

Week2

**Setting the Stage – Amenhotep
III and the early 18th dynasty:
Historical and religious foundation of the
Amarna Period**

HPAH7022 - Religious Change and Resilience: The
case study of Amarna

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Chronology of early 18th dynasty

Dynasty 18 (about 1550 - 1292 BC)

- [Ahmose Nebpehtire](#) (1550-1525 BC)
- [Amenhotep I Djeserkare](#) (1525-1504 BC)
- [Thutmose I Aakheperkare](#) (1504-1492 BC)
- [Thutmose II Aakheperenre](#) (1492-1479 BC)
- [Hatshepsut Maatkare](#) (1479/1473-1458/57 BC)
- [Thutmose III Menkheperre](#) (1479-1425 BC)
- [Amenhotep II Aakheperure](#) (1428-1397 BC)
- [Thutmose IV Menkheperure](#) (1397-1388 BC)
- [Amenhotep III Nebmaatire](#) (1388-1351/50 BC)
- [Akhenaten \(Amenhotep IV\) Neterkheperure-waenre](#) (1351-1334 BC)
- [Semenkhkare Ankhkheperure](#) (1337-1334 BC)
- [Tutankhamun Nebkheperure](#) (1333-1323 BC)
- [Ay Kheperkheperure](#) (1323-1319 BC)
- [Horemheb Djeserkheperure-setpenre](#) (1319-1292 BC)

New Kingdom

The Egyptian Empire



Ahmosé I (MMA 2006.270)

- fought Hyksos in Auaris (against Apepi Awoserre) → this marked the beginning of the New Kingdom and its expansion politics

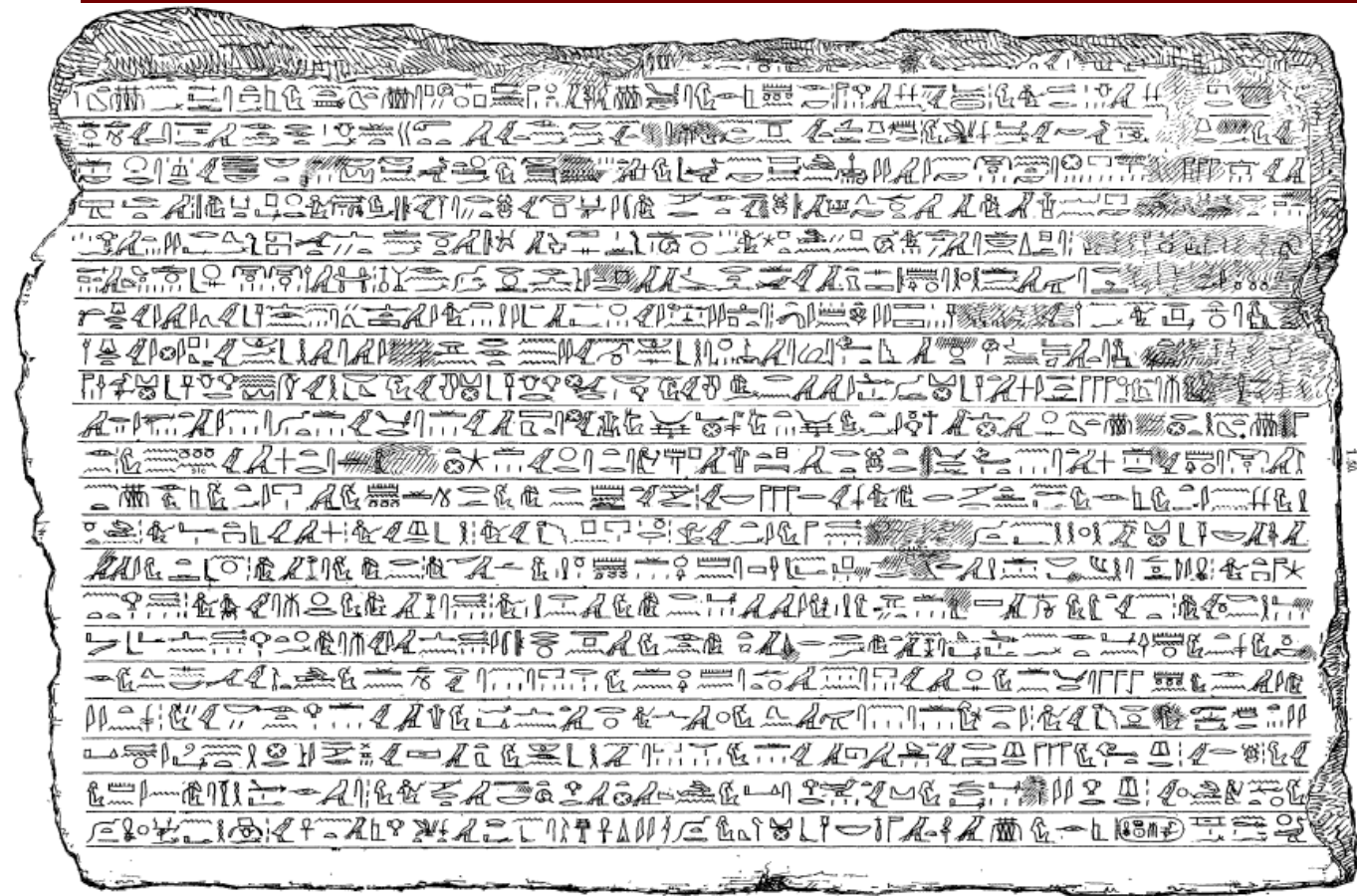


Amenhotep I (MfA 07.536; Egyptian Museum, Turin, C1452)

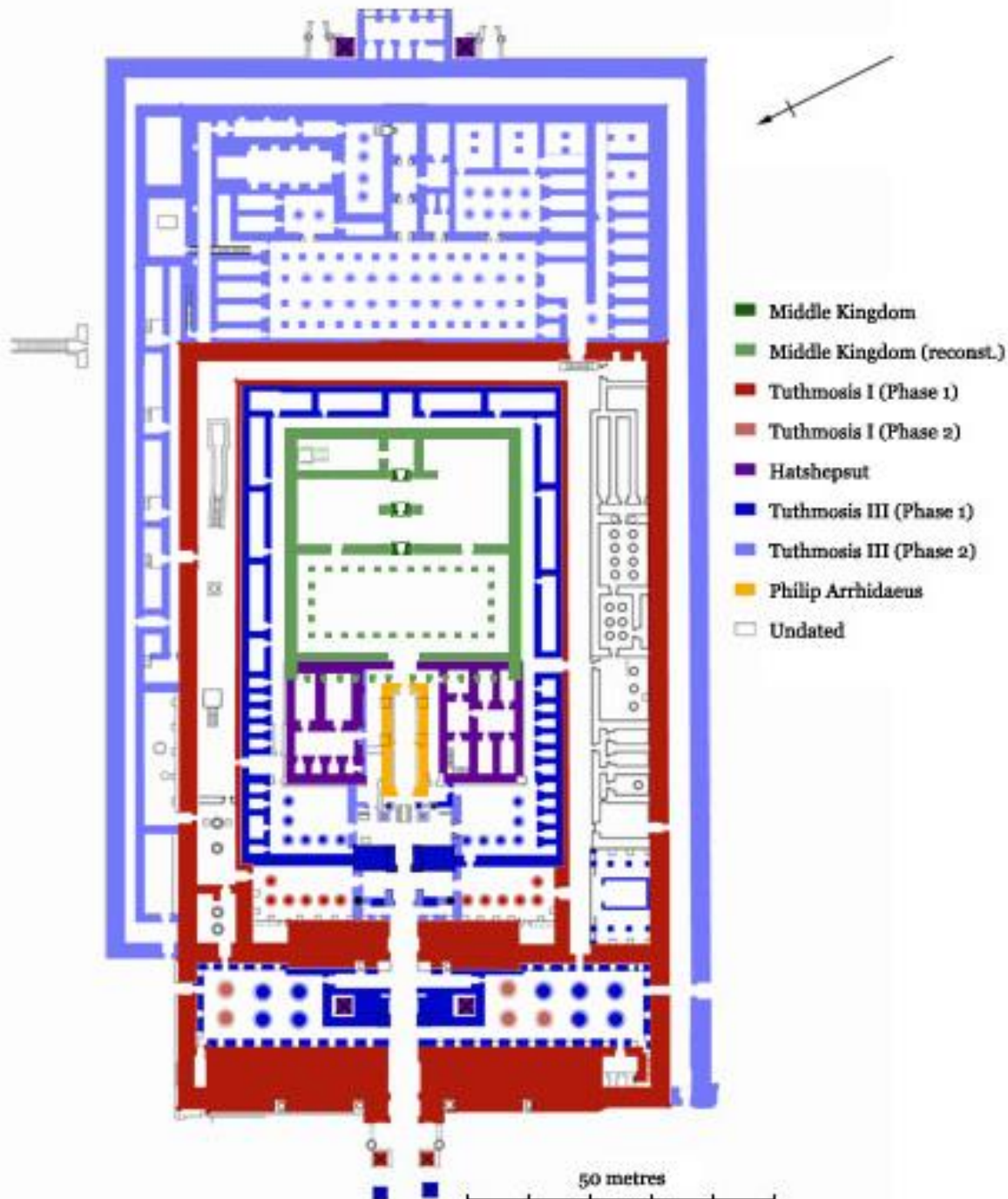
- Son of Ahmose
- Deified in Deir El-Medina → temple



Thutmose I: military commander for Amenhotep I, took throne after death of childless A I
Abydos Stela (Cairo CG 34007): extension to the temple of Amun at Karnak (architect Ineni), adding 4th / 5th pylons, courts, statues and one of Egypt's largest standing Obelisks.

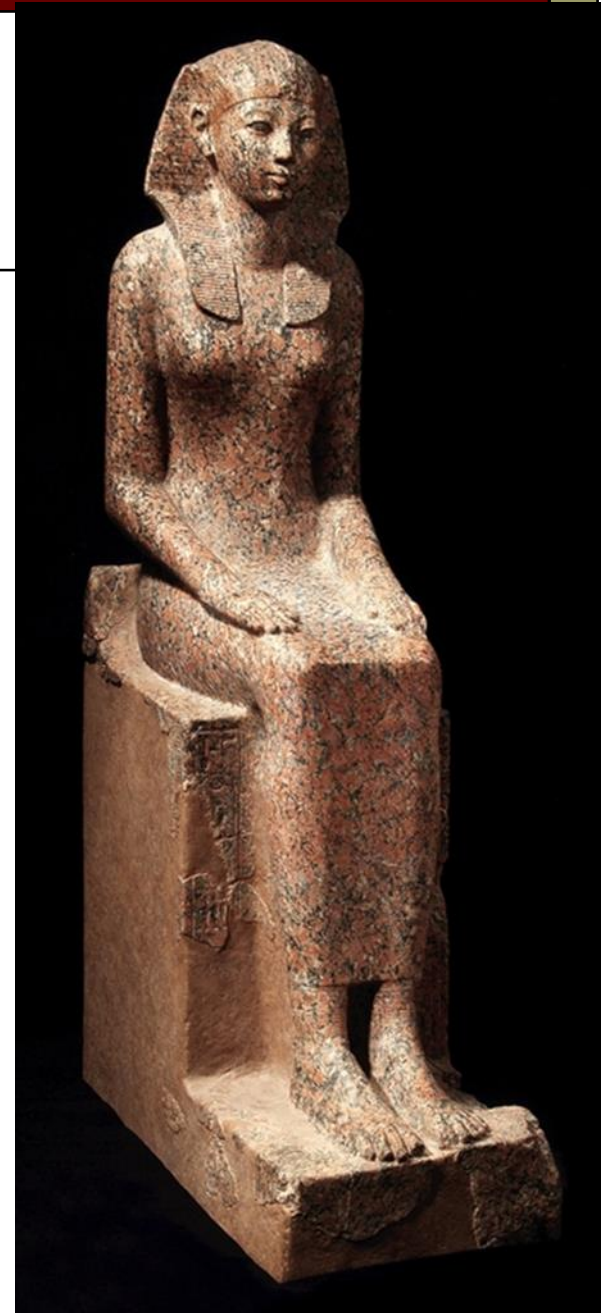


Karnak in
the NK:
why did
the
pharaohs
add so
much?



