

# GRANHOLM GENEALOGY

## EGYPTIAN ROYAL ANCESTRY

Abt. 1600–800, 305-30 BC



*Great Pyramid, Egypt*

## INTRODUCTION

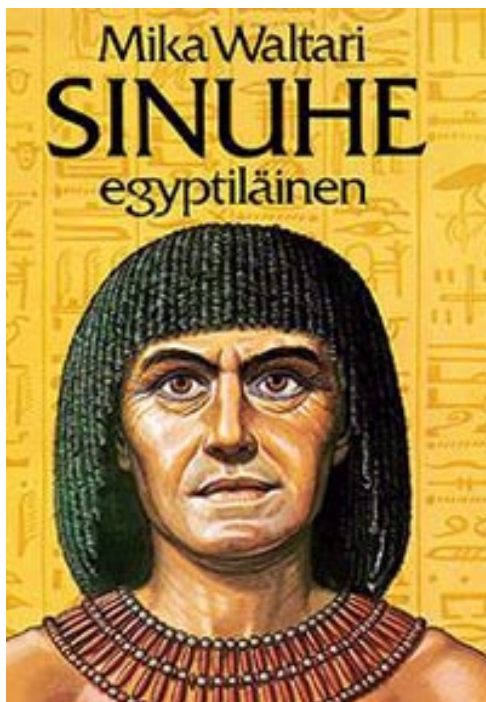
“Egypt is a gift from Nile” was the first we learned in grade school about Egypt. In genealogy, we can well claim that Egypt has given us the gift of the earliest ancestral history thanks to its hieroglyphs and other sources now readily available via Internet.

There are several sources connecting us to Egyptian ancestors but I have here picked one, listed first, “Byzantine Emperors”, which ties together several of our other ancestral lineages, which I have described in other books. This one lists our ancestors from a most recent (generation 1) to the earliest (generation 87). This sequence is different from most computer genealogy reports which list the lineages from to earliest person to the present. Besides the information in this list, I have gone further back in time using Wikipedia and some other Internet sources.

In my lineage list, shown next, I have those of our ancestors **highlighted**, for which additional information has been provided in the main text. This list ends with Neithiyti Princess of Egypt (81<sup>st</sup> great grandmother). She was married to Cyrus II the Great King of Persia, our ancestor listed in the [Persian Royal Ancestry](#).

Another list is included and ends with the famous Cleopatra and the end of the Egyptian empire as it then became part of the Roman Empire as shown in [Roman Early Ancestry](#).

This time period is included in the 1945 novel by [Mika Waltari](#), titled [The Egyptian](#), which is set during the reign of [18th dynasty](#) pharaoh [Akhenaten](#).



The protagonist of the novel is the fictional character Sinuhe, the royal physician, who tells the story in exile after Akhenaten's fall and death. The main character of the novel is named after that of an ancient Egyptian text commonly known as [The Story of Sinuhe](#). The original story dates to a time long before that of Akhenaten: texts are known from as early as the [12th dynasty](#).

Supporting historical characters include the old Pharaoh [Amenhotep III](#) and his conniving favorite wife [Tiy](#), the wife of Akhenaten [Nefertiti](#), the listless young [Tutankhamun](#) (King Tut) who succeeded as Pharaoh after Akhenaten's downfall, and the two common-born successors who were, according to this author, integral parts of the rise and fall of the [Amarna](#) heresy of Akhenaten, the priest and later Pharaoh [Ay](#), and the warrior-general and then finally Pharaoh [Horemheb](#).

# Byzantine Emperors

1. **Dobronegra Mariya Vladimirovna, Princess of Kiev (15231, 27<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother):** *Born* about 1011, of Kiev, Ukraine; *Died* 1087. *Married* about 1039; **Casimir (Kazimierz) I Karol "the Restorer", King of Poland (15232, 27<sup>th</sup> ggf):** *Born* 25 July 1016, of Krakow, Poland; *Died* 28 November 1058; (See Polish Royal Ancestry Book 1 Medieval time)

2. **Vladimir I "the Great" Grand Prince of Kiev (15065, 28<sup>th</sup> great grandfather):** *Born*, Kiev, Ukraine; (See Russian Viking and Royal Ancestry) *Died* 15 July 1015, Berestovo, Kiev, Ukraine; *Married* 988/989, Kherson, Ukraine; **Anna, Princess of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* 13 March 963, of Constantinople, Turkey; *Died* 1011.

Anna's Parents--

3. **Romanos II, Emperor of the Byzantine Empire (17295, 29<sup>th</sup> great grandfather):** *Born* 940, of Constantinople, Turkey; *Died* 15 March 963; *Married* about 956, Constantinople, Turkey; **Theophano, Empress of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* about 936, of Constantinople, Turkey. (See Byzantine Royal Ancestry)

Theophano's Parents--

□ I. **Anastaso of The Byzantine Empire:** *Born* 912.

Romanos' Parents--

4. **Constantine (Konstantinos) VII, "Porphyrogenitos" Emperor of the Byzantine Empire (17396, 30<sup>th</sup> ggf):** *Born* about 906, of Constantinople, Turkey; *Died* 9 November 959; *Married* 27 April 919, Constantinople, Turkey; **Eleni of Lekapene, Empress of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* about 906, of Constantinople, Turkey; *Died* 19 September 961. Constantine VII, known as porphyrogenitos ("born in the purple"), was sole ruler of the Byzantine Empire from 945. He is chiefly remembered for his writings, which are valuable sources for the history of his time. They include *De thematibus*, a description of the Byzantine provinces, *De administrando imperio*, which contains a wealth of information about the peoples living on the borders of the Empire, and *De cerimoniis aulae byzantinae*, dealing with the customs and ceremonies of the Byzantine court.

Eleni's Parents and Grandfather--

□ I. **Romanos I, Emperor of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* about 869, Lakape, Armenia; *Died* 15 June 948, Isle of Prote, Makedhonia, Greece; *Married* after 891, Constantinople, Turkey; **Theodora, Empress of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* about 874, of Constantinople, Turkey; *Died* 20 February 923.

□ A. **Theophylaktos Abstartus:** *Born* 843.

Constantine's Parents--

5. **Leon (Leo) VI "the Wise", Emperor of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* 19 September 866, of Constantinople, Turkey; *Died* 12 May 912; *Married* 898; **Zoe Zautzina, Empress of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* about 874, of Constantinople, Turkey; *Died* late in 899.

Zoe's Father—

□ I. **Stylios Zautes:** *Born* about 850.

Leon's Parents--

6. **Basil (Basileos) I, Emperor of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* 812 of Adrianople, Turkey; *Died* 29 August 886; *Married* about 865, of Constantinople; **Eudoxia Ingerina, Empress of the Byzantine Empire:** *Born* about 835, of Constantinople, Turkey.

7. **Konstantinos Porphyrogenitus of Adrianople:** *Born* about 786 of, Adrianople, Turkey; *Died* about 828.

8. **Hmayeak of Adrianople:** *Born* about 755; *Died* about 797. Other son of #9 is Marius Mamikonian of Armenia

9. **Artavazd Mamikonian:** *Born* about 720; *Died* about 778.

10. **Hmyayeak Mamikonian.**

11. **Artavazd Mamikonian:** *Born* about 650; *Died* about 693.

12. **Hamazasp III Mamikonian of Armenia:** *Born* about 610; *Died* about 658.

13. **Dawith (David) Mamikonian:** *Born* about 580.

14. **Vahan II Mamikonian, Prince of Taron:** *Born* about 555; *Died* about 600.

15. **Mousegh Mamikonian:** *Born* about 530; *Died* about 593.

16. **Hmayeak Mamikonian:** *Born* about 490; *Died* about 555.

17. **Vard Mamikonian, Viceroy of Armenia:** *Born* about 450; *Died* about 509.

18. **General Hmayeak Mamikonian:** *Born* about 410; *Died* about 451 Battle; *Married* **Dzoyk.**

19. **Hamazasp I, Prince of Mamikonids:** *Born* about 345; *Died* about 416; *Married* **Sahakanoysh of Armenia.**

Sahakanoysh's Parents--

20. **Isaac I, King of Armenia:** *Born* about 351; *Died* about 438.

21. **Narses I, King of Armenia:** *Born* about 335; *Died* about 373; *Married* **Sandukht.**

22. **Athenagenes; Married Bambisn.**

23. **Chosroes III, King of Armenia:** *Died* about 339.

24. **Tiran (Helios), King of Armenia:** *Born* about 280; *Died* about 330; *Married* **Asxen of Alania.**

25. **Khusraw II, King of West Armenia:** *Born* about 236; *Died* about 297.

26. **Tiridat II, King of Armenia:** *Born* about 195; *Died* about 252.

27. **Khusraw I "the Brave", King of Armenia:** *Born* about 175; *Died* about 216.

28. **Vologaeses V, King of Parthia:** *Born* about 145; *Died* about 208; *Married* **A princess of Iberia.**

Volganses' Parents, through Great-Great-Grandparents--

□ **I. Vologaeses IV, King of Parthia:** *Born* about 115; *Died* about 192.

□ **A. Vologaeses III, King of Parthia:** *Died* about 148.

□ **i. Vologaeses II, King of Parthia.**

□ **a. Vologaeses I, King of Parthia.**

A Princess of Iberia's Parents--

29. **Pharasmenes III, King of Iberia:** *Died* about 185.

30. **Rhadamiste I, King of Iberia:** *Died* about 135.

31. **Pharasmenes II, King of Iberia:** *Died* about 132.

32. **Amazaspus I, King of Iberia:** *Died* about 116.

33. **Mithradates I, King of Iberia:** *Died* about 106.

34. **Pharasmenes I, King of Iberia.**

35. **Koudjide Kartham; Married A princess of Iberia.**

A Princess of Iberia's Parents--

- 36. **Pharnabazus I, King of Iberia.**
- 37. **Artaces I, King of Iberia.**
- 38. **Artaxias I, King of Iberia.**
- 39. **Artavasdes I, King of Iberia.**
- 40. **Tigranes I, King of Iberia.**
- 41. **Artaxias I, King of Armenia.**
- 42. **Zariadres I, King of Sophene.**
- 43. **Xerses I, King of Armenia; Married Antiochis of Syria.**

Antiochis' Parents through Great-Great-Great-Grandparents—

- **I. Antiochus III, King of Syria.**
- **A. Seleucus II, King of Syria.**
- **i. Antiochus II, Theos King of Syria.**
- **a. Antiochus I, King of Syria.**
- **I). Seleucus I, Nictator King of Syria.**

Xerses' Parents--

- 44. **Arsames I, King of Armenia.**
- 45. **Samos I, King of Armenia.**
- 46. **Aroandes III, King of Armenia.**
- 47. **Mithranes I, King of Armenia.**
- 48. **Aroandes II, King of Armenia.**
- 49. **Aroandes I, Satrap of Armenia; Married Rodogune of Persia (18428).**

Rodgune's Parents--

- 50. **Artaxerxes II, King of Persia (18431).**
- 51. **Darius II, King of Persia; Married Parysatis.**
- 52. **Artaxerxes I, King of Persia; Married Andia: Born Babylon.**

Andia's Parents--

- **I. Nebuchadrezzar IV, King of Babylon.**
- **A. Nebuchadrezzar III, Prince of Babylon.**
- **i. Nebuchadrezzar II, King of Babylon; Married Amyitis.**
- **a. Nabopolassar, King of Babylon.**

Artaxarxes' Parents--

- 53. **Xerses I, King of Persia; Married Esther.**

Esther's Father through Great-Great-Great-Great Grandfather--

- **I. Abihail.**
- **A. Shimei.**
- **i. Kish.**
- **a. Abiel.**
- **I). Zeror.**
- **A). Bechorath.**
- **i). Aphiah.**

Xerses's Parents--

54. **Darius I, King of Persia; Married Atossa.**

Darius' Father--

□ **I. Hystaspes.**

Atossa's Parents--

55. **Cyrus II "The Great", King of Persia; Married Neithiyti.** (See [Persian Royal Ancestry](#) )

Cyrus's Parents through Great-Great-Grandparents--

□ **I. Cambyses I, King of Persia; Married A princess of the Mede.**

Cambyses' Father--

□ **A. Cyrus I, King of Persia.** □ A princess of the Mede's Parents--

□ **B. Astyages, King of the Mede.**

□ **i. Cyaxares, King of the Mede.**

□ **a. Khshathrita, King of the Mede.**

Neithiyti's Parents--

56. **Wahibre (Ha'a'ib.re) 57. Psamtek II Nefer.Ib.Re'**

58. **Necho II Wehem.Ib.Re'**

58. **Psamtek I Wahib.Re'**

59. **Necho I Men.Kheper.Re'**

60 **Nekau ba Irib Re'**

61. **Bakenranef Wah Ka Re'**

62. **Tefnakhte Shepses re'**

63. **Osorkon "C", Great Chief of Ma.**

64. **Pimay, Great Chief of Ma.**

65. **Shoshenk III, Great Chief of Ma; Married Es ankh Djed Bast.**

Es' Parents--

66. **Takelot "B", High Priest of Ptah at Memphis; Married Es.ankh Djed.Bast**

67. **Shoshenk "D", High Priest of Ptah at Memphis.**

68. **Osorkon II.**

69. **Takelot I.**

70. **Osorkon I; Married Maat 'Ka Re'**

Maat's Parents--

71. **Psusennes II, High Priest of Amun at Thebes.**

72. **Pinudjem II, High Priest of Amun at Thebes.**

73. **MenKheperre', High Priest of Amun at Thebes; Married Istemkheb.**

Istemkheb's Parents--

74. **Psibkha'emne I**

75. **Smendes, Governor of Tanis; Married Henttawy.** (LG: m. Tentamun B, dtr of Ramses IX)

Henttawy's Parents--

76. **Ramses XI, Pharaoh of Egypt. 77. Ramses X, Pharaoh of Egypt.**

78. **Ramses IX, Pharaoh of Egypt.**

79. **Ramses VI, Pharaoh of Egypt. Brother : Montuherkhopshef Prince**

80. **Ramses III, Pharaoh of Egypt. Died 1151 B.C.**

81. **Seknakht, Prince of Egypt. m. Tiy-merenese, dtr of Merenptah, 12<sup>th</sup> son of Ramses II**

**82. Ramses II, Pharaoh of Egypt.** *Died* 1212 B.C. An Egyptian King (pharaoh) of the 19th dynasty,

Ramses II (reigned 1304-1237 BC) is remembered for his military campaigns and his extensive building program, the remains of which are still conspicuous. Succeeding his father, Seti I, Ramses pursued a vigorous foreign policy by attacking the Hittites, the chief opponents of the Egyptian empire in the East. His first campaigns against them (1300-1299 BC) ended in an Egyptian retreat after a violent battle at Kadesh in Syria, during which Ramses narrowly escaped capture. Ramses was responsible for building many large temples, most notably that at Abu Simbel in Nubia. He also founded a new royal capital at Per-Ramesse ("the house of Ramses") in the Nile's eastern delta, where the Israelites may have labored before the Exodus. During his long reign, Ramses had more than 100 children, and by his death in 1237, he had outlived 11 sons. He was succeeded by the 12th, Merneptah.

**83. Seti I, Pharaoh of Egypt:** *Died* 1279 B.C.; *Buried* Valley of the Kings, Egypt. Seti I, the second King in the Egyptian 19th dynasty (reigned c.1318-c.1304 BC), succeeded his father, Ramses I. Seti made conquests in Syria and Palestine and is remembered for his work on the temples at Karnak and for his magnificent tomb at Thebes. He was succeeded by Ramses II.

**84. Ramses I, Pharaoh of Egypt:** *Died* 1291 B.C.; *Married Sitre*. Ramses I, founder of the 19th dynasty of Egyptian kings (pharaohs), reigned for little more than a year, between 1320 and 1318 BC.

Apparently chosen to succeed by the last pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, Horemheb, in whose army he had been a commander. Ramses planned and started to build the colonnaded hall in the temple at Karnak.

Sitre's Parents--

**85. A prince of Egypt.** Brother to "King Tut" **Tutankhamen, Pharaoh of Egypt.**  
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tutankhamun> )

**86. Akhenaton (Ikhnaton), Pharaoh of Egypt;** *Died* 1334 B.C.; *Married Nefertiti*  
Nefertiti's Parents--

□ **I. Yuya, High Priest of Mim at Akhmim; Married Tuya**

Akhenaton's Parents--

**87. Amenhotep III Pharaoh of Egypt;** *Died* 1349 B.C.; *Married Tiye*: *Born* 1400 B.C.; *Died* 1360 B.C.. (See generation 9 below)

## Descendants of: Senakhtenre Tao I the Elder Pharaoh of Egypt As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

1 Senakhtenre Tao I the Elder Pharaoh of Egypt #18532 (123<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Tetisheri Queen of Egypt #18533

2 Seqenenre Tao II King of Theba #18531 (122<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Ahhotep I Queen of Egypt #18530 b. 1560 BC d. 1530 BC

3 Ahmose I Pharaoh of Egypt #18528 (121<sup>st</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Ahmose-Nefertari Queen of Egypt #18529

4 Mutnofret Queen of Egypt #18526 (120<sup>th</sup> great grandmother)  
m. Thutmose I Pharaoh of Egypt #18527  
[son of Amenhotep I, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pharaoh of the 18th dynasty of Egypt #18538 and Senseneb]

5 Thutmose II Pharaoh of Egypt #18523 d. 1479 BC (119<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Hatshepsut Queen of Egypt #18524 d. 1458 BC  
m. Iset Queen of Egypt #18525

[Children of Thutmose II Pharaoh of Egypt and Iset Queen of Egypt]  
6 Thutmose III Pharaoh of Egypt #18521 (118<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Merytre-Hatshepsut Queen of Egypt #18522

7 Amenhotep II Pharaoh of Egypt #18520 (117<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)

8 Thutmose IV Pharaoh of Egypt #18519 (116<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)

9 Amenhotep III Pharaoh of Egypt #18517 d. 1349 BC (115<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Tiye Great Royal Wife #18518 b. 1398 BC d. 1338 BC  
[daughter of Yuya and Tjuyu] (116<sup>th</sup> great grandparents)  
m. Tadukhipa Princess of Mitanni #18986 b. 1366 B. C. (2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, 111 times removed)

[Children of Amenhotep III Pharaoh of Egypt and Tadukhipa Princess of Mitanni]  
10. Sinuhe the Egyptian, Fictitious by Mika Waltari

[Children of Amenhotep III Pharaoh of Egypt and Tiye Great Royal Wife]  
10 Akhenaten Pharaoh of Egypt #18514 d. 1334 BC (114<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Nefertiti Great Royal Wife #18515  
[daughter of Ay ( Aya, Eie) Pharaoh of Egypt's 18th dynasty] (110<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)

11 Tutankhamun (King Tut) Pharaoh of Egypt #18516 b. 1341 BC d. 1323 BC (114<sup>th</sup> great-uncle)

11 Unknown Prince of Egypt #18513 (113<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)

12 Sitre Queen of Egypt #18512 (112<sup>th</sup> great grandmother)  
m. Ramesses I Pharaoh of Egypt #18511

13 Seti I Pharaoh of Egypt #18509 (111<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Tuya Queen of Egypt #18510

14 Ramesses II the Great Pharaoh of Egypt #18508 d. 1213 BC (110<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Isetnofret Great Royal Wife #18507

15 Merneptah Pharaoh of Egypt #18506 d. 1203 BC (109<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)

16 Tiy-merenese Great Royal Wife #18505 (108<sup>th</sup> great grandmother)  
m. Setnakhte First Pharaoh of the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty of Egypt #18504

17 Ramesses III Pharaoh of the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty #18499 (107<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Iset Ta-Hemdjert (Isis) Queen of Egypt #18500

- 18 **Ramesses VI Pharaoh of the 20<sup>th</sup> dynasty of Egypt** #18501 (107<sup>th</sup> great-uncle)  
m. Nubkhesbed Queen of Egypt #18502
- 19 **Ramesses VII Pharaoh of Egypt** #18503 (first cousin, 107 times removed)
- 18 **Montuherkopshef Prince of the 20th Dynasty of Egypt** #18497 (106<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Takhat King's Mother #18498
- 19 **Ramesses IX Pharaoh the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty of Egypt** #18496 d. 1111 BC (105<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 20 **Ramesses X Pharaoh of Egypt** #18495 (104<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 21 **Ramses XI Pharaoh of Egypt** #18490 (103<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather)  
m. **Tentamun (20th dynasty)** Queen of Egypt #18491
- 22 **Duathathor-Henuttawy Princess of Egypt** #18492 (102<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother)  
m. **Pinedjem I High Priest of Amun at Thebes** #18539
- 23 **Psusennes (Psibkha'emne) I King of Egypt** #18487 (101<sup>st</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Mutnemidet (his sister)
- 24 Istemkheb #18486 (100<sup>th</sup> great grandmother)  
m. MenKheperre' High Priest of Amun #18485
- 25 Pinudjem II High Priest of Amun #18484 (99<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 26 Psusennes II High Priest of Amun #18483 (98<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 27 Maat 'Ka Re' #18481 (97<sup>th</sup> great grandmother)  
m. **Osorkon I Second king of Egypt's 22nd Dynasty** #18482 (97<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 28 **Takelot I Pharaoh** #18480 (96<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Queen Kapes #18479
- 29 **Osorkon II Pharaoh of Ancient Egypt** #18478 (95<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 30 **Shoshenk "D" High Priest of Ptah at Memphis** #18477 (94<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 31 Takelot "B" High Priest of Ptah at Memphis #18475 (93<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather)  
m. Es.ankh Djed.Bast #18476
- 32 Es ankh Djed Bast #18474 (92<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother)  
m. Shoshenk III Great Chief of Ma #18473
- 33 Pimay Great Chief of Ma #18472 (91<sup>st</sup> great grandfather)
- 34 Osorkon "C" Great Chief of Ma #18471 (90<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 35 Tefnakhte Shepses re' #18470 (89<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 36 Bakenranef Wah Ka Re' #18469 (88<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 37 Nekau ba Irib Re' #18468 (87<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 38 Necho I Men.Kheper.Re' #18467 (86<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 39 Psamtek I Wahib.Re' #18466 (85<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 40 Necho II Wehem.Ib.Re' #18465 (84<sup>th</sup> great grandfather)
- 41 Psamtek II Nefer.Ib.Re' #18464 (83<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather)
- 42 Wahibre (Ha'a'ib.re) #18463 (82<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather)
- 43 **Neithiyti Princess of Egypt** #18446 (81<sup>st</sup> great grandmother)  
m. Cyrus II the Great King of Persia #18445 d. 530 BC (**See Persian Royal Ancestry**)  
[son of Cambyses I King of Anshan in Iran #18459 and Mandane Princess of Media #18458]

## Descendants of: Berenice I Queen Of Egypt As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 **Berenice I Queen Of Egypt** b. 340 B.C. d. 279 B.C. (74th great grandmother)
  - m. Philip II King of Macedonia
  - [son of Amyntas III King of Macedonia and Eurydice Queen of Macedonia]
  - m. **Ptolemy I Soter I Pharaoh of the Ptolemaic Kingdom** b. 367 B.C. d. 283 B.C.
  - [son of Philip II King of Macedonia and Arsinoe of Macedon]
- [Children of Berenice I Queen Of Egypt and Ptolemy I Soter I Pharaoh of the Ptolemaic Kingdom]
- 2 **Ptolemy II Philadelphus King Of Egypt** b. 309 B.C. d. 246 B.C. (74th great-uncle)
  - m. Arsinoe I Queen Of Egypt b. 305 B.C. d. 274 B.C.
  - [daughter of Lysimachus]
- [Children of Berenice I Queen Of Egypt and Philip II King of Macedonia]
- 2 Antigone of Macedonia (74th great-aunt)
  - m. **Pyrrhus King of Macedonia** b. 318 B.C. d. 272 B.C. (73<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather)
  - [son of Aeacides (Alcetas II) King of Epirus and Phthia Queen of Epirus]
- 2 **Magas King of Cyrene (Libya)** (73rd great grandfather)
  - m. Apama II Queen of Cyrenaica b. 292 B.C. d. 249 B.C.
  - [daughter of Antiochus I Soter King of the Hellenistic Empire and Stratonice Princess Of Syria]
- 3 **Berenice II Princess of Cyrene (Libya)** b. 267 B.C. d. 221 B.C. (72nd great grandmother)
  - m. Ptolemy III Euergetes King Of Egypt
  - [son of Ptolemy II Philadelphus King Of Egypt and Arsinoe I Queen Of Egypt]
- 4 **Arsinoe III Queen Of Egypt** b. 245 B.C. d. 204 B.C. (71st great grandmother)
  - m. **Ptolemy IV Philopator King Of Egypt**
  - [son of Ptolemy III Euergetes King Of Egypt and Berenice II Princess of Cyrene (Libya)]
- 5 **Ptolemy V Epiphanes King Of Egypt** (70th great grandfather)
  - m. Cleopatra I Syra Queen Of Egypt
  - [daughter of Antiochus III the King of the Seleucid Empire and Laodice III Princess of Pontus]
- 6 **Cleopatra II Queen Of Egypt** b. 185 B.C. d. 116 B.C. (69th great grandmother)
  - m. **Ptolemy VI Philometor King Of Egypt** b. 186 B.C. d. 145 B.C.
  - [son of Ptolemy V Epiphanes King Of Egypt and Cleopatra I Syra Queen Of Egypt]
- 7 **Cleopatra Thea Princess Of Egypt** d. 120 B.C. (68th great grandmother)
  - m. **Demetrius II Nicator King Of Syria** d. 125 B.C.
  - [son of Demetrius I Soter King Of Syria and Laodice VI Princess of Macedonia]
- 8 **Antiochus VIII Philometor King Of Syria** b. 143 B.C. d. 0096 B.C. (67th great grandfather)
  - m. Cleopatra Tryphaena Princess Of Egypt b. 141 B.C. d. 111 B.C.
  - [daughter of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (Physcon) King Of Egypt and Cyrene and Cleopatra III Queen Of Egypt]
- 9 **Laodice Thea Philadelphos Princess Of Syria** b. 120 B.C. d. 0089 B.C. (66th great grandmother)
  - m. Mithridates I Callinicus King Of Commagene b. 130 B.C. d. 0070 B.C.
  - [son of Sames II Theosebes King Of Commagene and Pythodoris Princess of Pontus]
- 7 **Cleopatra III Queen Of Egypt** b. 161 B.C. d. 101 B.C. (69th great-aunt)
  - m. Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (Physcon) King Of Egypt and Cyrene b. 182 B.C. d. 116 B.C.
  - [son of Ptolemy V Epiphanes King Of Egypt and Cleopatra I Syra Queen Of Egypt]
- 8 **Ptolemy IX Lathyros King Of Egypt** b. 143 B.C. d. 0081 B.C. (first cousin, 69 times removed)
  - m. Cleopatra IV Queen Of Egypt b. 138 B.C. d. 112 B.C.
  - [daughter of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (Physcon) King Of Egypt and Cyrene and Cleopatra III Queen Of Egypt]
  - m. Cleopatra Selene I Queen of Egypt and Syria b. 139 B.C. d. 0069 B.C.

