

ENGLISH

CHAPTER 3: DISCOVERING TUT: THE SAGA CONTINUES



DISCOVERING TUT: THE SAGA CONTINUES

~Summary~

-by AR Williams

Death of King Tut

King Tut was just a teenager when he died. He was the last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries. He was buried and forgotten over the years. But after the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world wondered about the cause of his untimely death. He was brought out of his tomb and recently a CT scan was done to ascertain the reason of his death.

The Mummy of King Tut

At 6 pm on 5th January, 2005, the world's most famous mummy (preserved body) was taken out from its burial tomb. As the mummy of King Tut was being put into the scanner for performing a CT scan, angry winds stirred and dark clouds covered the stars. The weather had been overcast all day and the night sky was hidden by dark-bellied clouds. The CT scan was being done to unearth the remaining medical mysteries that surrounded the untimely death of this young King who died more than 3300 years ago. King Tut's tomb lies 26 feet underground in the ancient Egyptian cemetery known as the Valley of the King. Tourists from around the world came to visit the tomb to pay their respects. They gazed at the murals on the walls of the burial chamber and looked at King Tut's gilded face on the lid of his outer coffin. The visitors were curious and thoughtful. Some feared the Pharaoh's curse would befall those who disturbed him.

Howard Carter and his Findings

Howard Carter was a British archaeologist who in 1922 discovered King Tut's tomb after years of futile searching. Its contents remain the richest royal collection ever found. There were dazzling works of art in gold that had caused a sensation then and continue to draw people's attention even today. King Tut was also buried with everyday things such as board games, a bronze razor, cases of food, clothes, wine etc that he would need in the life after death. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, explained that the mummy was in a very bad condition because of what Howard Carter did to it. Howard Carter found King Tut's body in three nested coffins. In the first coffin, he found a shroud decorated with garlands of willow and olive leaves, wild celery, lotus petals and cornflowers which indicated that the burial took place in March or April. When he finally reached the mummy, he ran into trouble. The ritual resins had hardened, cementing King Tut to the bottom of the solid gold coffin.

Howard Carter had to Chisel Out King Tut's Mummy

Howard Carter tried to loosen the resins by putting the mummy outside in the sun that heated it to 149 degrees Fahrenheit. For several hours the mummy was set outside in blazing sunshine but nothing happened. He reported that the tough material had to be cut from under the limbs and trunk to free the King's remains. The royals in King Tut's time believed that they could take their fortune with them after death. Hence, King Tut was buried with all his expensive belongings. To separate King Tut from his ornaments, Howard Carter's men removed the mummy's head and cut off nearly every major joint; then they reassembled the remains of the body on a layer of sand in a wooden box with padding:

King Tut's Mummy X-Rayed

Archaeology has changed since then, focusing less on treasures and more on the fascinating details of life and fascinating mysteries of death. It also uses more sophisticated tools. In 1968, more than 40 years after Howard Carter's discovery, an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy and revealed an astonishing fact that beneath the resin that caked King Tut's chest, his breast bone and front ribs were missing. King Tut's demise was a big event, even by royal standards, as he was the last ruler of his family. His funeral meant the end of a royal dynasty. But the facts of his death and its consequences are unclear.

King Tut's Mummy and its CT Scan

King Tut is one mummy among many in Egypt. No one knows how many mummies there are in Egypt. The Egyptian Mummy Project has recorded almost six hundred and is still counting, King Tut's mummy was the first mummy to be CT scanned to ascertain the secret of his death by a portable scanner donated by National Geographic Society and Siemens. King Tut's entire body was scanned. On the night of the scan, workmen carried him from the tomb and rose it on a hydraulic lift into a trailer that held the scanner.

However, initially the costly scanner could not function properly because of sand in the cooler fan. But soon all the hurdles were crossed and after the scan, the King was returned to his coffin to rest in peace.

The CT scan showed an astonishing image of King Tut and his entire body very clearly. It showed a grey head, neck vertebrae, a hand, several images of the rib cage and a section of the skull. Zahi Hawass was relieved that nothing had seriously gone wrong. As the technicians left the trailer, they saw the star constellation which the ancient Egyptians knew as the soul of Osiris, the God of the afterlife. They felt as if the God was watching over the boy King.

Conclusion of Discovering Tut The Saga Continues

To conclude, Discovering tut: the saga continues summary tells you that Tutankhamun, also known as tut was a brave ruler who of the great Pharaoh Dynasty. He died a mysterious death and is resting in peace in his tomb now.

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NCERT SOLUTIONS

Questions (Page No. 28)

(Understanding The Text)

Question 1. Give reasons for the following.

- i. King Tut's body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny

Answer: Tut's body had been examined numerous times because he was the world's most famous mummy. Aside from the gold-plated face of the coffin, visitors to the tomb believed that there was a mystery surrounding the young ruler's untimely death. They also wondered if the pharaoh's curse, which befell those who disturbed his resting place, was true or not.

- ii. Howard Carter's investigation was resented.

Answer: Howard Carter's investigation, which took place in the 1920s, was criticised because King Tut's body was badly damaged in an attempt to separate it from the golden coffin. He had used unethical methods to extract the gold and had made no effort to investigate the cause of death.

- iii. Carter had to chisel away the solidified resins to raise the king's remains.

Answer: Howard had to chisel away the solidified resin to raise Tut's remains, which had become cemented to the bottom of the coffin and showed no signs of escaping. No amount of force could separate the body from the coffin; not even exposing it to the scorching sun could melt the solid resin.