Hatshepsut as King's daughter to Thutmose I

- ❑ 2 daughters, Hatshepsut and Nefrubity (died as infant), by Ahmose
- ❑ H. married another son of Thutmose I by Mutnofret → Thutmose II
- ❑ later recorded by Hatshepsut: Thutmose willed kingship to both – Thutmose II and Hatshepsut → propaganda?!
- ❑ Legitimisation via oracle performed by Amun



Hatshepsut
and Amun

male rep.

'daughter of
Amun'

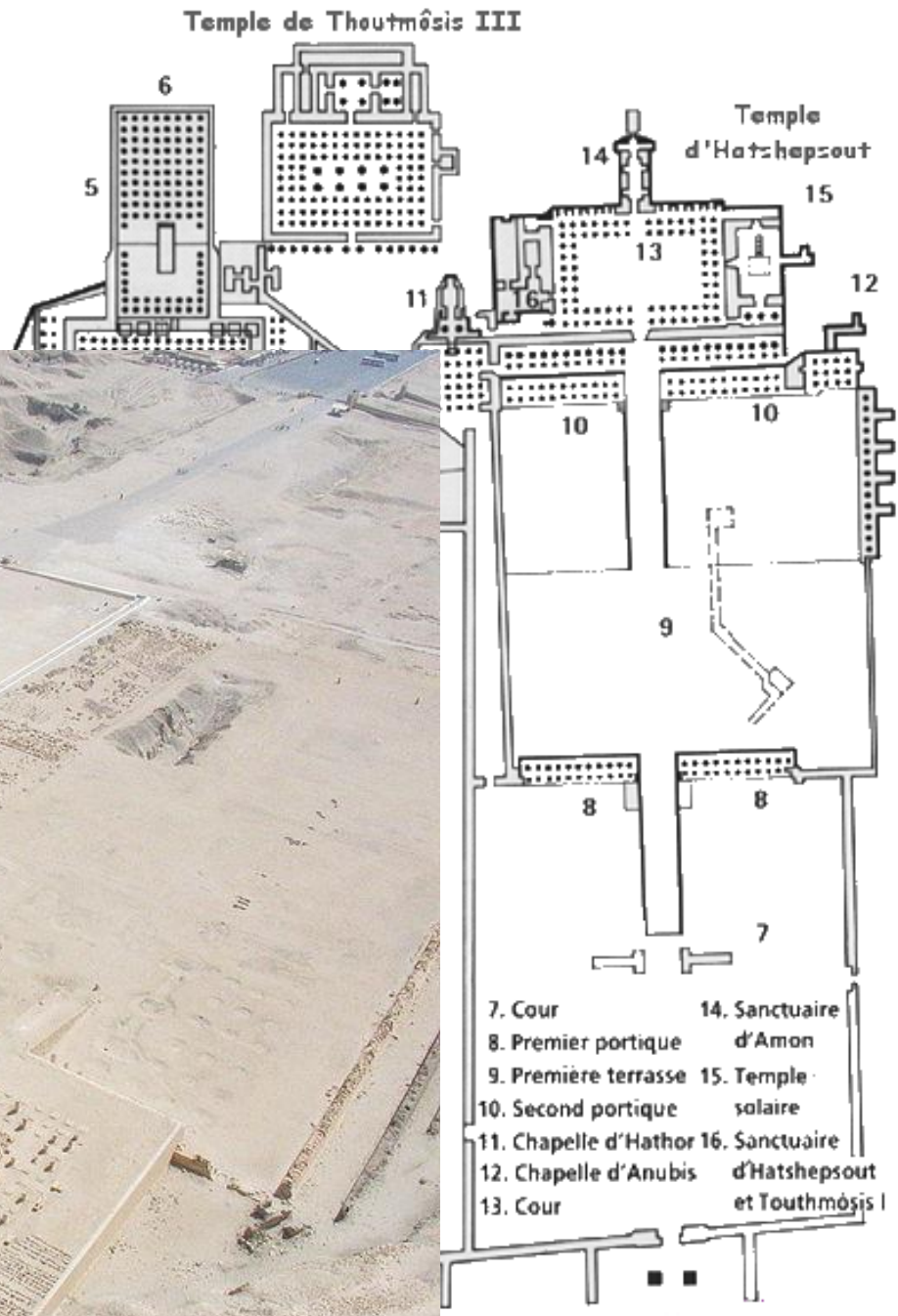


Coronation (Chappelle Rouge)



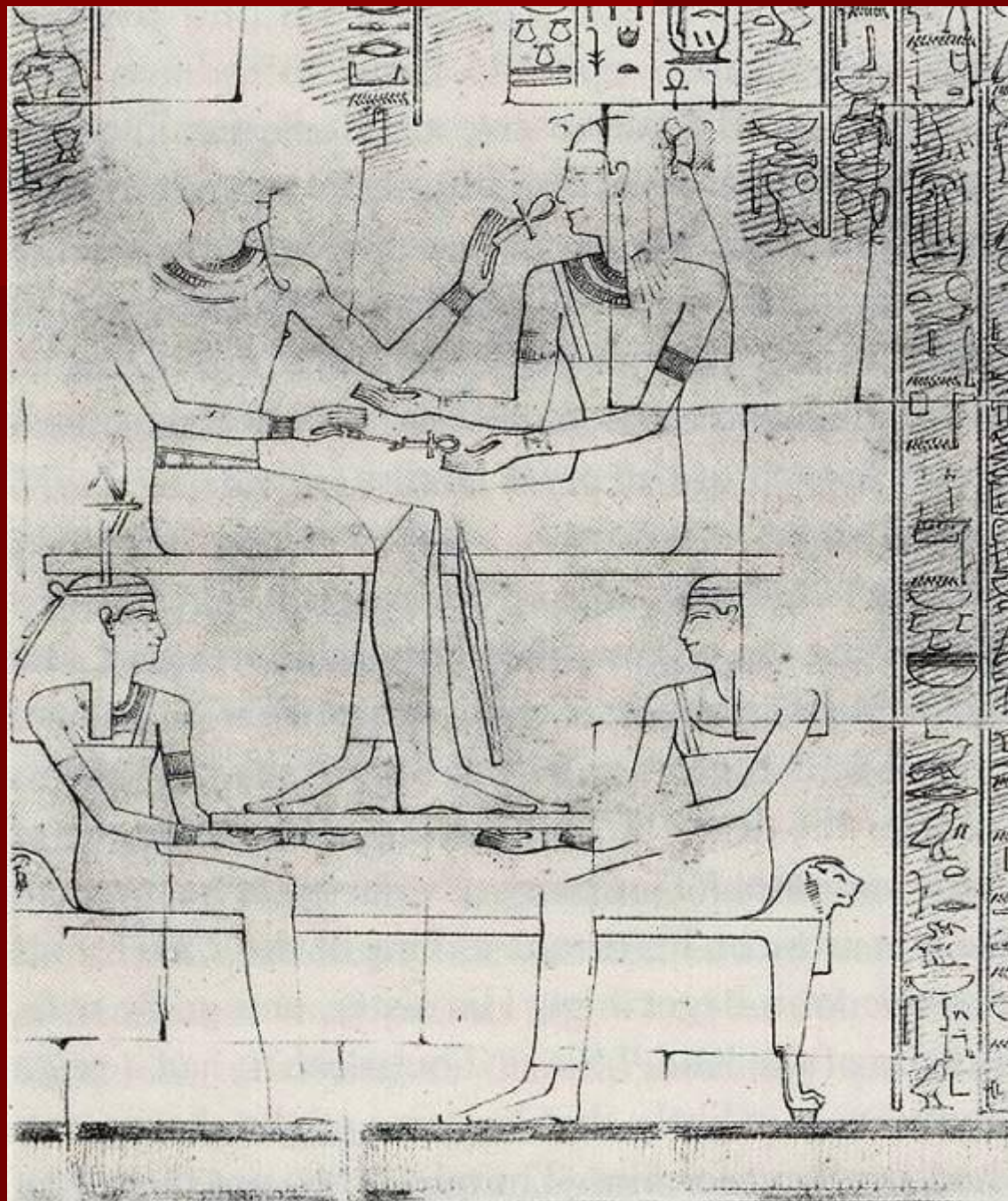


Deir el-Bahari



Amun 'visits'
Hatshepsut's
mother Ahmose

(Divine birth
of Hatshepsut)



Thutmose III: king and commander of the army

Statue Luxor Museum

Called military genius: 17 raids in 20 years

- captured 350 cities during his rule and conquered Near East from the Euphrates to Nubia

- → known also by royal scribe and army commander, Tjanuny, who wrote about his conquests and reign



Amenhotep II: sporting king (Brooklyn Museum)

