in Egypt that was not found in Greece or the Romans. While the Greeks were highly developed for about 300 years, and the Romans for about 400 years, the Egyptians, without knowing any fatigue, spent about 3,000 years of creative perfection in high spirits. The source of all this is the positive attitude of the Egyptians to the world, to the concepts of life on earth, spirit, conscience, and the fate of the human soul after death." That is why Egyptian culture lives to this day. This culture made a great contribution to the development of world culture. People's lives largely depended on the Nile.

Therefore, the life of society was put on a consistent path, reservoirs and canals - rivers, water flows, land landscape were built in a planned manner. Land distribution, water ownership rights were carried out on the basis of strict management. Pharaoh's eunuchs would perform the necessary work to obtain a high yield.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The research employs a historical and comparative approach to analyze the emergence and development of art in ancient Egypt. This method involves examining key artistic monuments, sculptures, and architectural works from various periods of Egyptian history, using archaeological findings, written records, and visual analysis to understand their cultural, spiritual, and artistic significance. By comparing the evolution of artistic styles, techniques, and functions over time, the study seeks to explore how Egyptian art reflects the broader societal and religious values of the civilization. Additionally, the research draws connections between Egyptian artistic practices and their influence on later cultures, emphasizing the long-lasting impact of Egyptian art on the development of human creativity and cultural expression.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Egyptian art, which had to serve the needs of religion and the cult of the deified pharaoh, expressed its ideas in a strictly defined form. Architecture was aimed at demonstrating the power, grandeur and popularity of the pharaohs' rule, for which purpose attention was paid to the grandeur and luxury of buildings (pyramids, temples, palaces, etc.). Demotic-pictorial inscriptions on the inner walls of pyramids and tombs expressed religious prayers and wishes.

During the Old Kingdom, a new type of temple appeared, usually dedicated to the main god of Egypt - Ra. The walls of the tombs and temples were decorated with colorful paintings, reliefs and sculptures. During this period, the art of sculptural portraiture developed. In the Egyptian imagination, sculptural portraits played the role of a personification of the deceased and served as a place of residence for their souls.

According to ancient Egyptian beliefs, if a deceased person's body was well preserved and not affected by people, animals, wind, water, or the sun, he would live in the "afterlife." The body of a deceased person was mummified for this purpose.

Before mummification, the body was cut open, the intestines and brain were removed, and then placed in salt water for seventy days. Then the body was smeared with fragrant resin and shrouded. The mummified corpse was placed in a stone coffin-sarcophagus and placed in a tomb. In addition to the body, the tomb also contained items that would be needed in the "afterlife" (often gold vessels and various ornaments).

One of the ancient Egyptian pharaohs, Djoser, rose to fame upon his accession to the throne. Moreover, the deceitful and cunning priests kept telling him: "This world is unfaithful, a passing world. The houses where you and I live now are just inns. The true abode of man is the tomb, the eternal home. He who wants to live forever must build himself a tomb."

Historical records indicate that Imhotep, as an architect, drew up the design of large-scale construction projects in Egypt and supervised these works. Before Imhotep, all construction in Egypt was mainly made of mud brick, with straw added to ensure the strength of the brick. Only after the technique of quarrying stone and rebuilding walls from it was perfected were the foundations laid for large-scale construction in Egypt. Even the Egyptian pyramids and large-scale constructions built in later periods were modeled on the Step Pyramid of Djoser, which Imhotep first built in Saqqara. Egyptian kings (who were called pharaohs) dreamed of living in the "afterlife" and built pyramids for themselves. Djoser was the first of the ancient Egyptian pharaohs to build a huge tomb, that is, a pyramid. The construction of the huge stone structure was led by Imhotep, the pharaoh's minister, an outstanding scholar of his time - a sage, mathematician, and architect. He built a complex in Saqqara for the souls of the dead, in the center of which he built a pyramid-mausoleum (height 60 meters, base 109.2 x 121 meters).

In the 2800s BC, the Egyptian state was ruled by Khufu (the Greeks called Cheops). According to the ancient world historian Herodotus, it took Khufu twenty years to build the pyramid, and hundreds of thousands of slaves worked on the construction at once, who were replaced every three months. The pyramid, which is unique in the world (height 146.59 meters, base 233x233 meters), was built for Pharaoh Cheops according to the project of the architect Hemnun in Giza. According to scientists, 2 million 300 thousand stones were used in the construction of the pyramid, each weighing from 2 to 30 tons.

