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by Zachariah Bessette and Carmela Burns



This photo depicts the pyramids at the Giza Necropolis, including the Great Pyramid of Giza (one of the wonders of the ancient world).

It all started when King Khufu built a great pyramid for when he would pass away. It would be the place where his tomb would be.

Khufu's son, Khafre, built the second pyramid at the Giza Necropolis where his tomb would be placed. Then Khafre's son, Menkaure, built the third pyramid for his tomb.

King Khufu died in 2566 B.C. We could say that the three Giza pyramids are part of a family affair. There is a smaller complex that also contain three small pyramids that were built for Khufu's wives, Meritites and Henutsen.

King Khafre died in 2480 B.C. King Khafre had three wives. They were Hekenuhedjet, Khamerernebty 1 and Meresankh 111.

King Menkaure died in 2504 B.C. King Menkaure had two wives whose names were Rekhetre and Khamerernebty.

King Khufu's Great Pyramid was a very hard task to complete even today. About 2,550 B.C., King Khufu, the second pharaoh of the Fourth Dynasty, of Egypt's Old Kingdom, declared the building of his tomb at Giza. In the end it took 30 years to build that pyramid. It took 10 years to build a ramp to move the blocks. This was necessary since a normal block weighed about 2.5 tons, and the blocks at the top of the tombs were about 9 tons.

Don't forget that over 2.3 million blocks were used to build the Great Pyramid. Then it took 20 years to officially construct it. Khufu also decided that his tomb would be in the pyramid and cemeteries of royal attendants surround the pyramids to this day.



This is a picture of the Sphinx, believed to represent the Pharo Khafre, son of Khufu.

Thirty years later, in 2,520 B.C., Khufu's son, Khafre, decided to add on to the complex by including the second pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx. His pyramid was the second biggest of the pyramids, not passing his father Khufu's pyramid. The Sphinx is a limestone made monument with the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh. Scholars think that the sphinx was intended to represent Khafre.

Built by the son of Khafre, Menkaure, is the third pyramid of Giza. This pyramid is not only the smallest but also the only pyramid that isn't made of limestone. This pyramid is made out of granite, a costlier and more tough stone to work with, on the bottom layers and the burial chamber.

After Menkaure died unexpectedly, his project on the pyramid was abandoned. Later on his heir Shepseskaf completed the complex and the rest of the pyramid was built of mud bricks.

The King's wives ... it's a complicated thing.

Meritites is King Khufu's wife. Merities is a daughter of King Sneferu. King Khufu, who is Meritites' husband, is also her half brother. She also has twelve other brothers and sisters. King Khufu had a smaller pyramid, that is connected to his pyramid, built for her.

Henutsen is King Khufu's Ex-wife. Henutsen is also a daughter of King Sneferu. King Khufu, who is Henutsens' ex-husband, is also her half-brother. She also has twelve other brothers and sisters. King Khufu had one of the smaller pyramids that is connected to his pyramid also built for her.

Hekenuhedjet is King Khafre's wife. She had one child Sekhemkare, who became the 4th king of the 13th dynasty. His children are Amenemhet VI and Ameny Qemau. Hekenuhejet was placed in the same tomb as her son Sekhemkare.

Khamernernebty 1 is one of King Khafre's wives. She is a daughter of King Khufu. King Khafre is her husband and half-brother. She also has twelve other brothers and sisters. She had two kids who are Menkaure and Khamernernebty 11.

Meresankh 111 is one of King Khafre's wives. She is a daughter of king Kawab. King Khafre is her husband and uncle. She also has three other siblings. She has one child named Duaenre and one grandchild named Babaef 11.

Khamernernebty II is one of King Menkaure's wives. She is a daughter of king Khafre. King Menkaure is her husband and also her brother. She has one boy, Khuenre, who is a prince and also named after the Egyptian sun god.

Rekhetre is one of king Menkaure wives. She is a daughter of King Khafre. King Menkaure is her husband, but not only that - he is also her brother. She was a queen of the late 4th dynasty or the early 5th dynasty. She had no children.

Wow! That's quite a family history!

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