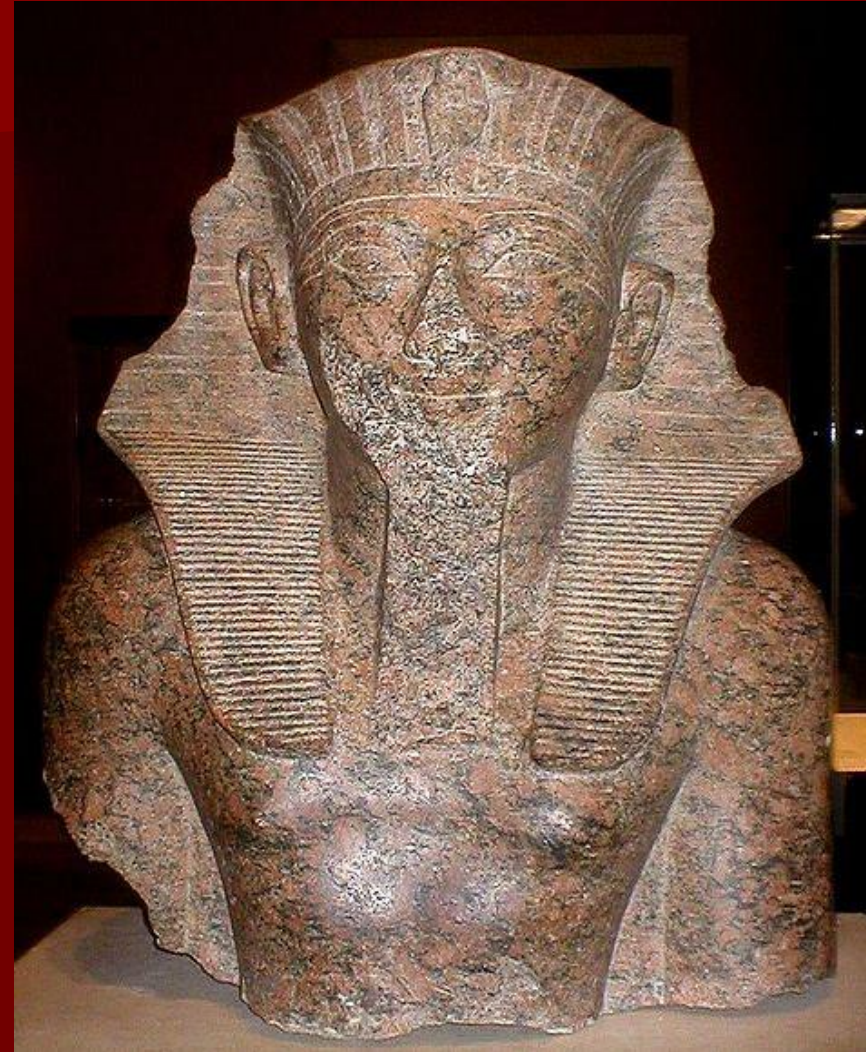
- king well known for physical prowess (killed singlehandedly 7 rebel Princes at Kadesh): bodies were hung on city walls throughout the country (Thebes, Nubia, Napata) as example of the consequence of rising against Pharaoh



Thutmose IV

Louvre, Paris

- More diplomacy than military campaigns:
- Peace with Mitanni, Mitanni princess as wife
- Campaigns to Syria (record in Amarna Letters), married Syrian princess
- Campaigns against Mitanni vassals and rebellious Egyptian city states



Excursus

Sun religion in Ancient Egypt



NK solar religion

- ❑ EGYPTIAN SOLAR RELIGION IN THE NEW KINGDOM: RE, AMUN AND THE CRISIS OF POLYTHEISM → Jan Assmann
- ❑ IDEA:
- ❑ Behind multiplicity of deities lay the oneness of a creator god
- ❑ remained a singularity at the same time that he turned himself into all the other gods and the whole of creation
- ❑ Assmann argues that in the early New Kingdom the solar creator god, Re or Amun-Re, was increasingly portrayed as acting alone rather than in conjunction with other deities, as hitherto had been normal

pBremner-Rhind (pBM 10188)

Papyrus of Nesmin; sheet 2; Hieratic text. The 'Songs of Isis and Nephthys' are cols. 1--17

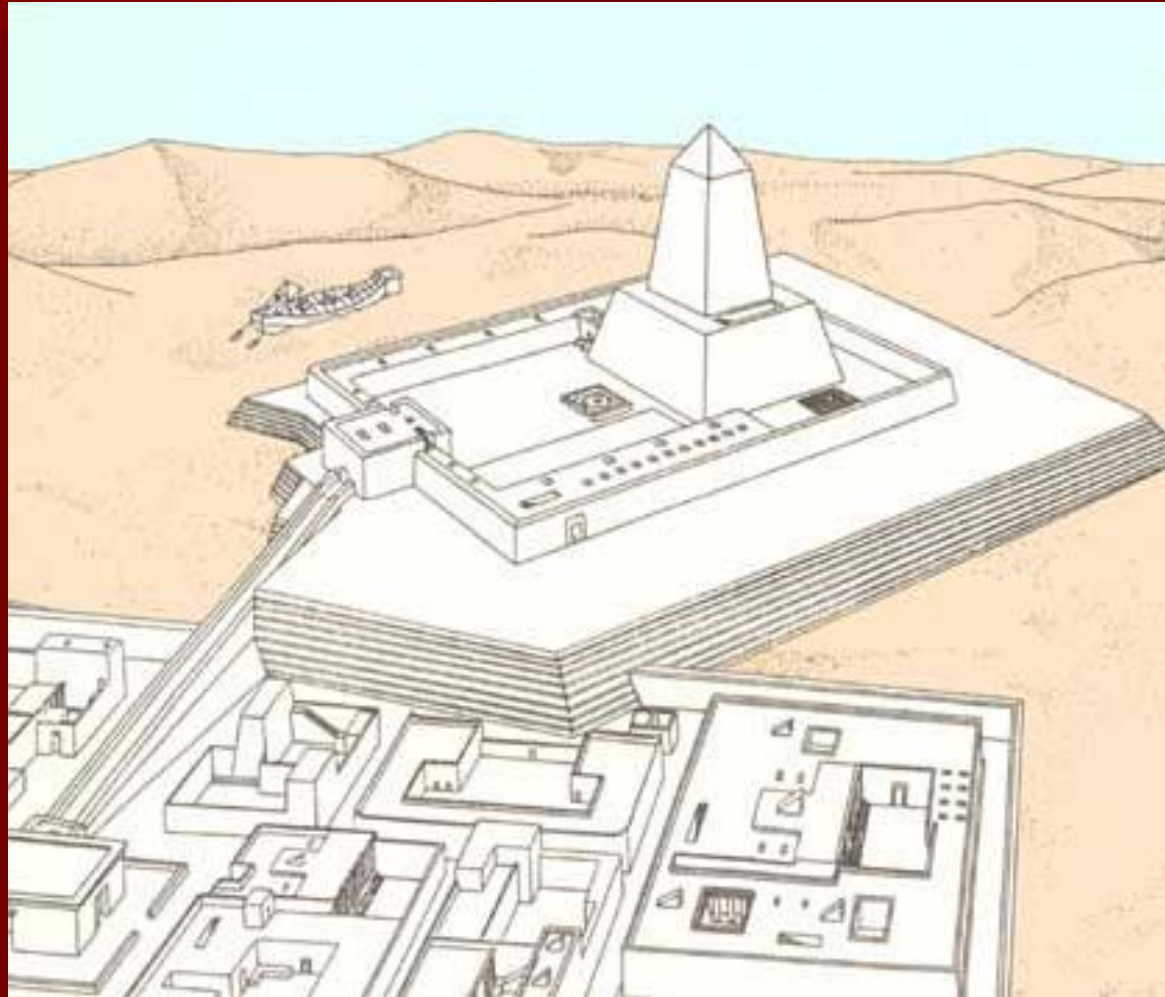


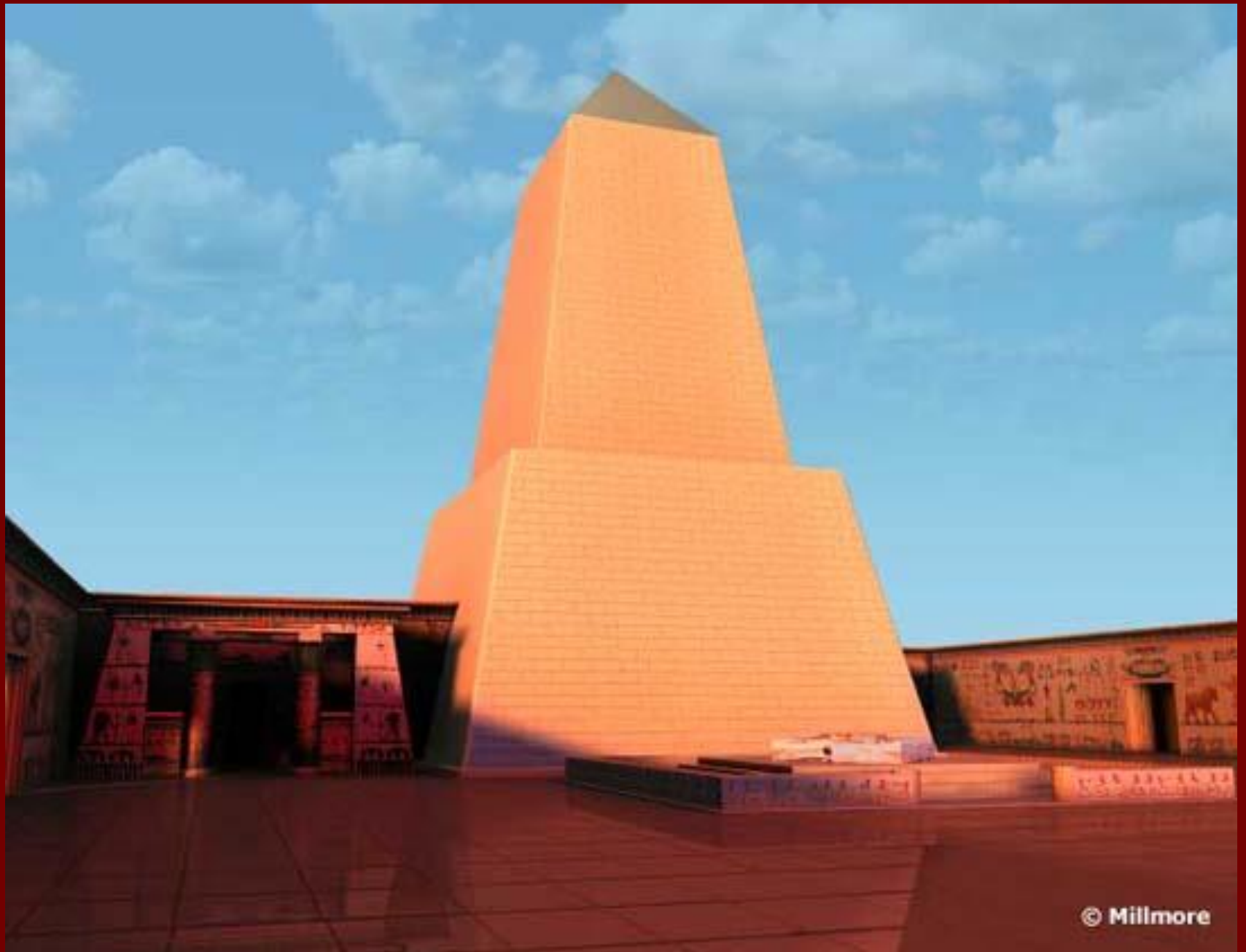
pBremner-Rhind (pBM 10188)

- ❑ Spoken by Ra:
- ❑ “When I evolved into this world, Shu and Tefnut grew excited in the inert waters in which they were, and brought me my Eye after them. And after I joined together my parts, I wept over them: That is the evolution of people, from the tears that came from my Eye.”
- ❑ → creation of mankind

Sun temples of the 5th dyn.

