

# DISCOVERING TUT MODULE - 1



An ancient Egyptian wall painting depicting a man and a woman in a garden. The man, on the left, is shown in profile, wearing a red tunic and a large, ornate collar. He holds a bird in his right hand and a lotus flower in his left. The woman, on the right, is also in profile, wearing a blue and white dress and a tall, ornate headdress. She holds a fan in her right hand. The background is filled with various birds, including a large owl and several smaller birds, and lotus flowers. A vertical column of hieroglyphs is visible between the man and the woman. The overall style is characteristic of the Late Period of ancient Egypt.

# Egyptian Culture and Beliefs

# Ancient Egypt- The Seat of Civilization

- ❖ Ancient Egypt had borne witness to a number of rulers and one of world's primeval cultures.
- ❖ Several dynasties had ruled Egypt and the history of the region had had ebbs and flows in various periods of time.
- ❖ Egypt reached the pinnacle of glory during the New Kingdom between 16 BCE – 11BCE.
- ❖ The 18, 19 and the 20 dynasties of Pharaohs ruled over during this period.
- ❖ Famous Pharaohs of these dynasties include Ahmose I, Queen Hatshepsut, Thutmose III, Amenhotep III, Akhenaten, and Tutankhamun.

# Egyptian Deities and Beliefs

- ✓ Egypt was polytheistic
- ✓ Egyptians worshipped deities manifested in combinations of humans and/or animals
- ✓ Each one of them, mighty to meagre represented the nature of the deities
- ✓ The gods had been assigned regions and cult practices  
Ex: the cult place of the Sun God Ra or Re was called Heliopolis
- ✓ These gods and Goddesses were responsible everything - from protection on earth to life after death and rebirth
- ✓ Some of these gods were associated with the afterlife also

HATHOR

SET

TAWERET

AMUN

THOTH

PTAH

# Pharaoh – the Divine Ruler

Pronunciation: /'feərəʊ/- feuh-row

- Pharaoh originally meant the great house- referring to the royal mansions.
- It came to be referring to the rulers of the New Kingdom of Egypt metonymically.
- They were said to be the representatives of god and considered all powerful.
- They came in the hierarchy preceded by gods and followed by the mighty dead and citizens.
- The pharaohs were considered immortal.
- Their bodies were preserved for eternity as death was believed to be an intermittent point between the present and the after life.
- So, the Egyptians followed elaborate rituals preparing their pharaoh's body for afterlife.

# Afterlife Beliefs

**God of Underworld and Judge of the Dead was Osiris.**

**He was said to be born in the union of sky and earth.**

**He was also said to be the God of Fertility.**

**Osiris was considered the father of every king and an aspect of hope and salvation after death.**

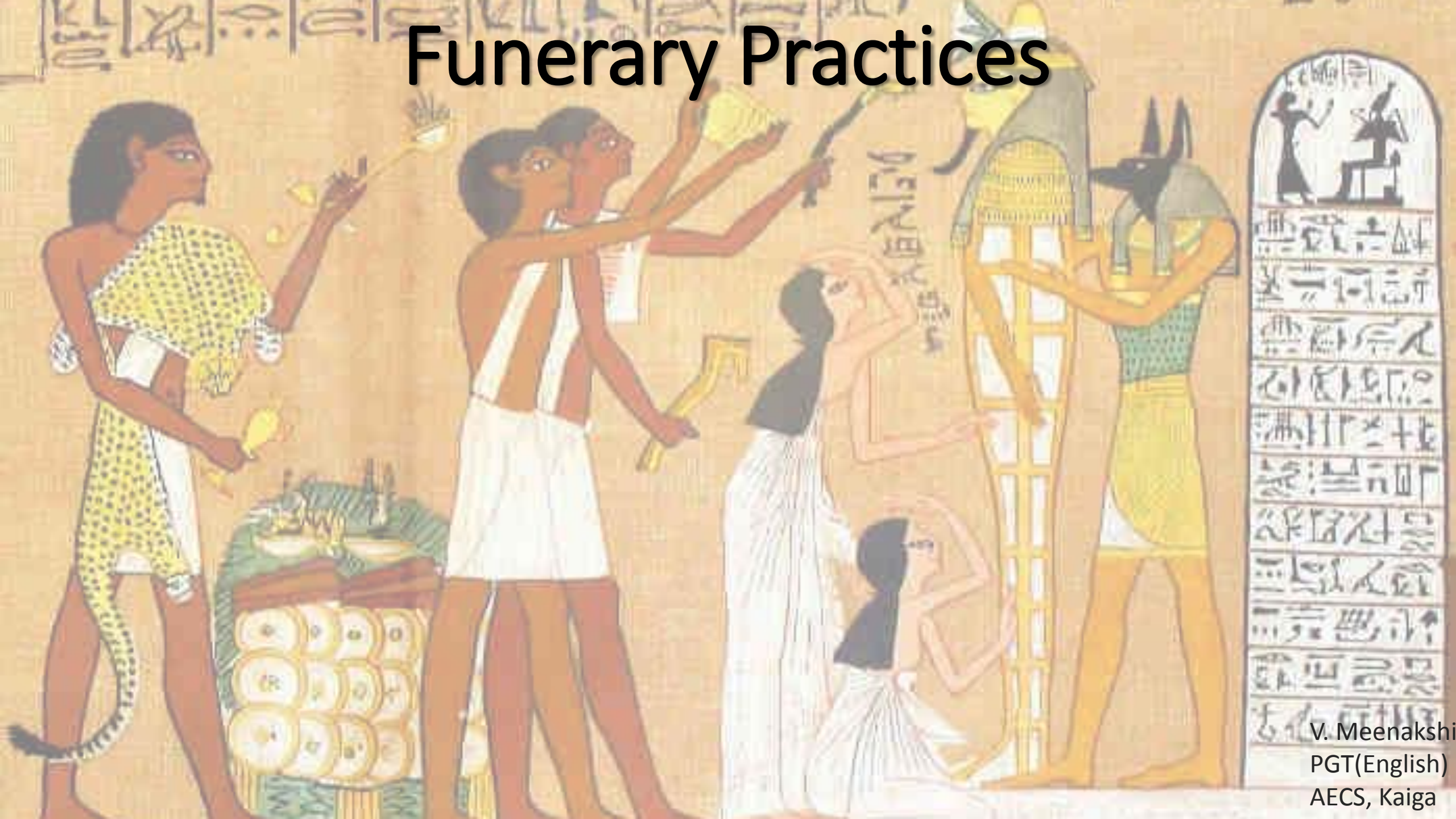
**Every King was meant to come alive after death. So, their bodies were preserved elaborately.**

