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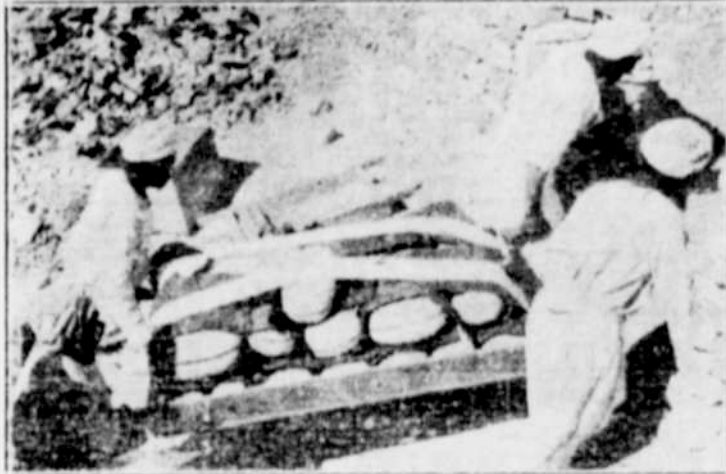
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Interesting Side Lights on the Egyptians, One of the Kindest Races of the Ancient World

Though the Ancient and Historic Egyptians Built a Powerful and Enduring Civilization, They Were Very Much Nearer the Idealistic Golden Rule Than Their More Modern Descendants of Today.

By HERBERT HENEGAN



The above picture is a reproduction from a photograph by Edgar Aldrich. It shows a tray of embalmed or preserved meat and fruit 3,273 years old. Haunches of venison, trussed ducks, game, and joints of meat of all sorts were preserved and packed in elliptical wooden boxes painted white. This food was intended for the "Ka," or Double, or spirit, of the king in the other world. The Egyptians thus extended their kindness to departed members of their race; they wanted to be certain that the "spirit" should want for none of the necessities of life. Such was the manner of burial of Tutankhamen, the famous Pharaoh whose mummy attracted such wide attention recently and whose mystery has never been fully solved.

When one thinks of ancient and powerful races of long ago, one thinks of kingdoms and dynasties that were built by cruel kings, of vicious and chronic wars, of slavery, and of all the evil and terror that primitive rulers could invent to heap upon the backs of trembling subjects.

In many cases this was true. For instance, the Romans were extremely brutal and beastly, especially in the latter period of their history. The Assyrians could be cruel friends when they so desired, as well as could the Persians. But all the races of antiquity were not so tainted.

Egyptians and Negroes Have Alleged Common Ancestry

Cruelty is a contemptible sin, and it is gratifying to find that a proud and ancient race of blacks were not guilty of gross inhumanity as many historians and portrayals have made the world believe. The Egyptians were, far and away, the kindest race of the ancient world.

Today the whole world marvels at the ability and capacity of the darker races to absorb insults with smiles, and to adopt the principle of passive resistance as India is doing today with effect against Great Britain.

The American Negro evinces traits of great kindness and forbearance in his struggles for self-expression as a part of Western civilization, and this fact is all the more remarkable when we consider that the ancient Egyptian and the Negro has an alleged common ancestry.

Did not Grind Men to Pulp Beneath Chariot Wheels

Let us look down the Valley of the Nile of 4,000 years ago. Africa then was the seat of civilization and world power. But with all the power and greatness that belonged to Egypt, she ruled with hands of kindness and benevolence. The Egyptians were never consciously cruel—of course there are isolated instances where cruelty and brutality existed, but this was the exception rather than the rule.

Contrary to all widespread opinion, the Egyptians did not grind men to pulp beneath their chariot wheels, they did not beat their laboring slaves unmercifully, they were not given to torturing people, nor did they ever inflict death callously.

Believed They Wouldn't Go to Heaven if Cruel

There are perhaps two main causes for the singular and remarkable absence of harsh cruelty of this powerful people. First of all, the Egyptian possessed a mild and kindly nature, and the general populace had conceived early of its deity as an incarnation of benevolence. They assumed that their chances of entering heaven would be limited unless they could declare with a clear conscience at their soul's judgment that they were guilty of no act of cruelty. Each individual was taught to believe that "a man's conscience is the god within him."

Here are some of the things the Egyptian had to declare and live up to:

"I have committed no sin against my fellowmen."

"I allowed no one to hunger; I caused no one to weep; I neither ordered murder nor committed it; I did not rob anybody; I did not make people afraid of me; I was not violent; I was not cruel; I gave bread to the hungry, water to the thirsty, and clothing to the naked."

The Egyptian had to profess these things and many more besides, as a manifestation of his unshakable belief in divine justice. He had a profound desire for everlasting life, and these credos impelled him—sometimes unwillingly—towards benevolence.

Prayers, Food and Drink for the Departed

In addition to this, it was the universal belief of the Egyptians that the spirit of man required, after death, the attentions of the living to insure its happiness and well being. At any rate, the dead were dependent.



Pharaoh's Daughter, an example of the shapely type of womanhood during the heyday of the Egyptians.



The above picture shows a typical Egyptian funeral of a mummy on the Nile. The marked similarity to the ceremonious burials that are customary today is evident from the orderly procession of the boats. In the center of the boat in the foreground can be seen the funeral bier upon which the mummy rests. It is very remarkable that the Egyptians whose civilization would be considered today as barbarous, discovered an embalming solution which preserved the human body much longer than any solution which modern science has yet been able to concoct. This is but another instance of the tremendous erudition of the Egyptian civilization.

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Were these African Pharaohs Negroes? Well—the thick lips, flat noses and curly hair of these Egyptian kings and queens would prevent them from "passing for white" in the U.S.A. today. Note the word "ETHIOPIAN" carved on the statue furthest right; and while you are at it, look at the black face of the center picture.