- built in addition to pyramid complexes
- consisted of an upper temple, a processional ramp and valley temple
- upper temple = enclosed space with a large obelisk (symbolized benben = rock which received the first rays of the sun when the world was created)

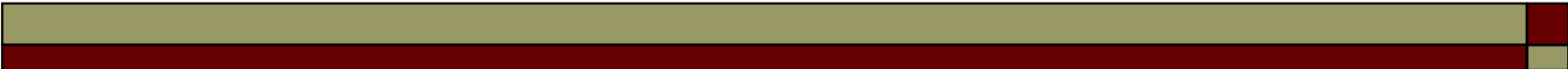






Cosmic Kingship – The Bronze Age as the Age of Ra

- ❑ Guaranteed cult → main beneficiary: sun as creator god --> Ra
- ❑ 4th dyn.: title 'son of Re' is first attested under Djedefre
- ❑ Unas = first king who placed 'son of Re' before his birth name, inside the cartouche
- ❑ FIP: Meryibre Khety placed 'son of Re' before his cartouche
- ❑ MK onwards: = normal title for birth name (nomen) of the king, written outside the cartouche
- ❑ NK; syncretistic connection with state god Amun – Amun-Re



Special relation to kingship – as presented in texts labelled “The kings as priest of the sun” (Assmann)

*Ra has placed the king on the earth of the living for ever
and eternity,*

In order to judge humankind, to satisfy the gods,

To make Right happen and to annihilate Wrong,

*Such that he gives divine offerings to the gods, funerary
offerings to the blessed dead.*

*The name of the king is in the sky like that of Ra, he lives
in joy like Ra-Horakhty.*

*Nobles rejoyce when they see him; the populace gives him
praise in his role of “the Child”.*

Sety I receiving jubilees from Re-Horakhty and Weret-Hekau (Karnak, Hypostyle)



Mythology of Ra

- ❑ Khepri as morning sun, Ra as midday sun, and Atum as evening sun



Amenhotep III

- Amenhotep III is the father, and immediate predecessor of Akhenaten
- Ruled *circa* 1390–1352
- Son of Thutmose IV and a minor consort named Mutemwiya
- Came to the throne as a child, no more than 12 years old



BM EA57399:
Shrine stela
of
Amenhotep III
and Queen
Tiye

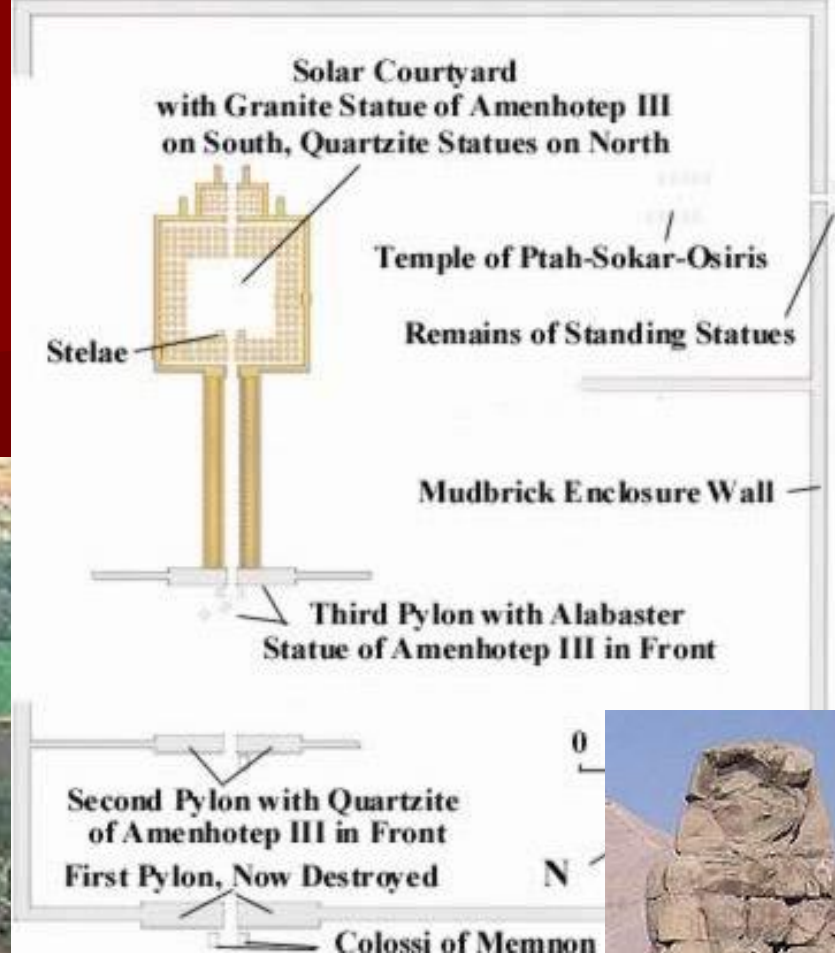


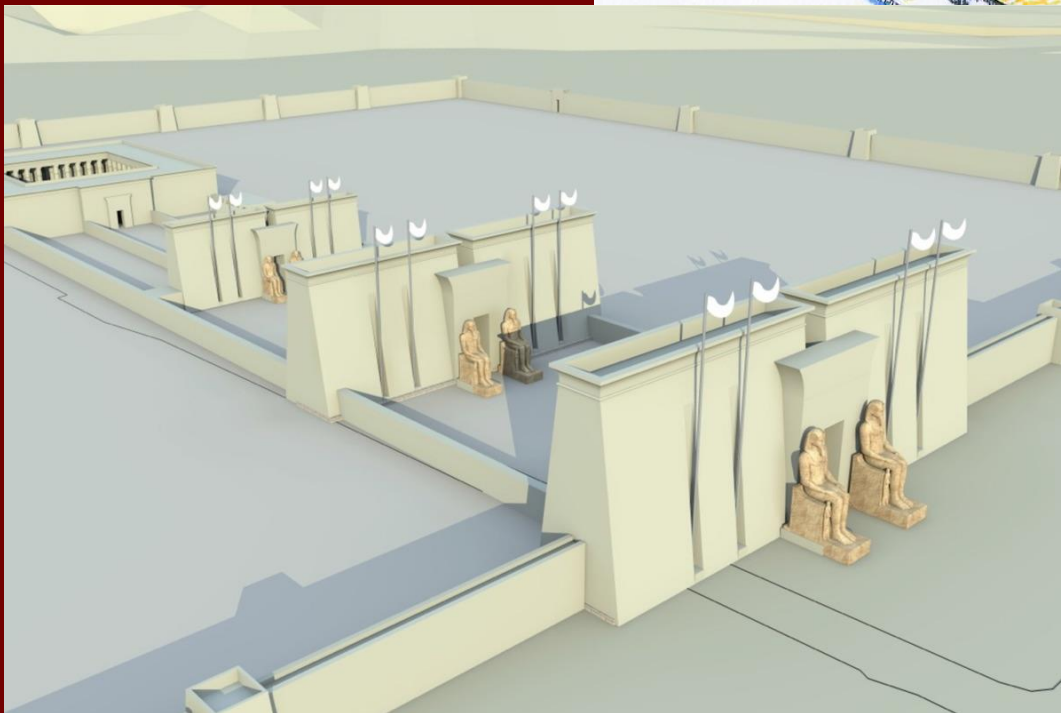
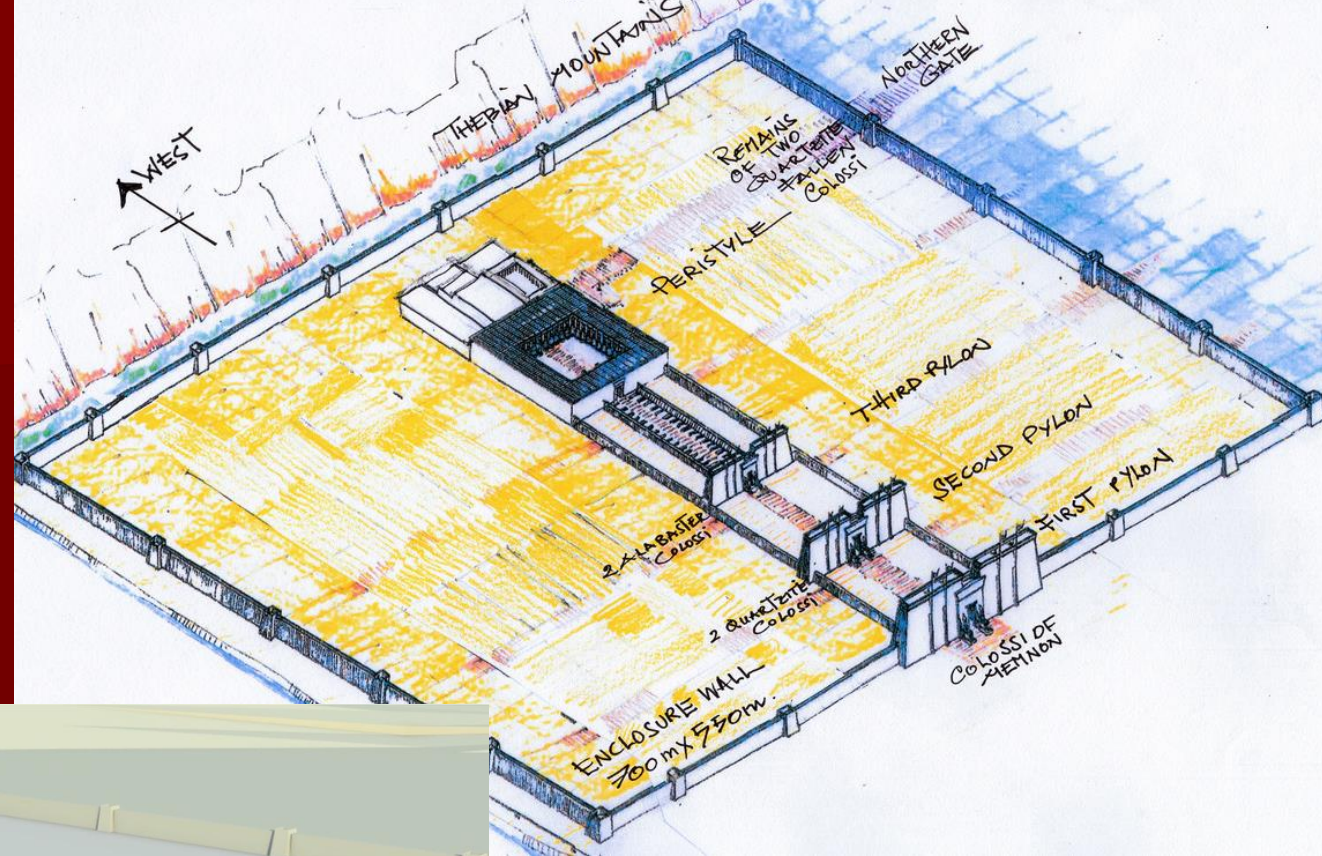
BM EA57399: Shrine stela of Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye

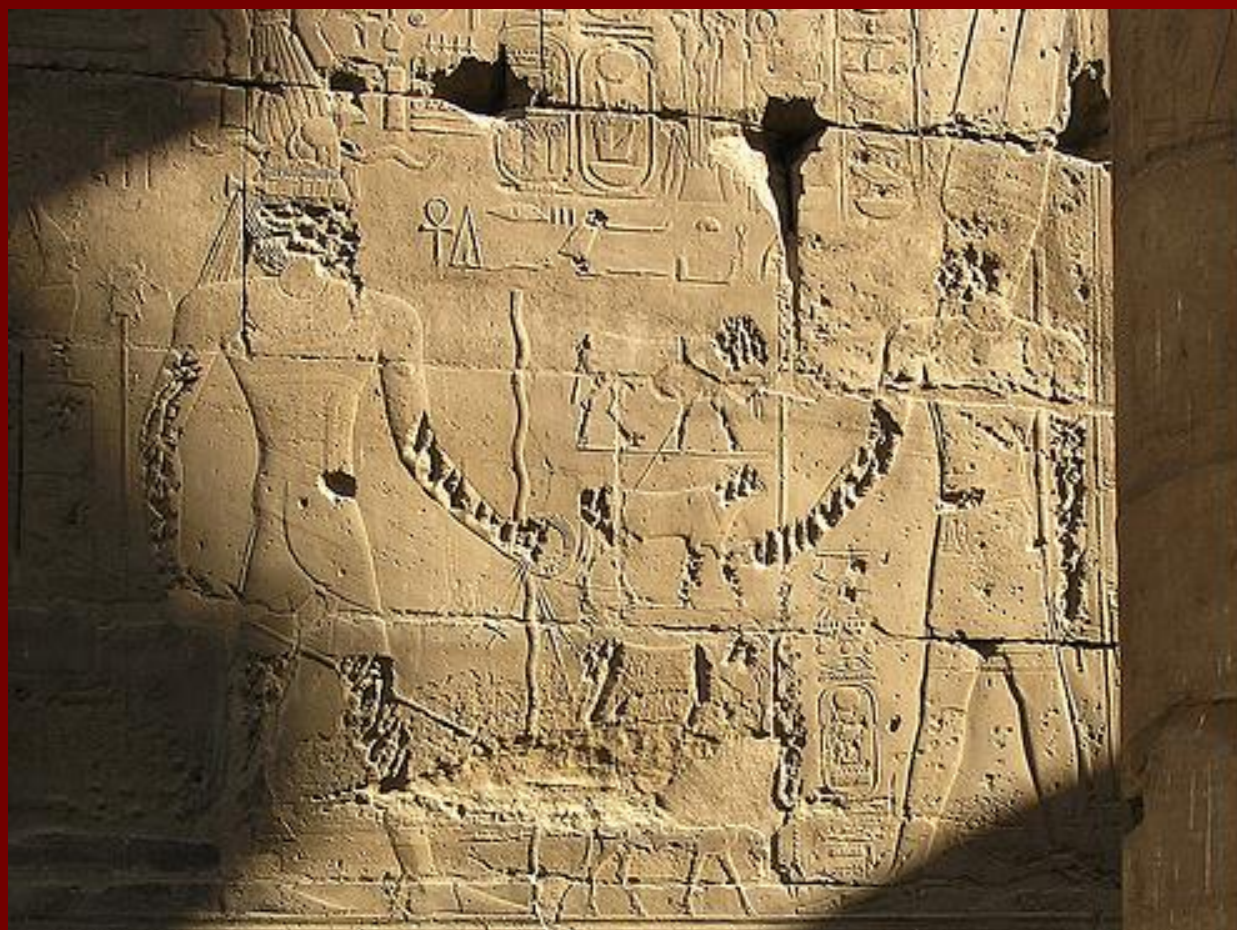
- ❑ From the house of Panehsy, Tell el-Amarna (domestic shrine ?)
- ❑ Houses in Amarna contained small shrines to the king – this plaque that unusually shows Akhenaten's father, Amenhotep III beneath the sun disc, in style usually confined to Akhenaten
- ❑ Name of Amun was proscribed on monuments of the Amarna Period, and so Amenhotep III is identified here by his throne name Nebmaatre



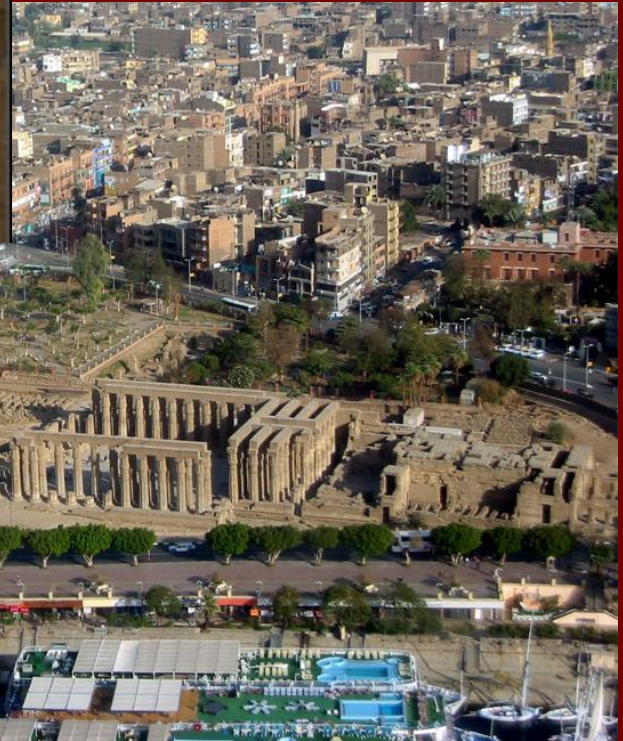
Mortuary temple of Amenhotep III Thebes West (Kom el-Hitan)







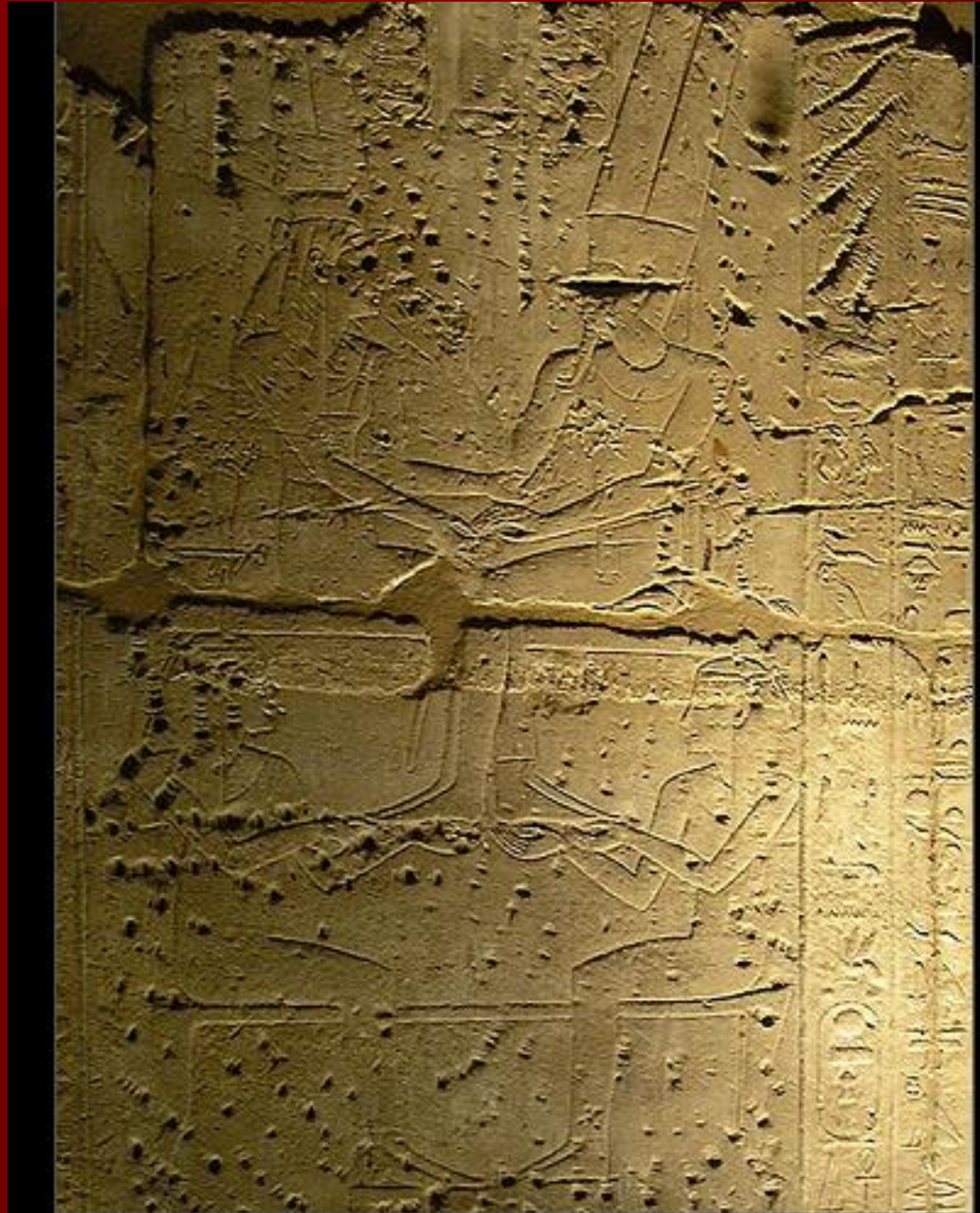
AIII appearing
before Amun



Cycle of the divine birth

When [Amun-Re] had transformed himself into the majesty of this husband, the king of Upper and Lower Egypt, [Thutmose IV] he found [Mutemwiya] as she was resting in the beauty of her palace. . . And then the majesty of this god did all that he desired with her.

Words spoken by Amun-Re:
“Amenhotep, Ruler of Thebes, is the name of this child that I have placed in your body. . . He shall exercise beneficent kingship in this whole land.”



