

Mummies
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The thing that really interested me about the Egyptians was that they would go through so much to preserve the bodies. The Egyptians went through great lengths to preserve their bodies because they believed that they went in to the Afterlife and ruled again. Nowadays we are able to still preserve our bodies but we do not use as much detail. We preserve the dead by dressing them up and we also inject them with drugs so they last longer and look more alive. Even if we believe in the Afterlife, we don't believe our bodies come with us. I think it is really interesting to see how the Egyptians went through great lengths to preserve their dead.

The civilization of the Egyptians lived by the Nile River for over 3,000 years. People have been opening tombs looking for treasure since ancient times. Now scientists have been paying attention to the mummies. By studying the bodies they tell us how it was back in ancient times. The purpose of this paper is to enhance your knowledge on the topic of mummification.

The only person to be an eyewitness of the whole process of the embalming was the Greek historian Herodotus. This is what he saw. The Egyptians went through a lot to preserve their bodies. First they would take

out the organs such as the lungs, liver, stomach and intestines. The heart was left in the body because it was believed that the body would need it to be judged in the next life. The body was then washed in herbs and wines. Later they would take hot resin and put it on the body to preserve it. They would take oil and rub it on the body so it would not crack. Then it would be wrapped in linen. After they wrapped the body they would put the body in a coffin to protect it from animals and tomb thieves. The bodies weren't the only things in that coffin.

When the Egyptians buried the body they also put in possessions the person had in their life. They believed that they would need what they had in their life, in order to have an enjoyable life in the Afterlife. The ancient Egyptians would even mummify their animals such as cats or anything they wanted to keep them company in the next life. They believed that the animal would keep them company in the next life. The animals represented gods. For instance the black cat represented Anubis, the god of embalming.

The Ancient Egyptians believed that if you opened the mummies' tomb you would be cursed for disturbing the person's rest and the curse would kill you. In spring 1932 newspapers said that there was a strange inscription in King Tut's tomb. This is what it said "Death shall come on swift wings to him that toucheth the tomb of the pharaoh." (Putman 1992)

Most of the people who entered King Tut's tomb died. The Egyptians thought that the pharaoh did it but I think it was coincidence.

Now the Egyptians think the deaths from the curse are from bacteria. Putman claims, in his book "However, the deaths can all be explained, and the famous inscription never existed. Howard Carter and most of the others who entered the tomb lived on for many years.

I chose to research on mummies because I really thought it would be interesting to learn about something I never heard about. When I was studying it all I wanted to do was learn more about this topic. As the research came to an end my mind was full of new and interesting facts, and I also began asking more questions. I wonder why that other civilizations did not carry the tradition of embalming? Also, why the Egyptians believed in the Afterlife? Many questions are still unanswered but I hope to find the answers one day.

Bibliography

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