



Analytical Study of the Socio- Religious Condition of Early Ancient Egyptian Civilization

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Abstract

This paper is primarily deals and highlights the main characteristics of the Egyptian civilization which is considered the mother civilizations of the world. The world has been making progress for thousands of years and the people became gradually civilized. We found few major civilizations of the world. Among them Egyptian Civilization is one of them which considered the most historic and early civilization as compared to its contemporary civilizations i.e. Mesopotamian, Indus and Chinese civilizations of the world. Although it's a common perception about the people of ancient time that they were savages and had no sense of life. But when we observe them they looked very elegant people who introduced the different socio-political concepts regarding way of life, education, living, philosophy, socio-cultural norms along with religious traditions and political thoughts. In this context we look the ancient Egyptian civilization as cradle of civilizations of the world which consequently given a birth to other civilizations. It was the influence of this civilization which created the opportunities of trade, harmony and mutual cooperation among the people. This research paper is an attempt to explore the prominent feature of the ancient Egyptian civilization and how this civilization nourished.

Keywords: Ancient, Civilization, Egypt, River Nile, Pharaoh, Pyramids

Introduction

Egypt is considered one of the important Muslim State of Africa and it has a strong historical background even before the advent of Islam. Before the arrival of Muslims under the command of Hazrat Umar Bin Al-Aas during the caliphate of Hazrat Umar-i-Farooq,¹ Egypt is consider the most historic region of the world since early era of humanity. The country is very important part of the Valley of Nile which stretches for a 1000 miles. The Egyptian civilization remained a center of socio-political activities at the time when the world had not awakened from these features. The people of this civilization introduced different aspects of humanity which are being traced in modern era. The Egyptians were the founder of agriculture, art, architecture, Philosophy, ethics and moral values with literature i.e. poetry and other educational system of thee era. Religion was also a major pillar of the society and even the women also had important place with good status. Politically Egyptians were following kingship and the most famous rulers of the time were the Pharaohs. This research paper highlights the socio-political condition of the early ancient Egyptian civilization.²

Research Methodology

Basically this is an analytical study regarding the socio-political condition of the ancient Egyptian civilization that is a totally historical study. In the historical context the study is based on the qualitative approach of research by using historic method in the light of the available documentary material i.e. the primary and secondary sources.

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Review of literature

Regarding historical research literature is very important component of this research and it is considered most compulsory tool of research, therefore the most relevant literature is consulted to complete this research article. For the point of literature review, the ancient Civilizations, To the Nile, The Pharaoh, Egyptian Tale,, World History, Muslim World, History of Egypt, Oxford History, Egypt in the region of Ramses-II, etc. have been consulted.

Discussion

With the emergence of the first human civilization on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, the second great human civilization was born on the banks of the Nile. The Nile River is accepted as a gift of nature to man. The famous Greek historian Herodotus himself called Egypt the "Nile Gift." This was true thousands of years ago in the time of Prophet Joseph and is still true today that the waters of the Nile are no less than a source of survival for the Egyptians. Almost 97% of Egypt is dehydrated. There is also very little rain. That is why every kind of life depends on this river.³ The Egyptians drink the water of this river, which irrigates their lands and makes them fertile. The river is also the easiest means of transportation in the country. If this river dries up, it will be impossible for the Egyptians to live. Like other countries, our country also has many rivers and their tributaries, but Egypt has only one river, the Nile. The Nile flows into the Mediterranean, forming a water line in the deserts of Africa.⁴ Egypt is considered the cradle of civilizations and it is called the mother of all ancient civilizations of entire world. This ancient civilization that flourished on the banks of the Nile is estimated to be 4,000 years old. Ancient Egypt was a vast area, 700 miles (1100 km) south of the Mediterranean. Most of it was hot, dry and dusty. The Egyptians called it the Desert (Red Land). But the world's longest river, the Nile, flows through this desert. Every year, the land around the river was flooded. The river area of Egypt is called Comet (Black Land). This land was very fertile. The ancient Egyptians built some of the world's first fields and villages there. Egypt was sometimes called the "gift of the Nile." All Egyptian life depended on the river. Farmers dug pits to get its water to wheat, grape and onion fields. The rich princes, the town merchants and the poor Malik families built houses from the mud of the sun-dried river. Craftsmen shaped the Nile clay into pottery, and made cloth from the papyrus plant found on its banks. They caught fish and river birds to eat. The children played in the riverside ponds where they encountered killer crocodiles. This threat promoted weapons.⁵ Most ancient Egyptian houses had only two or three rooms, with a workspace on the roof. Wealthy people built large houses with painted walls, fine furniture, gardens and ponds. In poor families, women wore home-made clothes and men wore clothes tied around their hips. But the rich wore make-up, colorful clothes and jewelry. They also had servants and slaves to work for them. Rich or poor, all Egyptians value family life. They also had a culture of marriage and slavery. Families worked and played together. Egyptians loved games, stories, music, dance and holiday celebrations and parades. The ancient Egyptians believed in magic and many gods. People built very few shrines for their favorite deities. They wore amulets, and worshiped and recited mantras. They also made statues representing the gods.⁶ The culture of ancient Egypt has always been and still is a subject of curiosity for people all over the world. The history of ancient Egyptian civilization is the story of the greatest cultural era in the history of mankind, which has helped to understand many of the mysteries of the

