



Little Door to the 22nd of December

For over 3,000 years – from around 3100 B.C to 30 B.C. –, Ancient Egypt with its pharaohs existed. It was neither a monolithic nor static society, as there were many dynasties during this long time period. This can also be seen by the different burial sites such as the Valley of the Kings (18th, 19th and 20th dynasty - 1539–1075 B.C.) and the Great Pyramid of Giza (c. 2543–c. 2436 B.C.) built by Cheops, the second King of the 4th dynasty.

Throughout much of its history, Ancient Egypt followed a polytheistic religion where many different gods and goddesses were venerated. So, here's a few of them you may have already heard about:

📖 Osiris – The God of the Underworld

Abydos, in Upper Egypt, was an important cult centre for him

📖 Amun-Ra – God associated with the Sun

Luxor, ancient Thebes, particularly important during the New Kingdom

📖 Maat – God associated with truth, justice and order

He was the god who would weigh a person's deeds against a feather.

"If the person had committed a great deal of wrong, the person's heart would be heavier than the feather and the person's soul would be obliterated. On the other hand, if their deeds were generally good, they passed forward and had the opportunity to successfully navigate the underworld." ([LiveScience](#))

Lastly, let's move on to the Egyptian writing.

As you may be aware, their hieroglyphic script is unlike our modern alphabet. The earliest inscriptions date back about 5,200 years. Barry Kemp, a professor of Egyptology, described it as a living oral language where most hieroglyphs represent the sounds of consonants and certain emphatically expressed vowels.

After Alexander the Great conquered Egypt, the Greek language became widely used. Coptic, an Egyptian language that used the Greek alphabet, was used after Christianity spread throughout Egypt. During the 5th century the hieroglyphic writing style became extinct. Arabic spread in 641 A.D. and is widely used in the country to this day.