[daughter of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (Physcon) King Of Egypt and Cyrene and Cleopatra III Queen Of Egypt]

[Children of Ptolemy IX Lathyros King Of Egypt and Cleopatra IV Queen Of Egypt]

9 **Ptolemy XII Auletes King Of Egypt** d. 0051 B.C. (second cousin, 68 times removed)

m. Cleopatra V Tryphanea Queen Of Egypt b. 0095 B.C. d. 0057 B.C.

[daughter of Ptolemy X Alexander I King Of Egypt and Berenice III Queen Of Egypt]

m. Unknown

[Children of Ptolemy XII Auletes King Of Egypt and Cleopatra V Tryphanea Queen Of Egypt]

10 **Cleopatra VII Queen Of Egypt** b. 0069 B.C. d. 0030 B.C. (third cousin, 67 times removed)

m. Marcus Antonius Triumvir Of Rome b. 0083 B.C. d. 30 Aug B.C.

[son of Marcus Antonius Creticus and Julia Antonia]

m. Ptolemy XIII Theos Philopator King Of Egypt b. 0062 B.C. d. 0047 B.C.

[son of Ptolemy XII Auletes King Of Egypt and Cleopatra V Tryphanea Queen Of Egypt]

m. Julius Caesar Dictator Of The Roman Republic b. 100 B.C. d. 0044 B.C.

[son of Gaius Julius Caesar and Aurelia Cotta]

[Children of Cleopatra VII Queen Of Egypt and Marcus Antonius Triumvir Of Rome]

11 Cleopatra Selene II Queen of Cyrene b. 0040 B.C. d. 0004 (4th cousin, 66 times removed)

[Children of Cleopatra VII Queen Of Egypt and Julius Caesar Dictator Of The Roman Republic]

11 Ptolemy XV Philopator Pharaoh Of Egypt b. 0047 B.C. d. 0030 B.C. (4th cousin, 66 times removed)

See [Roman Early Ancestry](#) and Marcus Antonius 65<sup>th</sup> great grandfather

# Senakhtenre Tao I

**Senakhtenre Tao I** was a [Pharaoh](#) of Egypt of the [Seventeenth dynasty of Egypt](#) based in [Upper Egypt](#) during the [Second Intermediate Period](#). He was born c.1605 BC and died c.1560 or 1558 BC at the latest. His prenomen Senakhtenre means "Perpetuated like Re."

He may or may not have been the son of [Intef VII](#), the successor of Nebkheperre [Intef VI](#). The Danish Egyptologist [Kim Ryholt](#) observes that "since *Senakhtenre* was remembered as one of the Lords of the West alongside Seqenenre and Kamose, he is generally believed to have been a member of the family of Ahmose and as such identified with the otherwise unidentified spouse" of Queen [Tetisheri](#), Ahmose's grandmother. He was succeeded by his son, [Seqenenre Tao II](#). Unlike his two successors Tao II, and [Kamose](#), Senakhtenre is a relatively obscure king who is not attested "by [any] contemporary sources (by his prenomen) but exclusively by sources dating from the New Kingdom: the [Karnak Canon](#) [of Tuthmose III] and [in] two Theban tombs." The archaeological evidence suggests that his reign was very brief and lasted only several months or 1 year at the most.



## Tetisheri

**Tetisheri** was the [matriarch](#) of the [Egyptian royal family](#) of the late [17th Dynasty](#) and early [18th Dynasty](#).

Tetisheri was the daughter of Tjenna and Neferu. The names of Tetisheri's parents are known from mummy bandages found in [TT320](#). She was selected by Tao I, despite her non-royal birth, to be not only his wife but his [Great Royal Wife](#). Tetisheri was the mother of [Tao II Seqenenre](#), Queen [Ahhotep I](#) and possibly [Kamose](#).

*Queen Tetisheri as depicted on a stela dedicated by Pharaoh Ahmose*

Pharaoh Ahmose I erected a [stela at Abydos](#) to announce the construction of a pyramid and a "house" for Tetisheri. Ahmose refers to the Queen as "*the mother of my mother, and the mother of my father, great king's wife and king's-mother, Tetisheri*"(Breasted)

Tetisheri was likely buried in Thebes and she may have been reinterred in the royal cache in [TT320](#). No tomb at Thebes has yet been conclusively identified with Queen Tetisheri, though a mummy that may be hers was included among other members of the royal family reburied in the Royal Cache (DB 320).

*Stela of Ahmose honouring Tetisheri. Found in the ruins of Tetisheri's pyramid in the complex of Ahmose's pyramid at Abydos*

Pharaoh Ahmose had a memorial structure or [cenotaph](#) at [Abydos](#) erected in her honour, in the midst of his own extensive mortuary complex at that site. This mud brick structure was discovered in 1902 by the Egypt Exploration Fund, and was found to contain a [monumental stela](#) detailing the dedication by [Ahmose](#) and his sister-wife [Ahmose-Nefertari](#) of a pyramid and enclosure (or shrine) to Tetisheri.

Portions of the limestone pyramidion or capstone were discovered as well, demonstrating conclusively that this structure was pyramidal in form. Magnetic survey also revealed a brick enclosure some 70 by 90 meters in scale, a feature not detected by earlier archaeologists. These accordingly may now be identified as the features described in Ahmose's stela found within: a pyramid and an enclosure, built in the midst of Ahmose's own mortuary complex.



## Seqenenre Tao II

**Seqenenre Tao II**, (also **Sekenenra Taa**), called *The Brave*, ruled over the last of the local kingdoms of the [Theban](#) region of Egypt in the [Seventeenth Dynasty](#) during the [Second Intermediate Period](#). He probably was the son and successor to Senaktenre [Tao I the Elder](#) and Queen [Tetisheri](#). The dates of his reign are uncertain, but he may have risen to power in the decade ending in [1560 BC](#) or in [1558 BC](#) (based on the probable accession date of [Ahmose I](#), the first ruler of the [eighteenth dynasty](#)). (see [Egyptian chronology](#)). With his queen, [Ahhotep I](#), Seqenenre Tao II fathered two pharaohs, Kamose, his immediate successor who was the last pharaoh of the seventeenth dynasty and Ahmose I who, following a regency by his mother, was the first pharaoh of the eighteenth.

*Scribal palette bearing the name of Seqenenre (Louvre Museum)*



Seqenenre Tao II is credited with starting the opening moves in the war of liberation against the [Hyksos](#), which was ended by his son Ahmose.

Later New Kingdom literary tradition states that Seqenenre Tao II came into contact with his Hyksos contemporary in the north, [Aawoserra Apopi](#). The tradition took the form of a tale in which the Hyksos king Apopi sent a messenger to Seqenenre in Thebes to demand that the Theban [hippopotamus](#) pool be done away with, for the noise of these beasts was such, that he

was unable sleep in far-away [Avaris](#). Perhaps the only historical information that can be gleaned from the tale is that Egypt was a divided land, the area of direct Hyksos control being in the north, but the whole of Egypt paying tribute to the Hyksos kings.

# Ahhotep I

**Ahhotep I** (alternatively spelled *Ahhotpe* or *Aahhotep*, meaning "*Iah (the Moon) is satisfied*"), was an [Ancient Egyptian](#) queen who lived circa [1560](#)- [1530](#) BC, during the end of the [Seventeenth dynasty of ancient Egypt](#), she was the daughter of Queen [Tetisheri](#) (known as Teti the Small) and Senakhtenre [Tao I](#), and was likely the sister, as well as the wife, of pharaoh [Sequenre Tao II](#). Ahhotep I had a long and influential life.

*A Queen from the New Kingdom*



Her titles include [Great Royal Wife](#) and "The associate of the White Crown brearer" (*khnemef nefer hedjet*). The title King's Mother (*mwt nswt*) was found on the Deir el Bahari coffin.

Ahhotep I was the daughter of queen [Tetisheri](#) and Senakhtenre [Tao I](#). She was the royal wife of the seventeenth dynasty king [Sequenre Tao II](#); he is believed to have been her brother.

Ahhotep was likely the **mother of Pharaoh [Ahmose I](#)** (18528). Her exact relation to Pharaoh [Kamose](#) is not known, but he may have been her brother-in-law (brother of [Tao II](#)) or her son. Other children of Queen Ahhotep I include the later Queen [Ahmose-Nefertari](#) (**18529**) who was married to her brother [Ahmose I](#). There were also Prince [Ahmose Sipair](#), Prince [Binpu](#), Princess [Ahmose-Henutemipet](#), Princess [Ahmose-Nebetta](#), and Princess [Ahmose-Tumerisy](#).

A stela from the reign of [Ahmose I](#) states that Ahhotep I may have rallied the troops and played a role in defending Thebes. It is not known when these events took place. They may have occurred after the death of [Tao II](#) or [Kamose](#).

*She is the one who has accomplished the rites and taken care of Egypt... She has looked after her soldiers, she has guarded her, she has brought back her fugitives and collected together her deserters, she has pacified Upper Egypt and expelled her rebels.*

Ahhotep is mentioned on the Kares stela (CG 34003) which dates to year 10 of [Amenhotep I](#), and her steward Iuf mentions her on his stela (CG 34009). Iuf refers to Ahhotep as the mother of King [Ahmose I](#), and would later be the steward of Queen [Ahmose](#), the wife of [Thutmose I](#). This suggests Ahhotep I may have died at a fairly advanced age during the reign of [Thutmose I](#).

# Ahmose I

**Ahmose I** (sometimes written *Amosis I*, "Amenes" and "Aahmes" and meaning *Born of the Moon*) was a [pharaoh](#) of [ancient Egypt](#) and the founder of the [Eighteenth dynasty](#). He was a member of the [Theban](#) royal house, the son of pharaoh [Tao II Sequenre](#) and brother of the last pharaoh of the [Seventeenth dynasty](#), King [Kamose](#). During the reign of his father or grandfather, Thebes rebelled against the [Hyksos](#), the rulers of [Lower Egypt](#). When he was seven his father was killed and he was about ten when his brother died of unknown causes, after reigning only three years. Ahmose I assumed the throne after the death of his brother and upon coronation became known as **Neb-Pehty-Re** (*The Lord of Strength is Re*).

*A fragmentary statue of Ahmose I, [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)*



During his reign, he completed the conquest and expulsion of the Hyksos from the [delta region](#), restored Theban rule over the whole of Egypt and successfully reasserted Egyptian power in its formerly subject territories of [Nubia](#) and [Canaan](#).

*The jewels and ceremonial weaponry found in the burial of Queen [Ahhotep](#), including an axe whose blade depicts Ahmose I striking down a Hyksos soldier, and the golden flies awarded to the Queen for her supportive role against the Hyksos*



# Ahmose-Nefertari

Ahmose-Nefertari of [Ancient Egypt](#) was a Queen of [Egypt](#). She was a daughter of [Tao II the Brave](#) and [Ahhotep I](#), and royal sister and the [great royal wife](#) of [pharaoh, Ahmose I](#). Upon the death of [Kamose](#), his brother Ahmose I became pharaoh. Ahmose-Nefertari then became the [regent](#) for her son and ruled until he could attain the age to ascend the throne as [Amenhotep I](#). During her regency she was recognized as a formidable [warrior](#), and at her burial she was given special honors for her accomplishments in war. After her death, she was worshiped as a [deity](#) in the funerary cult of Thebes.

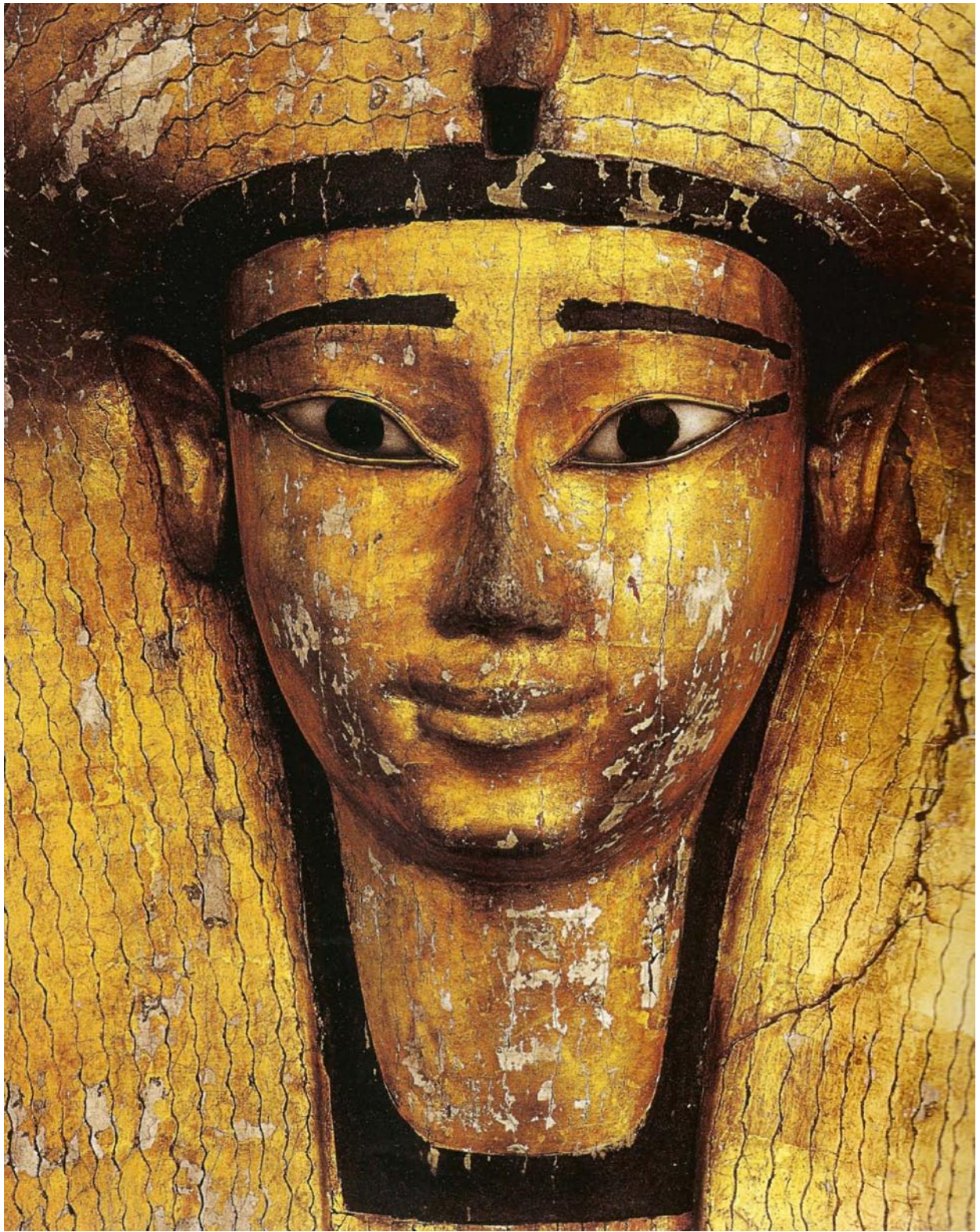
*Ahmose-Nefertari depicted with the black skin as goddess [Isis](#)*



Her name appears on many monuments, from [Sai](#) to [Tura](#). She is known still to have been alive during the first year of the reign of her son-in-law, [Thutmose I](#). Thus, she apparently outlived her son, Amenhotep I, who reigned over Egypt for nearly twenty-one years after her regency.



THE SECOND  
INTERMEDIATE PERIOD



# Mutnofret

Mutnofret  
in [hieroglyphs](#)



**Mutnofret** (“[Mut](#) is Beautiful”) was a queen during the [Eighteenth dynasty of Egypt](#). She was a secondary wife of [Thutmose I](#) and the mother of [Thutmose II](#).

Based on her titles of *King's Daughter and King's Sister*, she is likely to have been a daughter of [Ahmose I](#) and a sister of [Amenhotep I](#), although the chief wife of Thutmose I was not Mutnofret, but [Queen Ahmose](#).

It is likely that she was the mother of Thutmose I's other sons – [Amenmose](#), [Wadjmose](#) and Ramose – as well.

She was depicted in the [Deir el-Bahri](#) temple built by her grandson [Thutmose III](#); on a [stela](#) found at the [Ramesseum](#); on the colossus of her son; and a statue of her--bearing a dedication by Thutmose II--was found in Wadjmose's chapel. This suggests that Mutnofret was still alive during her son's reign.

*The three temples at Deir el Bahari from the top of the cliff behind them, part of Hatshepsut's temple on left, Tuthmosis III's temple in center, and Mentuhotep II's temple on right*



# Thutmose I

**Thutmose I** (sometimes read as *Thothmes*, *Thutmosis* or *Tuthmosis I*) was the third [Pharaoh](#) of the [18th dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#). He was given the throne after the death of the previous king [Amenhotep I](#). During his reign, he campaigned deep into the Levant and Nubia, pushing the borders of Egypt further than ever before. He also built many temples in Egypt and built a tomb for himself in the [Valley of the Kings](#); he is the first king confirmed to have done this (though Amenhotep I may have preceded him). He was succeeded by his son [Thutmose II](#), who in turn was succeeded by Thutmose II's sister, [Hatshepsut](#). His reign is [generally dated from 1506 to 1493 BCE](#).

*Early 18th dynasty statue head, perhaps Thutmose I (British Museum)*



Thutmose's father was Amenhotep I, while his mother, [Senseneb](#), is believed to have been a concubine. [Queen Ahmose](#), who held the title of [Great Royal Wife](#) of Thutmose, was probably the daughter of [Ahmose I](#) and the sister of [Amenhotep I](#); however, she was never called "king's daughter," so there is some doubt about this, and some historians believe that she was Thutmose's own sister. Assuming she was related to Amenhotep, it could be thought that she was married to Thutmose in order to guarantee succession. However, this is known not to be the case for two reasons. Firstly, Amenhotep's alabaster bark built at [Karnak](#) associates Amenhotep's name with Thutmose's name well before Amenhotep's death. Secondly, Thutmose's first born son with [Ahmose](#), [Amenmose](#), was apparently born long before Thutmose's coronation. He can be seen on a stela from Thutmose's fourth regnal year hunting

near Memphis, and he became the "great army-commander of his father" sometime before his death, which was no later than Thutmose's own death in his 12th regnal year. Thutmose had another son, [Wadjmose](#), and two daughters, [Hatshepsut](#) and [Nefrubity](#), by [Ahmose](#). Wadjmose died before his father, and Nefrubity died as an infant. Thutmose had one son by another wife, Mutnofret. This son succeeded him as [Thutmose II](#), whom Thutmose I married to his daughter, [Hatshepsut](#). It was later recorded by Hatshepsut that Thutmose willed the kingship to both Thutmose II and Hatshepsut. However, this is considered to be propaganda by Hatshepsut's supporters to legitimise her claim to the throne when she later assumed power.

# Amenhotep I



**Amenhotep I** (sometimes read as **Amenophis I** and meaning "[Amun](#) is satisfied") was the second [Pharaoh](#) of the [18th dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#). His reign is [generally dated from 1526 to 1506 BC](#). He was born to [Ahmose I](#) and [Ahmose-Nefertari](#), but had at least two elder brothers, [Ahmose-ankh](#) and [Ahmose Sapair](#), and was not expected to [inherit the throne](#). However, sometime in the eight years between Ahmose I's 17th [regnal year](#) and his death, his [heir apparent](#) died and Amenhotep became [crown prince](#). He then acceded to the throne and ruled for about 21 years.

*One of the few surviving three-dimensional representations of Amenhotep I contemporary to his reign, now in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

Large numbers of statues of Amenhotep have been found, but they are mostly from the Ramessid period, made for his posthumous funerary cult.



*Stele showing Amenhotep I with his mother*

# Thutmose II

**Thutmose II** was the fourth [Pharaoh](#) of the [Eighteenth dynasty of Egypt](#). He built some minor monuments and initiated at least two minor campaigns but did little else during his rule and was probably strongly influenced by his wife, [Hatshepsut](#) (18524). His reign is generally dated [from 1493 to 1479 BC](#). Thutmose II's body was found in the [Deir el-Bahri Cache](#) above the [Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut](#) and can be viewed today in the [Egyptian Museum](#) in [Cairo](#).

*Prenomen of the [Cartouche](#) of Thutmose II preceded by Sedge and Bee symbols, Temple of [Hatshepsut](#), [Luxor](#)*



Thutmose II was the son of [Thutmose I](#) and a minor wife, [Mutnofret](#). He was, therefore, a lesser son of Thutmose I and chose to marry his fully royal half-sister, [Hatshepsut](#), in order to secure his kingship. While he successfully put down rebellions in [Nubia](#) and the [Levant](#) and defeated a group of [nomadic Bedouins](#), these campaigns were specifically carried out by the king's Generals, and not by Thutmose II himself. This is often interpreted as evidence that Thutmose II was still a minor at his accession. Thutmose II fathered [Neferure](#) with Hatshepsut, but also managed to father a male heir, the famous [Thutmose III](#), (18521) by a lesser wife named Iset before his death.

Some archaeologists believe that Hatshepsut was the real power behind the throne during Thutmose II's rule because of the similar domestic and foreign policies which were later pursued under her reign and because of her claim that she was her father's intended heir. She is depicted in several raised relief scenes from a Karnak gateway dating to Thutmose II's reign both together with her husband and alone.<sup>[1]</sup> She later had herself crowned Pharaoh several years into the rule of her husband's young successor [Thutmose III](#); this is confirmed by the fact that "the queen's agents actually replaced the boy king's name in a few places with her own cartouches" on the gateway.