universe. After beginning its existence in centuries obscured by the fog of time, ancient Egypt passed many tests in the glorious evolution of sects, intellectual, political organizations. After acquiring a unique social, economic and cultural discipline, he thrived in the Nile Valley, a prosperous, peaceful land for more than three thousand years. The techniques of ancient Egyptian artistic culture is reflected in the paintings on the walls, the pyramids, the papyrus scrolls. On any flat surface you can read scenes of myths, pharaohs and the lives of ordinary people. This sculpture was also very professional. The most famous masterpiece in ancient Egyptian sculpture is the Nefertiti front, the wife of Ferguson of Akhantan of the Eighteenth Dynasty, the work of the statue of Thatmos.⁷ The ancient Egyptians excelled in various forms of pottery, sculpture, painting, and so on. It is noteworthy that the ancient Egyptian artists did not create art for the sake of art and aesthetic sentiments, but followed the canons that had been strictly established for a thousand years to achieve a specific goal. In Egyptian society, artists occupied a privileged position, their services were in great demand. However, its explanation was, first of all, an important aspect of religious rites.⁸ In the same way, religion was the guiding principle of life. The whole multifaceted culture of ancient Egypt developed around religion: architecture, science, music, literature, and the social system. The ancient Egyptians practiced religion, and worshiped many gods and goddesses.

Sciences.

The Egyptians paid more attention to the two disciplines of science, astrology and mathematics. These subjects needed to be practiced because with the help of astrology, many could accurately estimate the time of the flooding of the Nile. And mathematics was helpful in preparing and planning maps of ihrams and temples, with the help of these subjects you could solve the problems of happiness and public works.

Astrology

The Egyptians did not give much thought to the organization of Taybi, so they could not go far in astrology. However, they completed the solar calendar; they made a map of the astronomical planets and pointed out the important stars.

Women:

In ancient Egyptian civilization, women were given special importance. Women were allowed to marry as they wished. They also had the power to control births. Women were given equal rights with men. In the event of a divorce, she received one-third of her husband's estate and she could go and live in her father's house. Yes, if a woman had illicit sex with someone, she was burned alive, but the man was not punished. In Egypt, male and female deities were worshiped on an equal footing. So from religious matters to social rituals, I followed the will of the woman. The spiritual power of a woman is expressed by the fact that she was asked to interpret a dream. Women also had the right to trade.⁹ The central idea of ancient Egyptian society was death and a happy life. Most of the wealth and human potential was dedicated to creating a comfortable life. The construction of pyramids and *mustahabs*, donations, rituals, was a source of prosperity in later life. Some of the pharaohs had excellent pyramids built. A pyramid was a huge stone tomb. Building a pyramid was a great project. Thousands of people worked for years to build one year. Some stone blocks of pyramids

weigh more than two elephants! They were built in such a modern style that they are beyond comprehension even today. The most amazing thing is that the stones used in the construction of the pyramids are miles away from the place where the mountain pyramids were built. Today's modern world is wondering how such large stones were brought to the construction site.¹⁰ Egypt's rich civilization attracted many invaders. But it survived for thousands of years. In 30 BC, Egypt's last Pharaoh, Queen Cleopatra killed herself instead of surrendering to the Roman conquerors. That was 2,000 years ago. But ancient Egypt was not forgotten. Some mummies were preserved so well that they are still in good condition. Some of them are in the museum. And many great ancient Egyptian monuments, including many pyramids, still stand. You can meet them. Ancient Egyptian civilization still holds many secrets. The world is also working to uncover the secrets associated with it. Due to its ancient culture, tourists from all over the world flock to Egypt. Of course, it offers a lot more than just tourism.¹¹

