



الجمهورية العربية السورية

وزارة التربية

المركز الوطني للمتميزين

# Valley of kings

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# Introduction

When you talk about ancient Egyptians, you have to stop with their mythology about death, especially when it comes to their cemeteries like the valley of kings.

The problem was in finding different references about that specific subject because people were impressed with the great pyramids and they did not even notice other cemeteries, so when I told people about what my seminar is, They were surprised and said what is that? Because of that, there are many books about the great pyramids and there are few books about other cemeteries especially the valley of kings, because of that I was depressed, but on the other hand, I was impressed when I read the references, and realized the beauty of the Egyptian culture

The inquiry:

- 1- Why the valley of kings is very important for scientists?
- 2- How does cemeteries look like in the valley?
- 3- Who are the most famous kings and queens that were buried there?
- 4- Why the Egyptian government closed some cemeteries like (Sity's the first cemetery)?
- 5- Why every cemetery in Egypt is in the west?

Aims of research:

- 1- finding the importance of the valley
- 2- describing cemeteries and its continents
- 3- to find more information about Egyptians mythology

# Cemeteries in the ancient Egypt:

## Cemeteries design:

Cemeteries in the valley have the same general design but different with details:

### **General design of cemeteries in the valley:**

Cemeteries before Tohtomes the third had a long narrow chamber with well to protect the grave from rains of desert floods and some scientists think that those wells are gates for transition to the other world or the kingdom of Osiris, and they noticed that wells are always located in the west.

After the well comes the bury chamber that contains the king coffin and his needs in the other world; from charms and Talismans that were written on walls and coffin, and some food for the soul Ka – Ka is the soul that stays with body in the grave, eats and drinks from immolations- some cemeteries have more than those chambers, they have side rooms to store the king's items and needs.

After Tohtomes, the third cemeteries had some differences in decorations:

Like the bury chambers had huge poles Covered with gypsum and connected with another chamber under it.

Even the charms and books of the other world have changed too; before Tohtomes, the third charms were very simple and short

Like the Amdaoat

Al-Amdaoat in the Egyptian mythology is some different charms and texts for crossing the road to other side safely.

On the other hand, After Tohtomes the third cemetery were divided to two parts, the first part was before Ramses the first in that period poles were colorful but the walls were white and covered with gypsum the second part were after Ramses the first walls became colorful and filled with charms and talismans and the ceiling were blue with yellow stars walls contained a lot of books like book of dead and some of them were written on the coffin.

To understand the shape of cemeteries in kings' valley, some cemeteries will be studied like City's -the first- grave and Tot Ankh Amon's grave with some ideas for another cemeteries

City's -the first- cemetery was very colorful, the ceiling was painted with Hories -the god of skies- to protect the road to the bury chamber, he decided to make it very beautiful, so, the grave was painted with charms of Amdaoat, gates book, thanking Rah texts, the sky cow book and opening mouth ritual -all of them are religious books and talismans except "opening mouth ritual" and it is from rituals of funeral- and even the coffin was an area to write the gates book again.

In addition, that was for a reason the size of this cemetery, and the details that he add it to this cemetery like the huge poles, the big door and other details.

Gates is the last part of regular cemetery in kings' valley, some kings hide their gates between rocks or in other cemeteries like Tot

Ankh Amon cemetery, but not all of kings had the same idea; like Merneptah; his gate was very huge and seen clearly.

## Growing principle (extension of the existing principle):

Something was very familiar with all the graves in the valley,

Scientists called it “growing principle “or “extension of the existing principle” and that principle was an idea from kings of the valley, to make sure that is no cemetery like the other.

The extension was not in width or long or height only, but was in the volume of coffin and the gates, even in paintings or books –like city the first cemetery-

One of the Egyptians kings was not convinced with the hall idea.

He was named Akhenaton; and that is not his first time, he did not like the idea of worship many gods and goddesses, so he start a new religion connected with god Amon, but that idea was dead when he dead.

Therefore, he did not expand his cemetery, but he built new statues known now as mamnon statues at the gate of hall valley, and that was very great idea that give the valley a new shape.

But his son “Tot Ankh Amon” stopped his father idea and revived the old principle