**Egyptians believed that Osiris guarded the dead pharaoh's tombs.**

**In some way or the other all the deities of the Egypt were associated to one or the other natural phenomenon.**

**The Orion constellation associated with none other than Osiris himself, associated with the dead and said to be watching their tombs.**

# Funerary Practices



# Mummification

- The deceased pharaoh's body was preserved in a process called mummification.
- They allowed the body to dry using a special salt after removing the internal organs in a very subtle way.
- The high priests acted as embalmers and it took about 70 days to embalm a body.
- Drying up is an attempt to preserve the body in its original form.
- The embalmers wrapped the body in long linen strips inter-laid with ritual gum which would solidify the body.



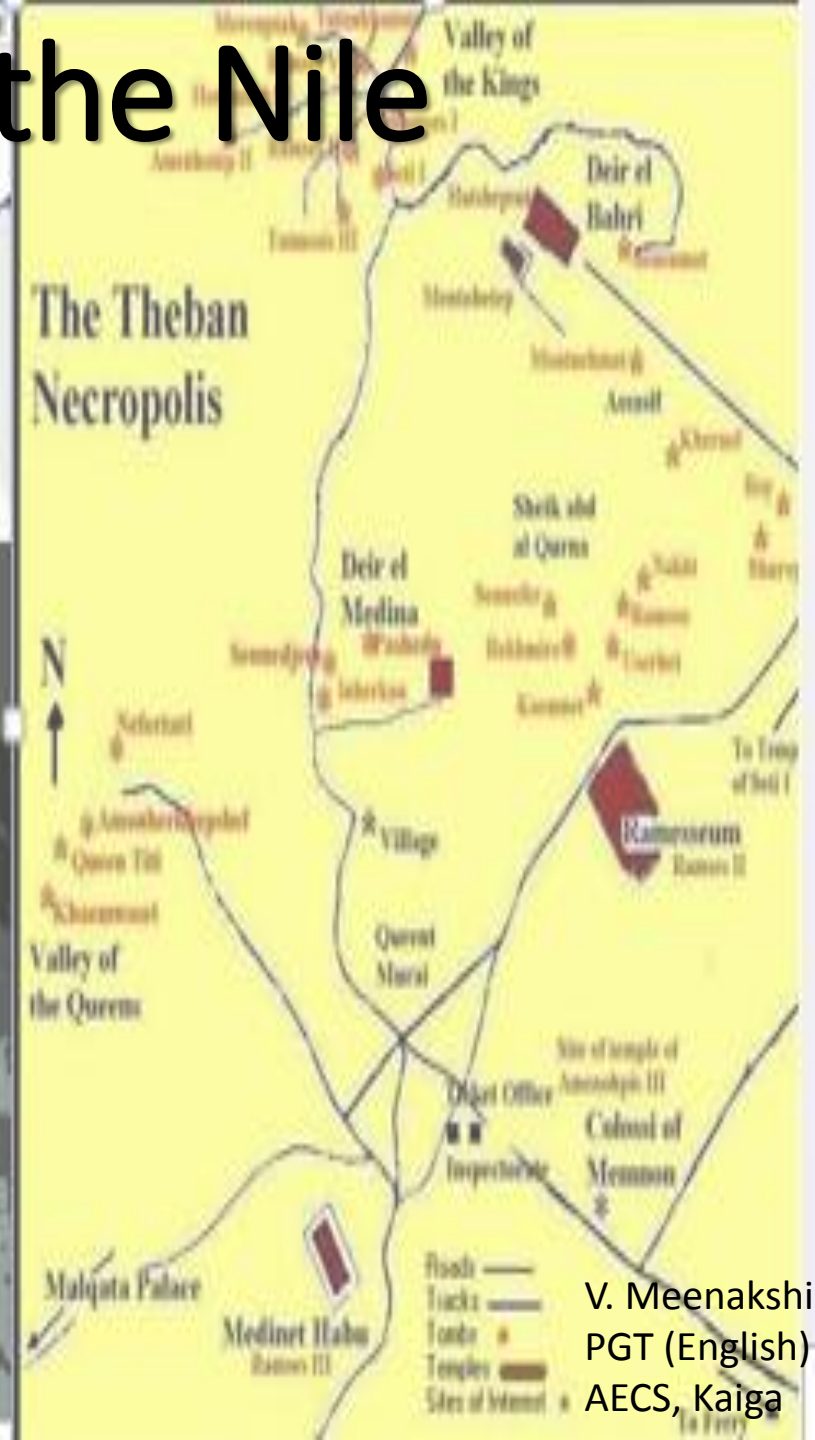
# The Burial Chamber

- ❖ The grave chambers were readied for the dead to continue their journey to life beyond life.
- ❖ They believed that the soul would return to the body after giving it a ritualistic life through spells both oral and written.
- ❖ An extravagant list of things that the person was using such as scores of ornaments, household articles, dresses, food, drink and everything needed for their after life were buried along with the mortal remains of the pharaohs to be used in afterlife.
- ❖ Funerary texts with spells and prayers were also inscribed, painted all around the chamber to propel the soul and body to the afterworld.
- ❖ After the bodies were preserved, they were contained in Anthropoids-coffins resembling the dead themselves- and buried in an elaborate ritual.

# Valley of Kings

- ❖ Valley of Kings is a valley at the western banks of River Nile.
- ❖ It contains the rock cut tombs of pharaohs and nobles of the 18-20 dynasties of Ancient Egypt.
- ❖ Almost 600 mummies have been discovered until 2003 and the research continues.
- ❖ This site has been a source of perennial interest of archeologists and Egyptologists who excavate the evidences of the past ever since the late 18 Century.
- ❖ With the discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922-23, the valley gained utmost significance and interest.
- ❖ The discovered mummies are numbered with a KV tag signifying their finding in the King's Valley.
- ❖ Valley of Kings is a World Heritage Site protected by the UNESCO.

# The Necropolises along the Nile



# Tutankhamun- The Boy Pharaoh



# Tutankhamun Aka Tut

**Pronunciation: (/ˌtuːtəŋkɑːˈmuːn/)**

- ❖ **Known as Tutankhaten and Tutankhamun, King Tut was the 13<sup>th</sup> and the last pharaoh of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty of the New Kingdom of Egypt.**