If we consider, it is clear that the philosophy of ancient Egypt was mostly composed of ethics and political ideas. Sometimes high philosophical ideas also appear. For example, the theory that the order of the universe is established by intellect and intelligence. It is found in the writings of helpers and scholars. This theory is first a book of our time around 3200 BC. Two thousand years later, Akhenaten revived it. Ancient humans generally understood the gods in human form. On the contrary, in such an ancient age, this experience is a philosophical theory. Another notable theory of Egyptian philosophy was that the universe is an eternal reality and events repeat themselves. And this cycle continues. Similarly, the theory of natural causes is also noteworthy.¹²

Education:

Education was very important in those days. And education was considered an essential component. Farmers' children received special education in agriculture with basic literacy skills. Farming was of special importance. Middle class families sent their children to temples for education, The elites, on the other hand, had separate madrassas and teachers for education and training. Education in logic, mathematics and spirituality was compulsory for all. According to the evidence, the age of literacy was set at thirteen to nineteen years.¹³

Poetry and Literature:

In ancient Egypt, poets were highly valued. Poetry and literature flourished during this period. During the excavation, many such tablets were found on which poems and quatrains were written. After translating them, it was realized that poetry was flourishing even in this ancient period.¹⁴

Political Thoughts.

Egypt's first political thinker, Heliopolis, was a city priest. Which belonged to the time immediately after the end of the ancient empire? He was the first to criticize society and criticize Aamr for his atrocities on the poor. The poor do not have the strength to save themselves from the powerful. The whole country is far away. Leaders have become less courageous and cowardly. Society has become more and more dishonest. However, this thought did not provide any positive suggestions for the treatment of these disorders. 2100

BC The Nile Valley once again became the cradle of peace and prosperity under the Eleventh Royal Family, so in this new era there was also a pleasant change in political thought.¹⁵ The name of the author of this statement is not known. In fact, who is he? It was written at the request of the enlightened Pharaoh. This is a fictional story of a farmer who was robbed by a government official, so he expresses his feelings by playing on Pharaoh's encouragement from time to time. 2100 BC The Nile Valley once again became the cradle of peace and prosperity under the Eleventh Royal Family, so in this new era there was also a pleasant change in political thought. Goes The name of the author of this statement is not known. In fact, who is he? It was written at the request of the enlightened Pharaoh. This is a fictional story of a farmer who was robbed by a government official, so he expresses his feelings by playing on Pharaoh's encouragement from time to time. It is the duty of government officials to be the guardian of the widow of the orphan and the brother of the poor. They must kill the robbers and protect the destitute. Who does not reach hunger, thirst and cold. A piece of papyrus from the modern empire has been discovered in which a pharaoh addresses his ministers in a way that sheds light on the guiding principles of the government. Keep in mind the position of the ministry. Keep an eye on all situations. Be aware. This is the support of the whole country. The ministry is not a sweet thing. It is bitter. If a petitioner comes from Lower Egypt, it should be decided according to the law and custom so that everyone can get his right.¹⁶ The Egyptian kings were known as Pharaohs. The Egyptians said that Pharaoh was the son of a god. They were the link between heaven and earth. Pharaoh was the emperor's chief priest, legislator, and army commander. Pharaoh commanded state governors, judges, tax collectors, and soldiers. They made agreements with foreign rulers and controlled trade with other countries. All the Egyptians had to pay taxes to them or they worked on the plans for the buildings to be built for the king. Until a united empire was formed, the small kingdoms of southern and northern Egypt fought for the same delta. Excavations at Badari in Egypt have revealed that human settlements had settled in the lower part of the Nile Valley, near the mouth of the Nile, around 5,000 years BC. Similarly, on the basis of influential evidence from various places in Egypt, experts have divided prehistoric Egyptian culture into five periods. Tsian, Badrian, Amaratin, Garzin, Simanian.¹⁷ The first period is called Tasian and belongs to the age of horror. The fourth period, Garzin, is important in all of these periods, as Egyptian civilization began in the same period. In the upper part of the valley the people started to live. Then gradually they established a state of their own and began to conquer other states to expand it. They were the distinguishing mark of the king or chief. The eagle is pictured sitting on his shoulders behind his head. Menezes, the first Egyptian pharaoh, belonged to the people. The same king paid tribute to the Syrian rulers of Central Egypt and subsequently established a united kingdom in the Nile Valley, subjugating the Tehsils, Syrians and Palestinian shepherds of the Delta region. Maintaining the distinctiveness of the eagle, the red and white crowns of tahnias and shamis were combined to form a new crown, which included these two colors. Menezes is probably the first king of Egypt's first royal family.¹⁸ The rule of 10 kings in the land of the Delta before Menzies is traced to a sealed inscription. The list is preceded by 10 double marks before Menezes, which symbolizes two crowns, ie, two kings. Narmer Menes explains. The capital of this king's kingdom was Obaiduz, located in the vicinity of Thehis. Menezes incorporated all of Egypt into his pen and founded a new capital at Memphis. Menezes built a huge dam that diverted the Nile and imprisoned it in the