<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Corridor width</b>	<b>Corridor height</b>	<b>Doors</b>
<b>Tohtomes The first</b>	2,30	1.70	1.27/1.45
<b>Hachapsot</b>	1.80/2.30	2.05	
<b>Tohtomes 3</b>	2.16/2.05	1.96	1.01/1.88
<b>Amnhtep2</b>	1.55/1.64	1.99/2.30	1.42/1.30
<b>Tohtomes4</b>	1.98/1.99	2.10/2.20	1.72/.1.83
<b>Amnhtep3</b>	2.51/2.56	2.45/2.83	2.01/2.08
<b>Totankamon le</b>	1.68 2.60/2.64	2.05 2.47	1.49/1.50 2.12
<b>Hormoheb</b>	2.59/2.64	2.59/2.64	2.04/2.11
<b>Ramses 1</b>	2.61/2.62	2.58	2.05/2.10
<b>City 1</b>	2.61	2.61	2.07/2.10
<b>Ramses 2</b>	2.62	2.62	1.99/2.10
<b>mernbtah</b>	2.60	3.10/3.27	1.99/2.10
<b>Amnoms</b>	2.70/2.71	3.15	2.16/2.19
<b>City 2</b>	2.81	3.25/3.29	2.17/2.28
<b>sebtah</b>	2.61/2.62	3.24/3.34	2.03/2.09
<b>Ramses 3</b>	2.64/2.69	3.32/3.36	2.10/2.18
<b>Ramses4</b>	3.12/3.17	3.94/4.18	2.55/2.76
<b>Ramses 6</b>	3.15/3.19	3.60/4.05	2.61/2.80
<b>Ramses 7</b>	3.13	4.10	2.75
<b>Ramses 9</b>	3.24/3.25	4.09	2.77/2.78
<b>Ramses 10</b>	3.17	4.01	2.72
<b>Ramses 11</b>	3.18/3.30	4.10	2.80/2.86

The principle would be clear after looking on table (1).

Note: Akhenaton is not in the table, because he did not use the principle with his cemetery

## Part2

### Paragraph 1:

After a while, the valley became one of tourists' points, like the Roman and Greeks kings, but after the Christian expending, people forget the valley, even the Christian pastors make some graves churches and the damaged many paintings that they thought bad and offensive from their vision, and after becoming Egypt an Islamic country, the valley became completely forgotten, and they did not mention it at their books or researches.

The valley still forgotten until two European travelers called Fransoa and Portis published an essay about the valley.

Then a pastor called Richard Bokok present a new scientific description for the valley, and he actually drew a scientific map for the valley, a map for some graves and he noticed fourteen cemetery in the valley, and he was impressed with the colors in the graves.

James Brows visited seven cemeteries and drew some paintings, like the two girls that playing music.

Both Bokok and Brows had troubles with the population near the valley because of that they did not completed their research.

However, after Napelion arrived to Egypt with his forces, a new age of exploring began.

The French scientist Vivian Dinon accompanied the French forces to the valley and started to study it, but he had the same trouble, the people in the valley was not helpful with him.

After a while, some scientist followed Vivian to the valley and they discovered Amenhotep the third cemetery by accident; two engineers called Julloa and Devalieh were walking in the valley and they found the cemetery in the west side of it, but they could not know who this cemetery is, because they could not read this language.

#### Paragraph 2:

However, after the defeat of French, the door was opened to the British people to discover the valley.

It started with Henry Lite, so he organized his group and start digging to find the royal mommies, but he did not find anything because he was digging in small size area.

After that, Beisolony could move a huge statue head from the Ramsimum- the tumble of Funerals- and then he found the cemetery of (Ie) the son of Tot Ankh Amon, and after a year he found in days The Prince Montuherkhepshef grave first, Ramses the first grave then city the first grave, but that grave was stolen and empty except from some painting that make it from one of the most wonderful cemeteries at life.

Then he copied those painting with the artist Alisandor and that was a useful idea, because after 160 year of daily visiting the colorful paintings were gone, and he showed many pieces of them in the national British museum. Beisolony thought that there is not any graves or cemeteries to find.



### Paragraph 3:

In 1822, Jan François Champolion could read for the first time the hieroglyphic writing.

He spent 3 months of his long Egyptian journey living in Ramses the fourth grave with his partners, and he realized that these paintings are not describing the king's life as people thought at this period, but they are describing the other world, and he realized that these paintings were mostly the same in every grave and cemetery.

He also translated these long paintings and writings, and he discovered that the west side of the Nile is the kingdom of Anubis and the entrance of the other world.

### Paragraph 4:

The next big group arrived to the valley with money support from Russia, and S.R Lepsius led it.

They cleaned the graves and copied a lot of this painting from cemeteries.

Lepsius found –like Adolph Brugsch– that these texts are very hard to translate and understand, but Gaston Maspero's researches were useful and the only ones that added to Champolion's researches and they made the translation more accurate.

### Paragraph 5:

People of Luxor area had found a hidden grave under the sea temple, and when the Egyptian artifacts discover it, they found 40 coffin with names on it like

Tohtomes the third, city the first with his son Ramses the second and even Ramses the third.

The importance of this hidden grave was in those dead bodies, because before the exploration of this grave scientist could not find any dead body in any grave they discovered, But in the other hand that hidden grave got trouble from the people of this region who thought that the grave has many treasures like gold and diamond, and that was a problem for the Egyptian artifacts association, so they had to be hurry with emptying the grave.

# Conclusion

- Ancient Egyptians had their own mythology about death, and that is reflected on their cemeteries.
- The importance of the valley, was in the books and text that was written on its walls
- Many important kings and queens chose to be buried in the Valley
- Egyptians thought that the west of the Nile is the gate of the other world, so we notice that all their cemeteries are in the west

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Index of tables:

1- Principle of extinction table	6
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Table of contents:

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The inquiry</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Aims of research</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Index of tables</b>	<b>14</b>