The magnificent hall of the temple near the Pyramid of Khafre (height 143.5 meters, base 215.25 m.) is decorated with entablature columns. The Pyramid of Mykerinus (height 62 meters, base 108.4 m.) is included in the "Seven Wonders of the World". Each pyramid is connected to the east by temples, which are interconnected by passages. The temple-mausoleums are the burial places of the 2nd-6th dynasties of the nobility, and there are more than 7 thousand tombs.

The process of the emergence and development of art in ancient Egypt covers four thousand and five hundred years. This art is important not only for its magnificent monuments, but also for the fact that they were created for the first time in the history of mankind.

Egyptian art is an important stage in the development of art after the primitive period. It is valuable for its accurate depiction of reality, its great attention to man, and for the first time, its depiction of complex and contradictory human relationships. The contribution of Egyptian art to revealing the inner world of man, his feelings and experiences is immeasurable. In it, human experiences such as the grief of people grieving the death of a loved one, the fear of the enemy fleeing from the Egyptian war chariots, and the sincere love of family members for each other became the main themes of many scenes.

This art, for the first time in human history, addressed such a deeply human emotion as motherhood and elevated it to a higher level through the image of Isis holding Horus in her arms. This image, created on the basis of folk mythology, embodied the hopes of all Egyptian mothers, who believed that Isis, who saved her son Horus from the threat of death, would protect her children from illness and death. The image of Isis - the mother, created by Egyptian art, was very widespread among the people throughout the history of the ancient East and later played an important role in the formation of Christian iconography.

Given that the characteristic feature of Egyptian sculpture was the truthful reflection of nature, it should not be concluded that the Egyptians did not include fantastic elements in art, especially in the sphere of religious ideas and beliefs. On the contrary, here imagination is closely intertwined with reality, or rather, imagination is perceived as the highest reality. The sphinx, a typical type of Egyptian monument, can be an example of such a union. The oldest and most monumental of all sphinxes is the Great Sphinx (57 meters long, 20 meters high) built in Giza in 2500 BC by order of the 4th dynasty pharaoh Khafre (Khafri). It was originally a rock resembling a reclining lion. Human imagination and hands enhanced this resemblance and carved a human head from stone, resulting in a magnificent symbol of the pharaoh's power. Later, the sphinx became a separate type of sculpture, and the entrance to temples was guarded by a whole flock of sphinxes. The era of Akhenaten (15th-14th centuries BC), known as Amarna art, was a significant period in the history of Egyptian culture, absorbing the best aspects of previous art and, in turn, raising it to a new level. It had a positive impact on the further development of Egyptian art. The sculptural reliefs dedicated to Pharaoh Akhenaten and his family created during this period are magnificent. The highly skilled work of the

sculptor Thutmose, who sought to create realistic works in Egyptian art, of Nefertiti, Akhenaten, and his daughters, still delights fans with its aesthetic pleasure.

**Karnak.** Ipet-Isut - the ruins of ancient Egyptian temples. The temples are distinguished by their complex composition and luxurious architectural structure. The large hall with 134 columns in the temple of Amon-Ra (16th-11th centuries BC) and its courtyards are noteworthy. The walls of this hall depict the victories of the pharaohs in war. The complex of the temple of Amon-Ra and the temple of the god Mut (16th-15th centuries BC) are connected by the famous avenue of sphinxes. Karnak is now a museum and is protected by UNESCO.

He ruled in Egypt during the New Kingdom in 1347-1337 BC. Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings was discovered in 1922 by the English archaeologist P. Carter.

His statue is installed in front of the door of the central chamber where the body of the young ruler was laid. The walls of the room were also made of pure gold, and an ancient stone coffin occupied the entire room. The pharaoh's body was wrapped in gold, with a gold mask on his face, and countless pearls and bracelets on top of it. In addition, the sandals on his feet were also made of gold, and his fingers and toes were also covered with gold. Works of art that the pharaoh loved during his lifetime and his weapons and belongings were found: a gold mask, a portrait of his wife, a statue depicting the pharaoh on a two-wheeled chariot, figurines made of gold, ivory, black and red wood, bows and arrows, daggers, boxes, benches and other items. In short, it is difficult to calculate the wealth in Tutankhamun's tomb. These unique works of art have been exhibited in many countries of the world. However, although the remaining 79 valuable items were stolen and looted, there is historical evidence that there were many more.