*The mummified head of Thutmose II*



Thutmose II's mummy was discovered in the [Deir el-Bahri cache](#), revealed in 1881. He was interred along with other 18th and 19th dynasty leaders including [Ahmose I](#), [Amenhotep I](#), [Thutmose I](#), [Thutmose III](#), [Ramesses I](#), [Seti I](#), [Ramesses II](#), and [Ramesses IX](#).

The mummy was unwrapped by [Gaston Maspero](#) on July 1, 1886. There is a strong familial resemblance to the mummy of Thutmose I, his likely father, as the mummy face and shape of the head are very similar. The body of Thutmose II suffered greatly at the hands of ancient tomb robbers, with his left arm broken off at the shoulder-joint, the forearm separated at the elbow joint, and his right arm chopped off below the elbow. His anterior abdominal wall and much of his chest had been hacked at, possibly by an axe. In addition, his right leg had been

severed from his body.

## Iset (queen)

**Iset** (or *Isis*) was a queen of the [eighteenth dynasty of Egypt](#), and she was named after goddess [Isis](#). She was a secondary wife or concubine of [Thutmose II](#).



*Queen Isis behind her son Tuthmosis IIIy*

Iset was the mother of [Thutmose III](#), the only son of Thutmose II. Her son died in 1425 BC and her name is mentioned on his mummy bandages and a statue found in [Karnak](#).

Although in these later instances Iset is referred to as [Great Royal Wife](#), during the reign of Thutmose II the great royal wife was [Hatshepsut](#). Thutmose II died in 1479 BC and, after his death, Hatshepsut became regent for the young king Thutmose III.

*Thutmose III and his family from his tomb KV34. On the boat: Menkheperre Thutmose III*

*and his mother Iset.*

Hatshepsut ruled as pharaoh until her death in 1458 BC when her co-regent, Thutmose III, became pharaoh. At that time Iset received the title of "*King's Mother*" (since her son had become pharaoh) and she may then have been designated as a royal wife if she had not been previously when he was the co-regent.

At the time Thutmose III became pharaoh [Neferure](#), the daughter of Hatshepsut and Thutmose II, was the [God's Wife](#). She had served in this role throughout the reign of her mother as pharaoh. [Neferure](#) may have married [Tuthmosis III](#) but the sole evidence for this marriage is a stela showing Queen [Satiah](#) whose name may have been carved over that of another queen. The great royal wife, [Hatshepsut-Meryetre](#), became the mother of his successor.



Her son [Tuthmosis III](#) depicts his mother several times in his tomb in the Valley of the Kings. In KV34 there are depictions of the king with several female family members on one of the pillars. His mother Queen Isis is prominently featured.

Queen Isis is depicted behind her son on the boat. She is labeled as the King's Mother Isis. In the register below the boat [Tuthmosis III](#) is shown approaching a tree which is a representation of his mother Isis. Behind the king we see three of his wives: Queens Merytre, Sitiah, Nebtu and his daughter Nefertari.

# Thutmose III

**Thutmose III** (sometimes read as *Thutmosis Son of Thoth*) was the sixth [Pharaoh](#) of the [Eighteenth Dynasty](#). During the first twenty-two years of Thutmose's reign he was [co-regent](#) with his stepmother, [Hatshepsut](#), who was named the pharaoh. While she is shown first on surviving monuments, both were assigned the usual royal names and insignia and neither is given any obvious seniority over the other. He served as the head of her armies.

*Thutmosis III statue in [Luxor Museum](#)*



After her death and his later rise to being the pharaoh of the kingdom, he created the largest empire [Egypt](#) had ever seen; no fewer than seventeen campaigns were conducted, and he conquered from [Niya](#) in north [Syria](#) to the fourth waterfall of the [Nile](#) in [Nubia](#). Officially, Thutmose III ruled Egypt for almost fifty-four years, and his reign is usually dated from [April 24, 1479 BC to March 11, 1425 BC](#); (1504 BC to 1450 BC according to the High Chronology) however, this includes the twenty-two years he was co-regent to [Hatshepsut](#)—his stepmother and aunt. During the final two years of his reign, he appointed his [son—and successor--Amenhotep II](#), as his junior co-regent. When Thutmose III died, he was buried in the [Valley of the Kings](#) as were the rest of the kings from this period in Egypt.

*A scene from the [Amduat](#) on the walls of the tomb of Thutmose III in the [Valley of the Kings](#)*

Thutmose's tomb, discovered by [Victor Loret](#) in 1898, is in the [Valley of the Kings](#). It uses a plan which is typical of eighteenth dynasty tombs, with a sharp turn at the vestibule preceding the burial chamber. The vestibule is decorated with the full story of the [Book of Amduat](#), the first tomb to do so in its entirety. The burial chamber, which is supported by two pillars, is oval-shaped and its ceiling decorated with stars, symbolizing the cave of the deity [Sokar](#). On the two pillars in the middle of the chamber there are passages from the Litanies of Re, a text that celebrates the later sun deity, who is identified with the pharaoh at this time. On the other pillar is a unique image depicting Thutmosis III being suckled by the goddess [Isis](#) in the guise of the tree.



Thutmose III's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, ([KV34](#)), is the first one in which Egyptologists found the complete [Amduat](#), an important [New Kingdom funerary](#) text.

Thutmosis III had two known wives: [Satiah](#) and Merytre-Hatshepsut. Satiah bore him his firstborn son, [Amenemhat](#), but the child predeceased his father. His successor, the crown prince and future king [Amenhotep II](#), was born to [Merytre-Hatshepsut](#).

# Amenhotep II

**Amenhotep II** (sometimes read as *Amenophis II* and meaning *Amun is Satisfied*) was the seventh [Pharaoh](#) of the [18th dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#). Amenhotep inherited a vast kingdom from his father [Thutmose III](#), and held it by means of a few military campaigns in Syria; however, he fought much less than his father, and his reign saw the effective cessation of hostilities between Egypt and [Mitanni](#), the major kingdoms vying for power in Syria. His reign is [usually dated from 1427 to 1400 BC](#).

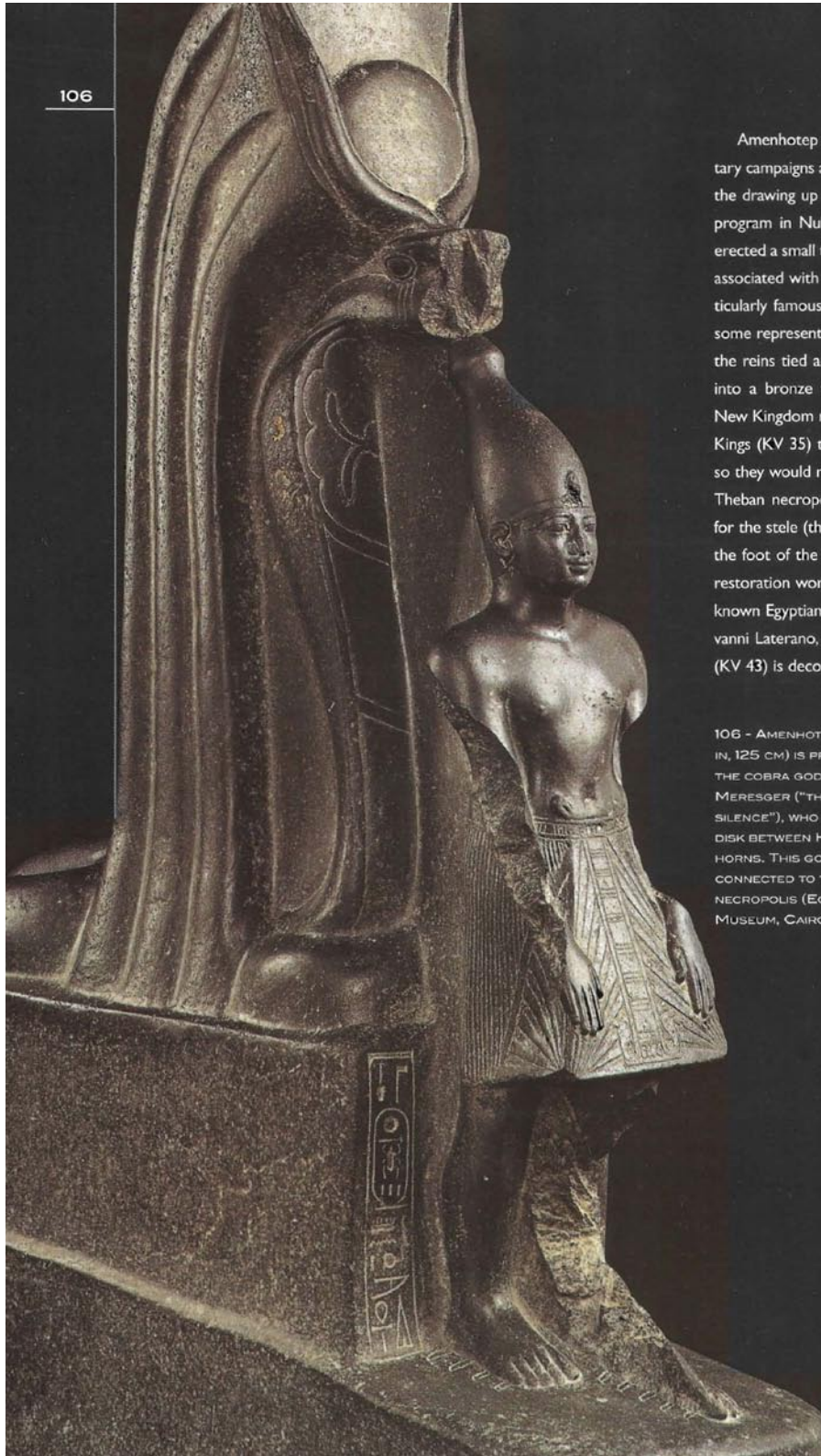
*Large statue head of Amenhotep II on display at the [Brooklyn Museum](#)*



## ***Family and early life***

Amenhotep II was the son of [Thutmose III](#) and a minor wife of the king: [Merytre-Hatshepsut](#). He was not, however, the firstborn son of this pharaoh; his elder brother Amenemhat, the son of the great king's chief wife [Satiah](#), was originally the intended heir to the throne since Amenemhat was designated the 'king's eldest son' and overseer of the cattle of Amun in Year 24 of Thutmose's reign. However, between Years 24 and 35 of Thutmose III, both queen Satiah and prince Amenemhat died which prompted the pharaoh to marry the non-royal Merytre-Hatshepsut. She would bear Thutmose III a number of children including the future Amenhotep II. Amenhotep II was born and raised in [Memphis](#) in the north, instead of in Thebes, the traditional capital. While a prince, he oversaw deliveries of

wood sent to the dockyard of Peru-nūfe in Memphis, and was made the *Setem*, the high priest over Lower Egypt Amenhotep has left several inscriptions touting his athletic skills while he was a leader of the army before his crowning. Amenhotep was no less athletic than his powerful father. He claims to have been able to shoot an arrow through a copper target one palm thick, and that he was able to row his ship faster and farther than two hundred members of the navy could row theirs.



Amenhotep II (1424–1397 BC) pursued his father's military campaigns against the Mitanni kingdom, which ended with the drawing up of a peace treaty, and carried on the building program in Nubia that Tuthmosis III had begun. At Giza he erected a small temple northeast of the Great Sphinx that was associated with the sun god Horemakhet. This ruler was particularly famous for his athletic prowess, so much so that in some representations he was depicted riding his chariot with the reins tied around his waist and shooting arrows expertly into a bronze target. In 1898, archaeologists found several New Kingdom royal mummies in his tomb in the Valley of the Kings (KV 35) that had been hidden by 21st-Dynasty priests so they would not be violated by the frequent pillaging of the Theban necropolis. Tuthmosis IV (1397–1387 BC) is famous for the stele (the so-called dream stele) that he had placed at the foot of the Great Sphinx of Giza after having completed restoration work on the monument. He also built the largest known Egyptian obelisk, which now stands in Piazza San Giovanni Laterano, in Rome. His tomb in the Valley of the Kings (KV 43) is decorated with rows of divinities.

106 - AMENHOTEP II (H. 4 FT 1 IN, 125 CM) IS PROTECTED BY THE COBRA GODDESS MERESGER ("THE LOVER OF SILENCE"), WHO HAS THE SUN DISK BETWEEN HATHORIC HORNS. THIS GODDESS WAS CONNECTED TO THE THEBAN NECROPOLIS (EGYPTIAN MUSEUM, CAIRO).

107 - A STATUE (H. 3 FT 9 IN, 115 CM) FROM KARNAK PORTRAYING TUTHMOSIS IV SEATED ON HIS THRONE TOGETHER WITH THE QUEEN MOTHER TEQ. THE PHARAOH IS TREADING ON NINE BOWS, THE SYMBOLS OF THE ENEMIES OF EGYPT (EGYPTIAN MUSEUM, CAIRO).

# Thutmose IV

**Thutmose IV** (sometimes read as *Thutmosis* or *Tuthmosis IV* and meaning *Thoth is Born*) was the 8th [Pharaoh](#) of the [18th dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#), who ruled in approximately the 14th century BC.

*Granite bust of Thutmose IV*



Thutmose IV was born to [Amenhotep II](#) and [Tiaa](#) but was not actually the crown prince and Amenhotep II's chosen successor to the throne. Some scholars speculate that Thutmose ousted his older brother in order to usurp power and then commissioned the [Dream Stele](#) in order to justify his unexpected kingship. Thutmose's most celebrated accomplishment was the restoration of the [Sphinx](#) at [Giza](#) and subsequent commission of the *Dream Stele*. According to Thutmose's account on the *Dream Stele*, while the young prince was out on a hunting trip, he stopped to rest under the head of the Sphinx, which was buried up to the neck in sand. He soon fell asleep and had a dream in which the Sphinx told him that if he cleared away the sand and restored it he would become the next Pharaoh. After completing the restoration of the Sphinx, he placed a carved stone tablet, now known as

the *Dream Stele*, between the two paws of the Sphinx. The restoration of the Sphinx and the text of the *Dream Stele* would then be a piece of propaganda on Thutmose's part, meant to bestow legitimacy upon his unexpected kingship.

Like most of the Thutmoside kings, he built on a grand scale. Thutmose IV completed the eastern [obelisk](#) first started by [Thutmose III](#), which, at 32 m (105 ft), was the tallest obelisk ever erected in Egypt, at the Temple of [Karnak](#). Thutmose IV called it the *tekhen waty* or 'unique obelisk.' It was transported to the grounds of the Circus Maximus in Rome by Emperor [Constantius II](#) in 357 AD and, later, "re-erected by Pope [Sixtus V](#) in 1588 at the Piazza San Giovanni" in the Vatican where it is today known as the '[Lateran Obelisk](#).'

*The Great Sphinx of Giza, [Giza](#), [Egypt](#)*



Thutmose IV was buried in the [Valley of the Kings](#), in tomb [KV43](#), but his body was later moved to the mummy cache in [KV35](#), where it was discovered in 1898. An examination of his body shows that he was very ill and had been wasting away for the final months of his life prior to his death. He was succeeded by his son, [Amenhotep III](#).

# Amenhotep III

**Amenhotep III** (sometimes read as Amenophis III; meaning *Amun is Satisfied*) was the ninth [pharaoh](#) of the [Eighteenth dynasty](#). According to different authors, he ruled [Egypt](#) from June 1386 to 1349 BC or June 1388 BC to December 1351 BC/1350 BC after his father [Thutmose IV](#) died. Amenhotep III was the son of Thutmose by [Mutemwia](#), a minor wife of Amenhotep's father.

*[Colossal red granite statue of Amenhotep III](#)*

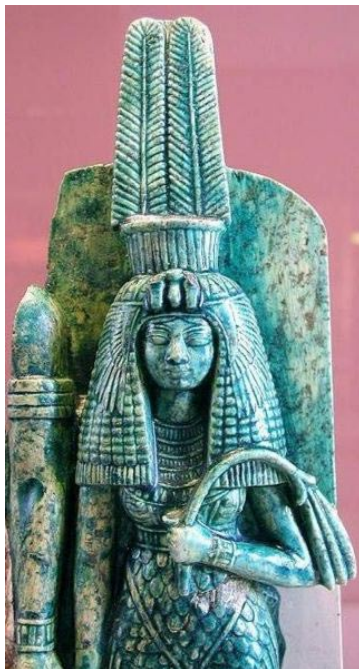


His lengthy reign was a period of unprecedented prosperity and artistic splendour, when Egypt reached the peak of her artistic and international power. When he died (probably in the 39th year of his reign), his son reigned as [Amenhotep IV](#), later changing his royal name to Akhenaten.

The son of the future Thutmose IV (the son of [Amenhotep II](#)) and a minor wife [Mutemwiya](#), Amenhotep was born around 1388 BC. He was a member of the Thutmosid family that had ruled Egypt since the reign of [Thutmose I](#), almost 150 years previously.

Amenhotep III fathered two sons with his [Great Royal Wife](#) [Tiye](#), a great queen known as the [progenitor](#) of [monotheism](#), via the [Crown Prince Thutmose](#) who predeceased his father, and his second son, [Akhenaten](#), who ultimately succeeded him to the throne.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiye>

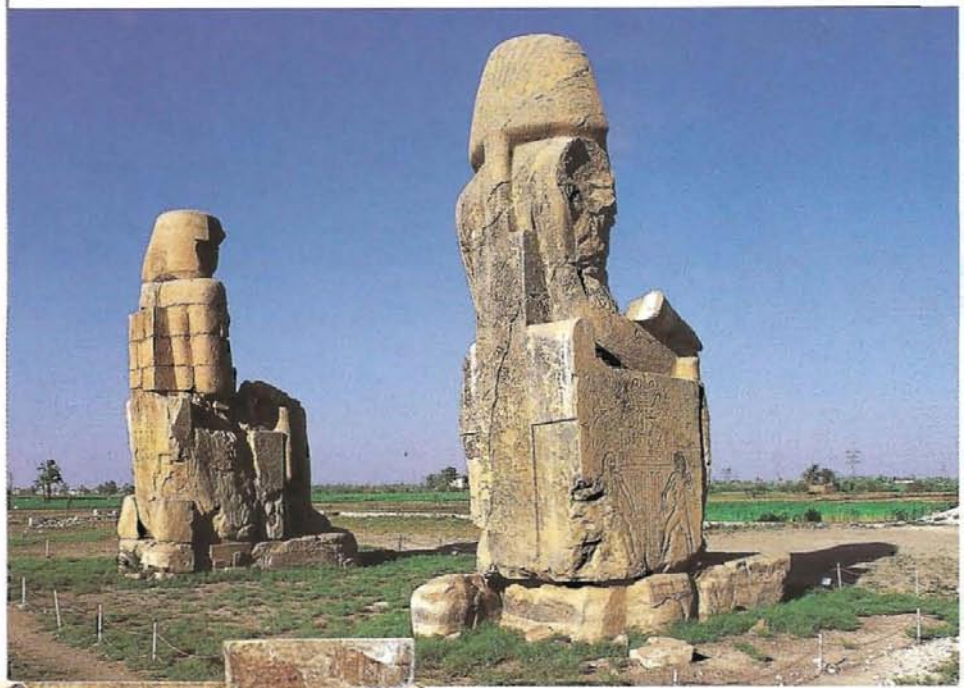


## Tiye

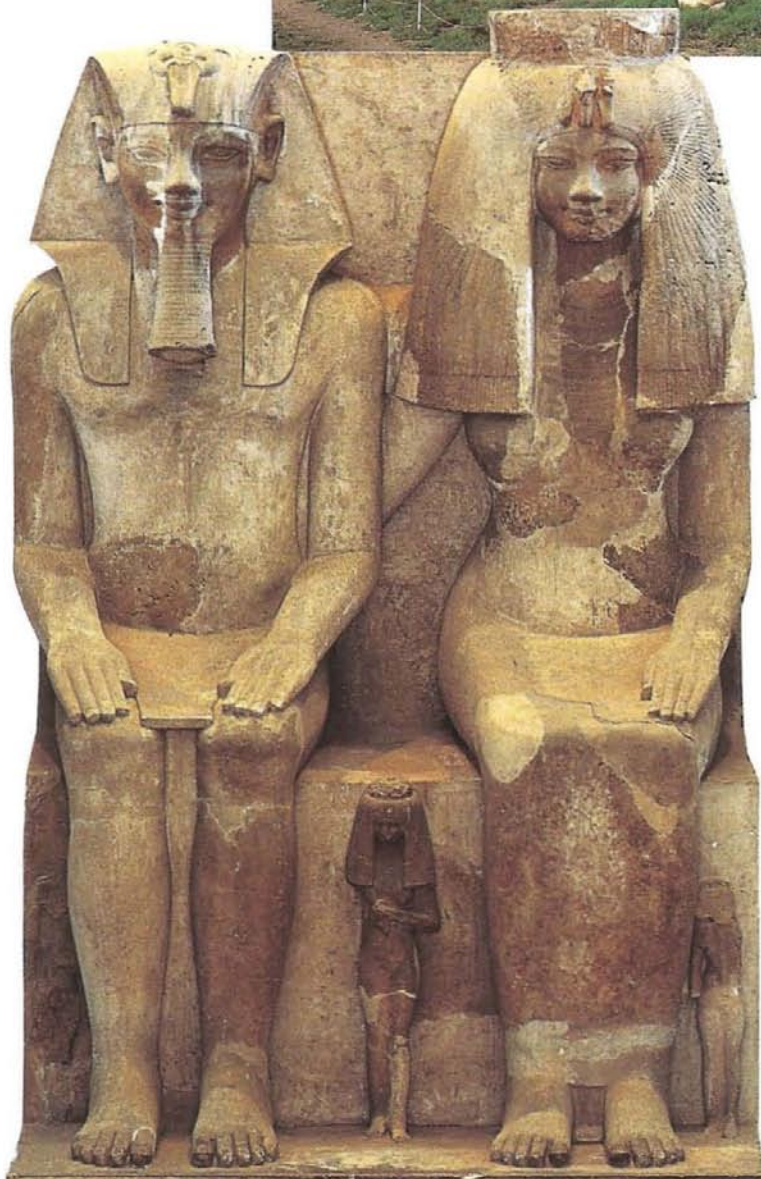
*Queen Tiye, whose husband, Amenhotep III, may have been depicted to her right in this broken statue*

**Tiye** (c. 1398 BC – 1338 BC, also spelled **Taia**, **Tiy** and **Tiyi**) was the daughter of [Yuya](#) and [Tjuyu](#) (also spelled **Thuyu**). She became the [Great Royal Wife](#) of the [Egyptian pharaoh Amenhotep III](#) and [matriarch](#) of the [Amarna](#) family from which many members of the royal family of [Ancient Egypt](#) were born.

Tiye's father, [Yuya](#), was a wealthy landowner from the Upper Egyptian town of [Akhmin](#), where he served as a [priest](#) and superintendent of oxen. Tiye's mother, [Thuya](#), was involved in many religious cults, as her different titles attested (*Singer of Hathor*, *Chief of the Entertainers* of both [Amun](#) and [Min](#)...), which suggests that she was a member of the royal family.



110 TOP - THE SO-CALLED MEMNON COLOSSI WERE REALLY STATUES, ABOUT 65 1/2 FT (20 M) HIGH, DEPICTING THE ENTHRONED AMENHOTEP III AND PLACED AT THE ENTRANCE OF HIS MORTUARY TEMPLE.



110 BOTTOM - THIS SCULPTURE GROUP (H. 23 FT, 7 M), WHICH ORIGINALLY STOOD IN THE MORTUARY TEMPLE OF AMENHOTEP III, REPRESENTS THE KING ON HIS THRONE, ACCOMPANIED BY QUEEN TEYE AND THREE OF THEIR DAUGHTERS (EGYPTIAN MUSEUM, CAIRO).

110-111 - AMENHOTEP III'S TEMPLE OF MILLIONS OF YEARS STOOD IN THE PLAIN IN WEST THEBES, IT WAS VERY LARGE AND WAS DECORATED WITH SEVERAL STATUES.



