

Poster Project

Religious Change and Resilience: The Case Study of Amarna
AHAH7022

Kevin Hahn
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Pre Amarna, the state God was **Amun**, but Egyptians worshipped many other Gods including Isis, Osiris, Maat, Horus, Hathor, Ptah, Thoth, Nut, and Geb.

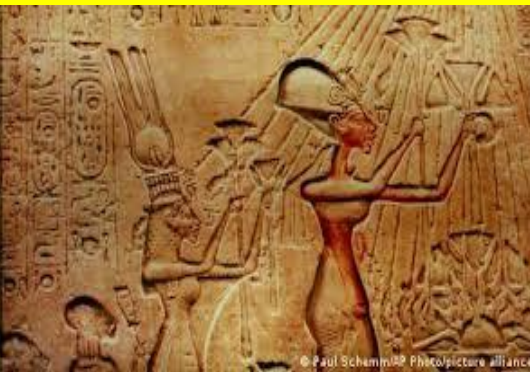


Egypt's pre-Amarna religion was well-established and included beliefs, rituals, and myths that met the Egyptian's religious needs: the ability to communicate directly with their chosen Egyptian god(s) and moral guidelines that **gave them the ability to control their afterlife consequences.**

Judgment of the Dead by Osiris



During the **Amarna period**, Akhenaton declared that the Egyptian people should only worship one God, Aten, the Sun God. Below is a picture of Akhenaton & Nefertiti worshipping the Sun God, Aten.

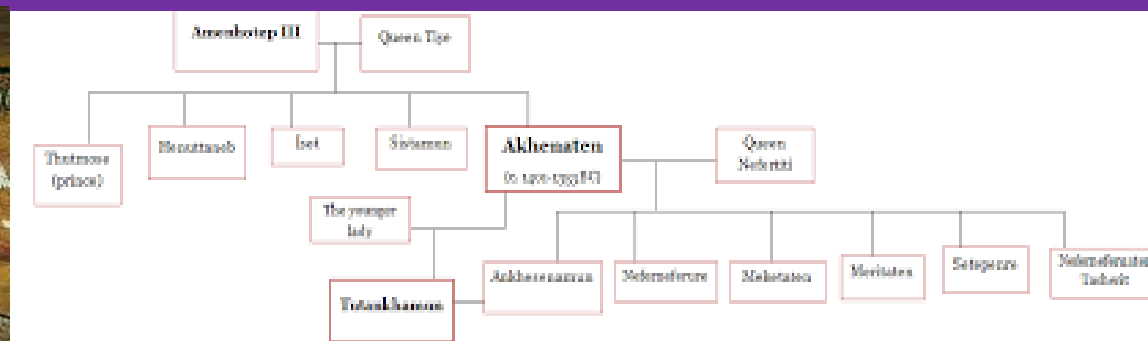


Shortly after becoming Pharaoh, **Tutankhamun abandoned Amarna** and Akhenaten's new revolutionary religion. **Egypt's religion reverted back to the pre-Amarna religion** of many gods and



Akhenaten's new theology only allowed indirect communication with the new state-sanctioned sun god, Aten. Egyptians could no longer find comfort in communicating or giving offerings directly to their chosen god(s). Instead, Egyptians prayed to Akhenaten and Nefertiti, and the royal couple prayed to the sun god, Aten. Since Akhenaten performed the role of a priest through whom ordinary people could pray indirectly to Aten, it was necessary to create a construction allowing the king to meet with his subjects publicly. The **Window of Appearance** illustrated in the above picture was the **architectural innovation that facilitated their subject's worshipping Akhenaten and Nefertiti.**

Akhenaten's 6 daughters and 2 sons all died at an early age. Their deaths are a mystery



Instead of hoping to spend eternity in heaven by following strict moral rules per the "42 negative confessions," the elite tomb owners petitioned Akhenaten, Nefertiti, and Aten to receive a burial and offerings and to buy the shrines with statues of the sun god after death. The picture to the left is the **death scene of Tomb 1 of Huya in Amarna.**

The Great Aten Temple (pictured left) was open to the sun and had no roof. After Amarna was abandoned, the Temple's "talatats" were removed from Amarna and used at temples outside of Amarna



Akhenaten and his family members/successors died early and/or did not support his new theology. See the family tree in the left picture. Akhenaten failed to develop a strong successor/disciple who could impose the pharaonic power necessary to move his radical religious ideology forward. Akhenaten's successors, Smenkhkare and Tutankhamun, were young, weak leaders. Not only did they die early, but they were uninterested in moving Akhenaten's religious movement forward. **Therefore, Akhenaten's religious revolution died when he did, after 17 years of reign.**