During the Old Kingdom, schools were established in the palaces of the pharaohs to train future ministers. Later, schools were also opened at temples and large government offices. Children from 5 to 16 years old were educated at the school. From the age of 12, students served as ministers in the offices. Classes lasted from dawn to dusk. Strict discipline was introduced at the school, and corporal punishment was used. Reading, writing, and arithmetic were the main subjects. In addition to academic subjects, the school taught gymnastics, swimming, and good manners. In schools at the temples, astronomy and medicine were taught along with general and religious knowledge.

It is natural for a prime minister, administrator, religious leader, scientist, and philosopher to have the ability to draw great philosophical conclusions from life, such as medicine, architecture, and mathematics. Therefore, he left a rich legacy as a great sage. Historical information, like a guiding star not only in the life of the Egyptians, but also in the history of mankind, served to shape the minds of people, guide them to good deeds, and shape their spirituality. The "Book of Wisdom" also indicates that it belonged to Imhotep. His great philosophical thoughts, such as "Do not be proud of your knowledge", "If each generation preserves the teachings of the fathers, they will never be forgotten", "Do not tell your friend about his faults in front of others, but to him alone", "Beware of greed, for this disease cannot be cured", "Keep silence in the presence of the wise - it is better than gossip", "Make it a habit to earn respect for yourself through

wisdom", "Teach the good to the good", "The great are famous for their deeds, the wise are famous for their wisdom" can still be said to be invaluable examples of thought. The oldest monuments written in the Egyptian language date back to the 3rd millennium BC. Examples of this literature have come down to us in numerous hieroglyphic, peratic and demotic texts. Egyptian literature is one of the oldest literatures in the world. The main genres of Egyptian literature are: fairy tales, stories, hymns and prayers, didactic works, parables, epics, love lyrics, etc. At that time, the stories "Shipwreck", "About the Brother", "About the Straight and the Crooked", "About Isis and Osiris", and the fable "The Quarrel of Gor and Set" were very popular. In the story "Brother", the brother, who took away his brother's house and land and used him as a slave, is sentenced to hell by the gods.

The theater was invented in Egypt for the first time in the world. Religious dramas were staged in temples. In particular, the death and resurrection of Osiris were performed in theaters.

The New Kingdom is considered the peak of material and spiritual development in the history of ancient Egypt. During this period, the Egyptians switched to the use of iron, invented a weaving machine, domesticated bees, and mastered horse breeding. The invention of the spindle and the loom led to the development of melon cultivation and gardening. In short, the country's economy grew rapidly during this period. This led to the further enrichment of society and the development of art.

During the last kingdom, Egypt went through a period of crisis. The united Egypt was first divided into two, and then into small states. Egypt first fell under the influence of Namibia, Assyria, Iran, and finally, in 332 BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great. Thus, the culture of ancient Egypt ended [2].

The knowledge of the Egyptians in various fields made a significant contribution to the development of world science. The Greeks considered Egypt to be the land of ancient sages, and the Egyptians their teachers. Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and other sages went to Egypt to study science. Ancient Egyptian culture still lives on today. This culture also made a great contribution to the development of world culture. It is not for nothing that the Greek philosopher Plato called Egyptian culture "the mother of all civilizations."

## CONCLUSION

**Fundamental Finding:** The study reveals that ancient Egyptian art was instrumental in shaping the cultural and spiritual identity of the civilization. Through its monumental works, Egyptian art provides invaluable insights into human emotions, beliefs, and social structures, showcasing its central role in the development of visual culture and its enduring influence on subsequent civilizations. **Implication :** These findings highlight the profound impact of Egyptian art on the development of global visual culture, with its iconography and artistic techniques leaving a lasting legacy across history and influencing the artistic traditions of neighboring and later civilizations. **Limitation :** The study's reliance on fragmented archaeological evidence and the inherent challenges of interpreting symbolic meanings from a modern perspective constrain a

comprehensive understanding of Egyptian art, particularly its nuanced societal and spiritual contexts. **Future Research** : Future studies could leverage advanced technologies, such as digital imaging and 3D reconstruction, to gain deeper insights into the artistic methods and contexts in which these works were created. Additionally, exploring connections between Egyptian art and the broader Mediterranean and Near Eastern cultures could provide a more holistic understanding of its global influence and interconnectedness.

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