

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000

4,200 years ago, it was a beautiful pyramid.

2

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:05,000

This was a pyramid.

3

00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:06,000

Can you imagine?

4

00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:08,000

Not really.

5

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:12,000

These officials, they're not just getting more power.

6

00:00:12,000 --> 00:00:14,000

They're rewriting the playbook.

7

00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:16,000

Josh, it's a revolution.

8

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:21,000

How many shafts have you found here, total?

9

00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:22,000

More than 20.

10

00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:23,000

Just in this one site?

11

00:00:23,000 --> 00:00:24,000

Yeah.

12

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:28,000

So he discovered the mummy of Marron Rock?

13

00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:29,000

Maybe.

14

00:00:31,000 --> 00:00:32,000

I'm ready.

15

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:33,000

Okay.

16

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:34,000

You ready?

17

00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:35,000

Yes.

18

00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:36,000

Everybody there ready?

19

00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:37,000

We're all seeing this for the first time.

20

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:38,000

Let's do this.

21

00:00:40,000 --> 00:00:42,000

Look at this.

22

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:43,000

This is outrageous.

23

00:00:43,000 --> 00:00:46,000

And a huge sarcophagus.

24

00:00:46,000 --> 00:00:48,000

Oh, this is crazy.

25

00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:51,000

Something there?

26

00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:52,000

Is that wood?

27

00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:53,000

Yes, yes.

28

00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:54,000

I think that is a coffin.

29

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:57,000

I will show you something that you will never, ever

30

00:00:57,000 --> 00:00:59,000

gonna forget for the rest of your life.

31

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:01,000

Are you kidding me?

32

00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:03,000

Oh my God!

33

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:04,000

It goes back!

34

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:05,000

It's a tomb!

35

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:21,000

Ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom, the Age of Pyramids.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:26,000

More than 4,000 years ago, this was the apex of civilization.

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:30,000

As pharaohs, acting as gods on Earth, commissioned works of

38

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,000

engineering, art, and architecture that still dazzle us today.

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00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:39,000

But after centuries as the center of the world, in about 2150 BCE,

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:45,000

the Old Kingdom came to a catastrophic end, falling into bloody chaos.

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:47,000

The question is, why?

42

00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:53,000

Groundbreaking new discoveries suggest that the secrets of the Old Kingdom,

43

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:57,000

the story of its rise and fall, are buried in an ancient necropolis

44

00:01:57,000 --> 00:01:59,000

called Sakara.

45

00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:02,000

A vast graveyard with ornate tombs.

46

00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:07,000

Tombs that could hold precious artifacts and priceless clues.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:12,000

The country's leading archaeologists are excavating there right now.

48

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:15,000

And they've just discovered a massive new burial shaft that may have

49

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:18,000

belonged to a powerful elite.

50

00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:23,000

And I've been given unrestricted exclusive access to join their dig.

51

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:30,000

Nearby, a museum holds a controversial mummy, discovered in a collapsed pyramid

52

00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:33,000

that could be an Old Kingdom pharaoh.

53

00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:36,000

If so, he'd be the only one ever found.

54

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:40,000

Now, using revolutionary scanning technology, they plan to positively

55

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:44,000

ID the mummy and solve the mystery once and for all.

56

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:50,000

This is a golden ticket, an all-access pass to unwrap the mysteries

57

00:02:50,000 --> 00:02:53,000

of ancient Egypt, and you're invited.

58

00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:56,000

So let's get digging for mummies and for mysteries.

59

00:02:56,000 --> 00:03:00,000

Who knows what treasures lie just beneath the shifting sands?

60

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:06,000

My name is Josh Gates.

61

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:07,000

Hello!

62

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:08,000

Explorer.

63

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:10,000

Adventurer.

64

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:11,000

Amazing.

65

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:12,000

Woo!

66

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:15,000

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situations.

67

00:03:15,000 --> 00:03:16,000

S***!

68

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:17,000

Woo! That was exciting.

69

00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:21,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained,

70

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:26,000

I travel to the ends of the earth, investigating the greatest legends in history.

71

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:28,000

Now let's punch it!

72

00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:30,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

73

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:43,000

When you think about Egypt, this is probably what you picture.

74

00:03:43,000 --> 00:03:49,000

The pyramids of Giza and nearby the enigmatic Sphinx.

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00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:55,000

They have become the icons of one of the greatest civilizations in history.

76

00:03:55,000 --> 00:04:01,000

They were built 4500 years ago at the height of ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom.

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00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:04,000

Let's get our bearings with a little time traveling.

78

00:04:04,000 --> 00:04:06,000

Can I get a graphic, please?

79

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:11,000

Things kick off about 5000 years ago when tribes in Northern Africa begin farming

80

00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:14,000

along the banks of the life-giving Nile River.