Amenhotep III

- Married Tiye in regnal Year 2



Line	Egyptian	English
1	<i>ḥr k3 nḥt ḥꜥ-m-m3ꜥt</i>	HORUS NAME: strong bull who appears in the glory of Maat
2	<i>Nebty smn ḥpw</i>	TWO LADIES NAME: who establishes the laws
3	<i>sgrḥ t3wy ḥr nbw ʕ3 ḥpš ḥw sttiw</i>	and who pacifies the two lands, HORUS OF GOLD NAME: great of strength, who defeats the Asiatics
4	<i>(n)swt bit(y) nb m3ꜥt rꜥ s3 rꜥ imn-ḥtp ḥk3 w3st di ʕnh</i>	THE KING OF UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT: Ra is the lord of Maat, (Neb-Maat-Ra) THE SON OF RA: Amun is pleased, the ruler of Waset, (Amen-hotep, ruler of Thebes) given life
5	<i>(n)sw(t) ḥmt wrt tiyy ʕnh.ti rn n it.s</i>	The great royal woman, Tiyy, may she continue living, her father's name is
6	<i>ywi3 rn n mwt.s ṯw-</i>	Yuia, her mother's name is Tju-
7	<i>i3 ḥmt pw nt (n)swt n nḥt</i>	ia, she is the woman of a strong king
8	<i>t3š.f rsy r k3ry</i>	His southern boundary extends toward Kary
9	<i>mḥty r nh3-</i>	the northern boundary toward Naha-
10	<i>ryn3</i>	ryna



Yuya & Tjuya

- Yuya and Tjuya may have been the “power behind the throne”
- Yuya & Tjuya came from Akhmim, Yuya: chariotry officer and Master of Horses; high rank!
- colossal statuary there: showing its importance



Possible Relations

Yuya = Tjuya

Thutmose IV = Mutemwiya

Aye Tiye

=

Amenhotep III

Nefertiti = Akhenaten

Children: Daughters

- Known to have had 4 daughters by Tiye:
Sitamun,
Henuttaneb, Iset
("Isis"), Nebetah
- Sitamun and
Iset = "Great
Royal Consort"
(Regnal Year 30)



Children: Sons



- Crown Prince Thutmose "V"
- *Sem*-priest and High Priest of Ptah of Memphis
- Died before he could become king
- Amenhotep IV as heir

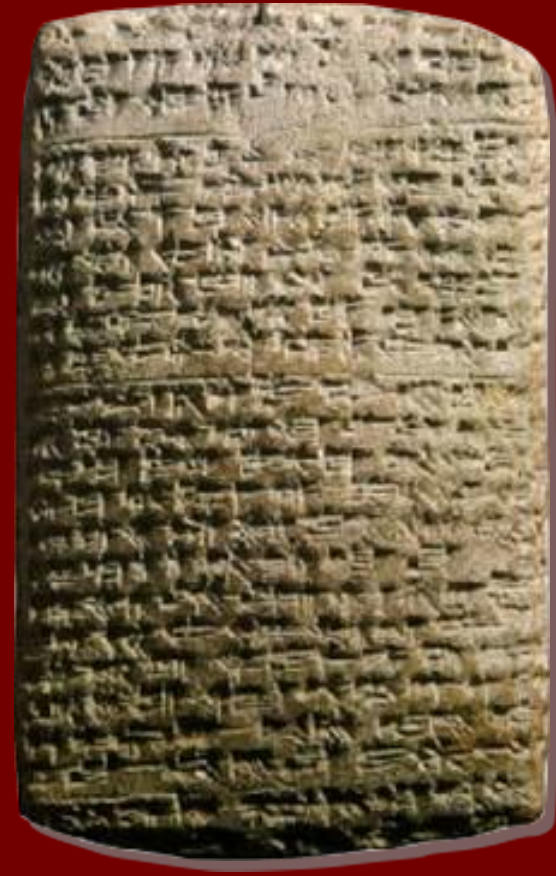
AIII as “father of diplomacy”

- ❑ Regnal Year 5: only dated military campaign
- ❑ Under AIII and Akhenaten - diplomatic connections at highest levels: with the kings of Hittite Anatolia, Assyria, Babylonia, Mitanni, and Arzawa, as well as numerous vassal kings in Canaan
- ❑ textual and archaeological evidence also indicates contacts with the Aegean during this time
- ❑ Trade and contact conducted at lower commercial levels as well



Amenhotep III's Foreign Policy

- Tended to act through diplomacy rather than military campaigns
- Policies documented in the “Amarna Letters”



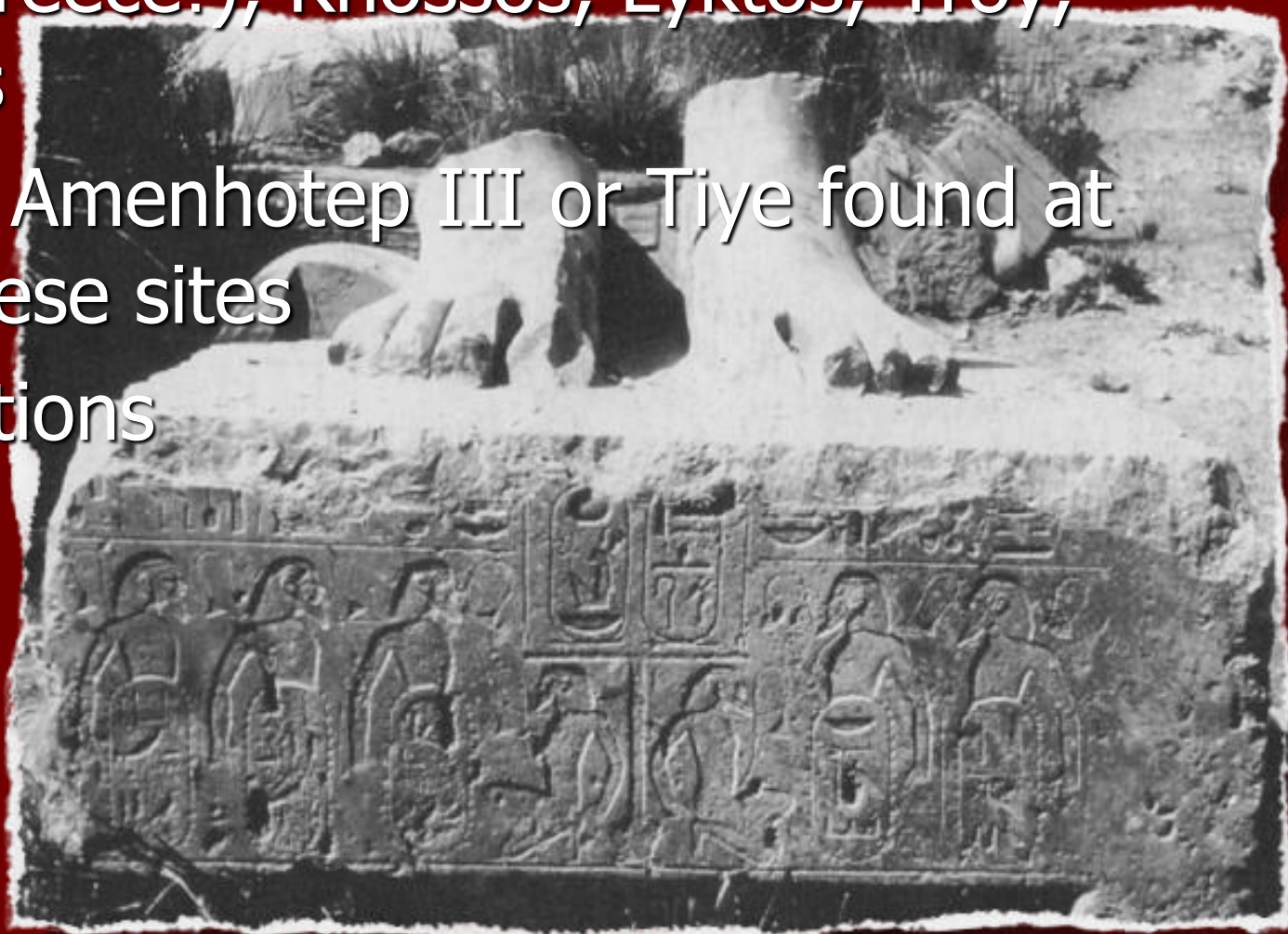
Amenhotep III's foreign policy

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- Policies documented in the "Amarna Letters"
- Egypt received "tribute" from as far away as Mycenae, Babylon, Assyria



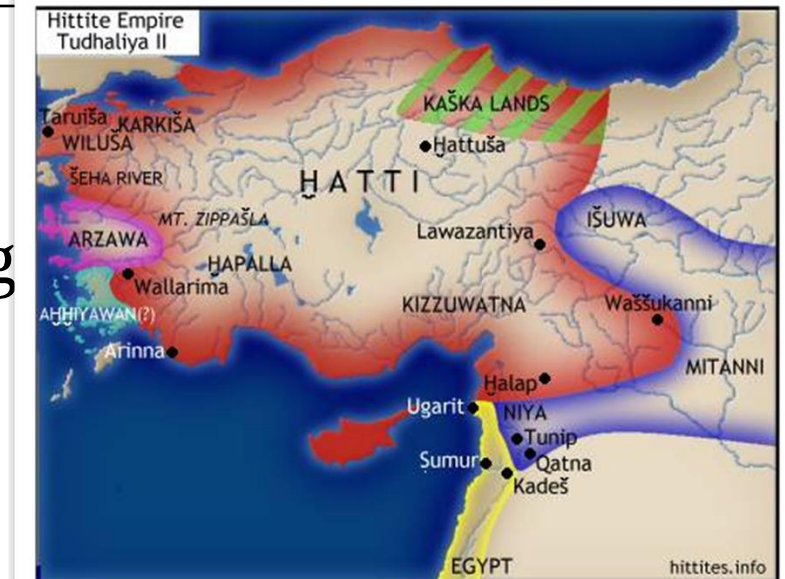
Amenhotep III's Foreign Policy

- Kom al-Hitan list: Phaistos, Mykenae, Thebes (Greece!), Knossos, Lyktos, Troy, and others
- Objects of Amenhotep III or Tiye found at most of these sites
- Trade relations



Amenhotep III's foreign policy

- Regnal Year 10: Gilukhepa, daughter of king Šuttarna of Mittani, arrives in Egypt, along with 317 servant women
- 20 years later, Amenhotep marries her niece, Tadukhepa, the daughter of king Tušratta
- Also married two Babylonian princesses and a daughter of the king of Arzawa (western Anatolia, Lydia)



Amarna Letter EA 1

Kings often nervous about sending their daughters

- *Letter of Kadašman-Enlil I, king of Babylon:*
- Here you are asking for my daughter in marriage, but my sister whom my father gave you was (already) there with you, and nobody has seen her (so as to know) if now she is alive or if she is dead.

Amarna Letter EA 4

refusal to send Egyptian princesses abroad

- *Amenhotep III:*
- From time immemorial no daughter of a king of Egypt is given to anyone.
- *Reply of Kadašman-Enlil I, king of Babylon:*
- Why not? . . . You are a king, you do as you please. . . Someone's grown daughters, beautiful women, must be available. Send me a beautiful woman as if she were your daughter. Who is going to say, "she is no daughter of the king!"