# Yuya

**Yuya** (sometimes **Iouiya**, also known as **Yaa**, **Yia**, and **Yuy**) was a powerful [Egyptian](#) courtier during the [eighteenth dynasty of Ancient Egypt](#) (circa [1390 BC](#)). He was married to [Tjuyu](#), an Egyptian noblewoman associated with the royal family, who held high offices in the governmental and religious hierarchies. Their daughter, [Tiye](#), became the [Great Royal Wife](#) of [Amenhotep III](#).

*Gilded mummy mask of Yuya, father of Great Royal Wife, Tiye*



They also may have been the parents of [Ay](#) an Egyptian courtier active during the reign of pharaoh [Akhenaten](#), who eventually became pharaoh, as *Kheperkheprure Ay*. There is no conclusive evidence, however, regarding the kinship of Yuya and Ay, although certainly, both men came from the town of [Akhmim](#). Yuya and Tjuyu also are known to have had a son named [Anen](#), who carried the titles Chancellor of Lower Egypt, Second Prophet of Amun, sm-priest of Heliopolis, and Divine Father.

The tomb of Yuya and Tjuyu was, until the discovery of [Tutankhamun](#)'s, one of the most spectacular ever found in the Valley of the Kings despite Yuya not even being a pharaoh. Although the burial site was robbed in antiquity, many objects not considered valuable by the robbers still remained. Both the mummies were largely intact and were in an amazing state of preservation.

# Tjuyu

*The mummy of her husband, Yuya (left), and to the right, Tjuyu*



**Tjuyu** (sometimes transliterated as **Thuya** or **Thuyu**) was an Egyptian noblewoman, and the mother of queen [Tiye](#), wife of pharaoh [Amenhotep III](#). She is the grandmother of [Akhenaten](#), and great grandmother of [Tutankhamun](#).

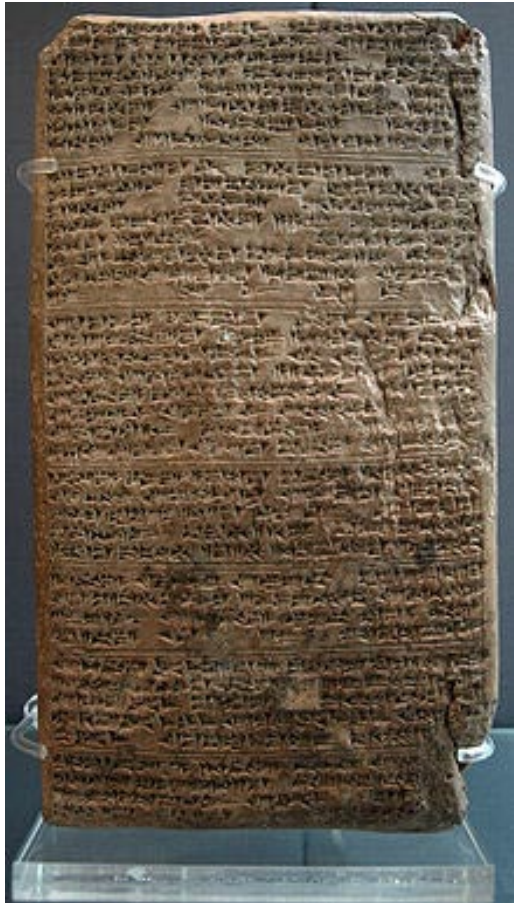
*Gilded cartonnage mask of Thuya in the Cairo Museum*

Tjuyu is believed to be a descendant of Queen [Ahmose-Nefertari](#), and she held many official roles in the interwoven religion and government of [Ancient Egypt](#). She was involved in many religious cults and her titles included, 'Singer of Hathor' and Chief of the Entertainers of both Amun and Min. She also held the influential offices of *Superintendent of the [Harem](#)* of the god [Min](#) of [Akhmin](#) and of Amun of [Thebes](#). She married [Yuya](#), a powerful [Ancient Egyptian](#) courtier of the [eighteenth dynasty](#).



# Tadukhipa

*One of the "Amarna Letters" negotiating a marriage between Amenhotep III and Tushratta's daughter Tadukhipa*



**Tadukhipa**, in the [Hurrian language](#) *Tadu-Hepa*, was the daughter of [Tushratta](#), king of [Mitanni](#) (reigned ca. 1382 BC–1342 BC) and his queen, [Juni](#) and niece of [Artashumara](#). Tadukhipa's aunt [Gilukhipa](#) (sister of Tushratta) had married [Pharaoh Amenhotep III](#) in his 10th regnal year. Tadukhipa was to marry Amenhotep III more than two decades later.

## ***Marriage to Amenhotep III***

Relatively little is known about this princess of Mitanni. She is believed to have been born around Year 21 of the reign of [Egyptian Pharaoh Amenhotep III](#), (c. 1366 BC). Fifteen years later, Tushratta married his daughter to his ally Amenhotep III to cement their two states alliances in Year 36 of Amenhotep III's reign (1352 BC). Tadukhipa is referenced in seven of Tushratta's thirteen [Amarna letters](#), of about 1350-1340 BC. Tushratta requested that his daughter would become a queen consort, even though that position was held by Queen [Tiye](#). The gifts sent to Egypt by Tushratta include a pair of horses and a chariot, plated with gold and inlaid with precious stones, a litter for a camel adorned with gold and precious stones, cloth and garments, jewelry such as bracelets, armlets and other

ornaments, a saddle for a horse adorned with gold eagles, more dresses colored purple, green and crimson and a large chest to hold the items. In return Amenhotep III never sent the golden statues he offered and after his death Tushratta sent some missives complaining about the lack of reciprocity.

## ***Marriage to Akhenaten***

Amenhotep III died shortly after Tadukhipa arrived in Egypt and she eventually married his son and heir [Amenhotep IV \(Akhenaten\)](#)

## ***Trivia***

**Tadukhipa** is the fictitious mother to **Sinuhe, the Egyptian** in Mika Waltari's book "The Egyptian".

# Akhenaten

**Akhenaten** was known before the fifth year of his reign as **Amenhotep IV** (sometimes given its Greek form, *Amenophis IV*, and meaning *Amun is Satisfied*), a **Pharaoh** of the **Eighteenth dynasty of Egypt**, ruled for 17 years and died in 1336 BC or 1334 BC. An early inscription likens him to the sun as compared to stars, and later official language avoids calling the Aten a god, giving the solar deity a status above mere gods. The future Akhenaten was a younger son of **Amenhotep III** and his Chief Queen **Tiye**.

*Statue of Akhenaten in the early **Amarna style***



He was all but lost from history until the discovery, in the 19th century, of **Amarna**, the site of Akhetaten, the city he built for the Aten. Early excavations at Amarna by **Flinders Petrie** sparked interest in the enigmatic pharaoh, which increased with the discovery in the **Valley of the Kings**, at **Luxor**, of the tomb of King **Tutankhamun**, who has been proved to be Akhenaten's son according to DNA testing in 2010 by Dr Zahi Hawaas, Cairo. Akhenaten remains an interesting figure, as does his Queen, **Nefertiti**. Their modern interest comes partly from his connection with Tutankhamun, partly from the unique style and high quality of the pictorial arts he patronized, and partly from ongoing interest in the religion he attempted to establish.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nefertiti>

# Nefertiti

**Nefertiti** (c. 1370 BC – c. 1330 BC) was the **Great Royal Wife** (chief consort) of the **Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaten**. Nefertiti and her husband were known for a religious revolution, in which they started to worship one god only. This was **Aten**, or the sun disc.

Nefertiti had many titles; for example, at **Karnak** are inscriptions that read *Heiress, Great of Favours, Possessed of Charm, Exuding Happiness, Mistress of Sweetness, Beloved One, Soothing the King's Heart in His House, Soft-spoken in All, Mistress of Upper and Lower Egypt, Great King's Wife, Whom He Loves, Lady of the Two Lands, Nefertiti*.

She was made famous by her **bust**, now in **Berlin's Neues Museum**, shown to the right. The bust is one of the most copied works of **ancient Egypt**.



# Ay

Ay was the penultimate [Pharaoh](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#)'s [18th dynasty](#). He held the throne of Egypt for a brief four-year period (probably 1323–1319 BCE or 1327–1323 BCE, depending on which chronology is followed), although he was a close advisor to two and perhaps three of the pharaohs who ruled before him and was the power behind the throne during [Tutankhamun](#)'s reign. Ay's *prenomen* or royal name—Kheperkheperure—means "Everlasting are the Manifestations of Ra" while his birth name *Ay it-netjer* reads as 'Ay, Father of the God.' Records and monuments that can be clearly attributed to Ay are rare, not only due to his short length, but also because his successor, [Horemheb](#), instigated a campaign of *damnatio memoriae* against him and other pharaohs associated with the unpopular [Amarna Period](#).

*Portrait study thought to be of Ay from the studio of the sculptor Thutmose*



## Origins

Ay is usually believed to be a native Egyptian from [Akhmim](#). During his short reign, he built a rock cut chapel in Akhmim and dedicated it to the local deity there: [Min](#). He may have been the son of [Yuya](#), who served as a member of the priesthood of Min at Akhmin as well as superintendent of herds in this city, and wife [Tjuyu](#). If so, Ay could have been of partial non-Egyptian, perhaps Syrian blood since the name Yuya was uncommon in Egypt and is suggestive of a foreign background. Yuya was an influential nobleman at the royal court of [Amenhotep III](#) who was given the rare privilege of having a tomb built for his use in the royal Valley of the Kings presumably because he was the father of [Tiye](#), Amenhotep's chief Queen.

Tutankhamun's death at the age of 18 or 19, together with his failure to produce an heir, left a power vacuum that his Grand Vizier Ay was quick to fill: Ay is depicted conducting the funerary rites for the deceased monarch and assuming the role of heir. The grounds on which Ay based his successful claim to power are not entirely clear. The Commander of the Army, [Horemheb](#), had actually been designated as the "idnw" or "Deputy of the Lord of the Two Lands" under Tutankhamun and was presumed to be the boy king's heir apparent and successor. It appears that Horemheb was outmaneuvered to the throne by Ay who married [Ankhesenamun](#), the widow of Tutankhamun, in order to legitimise his claim to the throne. Ay was certainly a powerful figure: he was close to the centre of political power at the royal palace for some 25 years under both Tutankhamun and Akhenaten.

## In fiction

Ay appears as a major character in P. C. Doherty's trilogy of Ancient Egyptian novels, *An Evil Spirit Out of the West*, *The Season of the Hyena* and *The Year of the Cobra*. He is also a character in Mika Waltari's historical novel [The Egyptian](#).

## Tutankhamun (King Tut)

**Tutankhamun** (1341 BC – 1323 BC) was an [Egyptian pharaoh](#) of the [18th dynasty](#) (ruled c.1333 BC – 1323 BC in the conventional chronology), during the period of [Egyptian history](#) known as the [New Kingdom](#). Tutankhamun was born in 1341 BC, the son of Akhenaten (formerly Amenhotep IV) and one of his sisters. As a prince he was known as Tutankhaten.

*Mask of Tutankhamun's mummy, the popular icon for ancient Egypt at The Egyptian Museum. It is said, by professionals to be worth nearly as much as the Crown jewels.*



His mother was one of Akhenaten's five sisters, although it is not known which one. The DNA of the so-called [Younger Lady](#) (KV35YL), found lying beside [Queen Tiye](#) in the alcove of KV35, matched that of the boy king. Her DNA proved that, like Akhenaten, she was the daughter of Amenhotep III and Tiye; thus, Tut's parents were brother and sister.

# Sitre

Queen **Sitre** or **Tia-Sitre** ("Daughter of Re") was the [Great Royal Wife](#) of [Pharaoh Ramesses I](#) of [Egypt](#) and mother of [Seti I](#).

There is some debate around the identity of Ramesses' wife and Seti's mother. The Year 400 Stela, found in [Tanis](#) and dated to the reign of Sitre's grandson [Ramesses II](#) describes Seti as the son of Paramessu (the name of Ramesses I before he became pharaoh) and Tia. Also, Seti's daughter was named Tia. Sitre is shown together with Ramesses I and Seti in Seti's [Abydos](#) temple, and she is called the King's Great Wife both here and in Seti's tomb (where one would expect her to be mentioned as King's Mother). However, Sitre's tomb, which can stylistically be dated to this period, mentions its owner as a King's Mother. It can be assumed that Tia and Sitre are the same person and that she altered her name when her husband became pharaoh, just like he changed his name from Paramessu to Ramesses. The fact that one of the daughters of Ramesses II was named Tia-Sitre makes it even more likely.

The absence of the title *King's Daughter* for her indicates that Sitre was of non-royal descent.

She was buried in a tomb in the [Valley of the Queens](#) ([QV38](#)). The decoration was unfinished, consisting of just line drawings.

*General view of the Valley of the Queens*



**The Valley of the Queens** is a place in [Egypt](#) where wives of [Pharaohs](#) were buried in ancient times. In ancient times, it was known as **Ta-Set-Neferu**, meaning –‘the place of the Children of the Pharaoh’, because along with the Queens of the [18th](#), [19th](#) and [20th](#) [dynasties](#) (1550–1070 BCE) many princes and princesses were also buried with various members of the nobility. The tombs of these individuals were maintained by mortuary priests who performed daily rituals and provided offerings and prayers for the deceased nobility.

The valley is located near the better known [Valley of the Kings](#). This [necropolis](#) is said to hold more than seventy tombs, many of which are stylish and lavishly decorated. An example of this is the resting place carved out of the rock for Queen [Nefertari](#) (1290–1224 BCE) of the 19th Dynasty. The [polychrome](#) reliefs in her tomb are still intact.

# Ramesses I



Menpehtyre **Ramesses I** (traditional English: **Ramesses** or **Ramses**) was the founding [Pharaoh](#) of [Ancient Egypt's 19th dynasty](#). The dates for his short reign are not completely known but the time-line of late [1292-1290 BC](#) is frequently cited as well as [1295-1294 BC](#). While Ramesses I was the founder of the 19th Dynasty, in reality his brief reign marked the transition between the reign of [Horemheb](#) who had stabilised Egypt and the rule of the powerful Pharaohs of this dynasty, in particular his son [Seti I](#) and grandson [Ramesses II](#), who would bring Egypt up to new heights of imperial power.

*Stone head carving of Paramessu (Ramesses I), originally part of a statue depicting him as a scribe. On display at the [Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#)*

Originally called **Pa-ra-mes-su**, Ramesses I was of non-royal birth, being born into a noble military family from the [Nile delta](#) region, perhaps near the former [Hyksos](#) capital of [Avaris](#), or from [Tanis](#). He was a son of a troop commander called [Seti](#). He had five sisters and three brothers who were named Pay, Me and Hawnefer.

*Reliefs from the Abydos chapel of Ramesses I. The chapel was specifically built and dedicated by [Seti I](#) in memory of his late father.*



The aged Ramesses was buried in the Valley of the Kings. His tomb, discovered by [Giovanni Belzoni](#) in 1817 and designated [KV16](#), is small in size and gives the impression of having been completed with haste. [Joyce Tyldesley](#) states that Ramesses I's tomb consisted of a single corridor and one unfinished room, whose:

“ walls, after a hurried coat of plaster, were painted to show the king with his gods, with Osiris allowed a prominent position. The red granite sarcophagus too was painted rather than carved with inscriptions which, due to their hasty preparation, included a number of unfortunate errors.” ”

Seti I, his son, and successor, later built a small chapel (or temple) with fine reliefs in memory of his deceased father Ramesses I at [Abydos](#). In 1911, [John Pierpont Morgan](#) donated several exquisite reliefs from this chapel to the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) in New York.



# Seti I

Menmaatre **Seti I** (also called Sethos I after the [Greeks](#)) was a [Pharaoh](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#) ([Nineteenth dynasty of Egypt](#)), the son of [Ramesses I](#) and [Queen Sitre](#), and the father of [Ramesses II](#). As with all dates in Ancient Egypt, the actual dates of his reign are unclear, and various historians claim different dates, with 1294 BC – 1279 BC and 1290 BC to 1279 BC being the most commonly used by scholars today.

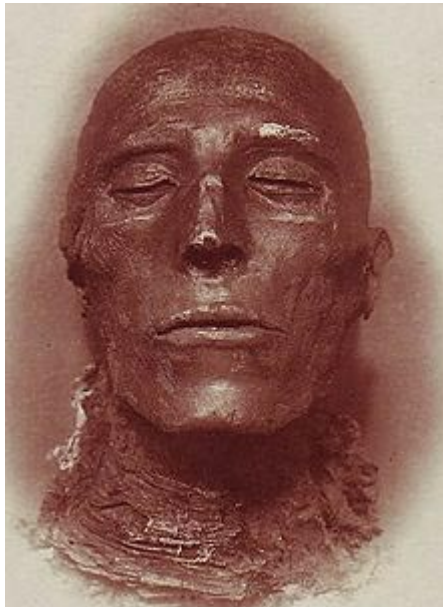
*Image of Seti I from his temple in [Abydos](#)*

*Temple of Seti*

The temple of Seti I was built on entirely new ground half a mile to the south of the long series of temples just described. This surviving building is best known as the Great Temple of Abydos, being nearly complete and an impressive sight. A principal purpose of it was the adoration of the early pharaohs, whose cemetery, for which it forms a great funerary chapel, lies behind it. The long



list of the pharaohs of the principal dynasties—recognized by Seti—are carved on a wall and known as the "[Abydos King List](#)" (showing the [cartouche](#) name of many dynastic pharaohs of Egypt from the first, [Narmer](#) or [Menes](#), until his time)- with the exception of those noted above. There were significant names deliberately left out of the list. So rare as an almost complete list of pharaoh names, the Table of Abydos, re-discovered by [William John Bankes](#), has been called the "Rosetta Stone" of Egyptian archaeology, analogous to the [Rosetta Stone](#) for Egyptian writing, beyond the [Narmer Palette](#).



*Head of the mummy of Seti I*

Seti's well preserved tomb ([KV17](#)) was found in 1817 in the [Valley of the Kings](#); it proved to be the longest at 136 meters and deepest of all the New Kingdom royal tombs. It was also the first tomb to feature decorations on every passageway and chamber with highly refined bas-reliefs and colorful paintings - fragments of which, including a large column depicting Seti I with the goddess Hathor, can be seen in the Museo Archeologico, Florence. This decorative style set a precedent which was followed in full or in part in the tombs of later New Kingdom kings. Seti's mummy itself was not discovered until 1881, in the mummy cache at [Deir el-Bahri](#), and has since been kept at the [Cairo Museum](#).

From an examination of Seti's extremely well preserved mummy, Seti I appears to have been less than forty years old when he died unexpectedly. This is in stark contrast to the situation with [Horemheb](#), Ramesses I and Ramesses II who all lived to an advanced age. The reasons for his relatively early death are uncertain, but there is no evidence of violence on his mummy. His mummy was found with its head decapitated, but this was likely caused after his death by tomb



A photograph of [KV17](#), Seti I's well preserved royal tomb.

robbers. The Amun priest carefully reattached his head to his body with the use of linen cloths. It has been suggested that he died from a disease which had affected him for years, possibly related to his heart. The latter was found placed in the right part of the body, while the usual practice of the day was to place it in the left part during the mummification process. Opinions vary whether this was a mistake or an attempt to have Seti's heart work better in his afterlife. Seti I's mummy is about 1.7 metres (5 ft 7 in) tall.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen\\_Tuya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Tuya)

## Tuya (queen)

Canopic lid of Queen Tuya from the Luxor Museum



**Queen Tuya** (also called **Tuy** or **Mut-Tuya**) was the wife of [Pharaoh Seti I](#) of [Egypt](#) and mother of [Princess Tia](#), [Ramesses II](#) and perhaps [Henutmire](#). She was the daughter of [Raia](#) who was a military officer based on his title of Lieutenant of the chariotry Tuya's daughter Princess Tia was married to a high ranking civil servant with an identical name: Tia.

As the mother of Ramesses II, she enjoyed a privileged existence of a respected king's mother and was allowed the opportunity to correspond with the Hittite royal court after the Year 21 peace treaty between Egypt and Hatti under Ramesses II.

# Ramesses II

**Ramesses II** (reigned 1279 BCE to 1213 BCE - also known as **Ramesses the Great** and alternatively [transcribed](#) as **Ramses** and **Rameses**; also known as **Ozymandias** in the Greek sources, from a transliteration into [Greek](#) of a part of Ramesses' [throne name](#), *User-maat-re Setep-en-re*) was the third Egyptian [pharaoh](#) of the [Nineteenth dynasty](#). He is often regarded as [Egypt](#)'s greatest, most celebrated, and most powerful pharaoh. His successors and later Egyptians called him the "Great Ancestor".

*Ramesses II: one of four external seated statues at [Abu Simbel](#)*



At age fourteen, Ramesses was appointed [Prince Regent](#) by his father [Seti I](#). He is believed to have taken the throne in his early 20s and is known to have ruled Egypt from 1279 BC to 1213 BC for a total of 66 years and 2 months, according to both [Manetho](#) and Egypt's contemporary historical records. He was once said to have lived to be 99 years old, but it is more likely that he died in his 90th or 91st year. If he became Pharaoh in 1279 BC as most Egyptologists today believe, he would have assumed the throne on May 31, 1279 BC, based on his known accession date of III [Shemu](#) day 27. Ramesses II celebrated an unprecedented 14 [sed festivals](#) during his reign—more than any other pharaoh. On his death, he was buried in a [tomb](#) in the [Valley of the Kings](#); his body was later moved to a [royal cache](#) where it was discovered in 1881, and is now on display in the

[Cairo Museum](#).

Ramesses II was originally buried in the tomb [KV7](#) in the [Valley of the Kings](#), but because of looting, Ancient Egyptian priests later transferred the body to a holding area, re-wrapped it, and placed it inside the tomb of queen [Inhapy](#). 72 hours later, it was again moved to the [tomb](#) of the ancient Egyptian, standing some 1.7 metres (5 ft 7 in). His successor was ultimately to be his thirteenth son: [Merneptah](#).

*[Mummy](#) of Ramesses II*



In 1974, [Egyptologists](#) visiting his tomb noticed that the mummy's condition was rapidly deteriorating. They decided to fly Ramesses II's mummy to [Paris](#) for examination. Ramesses II was issued an Egyptian passport that listed his occupation as "King (deceased)". The mummy was received at Le Bourget airport, just outside Paris, with the full military honours befitting a king.

In Paris, Ramesses' mummy was diagnosed and treated for a [fungal infection](#). During the examination, scientific analysis revealed battle [wounds](#) and old [fractures](#), as well as the pharaoh's [arthritis](#) and poor circulation.

In film, Ramesses was played by [Yul Brynner](#) in the classic film [The Ten Commandments](#) (1956). Here Ramesses was portrayed as a vengeful tyrant, ever scornful of his father's preference for Moses over "the son of [his] body"

# Isetnofret

**Isetnofret** (or **Isis-nofret** or **Isitnofret**) ([Ancient Egyptian](#): "the beautiful Isis") was one of the [Great Royal Wives](#) of [Pharaoh Ramesses II](#) and was the mother of his heir, [Merneptah](#). She was one of the most prominent of the royal wives, second only to the pharaoh's favourite, [Nefertari](#), and was the chief queen after Nefertari's death (around the 24th year of the pharaoh's reign).

*Upper Register: King [Ramesses II](#), Isetnofret and [Khaemwaset](#) before [Khnum](#)*

The parents of Isetnofret are not known. She must have married [Ramesses II](#) even before he came to the throne as her eldest children already appear in scenes from the time of [Seti I](#). She had at least three sons and one daughter.



Her children include:

- Prince [Ramesses](#), Crown Prince from Year 25-50 of Ramesses II
  - Princess-Queen [Bintanath](#), firstborn daughter and later wife of Ramesses
  - Prince [Khaemwaset](#), High Priest of Ptah. Crown Prince from Year 50-55 of Ramesses II
- Pharaoh [Merneptah](#), Ramesses' 13th son and ultimate successor (he outlived the first 12 princes)
  - Princess **Isetnofret B** (?), possible wife of Merenptah as [Isetnofret II](#)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merneptah>

# Merneptah

**Merneptah** (or **Merenptah**) was the fourth ruler of the [Nineteenth Dynasty](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#). He ruled Egypt for almost ten years between late July or early August 1213 to May 2, 1203 BC, according to contemporary historical records. He was the thirteenth son of [Ramesses II](#) and only came to power because all his older brothers, including his full brother [Khaemwaset](#) or Khaemwase, had predeceased him, by which time he was almost sixty years old. His throne name was *Ba-en-re Mery-netjeru*, which means "The Soul of [Ra](#), Beloved of the Gods".