- ❖ **He ascended the throne at about 8 -11 years of age.**
- ❖ **He was known to be the “Living Image of Amun” as he restored the worship of Amun replacing Aten. So, he changed his given name Tutankhetan to Tutankhamun.**
- ❖ **He passed away at a very young age of 19.**

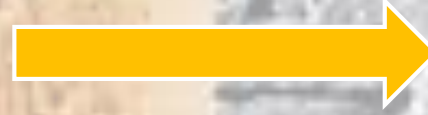
# Tut's Father- Akhenaten

- Akhenaten was the second son of the mighty Amenhotep III, the 9<sup>th</sup> ruler of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty of the New Kingdom.
- He was born Amenhotep – IV, he changed his name to Akhenaten or the servant of the Aten.
- He moved his religious capital from the old city of Thebes to new city, Amarna.
- He committed heretic acts like smashing the idols of Amun, the ruling God of Egypt and his temples
- King Tut was said to be the son of the King Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti (Popularly known as the Young Lady).
- An unnoticed ruler Smenkhkare followed Akhenatan shortly, followed by Tutankhamun.

# Aten and Amun

- ❖ The Aten was the principal God of Ancient Egypt.
- ❖ Worshipping Aten or the Sun Disc was a prevalent practice in the Old Kingdom of Egypt.
- ❖ From the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, the pharaohs placed themselves under the patronage of the God Amun of Karnak. He was promoted as the dynastic God.
- ❖ The 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty revived the older practices of the Ancient Kingdom by reviving the worship of Aten.
- ❖ Akhenaten promoted the worship so vigorously, turning the practices monotheistic and only Aten-oriented.

# Restoration of Amun



**Tutankhamun's given name was Tutankhetan- the living image of Aten.**

**When his father Akhenaten was heretic, the Egyptian society had to practice the earlier worship secretly.**

**As soon as the boy pharaoh came to power he restored the worship of God Amun and changed his name to Tutankhamun- the living image of Amun**



# Discovery of King Tut's Tomb

- ❑ King Tut's Tomb was accidentally discovered on 4 November 1922 by Howard Carter a British Archeologist and Egyptologist.
- ❑ It was found sealed and stamped with oval shaped seals with pictographic writings on them.
- ❑ The sealed steps led to a deep burial chamber with innumerable things of gold and other valuables and everyday items that King Tut was using.
- ❑ The excavation gave away clues to the cause of death, the time and the ritualistic practices existing at the time etc.