mountains through a canal. Changing the course of the river in such ancient times was the first major achievement of human engineering.¹⁹ The earliest example of moral philosophy is the address of a minister of the Fifth Dynasty around 2500 BC. These are the forty-foot wise advice that this minister has compiled for his son. Where are the half of them whose guidance leads to worldly success? The pure half is the indoctrination of morality. No problem, he should be kind, tolerant, kind, cheerful and fair. Even if he has to sacrifice his personal interest. In the same way, he should avoid greed, lust and arrogance and should develop moderation and restraint. The correction of these ideas is dead, that in the literary history of the world, this was the first expression of Ali's moral high ground. Despair is a prominent feature of the Middle Ages, a period in which philosophical thought deepened. One of the reasons for this was that there were rifts in national unity. Then external attacks fostered feelings of insecurity and helplessness and a sense of uncertainty. An example of this is the pro-war song that a pharaoh engraved on the wall of his tomb in about 2100 Zero. This song is full of skepticism about the afterlife.²⁰

The concept of religion

Although the Egyptians made great strides in other areas of civilization, they were far behind in religion according to an estimate, the Egyptians had about two thousand two hundred deities, each of whom had a special animal. Here is a short list of Egyptian gods and their special animals.

1- Osiris Devta Bull, 2- Horse Falcon 3- Seet Donkey 4- Ranot Devi Snake

Most of them had human bodies and animal heads. Some believe that all the Egyptian gods had animal heads. The Egyptians had their own, and those who did not have animals came from outside

The Egyptians believed that the gods appeared in the form of various animals. The Egyptians were also naturalists. It is difficult to say that the first scenes in Egypt. So in Egypt the ancient religion was totally different from this time and it was a complex religion based on polytheism and polytheistic beliefs and rituals. At various times, some deities were given precedence over other deities, including the sun god Ra, a, the creator god Amon, and the goddess Mother Aegis. The ancient Egyptians believed in magic and many gods. People built very few shrines for their favorite deities. They wore amulets, and recited pujas and mantras. They also made statues representing the gods. The most famous is the Great Sphinx of Giza. This huge statue with the body of a lion and the head of a man still stands today.

The ancient Egyptians believed that their bodies could live on after death. So they started making corpses into mummies. The Egyptians not only made mummies for humans but also mummies for their pets. Among the animals were cats, which were made by mummies. The mummies were kept safe, dry and wrapped in cloth. The Egyptians hoped that this would help their souls to live after death. Pharaoh's mummies were placed in a great tomb surrounded by pyramids or treasures for later use. The hieroglyphs on the papyrus have been found along with the mummies. Most of the royal mummies, and the treasures buried with them, were stolen long ago by cemetery robbers.

Impact of Islam

After the ancient period the Greeks and Roman also influenced at the Egyptian society. But

we had seen the real religious change after the arrival of Islam when it advent from Arabia and reached during the reign of Caliph Hazrat Umer Farooq R.A. Hazrat Ammar Bin Aass conquest Egypt²¹ and abolished all the vague tradition. Islam became the religion of the Egypt and it is proud for them. Now only Allah Almighty is only for worship and there is no other one to worship.

Conclusion

It is very clear that the ancient Egypt was considered one of the very important and greatest civilizations of the world at the said era. It was the most powerful and developed civilization. It lasted for over at least 3000 years from 3150 BC to 30 BC. The civilization of ancient Egypt was located along the Nile River in northeast Africa. The Nile provided food, soil, water, and transportation for the Egyptians. The ancient Egypt is considered the most important regions of the world and the Valley of Nile had given the birth to a great civilization as history records that the evolution of the Egyptian civilization took place in 4000 BC. Farming began and gradually and the ancient Egyptian civilization flourished. If we look at the Egyptian civilization, it is clear that this is one of the most progressive regions of mankind. The socio-political condition of the valley was more developed than the other populated areas. Philosophy, laws, ethics, women place in society, economy and socio-political culture were promoted in this civilization since early era of this this region. Nile was the important source of water for drinking and irrigation. While the period of Pharaohs was also important for political development. The construction of pyramid is also remarkable architecture of this era. Egyptian civilization is the center of attention all over the world because of its mystery and uniqueness. There have been countless speculations about it, but many facts are still buried in the dust. In short, The ancient Egyptians were productive architects and built a large number of buildings in addition to temples and pyramids. According to archaeologists, the remains of some palaces reflect the luxurious lifestyle of members of the royal family.

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