Merneptah probably was the fourth child of [Isetnofret](#), the second wife of Ramesses II, and he was married to Queen Isetnofret, his royal wife, who was likely his full sister bearing the name of their mother. It is presumed that Merneptah also was married to Queen [Takhath](#) and one of their sons would become the later nineteenth dynasty pharaoh, [Seti II](#). They also were the parents of prince Merenptah and possibly the usurper, [Amenmesse](#), and Queen [Twosret](#), wife of Seti II and later pharaoh in her own right.



*Statue of Merenptah on display at the [Egyptian Museum](#)*

# Tiy-Merenese

**Tiy-merenese**, **Teye-Merenaset**, **Tiye-Mereniset** (*Tiy*, *Beloved of Isis*) was the [Great Royal Wife](#) of pharaoh [Setnakht](#) and mother of [Ramesses III](#) of the [Twentieth dynasty of Egypt](#).

She is the only known wife of Setnakhte. She was depicted together with her husband on a [stela](#) in [Abydos](#). A priest named Meresyotef is shown adoring Setnakhte and Tiy-Merenese and their son [Ramesses III](#) is shown making offerings. Tiye-Merenese also appears on blocks found in Abydos which were reused in other buildings.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Setnakhte>

# Setnakhte

Userkhaure-setepenre **Setnakhte** (or **Setnakht**) was the first [Pharaoh](#) ([1190 BC](#)–[1186 BC](#)) of the [Twentieth Dynasty](#) of the [New Kingdom](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#) and the father of [Ramesses III](#).

Setnakhte was not the son, brother or a direct descendant of the previous Pharaoh, Merneptah [Siptah](#), nor of his predecessor [Seti II](#), whom Setnakht formally considered the last legitimate ruler. It is possible that he was an usurper who seized the throne during a time of crisis and political unrest, or he could have been a member of a minor line of the Ramesside royal family who emerged as Pharaoh. He married Queen [Tiy-merenese](#), perhaps a daughter of [Merenptah](#). A connection between Setnakhte's successors and the preceding 19th dynasty is suggested by the fact that one of [Ramesses II](#)'s children also bore this name and that similar names are shared by Setnakhte's descendants such as Ramesses, Amun-her-khepshef, Seth-her-khepshef and Monthu-her-khepshef.

*Year 4 stela of Setnakhte*



In a mid-January 2007 issue of the Egyptian weekly [Al-Ahram](#), however, Egyptian antiquity officials announced that a recently discovered and well preserved quartz stela belonging to the High Priest of Amun Bakenkhunsu was explicitly dated to **Year 4** of Setnakhte's reign. The Al-Ahram article notes that this data:

*"contradicts...the official record, which says Setnakhte ruled Egypt for only three years. According to the new information provided by the stela, Setnakhte's reign certainly lasted for four years, and may have continued for [a little] longer."*

# Ramesses III

**Usimare Ramesses III** (also written **Ramses** and **Rameses**) was the second Pharaoh of the [Twentieth Dynasty](#) and is considered to be the last great [New Kingdom](#) king to wield any substantial authority over Egypt. He was the son of [Setnakhte](#) and Queen Tiy-merenese. Ramesses III is believed to have reigned from March 1186 to April 1155 BC. This is based on his known accession date of I Shemu day 26 and his death on Year 32 III Shemu day 15, for a reign of 31 years, 1 month and 19 days. (Alternate dates for this king are [1187 to 1156 BC](#)).

*Relief from the Sanctuary of Khonsu Temple at [Karnak](#) depicting Ramesses III*



During his long tenure in the midst of the surrounding political chaos of the [Greek Dark Ages](#), Egypt was beset by foreign invaders ([Sea Peoples](#) and the [Libyans](#)) and experienced the beginnings of increasing economic difficulties and internal strife which would eventually lead to the collapse of the Twentieth Dynasty. In Year 8 of his reign, the Sea Peoples, including [Peleset](#), [Denyen](#), [Shardana](#), Weshwesh of the sea, and [Tjekker](#), invaded Egypt by land and sea. Ramesses III defeated them in two great land and sea battles. Although the Egyptians had a reputation as poor seamen they fought tenaciously. Ramesses lined the shores with ranks of archers who kept up a continuous volley of arrows into the enemy ships when they attempted to land on the banks of the Nile. Then the Egyptian navy attacked using grappling hooks to haul in the enemy ships. In the brutal hand to hand fighting which ensued, the Sea People were utterly defeated. The [Harris Papyrus](#) state:

“ As for those who reached my frontier, their seed is not, their heart and their soul are finished forever and ever. As for those who came forward together on the seas, the full flame was in front of them at the Nile mouths, while a stockade of lances surrounded them on the shore, prostrated on the beach, slain, and made into heaps from head to tail. ”

The Great Harris Papyrus or [Papyrus Harris I](#), which was commissioned by his son and chosen successor [Ramesses IV](#), chronicles this king's vast donations of land, gold statues and monumental construction to Egypt's various temples at [Piramesse](#), [Heliopolis](#), [Memphis](#), [Athribis](#), [Hermopolis](#), [This](#), [Abydos](#), [Coptos](#), [El Kab](#) and other cities in Nubia and Syria. It also records that the king dispatched a trading expedition to the [Land of Punt](#) and quarried the copper mines of Timna in southern Canaan. Papyrus Harris I records some of Ramesses III activities:

“ I sent my emissaries to the land of Atika, [ie: Timna] to the great copper mines which are there. Their ships carried them along and others went overland on their donkeys. It had not been heard of since the (time of any earlier) king. Their mines were found and (they) yielded copper which was loaded by tens of thousands into their ships, they being sent in their care to Egypt, and arriving safely.” (P. Harris I, 78, 1-4) ”

# Ramesses VI

**Ramesses VI** (also written **Ramses** and **Rameses**) was the fifth ruler of the [Twentieth dynasty of Egypt](#) who reigned from [1145 BC](#) to [1137 BC](#) and a son of [Ramesses III](#) by [Iset Ta-Hemdjert](#). His royal tomb, [KV9](#), is located near [Tutankhamun](#)'s tomb in the [Valley of the Kings](#).

Ramesses' prenomen or royal name was Nebmaatre-meryamun meaning "Lord of Justice is Re, Beloved of Amun" while his royal epithet—Amunherkhepshef Netjer-heqa-iunu—translates as "Amun is his Strength, God Ruler of Heliopolis. His 8th Regnal Year is attested in a [graffito](#) which names the then serving High Priest of Amun, Ramessesnakht. Based on Raphael Ventura's successful reconstruction of *Turin Papyrus 1907+1908*, Ramesses VI is generally assumed to have enjoyed a reign of 8 full Years. He lived for two months into his brief 9th Regnal Year before dying and was succeeded by his son, [Ramesses VII](#).

*Ushabti of Ramesses VI in the [British Museum](#)*



Egypt's political and economic decline continued unabated during Ramesses VI's reign; he is the last king of Egypt's New Kingdom whose name is attested in the [Sinai](#). At Thebes, the power of the chief priests of Amun [Ramessesnakht](#) grew at the expense of Pharaoh despite the fact that Isis, Ramesses VI's daughter, was connected to the Amun priesthood "in her role as [God's Wife of Amun](#) or Divine Adoratrice."

Shortly after his burial, his tomb was penetrated and ransacked by grave robbers who hacked away at his hands and feet in order to gain access to his jewelry. A medical examination of his mummy which was found in [KV35](#) in 1898 revealed severe damage to his body, with the head and torso being broken into several pieces by an axe. This damage was caused by tomb robbers who were robbing the dead king's body of his jewelry. The creation of Ramesses VI's tomb, however, protected [Tutankhamon](#)'s own intact tomb from grave robbers since debris from its formation was dumped over the tomb entrance to the boy king's tomb.

*Burial site of Ramesses V & Ramesses VI*



## Ramesses VII

Usermaatre Meryamun Setepenre **Ramesses VII** (also written **Ramses** and **Rameses**) was the sixth [pharaoh](#) of the [20th dynasty](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#). He reigned from about 1136 to 1129 BC and was the son of [Ramesses VI](#). Other dates for his reign are 1138-1131 BC. The Turin Accounting Papyrus 1907+1908 is dated to Year 7 of his reign and states that 11 full years passed from Year 5 of Ramesses VI to Year 7 of his reign.

*Seated deities from the tomb of Ramesses VII*



Ramesses VII's seventh year is also attested in Ostraca O. Strasbourg h 84 which is dated to II Shemu of his 7th Regnal Year. In 1980, C.J. Eyre proposed that a Year 8 papyri belonged to the reign of Ramesses VII. This papyri, dated anonymously to a *Year 8 IV Shemu day 25*, details the record of the commissioning of some copper work and mentions 2 foreman at [Deir El-Medina](#): Nekhemmut and Hor[mose] The foreman Hormose was previously attested in office

only during the reign of [Ramesses IX](#) while his father and predecessor in this post—a certain Ankherkhau—served in office from the second decade of the reign of Ramesses III through to Year 4 of Ramesses VII where he is shown acting with Nekhemmet and the scribe Horisheru.

Since Ramesses VII's accession is known to have occurred around the end of [III Peret](#), the king would have ruled Egypt for 7 years and 5 months when this document was drawn up provided that it belonged to his reign—something which is now in dispute. At any rate, his reign must have lasted for a minimum of 6 years and 10 months—or nearly 7 full years—since the accession date of his successor Ramesses VIII has been fixed by Amin Amer to an 8 month period between I Peret day 2 and I [Akhet](#) day 13. Ramesses VII could easily have died on III Peret during this large interval for a reign of 7 full years.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montuherkhopshef\\_\(son\\_of\\_Ramesses\\_III\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montuherkhopshef_(son_of_Ramesses_III))

## Montuherkhopshef (son of Ramesses III)

Montuherkhopshef or Montuhirkhopshef was a Prince of the [20th Dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#) and one of the sons of [Ramesses III](#) and [Iset Ta-Hemdjert](#). He was thus a brother of [Ramesses IV](#), [Ramesses VI](#), [Ramesses VIII](#) and an uncle of [Ramesses V](#) and [Ramesses VII](#).

He was the [First Conductor of the Royal Car](#), and married the lady Takhat who bears the title of [King's Mother](#). This development supports the claim that they are probably the parents of [Ramesses IX](#) since no other Ramesside king had a mother by this name.

Since Montuherkhopshef never became [Pharaoh](#) unlike his brothers and nephews, his date of death can be placed prior to Year 22 of Ramesses III since his brother Ramesses IV is known to have been designated as Egypt's crown prince in this year.

# Ramesses IX

**Ramesses IX** (also written **Ramses**) (originally named 'Amon-her-khepshef Khaemwaset' (1129 – 1111 BC) was the eighth king of the [Twentieth dynasty of Egypt](#). He was the third longest serving king of this Dynasty after [Ramesses III](#) and [Ramesses XI](#). He is now believed to have assumed the throne on I Akhet day 21 based on evidence presented by [Jürgen von Beckerath](#) in a 1984 GM article. According to Papyrus Turin 1932+1939, Ramesses IX enjoyed a reign of 18 Years and 4 months and died in his 19th Year in the first month of Peret between day 17 and 27. His throne name, Neferkare Setepenre, means "Beautiful Is The Soul of Re, Chosen of Re." Ramesses IX is believed to be the son of [Montuherkhepshef](#), a son of [Ramesses III](#) since Montuherkhepshef's wife, the lady Takhat, bears the prominent title of King's Mother; no other 20th dynasty king had a mother with this name.

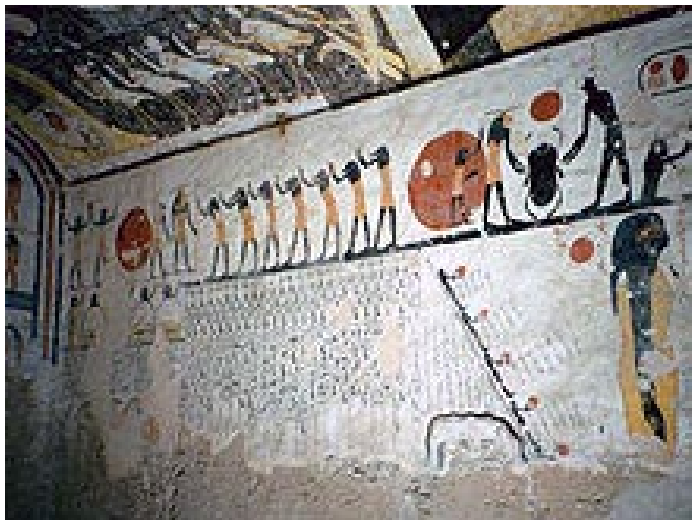
*Relief of the pharaoh Ramesses IX from the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)*



His reign is best known for the Year 16 tomb robberies, recorded in the [Abbott Papyrus](#), the [Leopold II-Amherst Papyrus](#) and the [Mayer Papyri](#), when several royal and noble tombs in the Western [Theban necropolis](#) were found to have been robbed, including that of a 17th Dynasty king, [Sobekemsaf I](#). [Paser](#), [Mayor](#) of Eastern Thebes or Karnak, accused his subordinate [Paweraa](#), the Mayor of West Thebes responsible for the safety of the necropolis, of being either culpable in this wave of robberies or negligent in his duties of protecting the [Valley of the Kings](#) from incursions by tomb robbers.

Ramesses IX brought a measure of stability to Egypt after the wave of tomb robberies. He also paid close attention to Lower Egypt and built a substantial monument at [Heliopolis](#).

*Tomb Interior of Ramesses IX*



Ramesses IX's son **Mentuherkhepshef** did not live to succeed his father, although Montuherkhepshef had one of the most beautiful tombs in the [Valley of the Kings](#) (KV19). The throne was instead assumed by [Ramesses X](#) whose precise relationship to Ramesses IX is unclear. He might have been Ramesses IX's son, perhaps by the latter's wife Baketwernel since Baketwernel is designated as both a King's wife, sister and mother respectively in Egyptian sources. The tomb of Ramesses IX, (KV6), has been open since antiquity, as evidenced by the presence of [Roman](#) and [Greek graffiti](#) on the tomb walls.

The novel [Ancient Evenings](#) by [Norman Mailer](#) is told from the perspective of characters living during the reign of Ramesses IX, including Ramesses IX himself.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses\\_X](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_X)

## Ramesses X

Khepermare **Ramesses X** (also written **Ramses** and **Rameses**) (ruled c. [1111 BC](#) – [1107 BC](#)) was the ninth ruler of the [20th dynasty](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#). His birth name was Amonhirkhepeshef. It is uncertain if his reign was 3 or 4 Years, but there is now a strong consensus among [Egyptologists](#) that it did not last as long as 9 Years, as was previously assumed. His *prenomen* or throne name, Khepermaatse, means "The Justice of Re Abides." He was possibly a son of [Ramesses IX](#) and husband of Tyti, but this is unproven. The English Egyptologist Aidan Dodson states:

"No evidence is known to indicate the relationship between the final kings Ramesses IX, X and XI. If they were a father-son succession, Tyti, who bears the titles of King's Daughter, King's Wife and King's Mother, would seem [to be] a good candidate for the wife of Ramesses X, but little else can be discerned."

Ramesses X is a poorly documented king. All that is really known about his kingship is that the general insecurity and wave of tomb robberies which had become prevalent under his predecessors continued to grow under his reign. His Year 1 and Year 2 is attested by **Papyrus Turin 1932+1939** while his third Year is documented in a diary kept by a Workmen of [Deir El Medina](#). The diary mentions the general idleness of the necropolis workmen due to the threat posed by Libyan marauders in the [Valley of the Kings](#). It records that the Deir El-Medina workmen were absent from work in Year 3 IIIrd Month of Peret (ie: Winter) days 6, 9, 11, 12, 18, 21 and 24 for fear of the "desert-dwellers" (ie: the Libyans or [Meshwesh](#)) who evidently roamed through Upper Egypt and Thebes at will. This is partly a reflection of the massive Libyan influx into the Western Delta region of Lower Egypt during this time. Ramesses X is also the last [New Kingdom](#) king whose rule over [Nubia](#) is attested from an inscription at [Aniba](#).

His [KV18](#) tomb in the [Valley of the Kings](#) was left unfinished and it is uncertain if he was ever buried here since no remains or fragments of funerary objects were discovered within it.

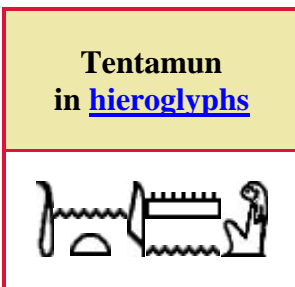
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses\\_XI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_XI)

## Ramesses XI

**Ramesses XI** (also written **Ramses** and **Rameses**) reigned from 1107 BC to 1078 BC or 1077 BC and was the tenth and final king of the [Twentieth dynasty of Egypt](#). He ruled Egypt for at least 29 years although some Egyptologists think he could have ruled for as long as 30 years. The latter figure would be up to 2 years beyond this king's highest known date of Year 10 of the Whm-Mswt era or Year 28 of his reign. One scholar, Ad Thijs, has even suggested that Ramesses XI reigned as long as 33 years—such is the degree of uncertainty surrounding the end of his long reign. He was, perhaps, the son of [Ramesses X](#) by Queen Tyti who was a King's Mother. He married both [Baketwernel](#) a King's Sister, and [Tentamun](#), the daughter of Nebseny, with whom he fathered [Henuttawy](#)--the future wife of the high priest [Pinedjem I](#).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tentamun\\_\(20th\\_dynasty\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tentamun_(20th_dynasty))

## Tentamun (20th dynasty)

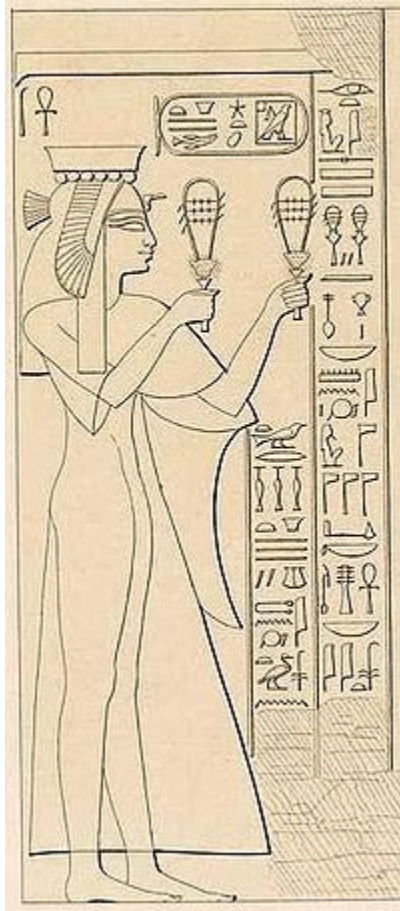


**Tentamun** (“*she of Amun*”) was an [ancient Egyptian](#) queen, most likely the wife of [Ramesses XI](#), last ruler of the [20th dynasty](#). She is mentioned on the funerary papyrus of her daughter [Duathathor-Henuttawy](#), who was the wife of [Pinedjem I](#) and probably the daughter of Ramesses XI. Tentamun's name is written in a [cartouche](#). A man named Nebseni is mentioned as her father; he was probably buried in the Theban tomb [TT320](#).

Another possible daughter of hers is [Tentamun](#), the wife of [Smendes](#).

# Duathathor-Henuttawy

*Duathathor-Henttawy*



**Duathathor-Henuttawy** or **Henuttawy** (“Adorer of Hathor; Mistress of the Two Lands”) was an [ancient Egyptian](#) princess and later queen. She is likely to have been the daughter of [Ramesses XI](#), last king of the [20th dynasty](#) by [Tentamun](#). She married [Pinedjem I](#), the [Theban](#) High Priest of [Amun](#) who de facto ruled [Upper Egypt](#) and took on pharaonic titles later on. Henttawy's sister [Tentamun](#) married Pharaoh [Smendes I](#), who was pharaoh of Egypt, but in reality ruled only [Lower Egypt](#) from [Tanis](#).

Duathathor-Henuttawy held several titles, including *King's Daughter*; *King's Wife*; *King's Mother*; *Lady of the Two Lands*; *Mistress of the Two Lands*; *Daughter of the Great Royal Wife*; *Foremost Singer of Amun*; *Mother of the Great Royal Wife*; *Mother of the High Priest of Amun*; *Mother of Generalissimo*. This helps us identify which of Pinedjem's children were hers: [Psusennes I](#), who went on to become pharaoh in Tanis; his wife [Mutnedjmet](#); and [Maatkare](#), who became God's Wife of Amun. It is likely she was also the mother of [Henuttawy](#) who is depicted along with Maatkare and Mutnedjmet in [Karnak](#). It is more difficult to identify the high priest referred to in her titles: three of Pinedjem's sons, [Masaharta](#), [Djedkhonsuefankh](#) and [Menkheperre](#) became high priests, and one, two or all three of them could have been Duathathor-Henuttawy's son.

She is mentioned before her husband's ascendance to the throne on a chalice found in Tanis, on a door lintel and on a relief in the Khonsu temple in the Karnak temple complex. Even here she is mentioned as a queen, with her name written in a [cartouche](#). Later she is also mentioned on a stela in Coptos, in Mut's temple in Karnak and on several objects found in her son's Tanis tomb. She is depicted on the facade of the Khonsu temple in Karnak.

Her mummy and coffins were found in the [DB320](#) cache along with those of several members of her immediate family. They are now in the [Egyptian Museum](#) of [Cairo](#)

# Pinedjem I

**Pinedjem I** was the [High Priest of Amun at Thebes](#) in [Ancient Egypt](#) from [1070 BC](#) to [1032 BC](#) and the *de facto* ruler of the south of the country from 1054 BC. He was the son of the High Priest [Piankh](#). However, many Egyptologists today believe that the succession in the Amun priesthood actually ran from Piankh to Herihor to Pinedjem I. According to the new hypothesis, Pinedjem I was too young to succeed to the High Priesthood of Amun after the death of Piankh. Herihor instead intervened to assume to this office. After Herihor's death, Pinedjem I finally claimed this office which had once been held by his father Piankh. This interpretation is supported by the decorations from the [Temple of Khonsu](#) at [Karnak](#) where Herihor's wall reliefs here are immediately followed by those of Pinedjem I with no intervening phase for Piankh and also by the long career of Pinedjem I who served as High Priest of Amun and later as king at Thebes.

*A [pectoral](#) of the High Priest Pinedjem I*



He inherited a political and religious base of power at Thebes. Pinedjem strengthened his control over both Middle and Upper Egypt and asserted his kingdom's virtual independence from the [Twenty-first Dynasty](#) based at [Tanis](#). He married [Duathathor-Henuttawy](#), a daughter of [Ramesses XI](#), to cement his relations with the other powerful families of the period. Their son, [Psusennes I](#), went on to become [Pharaoh](#) at Tanis, thereby removing at a stroke the gap between the two families. In practice, however, the 21st dynasty kings and the Theban high

priests were probably never very far apart politically since they respected each other's political autonomy.

Around Year 15 or 16 of [Smenides](#), Pinedjem I proclaimed himself pharaoh over Upper Egypt and his priestly role was inherited by his two sons [Masaharta](#) and [Menkheperre](#). His daughter, [Maatkare](#), held the position of [Divine Adoratrice of Amun](#).

Pinedjem's [mummy](#) was found in the [cache](#) at [Deir el-Bahri](#).

Three of his wives are known. Duathathor-Henuttawy, the daughter of Ramesses XI bore him several children: the future pharaoh [Psusennes I](#), the God's Wife of Amun [Maatkare](#), Princess [Henuttawy](#) and probably Queen [Mutnedjmet](#), the wife of Psusennes.

Another wife was Isetemkheb, Singer of Amun. She is mentioned along with Pinedjem on bricks found at el-Hiban. A possible third wife is Tentnabekhenu, who is mentioned on the funerary papyrus of her daughter [Nauny](#). Nauny was buried at Thebes and is called a King's Daughter, thus it is likely that Pinedjem was her father.

