

Paper on the Pyramids of Giza
And the Tombs of Sakkara and Memphis.

The subject of my Lecture will I trust (in view of the recent important discoveries at Thebes) prove of great interest to everyone present, to the one who has personally visited the places mentioned, it will in some measure act as a refresher and to those who have not had the privilege of journeying through the ancient land of Egypt it will explain many of the mysteries which puzzle those who have not had the advantage of travel in Eastern Countries

During the time I was stationed in the Delta I witnessed nearly everything mentioned in the Book of Numbers, carried out to-day exactly as it was in those remote times.

What a tide of human progress and decadence, history unfolds, as one travels through the land of the Pharaohs, how nations have risen and fallen since the time of the ancient Egyptians.

Few of the works of men have obtained such world-wide renown as the Pyramids of Egypt: not only are they known by name but some vague notion of their pointed shape, of their vast size, and their antiquity is familiar to people in the most distant parts of the Globe. But here at their Base, curiosity awakens and we cannot help asking why anyone should ever have built these Mountains of Stone. What are they? How old are they? And what is the meaning of all the smaller buildings that stand near them ranged

in regular rows like the streets of a Town? A Town indeed it is, but a town of the dead: part of a great burying ground which stretches for many miles North and South of the Giza plateau. Kings were buried in the Pyramids, rich men in deep shafts beneath the stone houses of the streets, poor men in shallow pits anywhere on the desert.

It is the Cemetery of Memphis, which for many centuries was the capital of Egypt: land in the Nile valley is so costly that it has always been the custom to bury the dead not in the cultivated soil but on the adjacent desert. Moreover, as a great part of the Egyptian religion was bound up with preservation of the body from corruption, its extreme dryness rendered the desert a very desirable place for interment.

In approaching the Pyramids from a distance one feels rather disappointed. It is only as the distance is shortened, and when one stands under the Monstre erected by Cheops that one realizes their enormous size.

There are three of great interest on the Giza platform, besides some six or seven smaller ones of less importance. The history and object of Pyramidal building in Egypt is more or less wrapped up in obscurity.

The picture now on the Screen shows you a section of the Great Pyramid. Each side measures about 746 feet -- the perpendicular

height 450 feet - 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ times as high as the tallest chimney in Hull the ground area 12 acres 3 roods 3 poles. It is said to contain 60 million Cubic feet of Masonry, weighing some 4,883,000 Tons. Now, if it were formed hollow instead of a solid structure it would accommodate inside the whole of St. Pauls Cathedral, Dome included. This Pyramid was never used as a Tomb, but was used by the Priests for their Ceremonies, it is said to be the greatest Masonic Temple that has ever been built and is emblematical of their mysteries.

The Giza Pyramids were built by three Kings of the 1Vth Dynasty, viz. Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinos: they are by far the finest of the Pyramids, and at no succeeding time has better Mason's work ever been done than is to be seen in parts of the Great Pyramid.

It is difficult to realize their great antiquity for when the Israelites were making bricks during their bondage in Egypt the Pyramids had been standing for 15 Centuries.

Scholars differ in their opinions as to the date of the early monuments, some authorities placing the period of the building of the Great Pyramid at 4000 B.C. others at 4235 B.C.

It is impossible in a short paper of this kind to enter fully into this matter, but the data given by Prof. Ed. Meyer and Prof. Breasted would appear to be conclusive.

Somewhere about 448 B.C. Herodotus, the Greek traveller came to Egypt and gave the first and perhaps the best account of the country which has ever been written. He tells us that Cheops and Chephren were great oppressors of their people and afflicted the country sorely on purpose to obtain the money and labour needed to build their Pyramids, and this may well be a reliable tradition handed down from antiquity, as the rest of his account, which relates to the construction and the time required for it, is extremely probable.

Herodotus says that in building the Pyramid of Cheops there were 100,000 workmen employed for three months at a time, quarrying the stones on the Eastern or Arabian Desert, and ferrying them over the Nile to the western side. Ten years were spent in building the causeway, in preparing the rock, and in making the subterranean chambers, and twenty years in building the Pyramid itself.

Herodotus's statement that the workmen were employed for three months at a time doubtless refers to the three months high Nile during which time there was no work done in the fields.

Supposing that this arm of 100,000 workmen worked three months every year for twenty years or more and were divided up into gangs of eight or ten, which is as many as could conveniently work on one block of stone, each company would be able to quarry and

convey to the site an average of ten blocks in the season, so that the total of 2,300,000 could very well be arrived at. Prof. Petre estimates the average size of the block at about 40 cubic feet and their weight $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons each.