- iv. Tut's body was buried along with gilded treasures.

Answer: Tut's body was buried alongside gold and other treasures because, at the time, the royals and rich individuals wished and believed that they might take their wealth with them until they died and use it for the afterlife.

- v. The boy king changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun

Answer: Tutankhamun, the boy-king, changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun in order to restore everything that his father had destroyed.

Question 2.

- i. List the deeds that led Ray Johnson to describe Akhenaten as “wacky”.

Answer: Ray Johnson described Akhenaten as “wacky” because he promoted the worship of Aten (the sun disc) over Amun the major God, changed his name from Amenhotep to Akhenaten, relocated the religious capital from Thebes to Akhetaten, and destroyed Amun temples and idols, thus shocking the entire country.

- ii. What were the results of the CT scan?

Answer: The CT scan revealed King Tut’s neck vertebrae, a hand, several views of the rib cage, and a skull transaction. Everything indicated that nothing serious had gone wrong.

- iii. List the advances in technology that have improved forensic analysis.

Answer: The introduction of medical technology that focuses on the aspects of life and mysteries of death rather than the treasure buried with the remains has shaped the future of archaeology in forensic analysis. The x-ray was invented, followed by the CT scanner, which allowed for diagnostic imaging. It creates a three-dimensional virtual body from ancient remains, revealing body parts that have been preserved for thousands of years.

- iv. Explain the statement, “King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned — in death, as in life...”

Answer: According to this statement, King Tut was the first pharaoh whose mummified body was scanned 3,300 years after his death. When he was alive, he was a well-known figure. Even though he was only a boy, he was intelligent and practical, making bold decisions and restoring lost customs and traditions that his father had destroyed. He ruled for nine years, but his death was unexpected, leaving the cause unknown.

Questions (Page No. 29) (Thinking about language)

Question 1. Read the following piece of information from The Encyclopedia of Language by David Crystal.

Egyptian is now extinct: its history dates from before the third millennium B.C., preserved in many hieroglyphic inscriptions and papyrus manuscripts. Around the second century A.D., it developed into a language known as Coptic. Coptic may still have been used as late as the early nineteenth century and is still used as a religious language by Monophysite Christians in Egypt.

1. What do you think are the reasons for the extinction of languages?

Answer: Languages are becoming extinct for a variety of reasons. A dominant language that is not native to the locals frequently replaces the main language. Other reasons include the genocide of entire races, poor cultural heritage preservation, and the loss and damage of historical records.

2. Do you think it is important to preserve languages?

Answer: Yes, language preservation is critical. Languages are an important tool for understanding and preserving a culture's traditions. It also allows one to reconnect with their ancestors. Literature is a tool for preserving and learning a language.

3. In what ways do you think we could help prevent the extinction of languages and dialects?

Answer: We can preserve language and dialects by recovering and practising a lost language. To do so, we must stay connected to our roots by encouraging children to speak in their mother tongue more often, reading old books in their native language, and conversing with the elderly.

Questions (Page No. 29) (Working with words)

Question 1. Given below are some interesting combinations of words. Explain why they have been used together.

- i. ghostly dust devils
- ii. desert sky
- iii. stunning artefacts
- iv. funerary treasures
- v. scientific detachment
- vi. dark-bellied clouds
- vii. casket grey
- viii. eternal brilliance
- ix. ritual resins
- x. virtual body

Answer:

- i. This term refers to the violent movement of dusty winds in a desert. The winds are called devils because they punish and annoy the workers for disturbing King Tut's tomb.
- ii. Suggests the dryness and aridity of a desert.
- iii. The tomb contained artefacts and treasures of high market value, beauty, and brilliance.
- iv. The treasures buried with King Tut's mummy were all made of gold and were extremely valuable.
- v. Refers to a rejection of scientific intervention and traditional methods.
- vi. Clouds that are dark in colour and indicate the possibility of storms and heavy rain.
- vii. The stars are shrouded in dark grey clouds, as if they were jewels kept in a casket.
- viii. Refers to something that will last indefinitely and is unaffected by time. It is used here to describe the gleam and lustre of Tut's golden treasure and artefacts.
- ix. Customarily, the resins are used to prepare a body for mummification and in burial rituals.
- x. A machine-created image or artificial body that represents the real body. It can be used to gather information and facts about a real body.

Question 2. Here are some commonly used medical terms. Find out their meanings.

CT scan	MRI	tomography
autopsy	dialysis	ECG
post mortem	angiography	biopsy

CT scan – They are specialised x-ray tests that use X-rays and a computer to create cross-sectional images of the body.

MRI – Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a diagnostic technique that employs magnetic fields and radio waves to generate a detailed image of the body's soft tissue and bones.

Tomography – It refers to sectional imaging or sectioning using any type of penetrating wave. It is used in radiology, archaeology, and other scientific fields.

Autopsy – It is a surgical procedure that entails dissecting a corpse to determine the cause and manner of death or to evaluate an injury for research purposes.

Dialysis – It is the process of removing excess water and toxins from the blood in people whose kidneys have lost the ability to do so naturally.

ECG – The electrocardiogram, also known as an ECG, is a diagnostic tool used to evaluate the electrical and muscular functions of the heart.

Post Mortem – A corpse is examined or analysed soon after death to determine the cause of death.

Angiography – It is a type of imaging tool used to see inside blood vessels and organs of the body, specifically arteries, veins, and heart chambers.

Biopsy – It is a medical procedure in which surgeons, radiologists, or cardiologists extract cells or tissues for examination in order to determine the presence and extent of a disease.

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