Other than Psusennes, he had four sons, whose mother is unidentified, but one or more of them must have been born to Duathathor-Henuttawy: [Masaharta](#), [Djedkhonsuefankh](#), [Menkheperre](#) (all of whom became High Priests of Amun) and Nesipaneferhor, a God's Father (priest) of Amun, whose name replaced that of a son of Herihor in the Karnak temple of Khonsu

# Psusennes I

**Psusennes I**, or, **Psibkhanno** or **Hor-Pasebakhaenniut I** was the third [king](#) of the [Twenty-first dynasty of Egypt](#) who ruled between 1047 – 1001 BC. Psusennes is the Greek version of his original name Pasebakhaemniut, which means "The Star Appearing in the City" while his throne name, Akheperre Setepenamun, translates as "Great are the Manifestations of Re, chosen of Amun." He was the son of [Pinedjem I](#) and [Henuttawy](#), [Ramesses XI](#)'s daughter by [Tentamun](#). He married his sister [Mutnedjmet](#).

*Gold burial mask of King Psusennes I, discovered 1940*



Professor [Pierre Montet](#) discovered pharaoh Psusennes' intact tomb in [Tanis](#) in 1940. The king's magnificent funerary mask was recovered intact; it proved to be made of gold and lapis lazuli and held inlays of black and white glass for the eyes and eyebrows of the object. Psusennes I's mask is considered to be "one of the masterpieces of the treasure[s] of Tanis" and is currently housed in Room 2 of the [Cairo Museum](#). It has a maximum width and height of 38 cm and 48 cm respectively.

The pharaoh's "fingers and toes had been encased in gold stalls, and he was buried with gold sandals on his feet. The finger stalls are the most elaborate ever found, with sculpted fingernails. Each finger wore an elaborate ring of gold and lapis lazuli or some other semiprecious stone."

Psusennes' outer and middle sarcophagi had been recycled from previous burials in the [Valley of the Kings](#) through the state-sanctioned tomb-robbing that was common practice in the [Third Intermediate Period](#). A [cartouche](#) on the red outer sarcophagus shows that it had originally been made for Pharaoh [Merneptah](#), the [nineteenth dynasty](#) successor of [Ramesses II](#). Psusennes, himself, was interred in an "inner silver coffin" which was inlaid with gold. Since "silver was considerable rarer in Egypt than gold," Psusennes I's silver "coffin represents a sumptuous burial of great wealth during Egypt's declining years.

*Gold and lapis lazuli collar of Psusennes I, [Cairo Museum](#)*



*Silver antropoid coffin of Psusennes I, Cairo Museum*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osorkon\\_I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osorkon_I)

## Osorkon I

The son of [Shoshenq I](#) and his chief consort, Karomat A, **Osorkon I** was the second king of [Egypt's 22nd Dynasty](#) and ruled around 922 BC-887 BC. He succeeded his father [Shoshenq I](#) who probably died within a year of his successful 923 BC campaign against the kingdoms of [Israel](#) and [Judah](#). Osorkon I's reign is known for many [temple](#) building projects and was a long and prosperous period of Egypt's History. His highest known date is a "Year 33 Second [Heb Sed](#)" inscription found on the bandage of Nakhtefmut's Mummy which held a bracerlet inscribed with Osorkon I's [praenomen](#): *Sekhemkheperre*. This date can only belong to Osorkon I since no other early Dynasty 22 king ruled for close to 30 years until the time of [Osorkon II](#).



*Statue inscribed with the praenomen of Osorkon I discovered at Byblos*

# Takelot I

Hedjkheperre Setepenre **Takelot I** was a son of [Osorkon I](#) and Queen Tashedkhons who ruled [Egypt](#) for 13 Years according to [Manetho](#). Takelot would marry Queen Kapes who bore him [Osorkon II](#). Initially, Takelot was believed to be an ephemeral [Dynasty 22](#) Pharaoh since no monuments at [Tanis](#) or [Lower Egypt](#) could be conclusively linked to his reign, or mentioned his existence, except for the famous Pasenhor Serapeum [stela](#) which dates to Year 37 of [Shoshenq V](#). However, since the late 1980s, [Egyptologists](#) have assigned several documents mentioning a



king **Takelot** in Lower Egypt to him rather than Takelot II. Takelot I's reign was relatively short when compared to the three decades-long reigns of his father [Osorkon I](#) and son, [Osorkon II](#). Takelot I, rather than Takelot II, was the king *Hedjkheperre Setepenre Takelot* who is attested by a Year 9 stela from [Bubastis](#) as well as the owner of a partly robbed Royal Tomb at Tanis which belonged to this ruler as the German Egyptologist Karl Jansen-Winkel reported in a 1987 *Varia Aegyptiaca* 3 (1987), pp. 253-258 paper.

The evidence that the royal Tanite [tomb](#) belonged to Takelot I was suggested long ago by the presence of [grave goods](#) found within the burial which mentioned his known parents: "namely a Gold Bracelet (Cairo JE 72199) and an alabaster Jar (Cairo JE 86962) of Osorkon I, and a [Ushabti](#) figure of Queen Tashedkhons." In addition, a heart scarab found in the king's burial gave his name simply as "Takelot Meryamun" without the Si-Ese epithet used by Takelot II. Recent confirmation of this circumstantial evidence was published by the German scholar Jansen-Winkel in 1987. His examination of several inscriptions written on the tomb's walls proved beyond doubt that the person buried here could only be Takelot I, Osorkon II's father. Jansen-Winkel's conclusions have been accepted by Egyptologists today including Professor Kenneth Kitchen. Osorkon II arranged for this aforementioned inscription to be carved on a scene in his tomb where Osorkon is depicted adoring Osiris and Udjo (as a uraeus).

“ *[Made?] by the King of the South & North Egypt, Lord of Both Lands, Usimare Setepenamun, Son of Re, Lord of Crowns, Osorkon II Meryamun, [to furbish] the Osiris (ie: deceased) King Takelot Meryamun in his Mansion which is [an abode] of the Sun-disc: I have caused him to rest in this Mansion in the vicinity of 'Hidden-of Name' (Amun), according to the doing by a son of benefactions for his father, [to] furbish the one who has made his fortune in conformity with that Horus Son-of-Isis, commanded for his father, Wennufer. How pleasant (it is) in my heart, for the Lord of the Gods!* ”

This Text establishes that Osorkon II honoured his father by reburying him in the Tanite royal tomb complex. Takelot I's final resting place forms the third chamber of Osorkon II's tomb which means that Osorkon II interred his father within the walls of his own tomb. Takelot I was buried in an usurped [Middle Kingdom](#) sarcophagus that was inscribed with his own cartouche.

# Osorkon II

Usermaatre Setepenamun **Osorkon II** was a [pharaoh](#) of the [Twenty-second Dynasty](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#) and the son of [Takelot I](#) and Queen Kapes. He ruled Egypt around 872 BC to 837 BC from [Tanis](#), the capital of this Dynasty. After succeeding his father, he was faced with the competing rule of his cousin, king [Harsiese A](#), who controlled both [Thebes](#) and the Western Oasis of Egypt. Osorkon feared the serious challenge posed by Harsiese's kingship to his authority but, when Harsiese conveniently died in 860 BC, Osorkon II ensured that this problem would not recur by appointing his own son [Nimlot C](#) as the next [High Priest of Amun](#) at Thebes. This consolidated the pharaoh's authority over Upper Egypt and meant that Osorkon II ruled over a united Egypt. Osorkon II's reign would be a time of large scale monumental building and prosperity for Egypt.



*Pendant bearing the cartouche of Osorkon II*

Osorkon II would have died shortly after in his Year 31.

Reliefs from the Tomb of Osorkon II



## ***Marriages and children***

Osorkon II is known to be the father of Tjesbastperu, [Nimlot C](#)--a [High Priest of Amun](#) at Thebes--[Hornakht](#), a short-lived chief priest of Amun at Tanis and Shoshenq D, a High Priest of [Ptah](#) at Memphis who died young in his father's reign. Osrkon's son Nimlot C, in turn, was the father of [Takelot II](#) who would later rule Upper Egypt at the same time that Shoshenq III ruled Lower Egypt.

[illegible]

*Relief representing the High Priest of Ptah Shosheng*



Items belonging to Shoshenq include:

- Two blockstatues (one now in Budapest, the other in Brooklyn). One of the statues gives the titles and family relations of Shoshenq: *“Great Chief Prince of His Majesty, High Priest and Sem Priest of Ptah, Great King’s Son of the Lord of the Two lands Usimare Stepenamun, Son of Re, Lord of Epiphanies Osorkon (II) Meryamun Si-Bast, his mother being Karomama”*
- A chalice now in Berlin.
- A scarab in the Petrie Museum in London.

<http://www.american-pictures.com/genealogy/persons/per00661.htm>

## Neithiyti Princess of Egypt

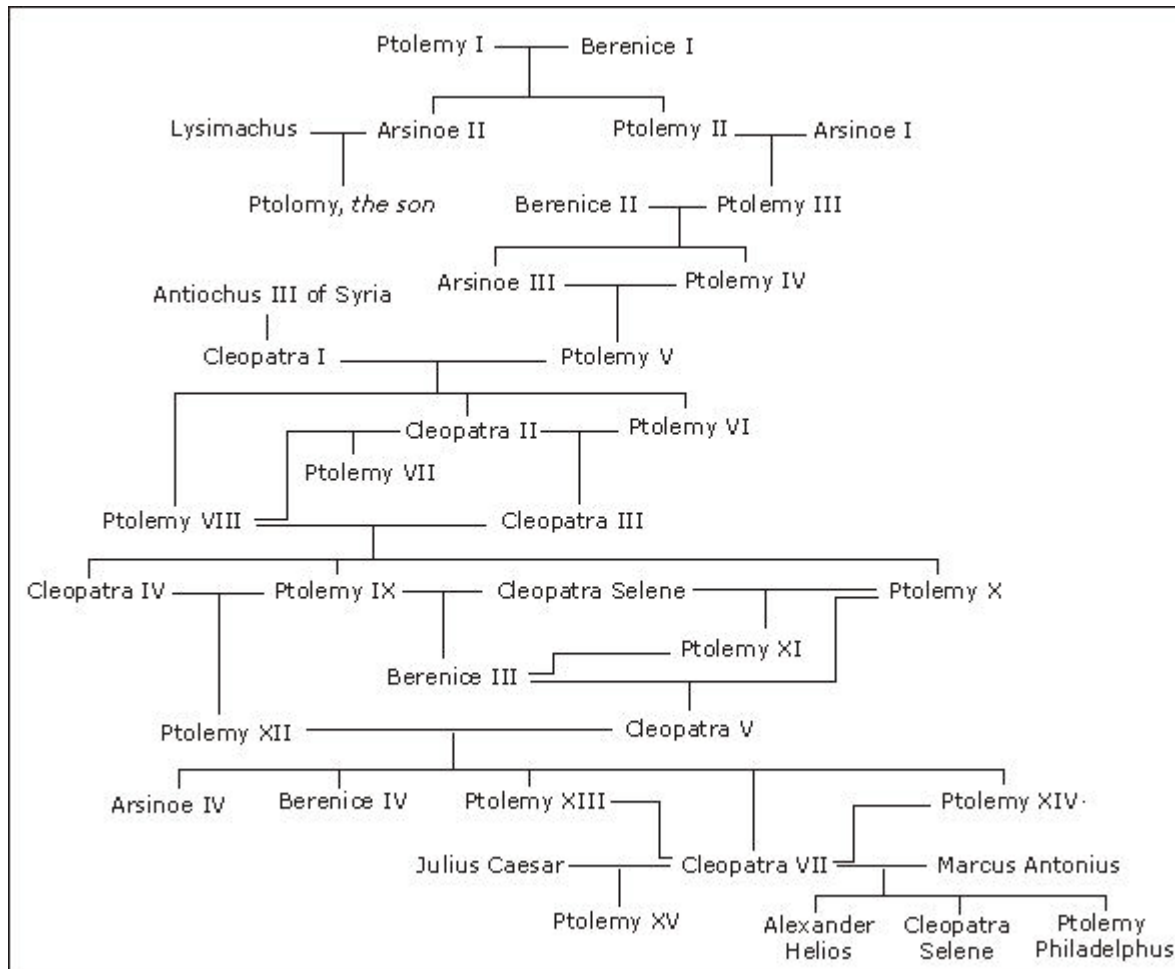
	Date	Place	Source
<b>Born :</b>	-	570 BC	-
<b>Died :</b>	-	ABT 530 BC	-

<b>Ref. :</b>	1593
---------------	------

<b>Father</b>	<b>Mother</b>
<a href="#">Haibre Wahibre King of Egypt</a>	
<b>Marriage</b>	<b>Children</b>
- <a href="#">Cyrus II the Great King of Persia</a>	- - <a href="#">Atossa Princess of Persia</a> - - <a href="#">Artystone Princess of Persia</a>

## ***Simplified Ptolemaic family tree***

Many of the relationships shown in this tree are controversial. The issues are fully discussed in the external links.



## ***Other members of the Ptolemaic dynasty***

- [Ptolemy Keraunos](#) (died 279 BC) - eldest son of Ptolemy I Soter. Eventually became king of Macedon.
- [Ptolemy Apion](#) (died 96 BC) - son of Ptolemy VIII Physcon. Made king of Cyrenaica. Bequeathed Cyrenaica to Rome.
- [Ptolemy Philadelphus](#) (born 36 BC) - son of [Mark Antony](#) and Cleopatra VII.
- [Ptolemy of Mauretania](#) (died AD 40) - son of [Juba II](#) of Mauretania and [Cleopatra Selene II](#), daughter of [Cleopatra VII](#) and [Mark Antony](#). King of [Mauretania](#).

# Berenice I of Egypt

**Berenice I** (c. 340 BC-between 279-274 BC) was a [Greek Macedonian](#) noblewoman and through her marriage to [Ptolemy I Soter](#), became the first Queen of the [Ptolemaic dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#).

*Berenice I from "Promptuarii Iconum Insigniorum"*



Berenice was the daughter of an obscure local nobleman called Magas, and Antigone Her maternal grandfather was a nobleman called Cassander who was the brother of [Antipater](#) and through her mother was a relation to his family.

## ***First Marriage***

In 325 BC, Berenice married an obscure local nobleman called Philip. There is a possibility that Philip may have been previously married and had other children. Through her first marriage, she bore Philip: daughter [Antigone](#) who married as one of the wives of King [Pyrrhus of Epirus](#), son King [Magas of Cyrene](#) and possible a third child a daughter called Theoxena.

Magas dedicated an inscription to himself and his father, when he served as a Priest of [Apollo](#) Pyrrhus gave her name to a new city called *Berenicis*. Philip had died.

## ***Second Marriage to Ptolemy***



*Head of Ptolemy II and his mother **Berenice I***

After the death of her first husband, Berenice travelled to Egypt as a lady-in-waiting for her mother's first cousin [Eurydice](#) who was the wife of Ptolemy I. Ptolemy I was one of the generals of King [Alexander the Great](#) and founder of the [Ptolemaic dynasty](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#). Ptolemy I caught the eye of Eurydice's cousin, whom he later married in 317 BC. Berenice bore Ptolemy I: a daughter [Arsinoe II of Egypt](#), a son [Ptolemy II Philadelphus](#) and a daughter called Philotera.

In an unknown Olympiad, she was a victor in the chariot races. Ptolemy II was recognized as his father's heir in preference to Eurydice's children to Ptolemy I. A port was built in the [Red Sea](#) and it was named [Berenice](#). After she died, Ptolemy II and later [Ptolemy IV Philopator](#) decreed divine honors to her.

# Ptolemy I Soter

**Ptolemy I Soter I** the Savior, c. 367 BC – c. 283 BC) was a [Macedonian](#) general under [Alexander the Great](#), who became ruler of [Egypt](#) (323 BC – 283 BC) and founder of both the [Ptolemaic Kingdom](#) and the [Ptolemaic Dynasty](#). In 305/4 BC he took the title of [pharaoh](#).

*Bust of Ptolemy I in the Louvre Museum*



His mother was [Arsinoe of Macedon](#), and, while his father is unknown, ancient sources variously describe him either as the son of [Lagus](#), a Macedonian nobleman, or as an illegitimate son of [Philip II of Macedon](#) (which, if true would have made Ptolemy the half-brother of Alexander). Ptolemy was one of Alexander's most trusted generals, and was among the seven [somatophylakes](#) (bodyguards) attached to his person. He was a few years older than Alexander, and had been his intimate friend since childhood. He may even have been in the group of noble teenagers tutored by [Aristotle](#).

Ptolemy served with Alexander from his first campaigns, and played a principal part in the later campaigns in [Afghanistan](#) and [India](#). At the [Susa](#) marriage festival in 324, Alexander had Ptolemy marry the Persian princess [Artakama](#). Ptolemy also had a consort in [Thaïs](#), the Athenian [hetaera](#) and one of Alexander's companions in his conquest of the ancient world.

## Successor of Alexander

*The taking of Jerusalem by Ptolemy Soter ca. 320 BC, by Jean Fouquet*

When Alexander died in 323 BC Ptolemy is said to have instigated the resettlement of the empire made at [Babylon](#). Through the [Partition of Babylon](#), he was appointed [satrap](#) of [Egypt](#), under the nominal kings [Philip Arrhidaeus](#) and the infant [Alexander IV](#); the former satrap, the Greek [Cleomenes](#), stayed on as his deputy. Ptolemy quickly moved, without authorization, to subjugate [Cyrenaica](#).



## Rivalry and wars

In 321, Perdiccas invaded Egypt. Ptolemy decided to defend the [Nile](#), and Perdiccas's attempt to force it ended in fiasco, with the loss of 2000 men. This was a fatal blow to Perdiccas' reputation, and he was murdered in his tent by two of his subordinates. Ptolemy immediately crossed the Nile, to provide supplies to what had the day before been an enemy army. Ptolemy was offered the regency in place of Perdiccas; but he declined.<sup>[2]</sup> Ptolemy was consistent in his policy of securing a power base, while never succumbing to the temptation of risking all to succeed Alexander.<sup>[3]</sup>

In the long wars that followed between the different [Diadochi](#), Ptolemy's first goal was to hold Egypt securely, and his second was to secure control in the outlying areas: [Cyrenaica](#) and [Cyprus](#), as well as [Syria](#), including the province of [Judea](#). His first occupation of Syria was in 318, and he established at the same time a protectorate over the petty kings of Cyprus. When

[Antigonus One-Eye](#), master of Asia in 315, showed dangerous ambitions, Ptolemy joined the coalition against him, and on the outbreak of war, evacuated Syria. In Cyprus, he fought the partisans of Antigonus, and re-conquered the island (313). A revolt in Cyrene was crushed the same year.

In 312, Ptolemy and [Seleucus](#), the fugitive satrap of Babylonia, both invaded Syria, and defeated [Demetrius](#) Poliorcetes ("besieger of cities"), the son of Antigonus, in the [Battle of Gaza](#). Again he occupied Syria, and again—after only a few months, when Demetrius had won a battle over his general, and Antigonus entered [Syria](#) in force—he evacuated it. In 311, a peace was concluded between the combatants. Soon after this, the surviving 13-year-old king, Alexander IV, was murdered in Macedonia, leaving the satrap of Egypt absolutely his own master. The peace did not last long, and in 309 Ptolemy personally commanded a fleet that detached the coastal towns of Lycia and Caria from Antigonus, then crossed into Greece, where he took possession of [Corinth](#), [Sicyon](#) and [Megara](#) (308 BC). In 306, a great fleet under Demetrius attacked Cyprus, and Ptolemy's brother [Menelaus](#) was defeated and captured in another decisive [Battle of Salamis](#). Ptolemy's complete loss of Cyprus followed.

The satraps Antigonus and Demetrius now each assumed the title of king; Ptolemy, as well as [Cassander](#), [Lysimachus](#) and [Seleucus I Nicator](#), responded by doing the same. In the winter of 306 BC, Antigonus tried to follow up his victory in Cyprus by invading Egypt; but Ptolemy was strongest there, and successfully held the frontier against him. Ptolemy led no further overseas expeditions against Antigonus. However, he did send great assistance to [Rhodes](#) when it was besieged by Demetrius (305/304). [Pausanias](#) reports that the grateful Rhodians bestowed the name *Soter* ("saviour") upon him as a result of lifting the siege. This account is generally accepted by modern [scholars](#), although the earliest datable mention of it is from coins issued by [Ptolemy II](#) in 263 BC.

When the coalition against Antigonus was renewed in 302, Ptolemy joined it, and invaded Syria a third time, while Antigonus was engaged with Lysimachus in Asia Minor. On hearing a report that Antigonus had won a decisive victory there, he once again evacuated Syria. But when the news came that Antigonus had been defeated and slain by Lysimachus and Seleucus at the [Battle of Ipsus](#) in 301, he occupied Syria a fourth time.

The other members of the coalition had assigned all Syria to Seleucus, after what they regarded as Ptolemy's desertion, and for the next hundred years, the question of the ownership of southern Syria (i.e., Judea) produced recurring warfare between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic dynasties. Henceforth, Ptolemy seems to have mingled as little as possible in the rivalries between [Asia Minor](#) and [Greece](#); he lost what he held in Greece, but reconquered Cyprus in 295/294. [Cyrene](#), after a series of rebellions, was finally subjugated about 300 and placed under his stepson [Magas](#).

## ***Successor***

In 289, Ptolemy made his son by [Berenice](#) -- [Ptolemy II Philadelphus](#)-- his co-regent. His eldest (legitimate) son, [Ptolemy Keraunos](#), (18905) whose mother, Eurydice (18901), the daughter of Antipater, had been repudiated, fled to the court of Lysimachus. Ptolemy I Soter died in 283 at the age of 84.

## ***Euclid***

Ptolemy personally sponsored the great mathematician [Euclid](#), but found Euclid's seminal work, the [Elements](#), too difficult to study, so he asked if there were an easier way to master it. According to [Proclus](#) Euclid famously quipped: "Sire, there is no [Royal Road](#) to [Geometry](#)."

# Ptolemy II Philadelphus

**Ptolemy II Philadelphus** ([Greek](#): Πτολεμαῖος Φιλάδελφος, *Ptolemaĩos Philádelphos*" 309 BCE – 246 BCE) was the king of [Ptolemaic Egypt](#) from 283 BCE to 246 BCE. He was the son of the founder of the Ptolemaic kingdom [Ptolemy I Soter](#) and [Berenice](#).



*Ptolemy II Philadelphus (front), and his sister/wife Arsinoë II*

He began his reign as co-regent with his father [Ptolemy I](#) from ca. 285 BCE to ca. 283 BCE, and maintained a splendid court in [Alexandria](#).

Egypt was involved in several wars during his reign. [Magas of Cyrene](#) opened war on his half-brother (274 BCE), and the [Seleucid](#) king [Antiochus I Soter](#), desiring [Coele-Syria](#) with [Judea](#), attacked soon after in the [First Syrian War](#). Two or three years of war followed. Egypt's victories solidified the kingdom's position as the undisputed naval power of the eastern Mediterranean; his fleet (112 ships) bore the most powerful naval [siege](#) units of all time, guaranteed the king access to the coastal cities of his empire. The Ptolemaic sphere of power extended over the [Cyclades](#) to [Samothrace](#), and the harbours and coast towns of [Cilicia Trachea](#), [Pamphylia](#), [Lycia](#) and [Caria](#).

The victory won by [Antigonos II Gonatas](#), king of Macedonia, over the Egyptian fleet at [Cos](#) (between 258 BCE and 256 BCE) did not long interrupt Ptolemy's command of the [Aegean Sea](#). In a [Second Syrian War](#) with the Seleucid kingdom, under [Antiochus II Theos](#) (after 260 BCE), Ptolemy sustained losses on the seaboard of [Asia Minor](#) and agreed to a peace by which Antiochus married his daughter [Berenice](#) (c. 250 BCE).

## Family

Ptolemy's first wife, [Arsinoë I](#), daughter of [Lysimachus](#), was the mother of his legitimate children:

- [Ptolemy III Euergetes](#), his successor.
- [Lysimachus](#)
- [Berenice Phernopherus](#), married [Antiochus II Theos](#), king of Syria.