I was stationed at Mahdi near Tura for several months in 1916 and it was my favourite ride in the evening to visit the Mokattam Hills from whence the limestone for the outer casing and galleries was obtained. The Granite used in the doorway and in the King's Chamber came from Aswan.

There were large workmens' barracks, traces of which are still remaining, near the second Pyramid which would have accommodation for from 4,000 to 5,000 men.

The Second Pyramid and Sphinx.

The Pyramid of Chephren is almost equal in proportions and execution to that of Cheops and has suffered much less from the ravages of time.

Not only is part of the original casing still in place on the upper part of the Pyramid and the position and plan of the Temple on the Eastern face is still traceable, nearly all the line of the causeway can be clearly seen and the valley Temple remains in comparatively good condition. Besides all this the Great Sphinx belongs to this Pyramid and though much damaged above and sanded up

on the lower part, has always been the wonder of all beholders.

It has been a matter of great speculation until very recently, what the Sphinx did really represent. In the new Empire about 1400 B.C. and some 1500 years after Chephrens' time the Sphinx was receiving honour as the God Harmachis and it was much revered as a divinity down to Greek and Roman times. Between the paws, too much sanded up to be visible, is a granite slab covered with inscriptions. This professes to be a votive tablet made by Thutmose IV 1420 B.C. Relating how he had been raised to his throne by Harmachis the Sphinx as a reward for his having cleared the great image from the sand which had gathered around it.

Herodotus the Historian whilst giving a very careful description of the Pyramids never once mentioned the Sphinx, no doubt the reason was that it was covered with sand which is always moving on the desert, even to this day they are constantly digging away the sand to keep the Sphinx clear.

The entire height of the Sphinx from the pavement to the crown of the head is said to be 66 feet and the length 187 feet, the head is 30 feet long and the face 14 feet wide.

The granite Temple which is close by was often called the Temple of the Sphinx, and has only lately been identified with certainty as being the valley Temple of the second Pyramid.

The Pyramid of Mycerinus is much smaller than the other two,

and must have looked very splendid when its lower half was cased with Red Granite. Many of the casing blocks are still in place, whilst others are strewn about the ground. The upper part of the casing was of Tura Limestone.

The present height of the Pyramid is 204 feet, its former height was 218 feet. The length of the sides is 356 feet. It, like the two larger Pyramids, shows evidence of a change of plan, and an enlargement from the first design, but in this case there are some features which differ from the others.

The original entrance is seen far inside the Masonry and a short sloping passage leads down from it to the burial chamber.

The site of the Second Pyramid is not quite to advantage as the level plateau which Cheops utilized. Chephren chose higher and somewhat sloping ground, and had to cut away some of the rock on the West side, and had to build up foundations on the East in order to level it up.

This Pyramid is now 447 feet in height and was originally 471 feet. Each side of the base measures 690 feet, originally 707 feet. The two lower courses of the casing were Granite, some blocks of which are still to be seen on the West side, all the upper part was of Tura Limestone, much of which still remains.

In the face of the Cliff on the West (which has been cut away in order to level the Plateau on which the Pyramid rests) are several Tombs, some of which are of a much later period and none

have any connection with the Pyramid. West of this, above,
are the remains of the barracks where the workmen lodged.

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1. The Avenue of Sphinxes at Karnack built by Hatshepsut the Widow of Thotmes II.
2. Interior of Karnack Temple.
3. Karnack Colonnade. There are 12 huge Pillars 60 feet high and $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick forming the Central Avenue.
4. The gigantic Statue of Rameses II is said to be the largest in Egypt, it weighs over One thousand tons and causes much surprise that such enormous masses could be quarried in one piece and then transported and erected.
6. The Colossi at Thebes standing 60 feet above the plain. The Stones are musical and when struck produce Musical sounds.
7. The next Picture is a view of the entrance to the Tomb of Rameses IV.
8. Interior of the Kings Tomb. The walls are covered with inscriptions giving details of the history of the country during the reign of the Kings who were buried there.
9. Ruins of Temple.
10. The next picture is the Temple at Edfou, which is said to

be the most perfect specimen extant of an Egyptian Temple.