Amenhotep III's Foreign Policy

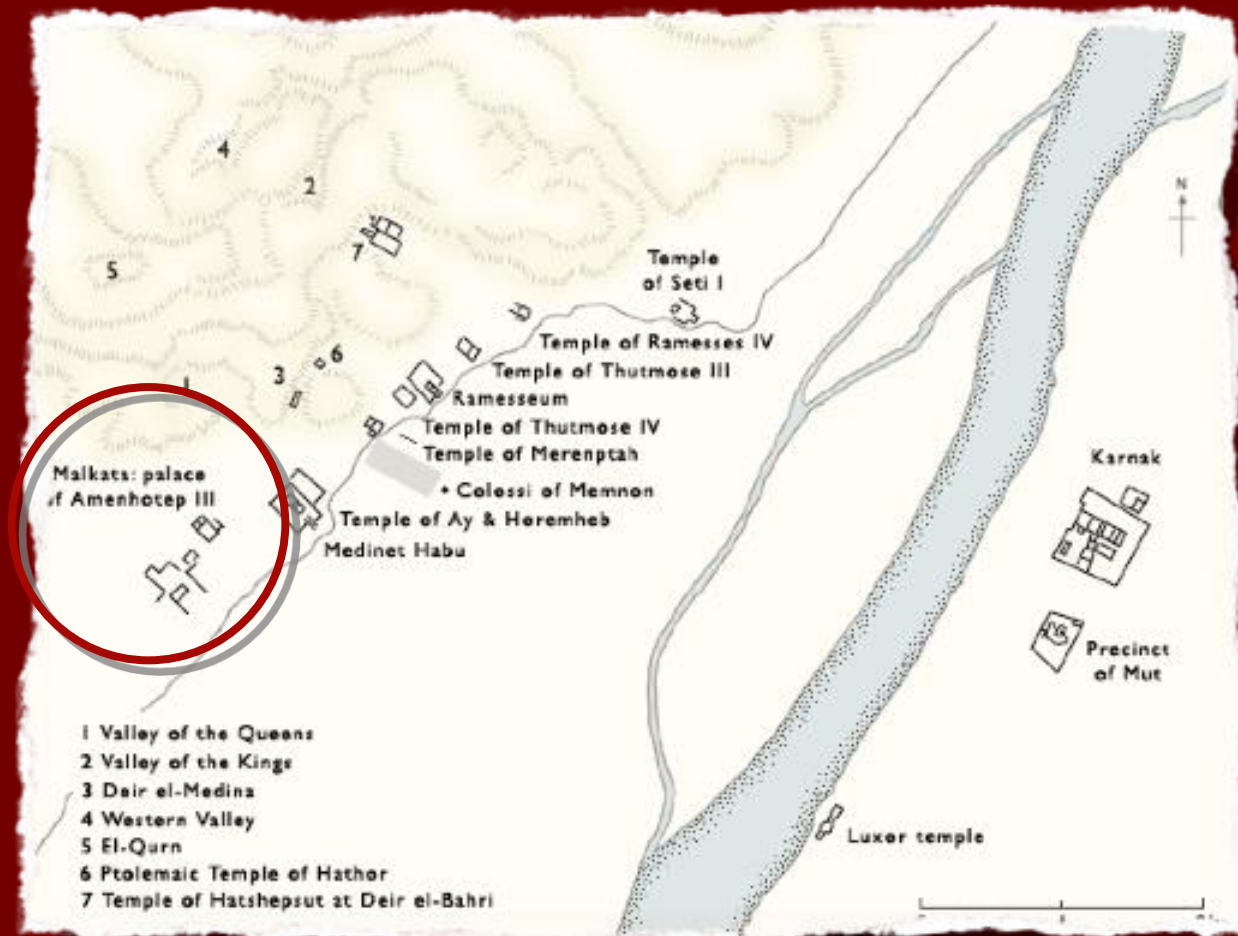
- “Trade” in princesses was not just about the women, but rather to cement alliances with foreign power
- Maintained Amenhotep III as the premier ruler in the Near East; Egypt set apart (“no marriage” policy)
- Women always accompanied by lavish exchanges of gifts and rare raw materials: precious metals, horses, lapis lazuli, furniture, etc. → Gold constantly desired from Egypt
- Result is a long period of stable relations with foreign neighbors: Mitanni is no longer a threat, though the Hittites are rising as a power; International commerce is good, allowing for major building projects in Egypt

Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- *Sed*-festival (“Jubilee”) celebrated at 30 years of reign and every ± 3 years thereafter
- Renew the king's power & reaffirm divinity
- Amenhotep III celebrated three *sed*-festivals: RY 30, 34, 37

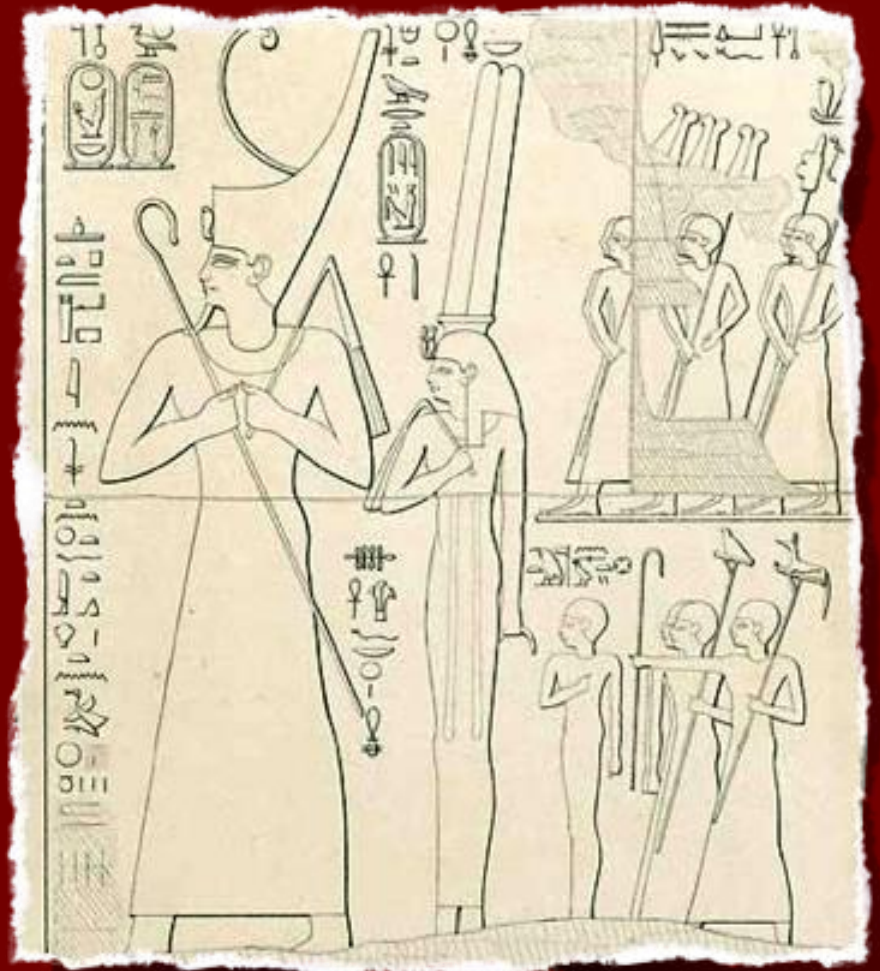
Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- Celebrated at Malqata in a special festival hall



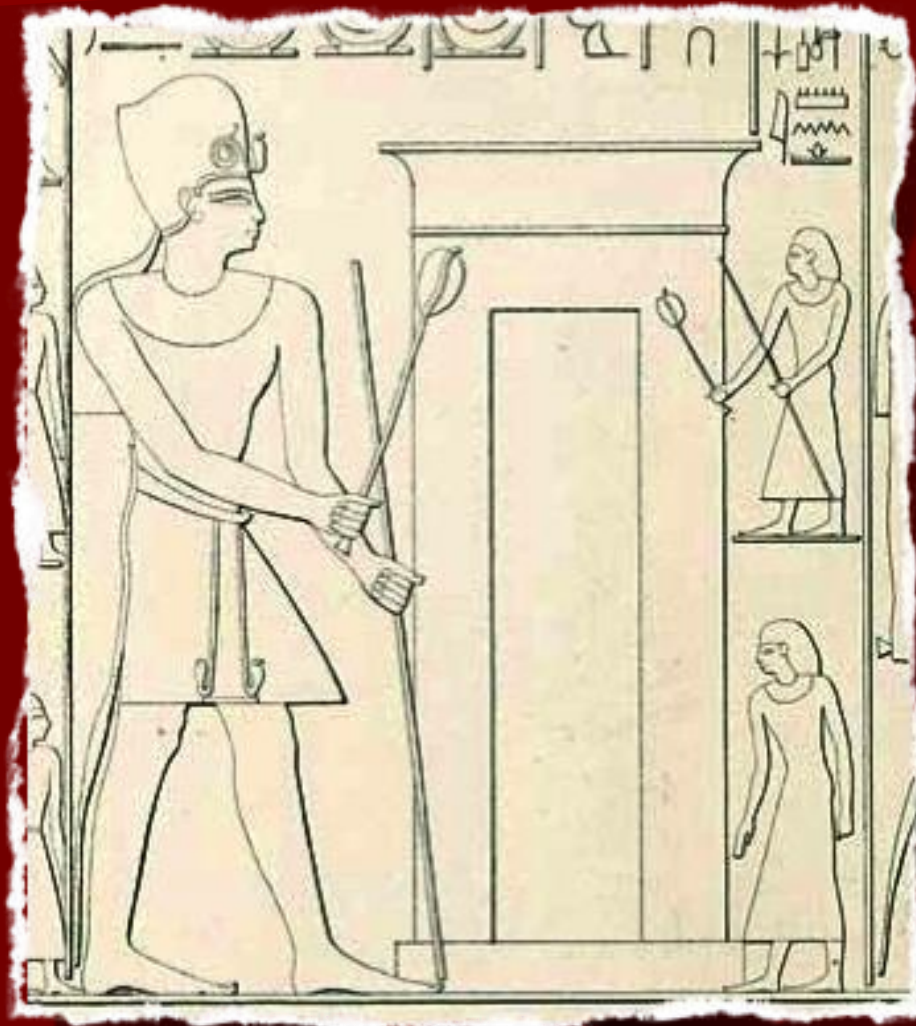
Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- Celebrated at Malqata in a special festival hall
- **1st (RY 30):**
- Soleb (Sudan)



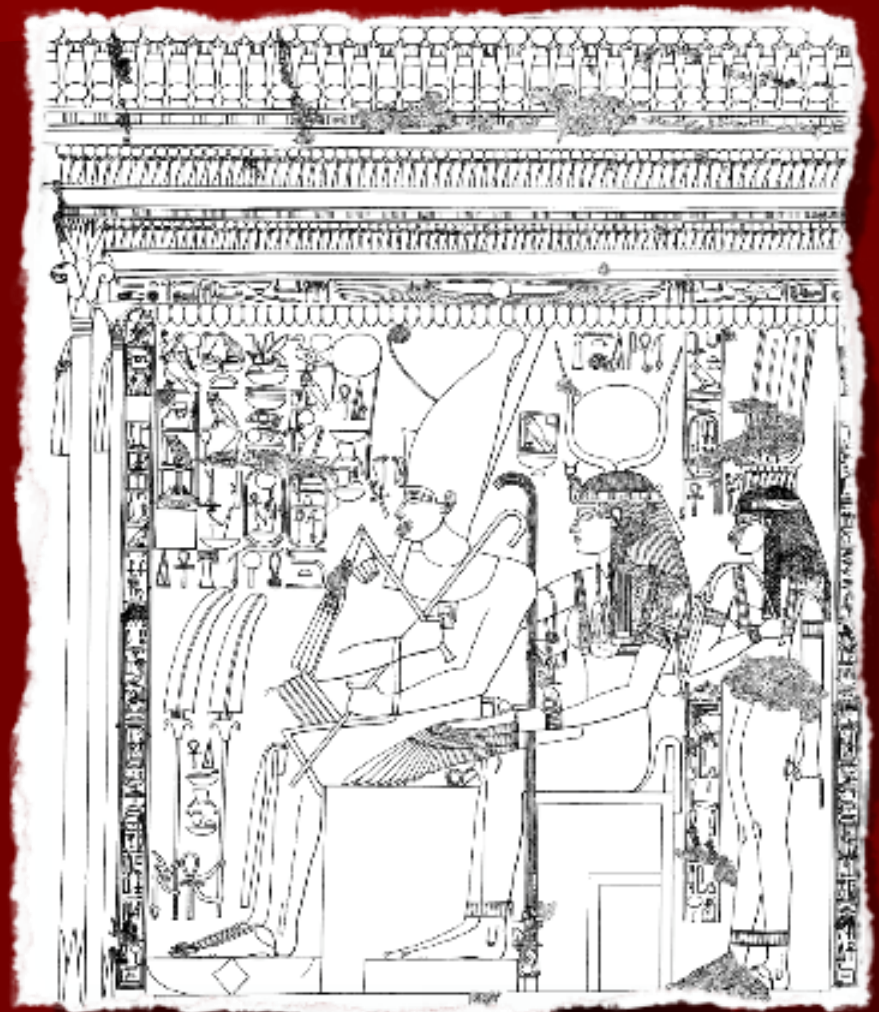
Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