After her repudiation he married his full sister [Arsinoë II](#), the widow of [Lysimachus](#)—an Egyptian custom—which brought him her Aegean possessions.

The material and literary splendour of the Alexandrian court was at its height under Ptolemy II. Pomp and splendor flourished. Ptolemy deified his parents and his sister-wife, after her death (270 BCE). Ptolemy staged a procession in Alexandria in honor of Dionysus led by 24 chariots drawn by elephants and a procession of lions, leopards, panthers, camels, antelopes, wild asses, ostriches, a bear, a giraffe and a rhinoceros. According to scholars, most of the animals were in pairs - as many as eight pairs of ostriches - and although the ordinary chariots were likely led by a single elephant, others which carried a 7-foot-tall (2.1 m) golden statue may have been led by four.

# Pyrrhus of Epirus

**Pyrrhus** or **Pyrrhos** (319/318 BC—272 BC) was a [Greek](#) general and statesman of the [Hellenistic era](#). He was king of the Greek tribe of [Molossians](#), of the royal Aeacid house (from ca. 297 BC), and later he became King of [Epirus](#) (306-302, 297-272 BC) and [Macedon](#) (288-284, 273-272 BC). He was one of the strongest opponents of early [Rome](#). Some of his battles, though successful, cost him heavy losses, from which the term "[Pyrrhic victory](#)" was coined.



Pyrrhus was the son of [Aeacides](#) and [Phthia](#), a Thessalian woman, and a second cousin of [Alexander the Great](#) (via Alexander's mother, [Olympias](#)). Pyrrhus was only two years old when his father was dethroned, in 317 BC, his family taking refuge with [Glaukias](#), king of the [Taulantians](#), one of the largest [Illyrian](#) tribes. Pyrrhus was raised by [Beroea](#), Glaukias's wife and a [Molossian](#) of the [Aeacidae](#) dynasty.

In 281 BC, the Greek city of [Tarentum](#), in [southern Italy](#), fell out with Rome and was faced with a Roman attack and certain defeat. Rome had already made itself into a major power, and was poised to subdue all the Greek cities in [Magna Graecia](#). The Tarentines asked Pyrrhus to lead their war against the Romans.

Due to his superior cavalry and his elephants, he defeated the Romans, led by [Consul Publius Valerius Laevinus](#), in the [Battle of Heraclea](#) in 280 BC. There are conflicting sources about casualties. [Hieronimus of Cardia](#) reports the Romans lost about 7,000 while Pyrrhus lost 3,000 soldiers, including many of his best. Dionysius gives a bloodier view of 15,000 Roman dead and 13,000 Greek. Several tribes including the [Lucani](#), [Bruttii](#), [Messapians](#), and the Greek

cities of [Croton](#) and [Locri](#) joined Pyrrhus. He then offered the Romans a peace treaty which was eventually rejected. Pyrrhus spent winter in [Campania](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

When Pyrrhus invaded [Apulia](#) (279 BC), the two armies met in the [Battle of Asculum](#) where Pyrrhus won a very costly victory. The consul [Publius Decius Mus](#) was the Roman commander, and his able force, though defeated, broke the back of Pyrrhus' Hellenistic army, and guaranteed the security of the city itself. The battle foreshadowed later Roman victories over more numerous and well armed successor state military forces and inspired the term "[Pyrrhic victory](#)", meaning a victory which comes at a crippling cost. At the end, the Romans had lost 6,000 men and Pyrrhus 3,500 but, while battered, his army was still a force to be reckoned with.<sup>[4]</sup>

In 272 BC, [Cleonymus](#), a Spartan of royal blood who was hated among fellow [Spartans](#), asked Pyrrhus to attack Sparta and place him in power. Pyrrhus agreed to the plan intending to win control of the [Peloponnese](#) for himself but unexpected strong resistance thwarted his assault on Sparta. He was immediately offered an opportunity to intervene in a civic dispute in [Argos](#). Entering the city with his army by stealth, he found himself caught in a confused battle in the narrow city streets. During the confusion an old Argead woman watching from a rooftop threw a roofing tile which stunned him, allowing an Argive soldier to behead him.

# Magas of Cyrene

**Magas of Cyrene** (flourished 3rd century BCE, ruled 276–250 BCE) was a [Greek Macedonian](#) King of [Cyrene](#) (in modern [Libya](#)). He managed to wrestle independence for Cyrene from the Greek [Ptolemaic dynasty](#) in [Egypt](#). Magas was the son of the noblewoman [Berenice I of Egypt](#) and an obscure local nobleman called Philip.<sup>[1]</sup> Magas dedicated an inscription to himself and his father, when he served as a Priest of [Apollo](#).<sup>[2]</sup> He had one sister [Antigone](#) who married as one of the wives of King [Pyrrhus of Epirus](#) and possibly another sister called Theoxena.<sup>[3]</sup> After the death of his father, his mother married [Ptolemy I Soter](#). Through his mother's second marriage, he was the older half brother to [Arsinoe II of Egypt](#), the second king of the Ptolemaic dynasty [Ptolemy II Philadelphus](#) and Philotera.<sup>[4]</sup>

Magas received the governorship of Cyrene from his mother Berenice. Following the death of Ptolemy I, however, Magas tried on several occasions to wrestle independence for Cyrene, until he crowned himself king around 276 BCE.

*Berenice II, was the daughter of Magas of Cyrene.*



Magas then married [Apama II](#), his third maternal cousin and the daughter of the [Seleucid Empire](#) king [Antiochus I Soter](#), and used his marital alliance to foment a pact to invade Egypt. Apama and Magas had a daughter called [Berenice II](#), who was their only child. He opened hostilities against [Ptolemy II Philadelphus](#) in 274 BCE, attacking Egypt from the west, as Antiochus I was attacking [Palestine](#). However, Magas had to cancel his operations due to an internal revolt of the Libyan nomad Marmaridae. In the east, Antiochus I suffered defeat against the armies of Ptolemy Philadelphus. Magas at least managed to maintain the independence of Cyrene until his death in 250 BCE, upon which the kingdom

was almost immediately reabsorbed by Ptolemaic Egypt.

# Berenice II

*Queen Berenice II of Egypt*



**Berenice II** (267 or 266 BC – 221 BC) was the daughter of [Magas](#) of [Cyrene](#) and Queen [Apama II](#), and the wife of [Ptolemy III Euergetes](#), the third ruler of the [Ptolemaic dynasty](#) of [Egypt](#).

In about 249 BC, she was married to [Demetrius the Fair](#), a Macedonian prince, soon after her father died. However after coming to Cyrene he became the lover of her mother Apama. In a dramatic event, she had him killed in Apama's bedroom, but Apama lived on afterwards. She had no children with Demetrius.

Afterwards she married Ptolemy III. Their children were: [Ptolemy IV Philopator](#), [Magas](#), Lysimachus, Alexander, [Arsinoe III](#) and Berenice.

Berenice is said to have participated in the Nemean Games (between 245 and 241 BC) and to have competed in Olympic games at some unknown date. Soon after her husband's death

(221 BC) she was murdered at the instigation of her son Ptolemy IV, with whom she was probably associated in the government.

## Myths

During her husband's absence on an expedition to [Syria](#), she dedicated her hair to [Aphrodite](#) for his safe return, and placed it in the temple of the goddess at [Zephyrium](#). The hair having by some unknown means disappeared, [Conon of Samos](#) explained the phenomenon in courtly phrase, by saying that it had been carried to the heavens and placed among the stars. This story is parodied in [Alexander Pope](#)'s *The Rape of the Lock*. The name [Coma Berenices](#) or *Berenice's hair*, applied to a [constellation](#), commemorates this incident. [Callimachus](#) celebrated the transformation in a poem, of which only a few lines remain, but there is a fine translation of it by [Catullus](#).

The predecessor of the modern city [Benghazi](#) was refounded by her and received her name: Berenice. The asteroid [653 Berenike](#), discovered in 1907, is also named after Queen Berenice.

## Arsinoe III of Egypt

**Arsinoe III** (246 or 245 BC - 204 BC) was [Queen](#) of [Egypt](#) (220 - 204 BC). She was a daughter of [Ptolemy III](#) and [Berenice II](#).

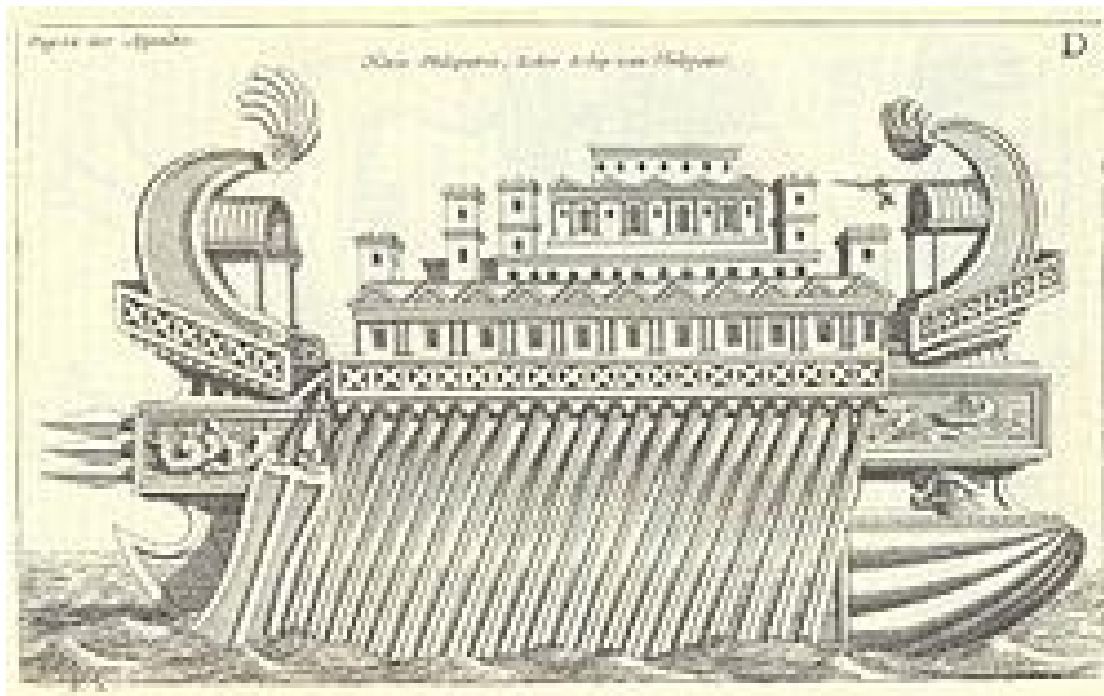
*Arsinoe III Philopator*



Between late October and early November 220 BC she was married to her brother, [Ptolemy IV](#). She took active part in the government of the country, at least in the measure that it was tolerated by the all-powerful minister [Sosibius](#). She rode at the head of infantry and cavalry to fight [Antiochus the Great](#) at the [battle of Raphia](#) in 217 BC. She was the mother of [Ptolemy V](#). In summer, 204 BC she was murdered in a palace coup, shortly after her husband's own death.

## Thalamegos

*Thalamegos* (Greek = conductor of the room (the rooms) (thamos, Pl-oi) = apartment) was a 115 by 14 m (377 by 46 ft), 20 m (66 ft) high, two-story [Nile river](#) palace [barge](#). The huge twin-hulled [catamaran](#) was commissioned by [Hellenistic](#) king [Ptolemy IV Philopator](#) for himself and his wife [Arsinoe III](#) ca. 200 BCE.



*Drawing of Thalamegos, by [Nicolaes Witsen](#), 1671.*

# Ptolemy IV Philopator

**Ptolemy IV Philopator** (reigned 221–205 BCE); son of [Ptolemy III](#) and [Berenice II of Egypt](#) was the fourth Pharaoh of the Ptolemaic Egypt. Under the reign of Ptolemy IV, the decline of the [Ptolemaic kingdom](#) began.

*Gold octadrachm issued by Ptolemy IV Philopator, British Museum*



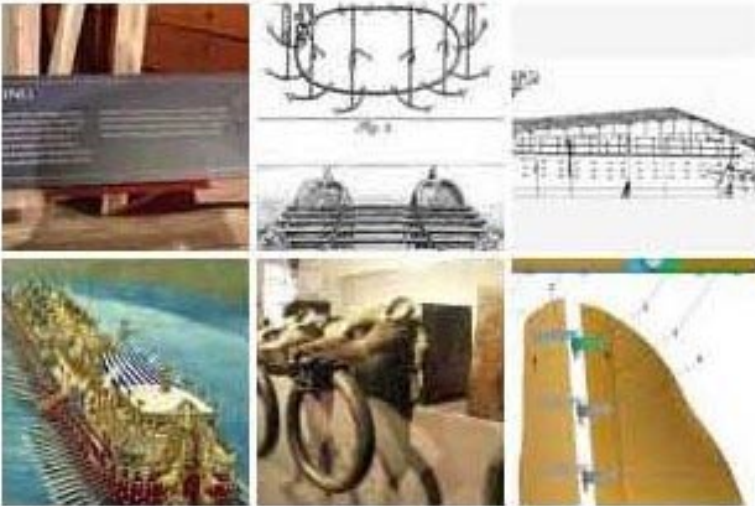
His reign was inaugurated by the murder of his mother, and he was always under the dominion of favorites, male and female, who indulged his vices and conducted the government as they pleased. Self-interest led his ministers to make serious preparations to meet the attacks of [Antiochus III the Great](#) on [Coele-Syria](#) including [Judea](#), and the great Egyptian victory of [Raphia](#) (217), where Ptolemy himself was present, secured the northern borders of the kingdom for the remainder of his reign.

Philopator was devoted to orgiastic forms of religion and literary dilettantism. He built a temple to [Homer](#) and composed a tragedy, to which his favorite [Agathocles](#) added a commentary. He married (about 220 BC) his sister [Arsinoë III](#), but continued to be ruled by his mistress [Agathoclea](#), sister of Agathocles.

Ptolemy is said to have built a giant ship known as the [tessarakonteres](#) ("forty"), a huge type of galley. The forty of its name may refer to its number of banks of oars. The only recorded instance of this type of vessel, in fact, is this showpiece galley built for Ptolemy IV, described by [Callixenus of Rhodes](#), writing in the 3rd century BCE, and by [Athenaeus](#) in the 2nd century AD. Plutarch also mentions that Ptolemy Philopater owned this immense vessel in his "Life of Demetrios".

Lionel Casson, professor of history at New York University, believes that Ptolemy's ship was an oversize [catamaran](#) galley. The dual hull arrangement with a central working platform was designed for stability in sea battles with catapults and could carry 3 to 4 thousand marines.

## Images for Tessarakonteres



- Marines: **2850**

- Length: **425 feet** (128 m) (280 Greek cubits)
- Beam: **58 feet** (17.5 m)
- Height (from tip of sternpost to waterline): **80 feet** (24 m)
- Length of steering oars: **45 feet 6 inches** (13.5 m)
- Longest rowing oars used: **57 feet 8 inches** (18 m)
- Oarsmen: **4000**

## Record-holder

The [Guinness Book of Records](#) recognizes it as the world's *Largest Human Powered Vessel*.

# Ptolemy V Epiphanes

**Ptolemy V Epiphanes** (reigned [204–181 BC](#)), son of [Ptolemy IV Philopator](#) and [Arsinoe III of Egypt](#), was the fifth ruler of the [Ptolemaic dynasty](#). He became ruler at the age of five, and under a series of regents the kingdom was paralyzed.

*Tetradrachm issued by Ptolemy V Epiphanes, British Museum*



Ptolemy Epiphanes was only a small boy when his father, Ptolemy Philopator, died. The two leading favorites of Philopator, [Agathocles](#) and [Sosibius](#), fearing that Arsinoe would secure the regency had her murdered before she heard of her husband's death, which secured the regency for themselves. In [202 BC](#) however [Tlepolemus](#), the general in charge of [Pelusium](#), put himself at the head of a revolt. Once Epiphanes was in the hands of Tlepolemus he was persuaded to give a sign that the killers of his mother should be killed. According to Bevan the child king's consent was given more from fear than anything else and Agathocles along with several of his supporters being killed by the Alexandrian mob.

The [Rosetta Stone](#) was a statement of thanks to the Egyptian priesthood for help during the crisis.

# Cleopatra II of Egypt

**Cleopatra II** (c. 185–116 BC) was a queen (and briefly sole ruler) of [Ptolemaic Egypt](#).



Cleopatra II was the daughter of [Ptolemy V](#) and likely [Cleopatra I](#). She was the sister of [Ptolemy VI](#) and [Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II Tryphon](#). She would eventually marry both of her brothers.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Her first marriage was with her brother [Ptolemy VI](#) in ca. 175 BC. They had at least four children:

- [Ptolemy Eupator](#), born in 166 BC. Became co-regent with his father for a short time, but died at a young age in ca 152 BC.
- [Cleopatra Thea](#) born in ca 164 BC. She married [Alexander Balas](#), [Demetrius II Nicator](#) and [Antiochus VII Sidetes](#). Murdered by her son in ca 120 BC.
- Berenice, a daughter. Born between 163 and 160 BC. Died young in ca 150 BC.
- [Cleopatra III](#), born between 160 and 155 BC. Married to her uncle Ptolemy VIII.
- Ptolemy (D), born ca 152 BC. Murdered in 130 BC by Ptolemy VIII

Cleopatra II married her brother [Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II Physcon](#) in ca 145 BC. They had at least one son:

- Ptolemy Memphites. Born between 144 and 142 BC. Murdered by his own father in 130 BC. Ptolemy Memphites may be identical to [Ptolemy VII Neos Philopator](#), but this identification is not universally accepted.

## Life

Following the death of her mother (176 BC), she was married to her brother [Ptolemy VI Philometor](#) in ca 175 BC. Cleopatra II, Ptolemy VI and their brother, [Ptolemy VIII](#), were co-rulers of Egypt from ca 171 BC to 164 BC.

In ca 169 BC, [Antiochus IV](#) of [Syria](#) invaded Egypt. [Ptolemy VI Philometor](#) joined Antiochus IV outside Alexandria. Ptolemy VI was crowned in [Memphis](#) and ruled with Cleopatra II. In 164 BC Cleopatra II and her husband were temporarily deposed by their brother Ptolemy VIII, but were restored to power in 163 BC.

Cleopatra II married her other brother, Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II in 145 BC. In 142 BC Ptolemy VIII took Cleopatra's younger daughter, his niece, [Cleopatra III](#), as wife.

Cleopatra II led a rebellion against Ptolemy VIII in 131 BC, and drove him and [Cleopatra III](#) out of Egypt.<sup>[1]</sup> At this time Ptolemy VIII murdered both his stepson Ptolemy and his own son Ptolemy Memphites. Ptolemy VIII is said to have had his son dismembered and his head, hands and feet sent to Cleopatra II in Alexandria as a birthday present.<sup>[4]</sup>

Cleopatra II ruled Egypt from 130 BC to 127 BC when she was forced to flee to Syria, where she joined her daughter [Cleopatra Thea](#) and her son-in-law [Demetrius II Nicator](#).



*Wall relief of Cleopatra III, Cleopatra II and Ptolemy VIII before Horus*

A public reconciliation of Cleopatra and Ptolemy VIII was declared in 124 BC. After this she ruled jointly with her brother and daughter until 116 BC when Ptolemy died, leaving the kingdom to Cleopatra III. Cleopatra II herself died shortly after.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy\\_VI\\_of\\_Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemy_VI_of_Egypt)

## Ptolemy VI Philometor

*Ring of Ptolemy VI Philometor as Egyptian pharaoh (Louvre)*



**Ptolemy VI Philometor** (ca. 186–145 BC) was a king of Egypt from the [Ptolemaic period](#). He reigned from 180 to 145 BC.

Ptolemy succeeded in 180 at the age of about 6 and ruled jointly with his mother, [Cleopatra I](#), until her death in 176 BC. The following year he married his sister, [Cleopatra II](#).

In 170 BC, [Antiochus IV](#) began the [sixth Syrian War](#) and invaded Egypt twice. He was crowned as its king in 168, but abandoned his claim on the orders of the [Roman Senate](#).

From 169–164, Egypt was ruled by a triumvirate consisting of Ptolemy, his sister-queen and his younger brother known as [Ptolemy VIII Physcon](#). In 164 he was driven out by his brother and went to [Rome](#) to seek support, which he received from [Cato](#). He was restored the following year by the intervention of the Alexandrians and ruled uneasily, cruelly suppressing frequent rebellions.

In 152 BC, he briefly ruled jointly with one of his sons, known as [Ptolemy Eupator](#), but it is thought that Ptolemy Eupator died that same year.

# Cleopatra Thea

*Coin of Cleopatra Thea. Reverse shows a double cornucopia. The date ZIIP is year 187 of the Seleucid era, corresponding to 126–125 BC*



**Cleopatra Thea** (ca. 164–121 BC) surnamed **Eueteria** (i.e., "Benefactress") was the ruler of the [Hellenistic Seleucid Empire](#). She ruled [Syria](#) from 125 BC after the death of [Demetrius II Nicator](#). She eventually ruled in co-regency with her son [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#), who poisoned her in 121 or 120 BC.

Cleopatra Thea was a daughter of [Ptolemy VI of Egypt](#) and [Cleopatra II](#). She had two brothers named Ptolemy Eupator and Ptolemy respectively. Her sister [Cleopatra III](#) was Queen of Egypt and married to [Ptolemy VIII](#), an uncle. It is possible that Berenice, the fiancée of Attalus III, king of Pergamum is another sister.

Cleopatra Thea married three times:

- She married [Alexander Balas](#) (Greek: Αλέξανδρος Βάλας) in about 150 BC. This union produced [Antiochus VI Dionysus](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> Alexander Balas was, neither popular, nor efficient ruler. The marriage was dissolved by her father.<sup>[2]</sup> Alexander Balas died in battle against [Demetrius II of Syria](#) in 145 BC.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Cleopatra Thea married [Demetrius II Nicator](#), in 145 BC. Cleopatra bore him two sons, who later grew up to be kings: [Seleucus V Philometor](#), [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#), and possibly a daughter Laodice. Demetrius became a captive of the Parthians from 139-129 BC. He was assassinated in Tyre in 125 BC at the orders of his wife Cleopatra Thea.
- Cleopatra Thea married Demetrius' younger brother, [Antiochus VII Sidetes](#) in 137 BC after Demetrius was captured by the Parthians. Cleopatra and Antiochus VII had several children: [Antiochus IX Cyzicenus](#) and likely Antiochus, Seleucus and one or two daughters named Laodice.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

## Biography

Cleopatra Thea grew up in Egypt as the daughter of Ptolemy VI and Cleopatra II. She was probably born ca. 164 BC. She may have been engaged to her uncle Ptolemy VIII king of Cyrene in 154, but he eventually married her sister [Cleopatra III](#). In 150 BC she married [Alexander Balas](#) and had a son named [Antiochus VI Dionysus](#). In 145 BC Alexander Balas was killed in battle against Demetrius II. Demetrius set himself up as co-ruler with the young boy Antiochus VI, but may have killed him in 142 BC.

In 139 BC Demetrius II was captured fighting against the [Parthians](#) and was held prisoner by them until 129 BC. After Demetrius' captivity, his younger brother, [Antiochus VII Sidetes](#), who was raised in the city of Sidon of Pamphylia (hence his last name), returned and claimed the throne. He married Cleopatra Thea in 138 BC and became king. Cleopatra Thea bore him at least one son, [Antiochus IX Cyzicenus](#). The names of any other children are uncertain.

# Demetrius II Nicator



*Coin of Demetrius II. The reverse shows Zeus bearing Nike. The Greek inscription reads ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΝΙΚΑΤΟΡΟΣ i.e. "of king Demetrius God victorious". The date ΔΠΡ is year 184 of the Seleucid era, corresponding to 129 BC –128 BC.*

**Demetrius II** (died [125 BC](#)), called **Nicator**, was one of the sons of [Demetrius I Soter](#), brother of [Antiochus](#)

[VII Sidetes](#) and his mother could have been [Laodice V](#). He ruled the Seleucid Empire for two periods, separated by a number of years of captivity in [Parthia](#).

As a young boy, he fled to [Crete](#) after the death of his father, his mother and his older brother, when [Alexander Balas](#) usurped the [Seleucid](#) throne.