11. The external walls are covered with inscriptions containing important details of the ancient geography of Egypt.

12. Temple within Temple at Edfou.

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In order to give my paper some Masonic interests I have included the subject of F.M. and the ancient Gods.

Lectures on this interesting subject have been given in this Lodge on two former occasions viz :- Bro. Churchward on Friday the 7th November 1913 and Bro. de Lafontaine on the 3rd December 1920. The matter for my Lecture to-night has been collected from very reliable sources viz:- the works of Dr. Petrie "Religion in Ancient Egypt". Dr. James Henry Breasted's "Development of Religion and Thought in Ancient Egypt". J.G. Frazer "Studies in Oriental Religion". Albert G. Mackay "Lexicon of F.M." J.S.M. Ward's "F.M. and the Ancient Gods". Albert Churchward's "The Origin and Evolution of F.M." Dr. Wallis Budge, "The Book of the Dead". I think that every Brother here present will appreciate that my remarks are based on a solid foundation and I hope will prove of great interest to the Brethren.

I have been successful in obtaining a number of valuable slides to illustrate the various points raised in my paper.

J.S.M. Ward in his Book entitled "F.M. and the Ancient Gods" says :-

"Egypt has exercised a tremendous fascination on many of the Brotherhood. In the 18th Century a tendency of tracing back all our mysteries to Egypt and even to-day there are Masonic Students who are apt to fall under its glamour and see Egyptian influence where it does not exist.

On the other hand as a natural result, others have felt the reaction and have rushed to the opposite extreme refusing to admit any connection direct or indirect between the Ancient mysteries of Egypt and our own system.

The Priesthood of Egypt constituted a Sacred Castle in whom the sacerdotal functions were hereditary. Their doctrines were of two kinds, one public and one Secret. In order to obtain them it was necessary to pass through a ceremony which was characterized by the severest trials of courage and fortitude.

The mysteries of Osiris formed the 3rd degree or summit of Egyptian initiation.

The first point of interest is naturally the legend of Osiris."

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This legend is a solar myth, at any rate in its developed form and there are also other similar myths which shew certain points in common.

The story of Osiris is probably well known to all present but the main points may be summarised as follows :-

Set, the God of Darkness, plotted the death of his brother Osiris, by beguiling him into entering a large chest, and as soon as he was in it, fastened it down and flung it into the Nile.

No. 19.
Isis.

Isis, the wife and sister of Osiris, on learning of the murder set forth to seek the body. The Chest was carried out to Sea as far as Byblos in Syria where it lodged against a small Tamarisk Tree, a plant like the Acacia. The Tamarisk grew round it and became a great Tree. The King of the Country cut it down and used it as a column in his Palace, but was unaware that hidden within it was the Chest containing the body of Osiris.

Isis led by a vision, came to Byblos and obtained the column from the King and there exists pictures of her weeping over a broken column whilst Horus pours ambrosia over her head.

She took the body back to Egypt but set found it and tore it to pieces, fourteen or fifteen in all and scattered these throughout Egypt, fearing that if it remained whole, it might come to life again.

But Isis set out again on her search and recovered the parts and gave the body decent burial. Meanwhile, his son, Horus attacked and slew Set after a fierce struggle.

Then he went to raise his father and after Isis and Nephthys had failed, Anubis in the correct manner raised him with the Lions grip.

Henceforward, Osiris, having triumphed over the grave reigns as King of the so called dead bearing the Auk Cross as his Sceptre and as judge of the dead. He is seated on the Sq.

The use of the Sq. as the emblem of the upright Judge seems to point to the antiquity of our Order in Egypt but others only ridicule any such suggestion.

Yet the Sq. in the Throne is unmistakable.

No. 20.

Anubis
weighing
the heart
of the
SA.

It is not only Osiris but all the Gods, who judge the dead, whom we find so depicted. Take for example the scene from the Papyrus of Ani, in the British Museum, where Ani and his Wife are entering the Hall of Judgment. Here the 12 Judges are all seated on Thrones on which the Sq. is carefully picked out in distinct colours which differs from the remainder of the Throne.

On again referring to the same papyrus you find Osiris and Maat when acting as Judges are placed on Squares.

The first P.S. was not the only S. in use among the Egyptians Thus the H.S. of a F.C. is shewn both in Statues and Papyrus.

The Lions grip was used by Horus to raise Osiris.

The two pillars which occur in the book of the Dead are called Tat and Father and the separate significations were "In strength and "To establish" and their conjoint meaning "To establish firmly".