Illuminating the path of darkness: social and sacred power of artificial light in Pharaonic Period Egypt

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Abstract
Light is seldom addressed in archaeological research, despite the fact that, at least in ancient Egypt, it would have impacted upon all aspects of life. When discussing light in Egyptology, the vast majority of scholarly attention is placed on the sun, the primary source of illumination. In comparison, artificial light receives very little attention, primarily due to...
cultural lineage to ancient Egypt. Rather, they show cultural resilience and the power to accommodate various cultural influences within an Egyptian mould (Frankfurter 1998: 33).

Among the most known motifs are the representations of Maria Lactans, which bring to mind those of Isis with the child Horus; similarly, the figure of the holy horseman or warrior-saint slaying a dragon, devil, or snake with his spear echoes that of Horus fighting Seth, or killing Apophis or a crocodile. The third month of the year, Haatuur, begins with the three “nights of darkness,” during which Coptic liturgy is imbued with funerary tones. In discussing possible legacies of Pharaonic religious practices in Coptic Christianity, one has to keep in mind the ruptures, the gaps, the renewals, and also the eradications. Egypt was one of the earliest cultures to start keeping extensive records for future generations. Their monuments like the Great Pyramids of Giza remain. Because of the rarity of the metal, it was mainly associated with wealth and power. It was mainly crafted into jewelry and trinkets for royalty rather than weapons as it was later used. In the 1980s, chemical analysis showed levels of nickel, a metal associated with meteorites, but levels were too low to confirm. Along with other mummies with visible tattoos, the Deir el-Medina mummy sheds light on a possible ancient religious practice. The Deir el-Medina mummy is a headless, limbless torso that belonged to a woman from between 1300 and 1070 BC who lived in an artisanal village near the Valley of the Kings. “The Light of Egypt” will be found to be an Occult library in itself, a textbook of esoteric knowledge, setting forth the “wisdom Religion” of life, as taught by the Adepts of Hermetic Philosophy. It will richly repay all who are seeking the higher life to carefully study this book, as it contains in a nutshell the wisdom of the ages regarding man and his destiny, here and hereafter. The London and American first edition, also the French edition, Vol. Now that our author has passed beyond the power of the world to flatter or condemn, and has given his thought for the uplifting of the human family, it is but simple justice that he be made known to the world as its teacher of a higher thought than has preceded him. The Pharaoh Egypt was always an absolute monarchy, the king or Pharaoh was belived to be a god living on earth who, after his apparent death, would return to join the other deities. He bore the title « Child of the Sun » and represented religious, political and military power throughout Egypt. He was assisted by a « vizir » who was the head of the executive. The word « pharaoh » is in fact a Greek distortion of an Egyptian word referring to the royal palace. It was only in the New Kingdom from about 1580 B.C. that « pharaoh » came to mean the person of the sovereign himself. Ancient Egyptian P...