About [147 BC](#) he returned to Syria, and with the backing of [Ptolemy VI Philometor](#), king of Egypt, regained his father's throne. The Egyptian king also divorced his daughter [Cleopatra Thea](#) from Balas and remarried her to Demetrius.<sup>[1]</sup> Alexander fled to the Nabateans who, anxious to stay on good terms with Egypt, cut off his head.

However, Demetrius was not a popular king. The people of Syria had little respect for the young boy, who had come to power with the help of Egypt and Cretan mercenaries led by the ruthless condottiere Lasthenes. The Antiochenians offered the Seleucid throne to Ptolemy VI, who had already conquered most of southern Syria for his own interest. However, he insisted Demetrius would become king, knowing that Rome would never tolerate a unified Hellenistic state, and the year after Ptolemy VI was killed when Alexander Balas made a last desperate attempt to regain his throne. The Egyptian troops marched home, leaderless and disillusioned, and with Balas dead as well Demetrius became sole master of the Seleucid kingdom.

But new troubles soon arose. The pillaging of the Cretan soldiers caused the Antiochenians to rise in rebellion, and only after terrible massacres was order restored. Soon after, the general [Diodotus](#) conquered Antioch and had his protégé [Antiochus VI Dionysus](#), the infant son of Alexander Balas, proclaimed king. Demetrius proved unable to retake the capital, instead establishing himself in Seleucia. Diodotus had Antiochus VI deposed a few years later, and made himself King as Tryphon, but the division of the kingdom between the legitimate Seleucid heir and the usurper in Antioch persisted.

## *Defeat and captivity*

In [139 BC](#) Parthian activity forced Demetrius to take action. He marched against [Mithradates I](#), king of [Parthia](#) and was initially successful, but was defeated in the Iranian mountains and taken prisoner the following year. The Babylonian province of the Seleucid empire became Parthian, but in Syria the dynasty's grip was reassured under [Antiochus VII Sidetes](#), the younger brother of Demetrius, who also married Cleopatra Thea.

King Mithradates had kept Demetrius II alive and even married him to a Parthian princess named [Rhodogune](#), with whom he had children. However, Demetrius was restless and twice tried to escape from his exile on the shores of the Caspian sea, once with the help of his friend

Kallimander, who had gone to great lengths to rescue the king: he had travelled incognito through Babylonia and Parthia. When the two friends were captured, the Parthian king did not punish Kallimander but rewarded him for his fidelity to Demetrius. The second time Demetrius was captured when he tried to escape, Mithradates humiliated him by giving him a golden set of dice, thus hinting that Demetrius II was a restless child who needed toys. It was however for political reasons that the Parthians treated Demetrius II kindly.

In [130 BC](#) Antiochus Sidetes felt secure enough to march against Parthia, and scored massive initial successes. Now [Phraates II](#) made what he thought was a powerful move: he released Demetrius, hoping that the two brothers would start a civil war. However, Sidetes was defeated soon after his brother's release and never met him. Phraates II set people to pursue Demetrius, but he managed to safely return home to Syria and regained his throne and his queen as well.

### ***A failed second reign***

However, the Seleucid kingdom was now but a shadow of its former glory, and Demetrius had a hard time ruling even in Syria. Recollections of his cruelties and vices - along with his humiliating defeat - caused him to be greatly detested. The Egyptian queen [Cleopatra II](#) set up an army for Demetrius, hoping to engage him in her civil wars against her brother king [Ptolemy VIII](#), but this only added to his grief. The troops soon deserted, and king Ptolemy VIII reacted by setting up yet another usurper, a man named [Alexander II Zabinas](#) against Demetrius.

In [126 BC](#) Demetrius was defeated in a battle at [Damascus](#). He fled to Ptolemais but his wife [Cleopatra Thea](#) closed the gates against him.<sup>[2]</sup> He was killed on a ship near [Tyre](#), after his wife had deserted him. His miserable death after being captured and possibly tortured, was a fitting epitaph to the many shortcomings of his reign. Demetrius II was certainly incapable of handling the developing threats to the Seleucid empire, but his reputation for cruelty was probably undeserved. He was only around fourteen at his coronation, and the real power was in the hands of others. He was succeeded by his queen Cleopatra Thea and then by two of their sons, [Seleucus V Philometor](#) and [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#).

# Antiochus VIII Grypus

**Antiochus VIII Epiphanes/Callinicus/Philometor**, nicknamed *Grypus* (hook-nose), was crowned as ruler of the [Greek Seleucid kingdom](#) in 125 BC. He was the son of [Demetrius II Nicator](#) and [Cleopatra Thea](#).

Antiochus Grypus was crowned as a teenager in 125 BC after his mother [Cleopatra Thea](#) had killed his elder brother [Seleucus V Philometor](#), ruling jointly with her. After Antiochus defeated usurper [Alexander II Zabinas](#) in 123 BC his mother tried to poison him with wine, but the suspicious king forced her to drink the cup herself. (The story may have been inspired by the fact that Grypus was interested in toxicology; some poems about poisonous herbs believed to have been written by him are quoted by the famous physician [Galen](#)).



*Coin of Antiochus VIII Grypus. Reverse: god Sandan standing on the horned lion, in his pyre surmounted by an eagle.*

A story of his luxurious parties claims he sent food home with guests who attended banquets, complete with a camel as beast of burden, as well as a with attendant to carry the guest himself. This should certainly have caused some strain on the already depleted treasury. <sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup>

He married the [Ptolemaic](#) princess [Tryphaena](#), but in 116 BC his half-brother and cousin [Antiochus IX Cyzicenus](#) (see [Antiochus VII Sidetes](#)) returned from exile and a [civil war](#) began. Cyzicenus' wife, also named Cleopatra, was a half-sister of Tryphaena and was eventually killed in a dramatic fashion in the temple of [Daphne](#) outside [Antioch](#), on the order of Tryphaena. Cyzicenus eventually killed Tryphaena as revenge. The two brothers then divided [Syria](#) between them until Grypus was killed by his minister Heracleon in 96 BC.

Five of Grypus' sons later rose to kingship:

- [Seleucus VI Epiphanes](#)
- [Antiochus XI Ephiphanes Philadelphus](#)
- [Philip I Philadelphus](#)
- [Demetrius III Eucærus](#)
- [Antiochus XII Dionysus](#)

This contributed to the confusion of civil war amid which the Seleucid empire ended.

He also had at least one daughter:

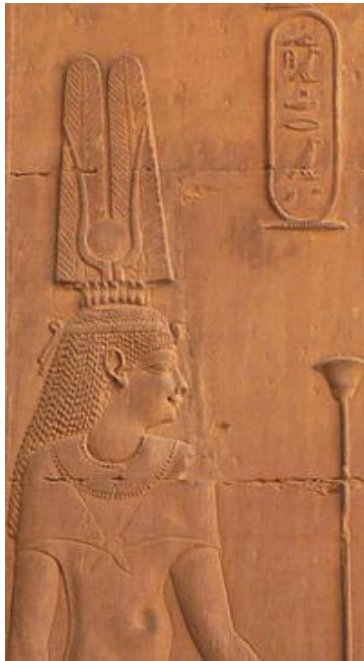
- [Laodice VII Thea](#), married to king [Mithridates I Callinicus](#) of [Commagene](#) as part of a settlement by Mithridates' father [Sames II Theosebes Dikaïos](#) to ensure peace between the Kingdom of Commagene and the [Seleucid Empire](#). Laodice and Mithridates' son was king [Antiochus I Theos of Commagene](#). This was a grandson to Grypus.

## Laodice VII Thea

**Laodice VII Thea Philadelphus** ([Greek](#): "Laodice the goddess and brother-loving", born after [122 BC](#)-?), was a [Greek–Syrian](#) princess of the [Seleucid Empire](#) and future queen of Commagene. She was the daughter of Greek–Syrian King [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#) and Greek [Ptolemaic](#) Princess Cleopatra Tryphaena (see [Cleopatra VI of Egypt](#)) a daughter of [Ptolemy VIII Physcon](#).

Laodice married [Mithridates I Callinicus](#), a prince and future king from the [Kingdom of Commagene](#). The fathers of Laodice and Mithridates had arranged for them to marry as a part of a peace alliance between their kingdoms. Mithridates embraced the Greek culture. Laodice bore Mithridates, a son [Antiochus I Theos of Commagene](#) (c. [86 BC](#)–[38 BC](#)). Antiochus became a prince and future king of Commagene.

# Cleopatra III of Egypt



**Cleopatra III** (161–101 BC) was a queen of [Egypt](#) 142–101 BC.

Cleopatra III was also known as **Cleopatra Euergetis** while associated with her husband [Ptolemy VIII](#) or her son [Ptolemy X](#). She is attested as **Cleopatra Philometor Soteira** while associated with her eldest son [Ptolemy IX](#). According to Strabo she was sometimes known as **Cleopatra Kokke** when discussed in relation to her son [Ptolemy X](#).

Cleopatra III's uncle [Ptolemy VIII of Egypt](#) ruled together with her parents from ca 170 to 164 BC at which point he expelled [Cleopatra II](#) and [Ptolemy VI of Egypt](#). But he was soon forced to abdicate. Cleopatra III's parents retook the throne and remained in power for almost 20 years until 145 BC. During this time Cleopatra III was born to [Ptolemy VI](#) and [Cleopatra II of Egypt](#) (sometime between 160 and 155 BC). Cleopatra was a sister of Ptolemy Eupator, [Cleopatra Thea](#) and possibly Berenice

After the death of her father [Ptolemy VI](#) from injuries sustained when falling from his horse during the battle of Oinoparas against [Alexander Balas](#), Cleopatra III's uncle Ptolemy VIII became the King of Egypt again.

## *Joint rule with her mother and husband*

Ptolemy VIII first married Cleopatra III's mother [Cleopatra II](#) in 145 BC, and married Cleopatra III in ca 139 BC. Cleopatra II rebelled against Ptolemy VIII in ca 132 BC. Cleopatra III fled to Cyprus in 130 BC with her husband Ptolemy VIII and was able to return to Alexandria in 127 BC.<sup>[2]</sup>

Cleopatra III and Ptolemy VIII had five children <sup>[1][4]</sup>:

- [Ptolemy IX](#) born ca 143 BC
- [Tryphaena](#) born ca 141 BC. Married [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#), king of Syria in 124 BC
- [Ptolemy X](#) born ca 140 or 139 BC. Married his niece Berenice (daughter of [Ptolemy IX](#) and [Cleopatra Selene I](#))
- [Cleopatra IV](#) born between 138 and 135 BC. Married first her brother Ptolemy IX and second Antiochus IX Cyzicenus, king of Syria
- [Cleopatra Selene I](#) born between 135 and 130 BC. Married first to her brother [Ptolemy IX](#), and later to her brother [Ptolemy X](#). Later married to [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#), king of Syria, [Antiochus IX Cyzicenus](#), king of Syria and [Antiochus X Eusebes](#), king of Syria, In ca 124 BC Cleopatra III and her husband were joined again by her mother [Cleopatra II](#) as a joint ruler.

## *Joint rule with her sons*

After the death of Ptolemy VIII in 116 BC Cleopatra III ruled jointly with her mother [Cleopatra II](#) and her son [Ptolemy IX](#). Cleopatra III expelled [Ptolemy IX](#) from Alexandria in 107 BC and replaced him as co-regent with her second son [Ptolemy X](#). After 6 years of joint rule [Ptolemy X](#) had his mother Cleopatra III murdered in 101 BC.

## Ptolemy IX Lathyros



**Ptolemy IX Soter II** or **Lathyros** ("[grass pea](#)") was [king of Egypt](#) three times, from 116 BC to 110 BC, 109 BC to 107 BC and 88 BC to 81 BC, with intervening periods ruled by his brother, [Ptolemy X Alexander](#).

At first he was chosen by his mother [Cleopatra III](#) to be her co-regent (his father [Ptolemy VIII](#) wished that she would rule with one of her sons), though she was more forced to choose him by the Alexandrians. He married his sister [Cleopatra IV](#), but his mother pushed her out and replaced her with his younger sister [Cleopatra Selene](#). Later, she claimed that he tried to kill her, and successfully deposed him, putting her favorite son Alexander on the throne as co-regent with her. However, she later grew tired of the now Ptolemy X and deposed him, putting Ptolemy IX back on the throne. She was soon murdered by Ptolemy X, who took the throne again. He was then killed in battle, and Ptolemy IX reigned until his own death. In Alexandria, Ptolemy IX, replaced the sarcophagus of [Alexander the Great](#) with a glass one, and melted the original down in order to strike emergency gold issues of his coinage. The citizens of Alexandria were outraged at this and soon after, Ptolemy IX was killed.

His daughter Berenice III took the throne after his death, and reigned for about a year. She was forced to marry her stepson Alexander, who reigned under the name [Ptolemy XI Alexander II](#) and had her killed nineteen days later

# Ptolemy XII Auletes

*Ptolemy XII smashing his enemies with a royal mace. Relief from the first pylon in the temple at Edfu*



**Ptolemy Neos Dionysos Theos Philopator Theos Philadelphos** (117–51 BC), New [Dionysus](#), God Beloved of his Father, God Beloved of his Brother) was more commonly known as "Auletes". Auletes means pipes-player, and refers to his love of playing the pipes.

Ptolemy XII was a Hellenistic ruler of [Macedonian](#) descent. He is assumed to be an illegitimate son of [Ptolemy IX](#) Soter, perhaps by an Egyptian woman. His reign as king was interrupted by a general rebellion that resulted in his exile from 58-55 BC.

Thus, Ptolemy XII ruled [Egypt](#) from 80 to 58 BC and from 55 BC until his death in 51 BC. Ptolemy XII was generally described as a weak, self-indulgent man, a drunkard, and a music lover.

Ptolemy may have had two wives. He married [Cleopatra Tryphanea](#) (referred to as Cleopatra V or Cleopatra VI in the literature), who may have been either a sister or a cousin. Cleopatra Tryphanea is not mentioned after 69 BC and it is not clear who the mother of Ptolemy's three youngest children is. His children include:

1. Possibly a daughter named [Cleopatra Tryphanea](#). Porphyry mentions a daughter Cleopatra Tryphanea who ruled with her sister [Berenice](#). Strabo however states that Ptolemy had three daughters of whom only the eldest (Berenice) was legitimate. Suggesting that the Cleopatra Tryphanea referred to by Porphyry may have been Ptolemy's wife, not his daughter. Many experts now identify [Cleopatra VI](#) with [Cleopatra V of Egypt](#), Ptolemy's wife.
2. [Berenice IV](#)
3. [Cleopatra VII](#)
4. [Arsinoe IV](#)
5. [Ptolemy XIII](#)
6. [Ptolemy XIV](#)

## *His first reign (80–58 BC)*

In 80 BC, Ptolemy XII's predecessor [Ptolemy XI](#) was removed by the Egyptian population from the throne of Egypt after the king had killed his coregent and step mother [Berenice III](#). When Ptolemy XI died without a male heir, the only available male descendents of the Ptolemy I lineage were the illegitimate sons of Ptolemy IX by an unknown Greek concubine. The boys were living in exile in [Sinope](#), at the court of [Mithridates VI](#), King of [Pontus](#). As the eldest of the boys Ptolemy XII was proclaimed king as Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysos and married his sister, [Tryphaena](#). Ptolemy XII was coregent with his daughter [Cleopatra VI](#) Tryphaena and his wife [Cleopatra V](#) Tryphaena.

*The first pylon at Edfu Temple was decorated by Ptolemy XII in 57 BC with figures of himself smiting the enemy.*



Before Ptolemy XII's reign, the geographical distance between Rome and Egypt resulted in an indifferent attitude towards each other. Nevertheless, Egyptians asked the Romans to settle dynastic conflicts. During his reign, Ptolemy XII attempted to secure his own fate and the fate of his dynasty by means of a pro-Roman policy. In 63 BC, it appeared that Pompey would emerge as the leader of a Roman struggle, thus Ptolemy sought to form a patron-client relationship with the Roman by sending him riches and extending an invitation to Alexandria. Pompey accepted the riches but refused the invitation.<sup>[10]</sup> Nevertheless, a patron relationship with a leader in Rome did not guarantee his permanence on the throne, thus Ptolemy XII soon afterwards travelled to Rome to negotiate a bribe for an official recognition of his kingship. After paying a bribe of six thousand talents to [Julius Caesar](#) and [Pompey](#), a formal alliance was formed (a *foedus*) and his name was inscribed into the list of friends and allies of the people of Rome (*amici et socii populi Romani*).

### ***Exile in Rome (58–55 BC)***

In 58 BC, Ptolemy XII failed to comment on the Roman conquest of [Cyprus](#), a territory ruled by his brother, thereby upsetting the Egyptian population to start a rebellion. Egyptians were already aggravated by heavy taxes (to pay for the Roman bribes) and a substantial increase in the cost of living. Ptolemy XII fled to Rome, possibly with his daughter Cleopatra VII, in search of safety.<sup>[12]</sup> His daughter [Berenice IV](#) became his successor. She ruled as coregent with her sister (or possibly mother) [Cleopatra VI Tryphaena](#). A year after Ptolemy XII's exile, Cleopatra VI Tryphaena died and Berenice ruled alone over Alexandria from 57 to 56BC.

From Rome, Ptolemy XII prosecuted his restitution but met opposition with certain members of the Senate. Ptolemy XII's old ally Pompey housed the exiled king and his daughter and argued on behalf of Ptolemy's restoration in the Senate. During this time, Roman creditors realized that they would not get the return on their loans to the Egyptian king without his restoration. Thus in 57 BC, pressure from the Roman public forced the Senate's decision to restore Ptolemy. However, Rome did not wish to invade Egypt to restore the king since the Sybilline books stated that if an Egyptian king asked for help and Rome proceeded with military intervention, great dangers and difficulties would occur.

Egyptians heard rumors of Rome's possible intervention and disliked the idea of their exiled king's return. [Cassius Dio](#) reported that a group of one hundred men were sent as envoys from Egypt to make their case to the Romans against Ptolemy XII's restoration, but Ptolemy had their leader (a philosopher named [Dion](#)) poisoned and most of the other protesters killed before they reached Rome to plead their desires.

Before his death, Ptolemy XII chose his daughter [Cleopatra VII](#) as his coregent. In his will, he declared that she and her brother [Ptolemy XIII](#) should rule the kingdom together. To safeguard his interests, he made the people of Rome executors of his will. Since the Senate was busy with its own affairs, Pompey (as Ptolemy XII's ally) approved the will.

# Cleopatra VII

**Cleopatra VII Philopator** (Late 69 BC – August 12, 30 BC) was the last [pharaoh](#) of [Ancient Egypt](#).

She was a member of the [Ptolemaic dynasty](#), a family of Greek origin that ruled Egypt after [Alexander the Great](#)'s death during the [Hellenistic period](#). The Ptolemies, throughout their dynasty, spoke [Greek](#) and refused to speak [Egyptian](#), which is the reason that Greek as well as Egyptian languages were used on official court documents like the [Rosetta Stone](#). By contrast, Cleopatra did learn to speak Egyptian and represented herself as the reincarnation of an Egyptian goddess, [Isis](#).

Cleopatra originally ruled jointly with her father [Ptolemy XII Auletes](#) and later with her brothers, [Ptolemy XIII](#) and [Ptolemy XIV](#), whom she married as per Egyptian custom, but eventually she became sole ruler. As pharaoh, she consummated a liaison with [Julius Caesar](#) that solidified her grip on the throne. She later elevated her son with Caesar, [Caesarion](#), to co-ruler in name.

After [Caesar's assassination](#) in 44 BC, she aligned with [Mark Antony](#) in opposition to Caesar's legal heir, Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus (later known as [Augustus](#)). With Antony, she bore the twins [Cleopatra Selene II](#) and [Alexander Helios](#), and another son, [Ptolemy Philadelphus](#). Her unions with her brothers produced no children. After losing the [Battle of Actium](#) to Octavian's forces, Antony committed suicide. Cleopatra followed suit, according to tradition killing herself by means of an [asp](#) bite on August 12, 30 BC. Egypt became the [Roman province](#) of [Aegyptus](#).

## Relationship with Julius Caesar

*Cleopatra and Julius Caesar. Painting by Jean-Léon Gérôme*



Eager to take advantage of [Julius Caesar](#)'s anger toward Ptolemy, Cleopatra had herself smuggled secretly into the palace to meet with Caesar. One legend claims she entered past Ptolemy's guards rolled up in a carpet. She became Caesar's mistress, and nine months after their first meeting, in 47 BC, Cleopatra gave birth to their son, Ptolemy Caesar, [nicknamed](#) [Caesarion](#), which means "little Caesar."

At this point Caesar abandoned his plans to annex Egypt, instead backing Cleopatra's claim to the throne. After [a war](#) lasting six months between the party of Ptolemy XIII and the Roman army of Caesar, Ptolemy XIII was drowned in the [Nile](#) and Caesar restored Cleopatra to her throne, with another younger brother [Ptolemy XIV](#) as her new co-ruler.

## Cleopatra and Mark Antony

*Antony and Cleopatra, by Lawrence Alma-Tadema*

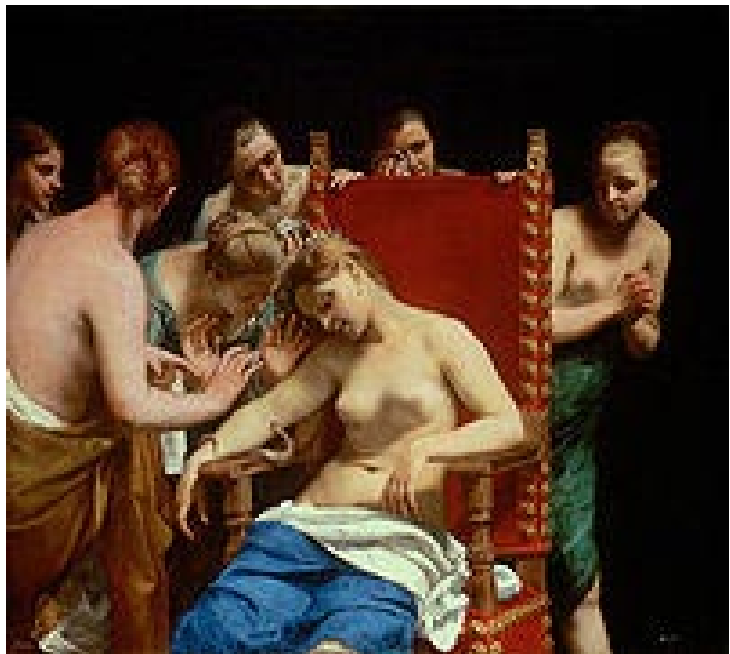


In 41 BC, [Mark Antony](#), one of the [triumvirs](#) who ruled Rome in the power vacuum following Caesar's death, sent his intimate friend [Quintus Dellius](#) to Egypt. Dellius had to summon Cleopatra to [Tarsus](#) to meet Antony and answer questions about her loyalty. During the Roman civil war she allegedly had paid much money to Cassius. It seems that in reality Antony wanted Cleopatra's promise to support his intended war against the [Parthians](#).

Cleopatra arrived in great state, and so charmed Antony that he chose to spend the winter of 41 BC–40 BC with her in Alexandria.

To safeguard herself and Caesarion, she had Antony order the death of her sister [Arsinoe](#), who was living at the temple of [Artemis](#) in [Ephesus](#), which was under Roman control. The execution was carried out in 41 BC on the steps of the temple, and this violation of temple sanctuary scandalised Rome. Cleopatra had also executed her strategos of Cyprus, [Serapion](#), who had supported Cassius against her wishes.

On 25 December 40 BC, Cleopatra gave birth to [twins](#) fathered by Antony, [Alexander Helios](#) and [Cleopatra Selene II](#). Four years later, Antony visited Alexandria again en route to make war with the Parthians. He renewed his relationship with Cleopatra, and from this point on, Alexandria was his home. He married Cleopatra according to the Egyptian rite (a letter quoted in [Suetonius](#) suggests this), although he was at the time married to [Octavia Minor](#), sister of his fellow triumvir [Octavian](#). He and Cleopatra had another child, [Ptolemy Philadelphus](#).



*The Death of Cleopatra by Guido Cagnacci, 1658*