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- mortuary temple of Kom al-Hitan



Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- Celebrated at Malqata in a special festival hall
- **1st (RY 30):**
- Soleb (Sudan)
- mortuary temple of Kawm al-Hitan
- colossus of Pinudjem I at Karnak
- Theban private tombs (Kheruef, Khaemhat)



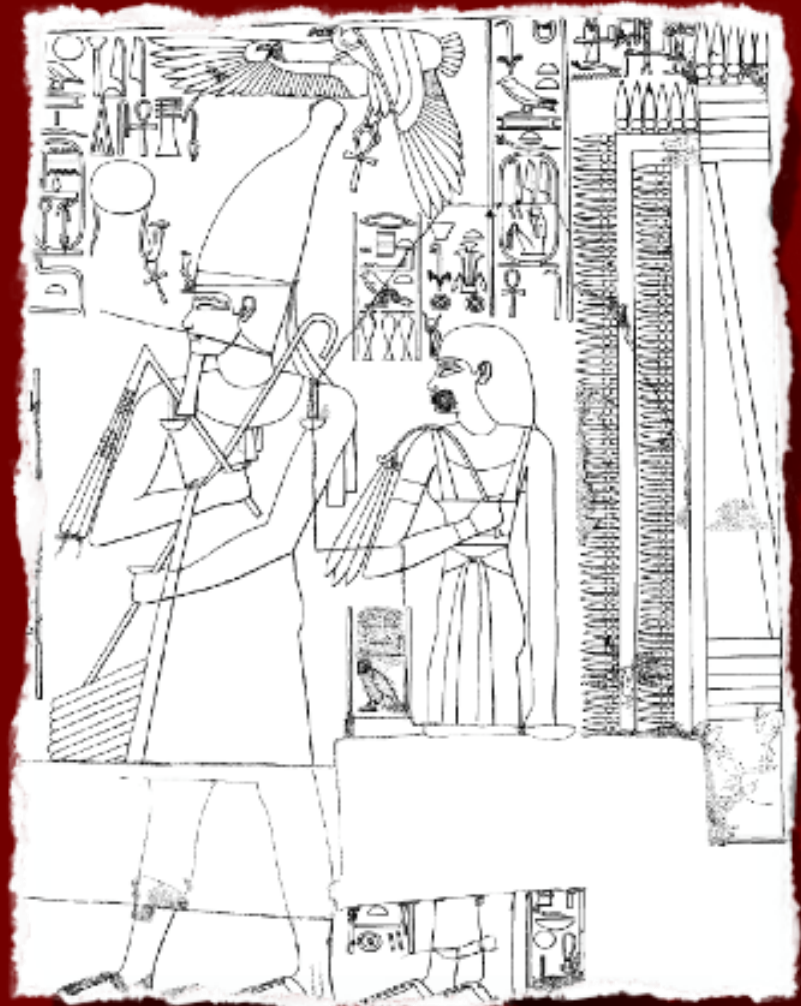
Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- 2nd (RY 34): only known from wine jar labels



Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- 2nd (RY 34): only known from wine jar labels
- 3rd (RY 37): tomb of Kheruef
- No *sed*-festival on this scale since Dynasty 12



Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- Active participation of Tiye & royal daughters



Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- Active participation of Tiye & royal daughters
- Private individuals mentioned by name (Amenhotep son of Hapu and the scribe Nebmerutef at Soleb) = Unprecedented participation of non-kings in terms of the official record
- Set precedent for Amarna period



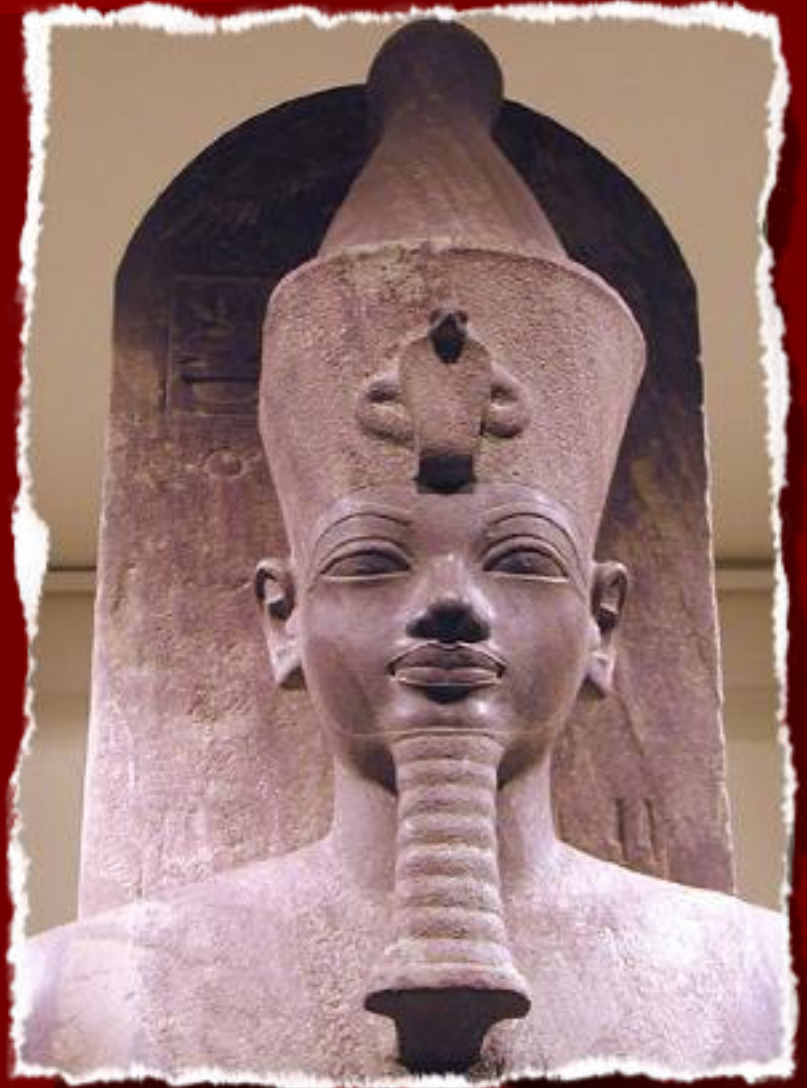
Impact of Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- Huge impact on the production of art
- Major shift in artistic style: Solar symbolism: shebyu collar, armbands, uraeus on lap



Impact of Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

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- Life-sized+ statues of the king and gods from the Delta to the Sudan



Impact of Amenhotep III's *sed*-Festival

- Huge impact on the production of art
- Major shift in artistic style
- Life-sized+ statues of the king and gods from the Delta to the Sudan
- King deified



Deification of Amenhotep III

- Regnal Year 11:
opens a lake for the
Great Royal Consort
Tiye at Malqata
- Commemorative
scarab mentions the
royal barque *Aten-
tjehen* ("the Aten is
Dazzling")
- Epithet of the king!



Deification of Amenhotep III

- Several texts refer to Neb-maat-Re “the Dazzling Sun-disk” (*Aten-tjeheh*)
- Titles of the king’s household refer to “the palace of Neb-maat-Re ‘the Dazzling Sun-disk’” [Malqata]



Deification of Amenhotep III

- After *sed*-festival of Regnal Year 30, king is depicted as being assimilated with the sun god Re, as well as Ptah (creator god of Memphis), and the Aten
- Some foreign kings refer to Amenhotep as “my sun” in letters



Deification of Amenhotep III

- Seems to have attempted to level the gods by lowering the power of the Amun cult and raising that of Re and the Aten
- King most often shown as the solar creator god, Atum, Lord of the Two Land



Deification of Amenhotep III

- Worshipped as the sun and Lord of Nubia at Soleb



Deification of Amenhotep III

- Worshipped as the sun and Lord of Nubia at Soleb
- Tiye worshipped as the sun god's consort, Hathor, at Sedeinga

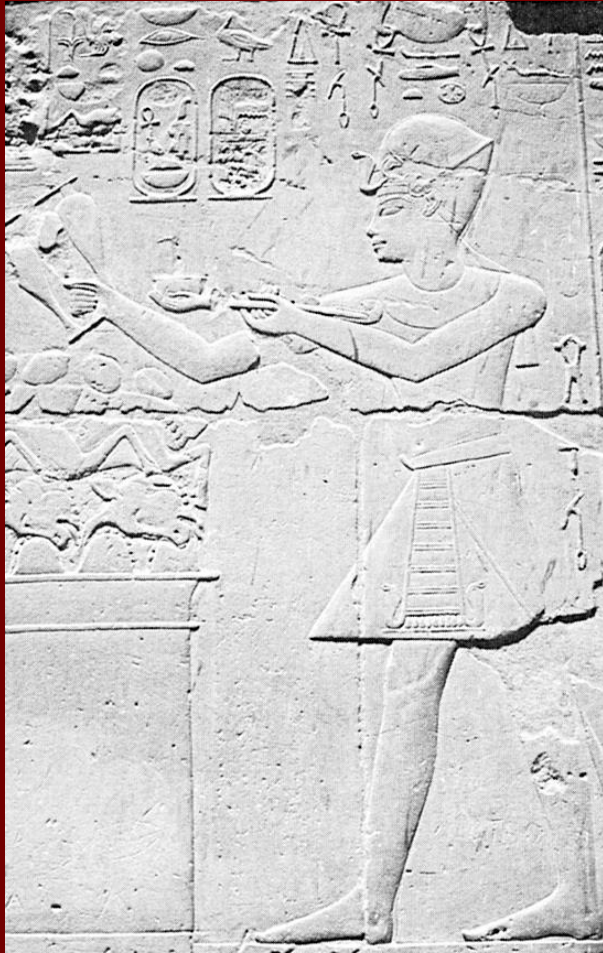


Deification of Amenhotep III

- Worshipped as the sun and Lord of Nubia at Soleb
- Tiye worshipped as the sun god's consort, Hathor, at Sedeinga
- R. Johnson suggests deified Amenhotep is the Living Aten



Figure of Amenhotep III in traditional, Thutmoside style (first style); Luxor Temple bark sanctuary, western wall



Amenhotep III – last-decade "deification" style; Luxor Museum block J.45, from Karnak



End of the Reign

- Amenhotep reigned slightly over 38 years
- Probably not yet 50 years old when he died
- Queen Tiye survived as long as ± 12 more years