81

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:19,000

Society takes root and with it the worship of powerful gods, say hi to Horus,

82

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:22,000

and the emergence of god-like kings.

83

00:04:22,000 --> 00:04:25,000

Worship these pharaohs and you'll live forever.

84

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

And just like that, we're off to the races.

85

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:29,000

Civilization, baby!

86

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:33,000

3000 years of it, divided into three main periods.

87

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:38,000

The Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms, each with their own powerful dynasties.

88

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:40,000

Poof! That's a lot of pharaohs.

89

00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:43,000

Here in the Old Kingdom, things are pretty swell.

90

00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:48,000

A lot of peace, a lot of prosperity, and a major pyramid real estate boom.

91

00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:54,000

The monuments of the Old Kingdom are symbols of pure political and religious power.

92

00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:59,000

Built to honor pharaohs who were seen as gods on Earth.

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00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:04,000

The Great Pyramid of Kufu here took nearly 30 years to construct

94

00:05:04,000 --> 00:05:07,000

at the hands of untold thousands of workers.

95

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:13,000

It was the tallest man-made object on Earth for more than 3500 years.

96

00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:16,000

Clearly these pharaohs have everything under control.

97

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:17,000

What could go wrong?

98

00:05:17,000 --> 00:05:19,000

Well, it turns out everything.

99

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:23,000

Around 2200 BCE, the Old Kingdom rather suddenly collapses.

100

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:27,000

Leading to a dark, chaotic time known as, can I get a little reverb?

101

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:29,000

The first intermediate period!

102

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:31,000

Thanks.

103

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:34,000

There's a bunch of rulers who don't last long because everyone is fighting.

104

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:38,000

And eventually, there is a total breakdown of centralized leadership.

105

00:05:39,000 --> 00:05:40,000

Yeah, it's not good.

106

00:05:40,000 --> 00:05:44,000

So, how did a civilization that built things like this,

107

00:05:44,000 --> 00:05:46,000

one of the literal seven wonders of the world?

108

00:05:46,000 --> 00:05:51,000

How did they descend into discord, chaos, and bloody civil war?

109

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:55,000

The answer, like all things in Egypt, lies underground.

110

00:05:56,000 --> 00:06:00,000

From the Great Pyramid of Giza, I travel 17 miles south of Cairo

111

00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:03,000

to a massive stretch of sand known as Sakara.

112

00:06:04,000 --> 00:06:06,000

Before Giza, there was this.

113

00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:11,000

Egypt's first pyramid, the step pyramid of the pharaoh, Zoser.

114

00:06:11,000 --> 00:06:14,000

Its construction kicked off the Old Kingdom

115

00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:17,000

and helped put the deserts of Sakara here on the map.

116

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:22,000

And after Zoser stepped it up, 16 kings would build pyramids here.

117

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:25,000

But this isn't just a place for royalty.

118

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:30,000

A who's who of Egyptians clamored to be buried near their divine pharaohs,

119

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:34,000

turning Sakara into ancient Egypt's great necropolis.

120

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:39,000

This cemetery offers archaeologists the ability to investigate

121

00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:43,000

not just Old Kingdom pyramids built exclusively for pharaohs,

122

00:06:43,000 --> 00:06:47,000

but also graves of the elite, priests and high officials

123

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:49,000

who worked under the pharaoh.

124

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:54,000

It's their tombs that can hopefully unlock the story of why the Old Kingdom collapsed.

125

00:07:00,000 --> 00:07:02,000

The burials here became so jam-packed,

126

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:06,000

they actually started piling up along the outer edge of the site.

127

00:07:07,000 --> 00:07:10,000

Eventually, the cemetery expanded to the south

128

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:15,000

and that's where a groundbreaking new excavation is currently underway.

129

00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:19,000

That is if I can find the road to get there.

130

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:21,000

Is this a road?

131

00:07:24,000 --> 00:07:25,000

Hang on.

132

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:33,000

Nice thing about this is if you end up on the wrong road,

133

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:35,000

you just make a new one.

134

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:37,000

Woo! Ha ha!

135

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:42,000

See people? I see a workhouse.

136

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:44,000

We got a dig site.

137

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:47,000

I arrive amidst a buzz of activity

138

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:50,000

and I'm greeted by Dr. Mustafa Waziri.

139

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:51,000

Dr. Waziri!

140

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

In the world of Egyptology, he's a pharaoh.

141

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:58,000

As secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities,

142

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:03,000

Dr. Waziri oversees some of the most important archaeological work on the planet.

143

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:08,000

I became friends with Dr. Waziri during a thrilling live excavation of a mummy several years ago.

144

00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:12,000

And now he's invited me to this very off-limits dig site.

145

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Do you know that you are the only foreigner to come here to my site?

146

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

Thank you for that. That's incredible.

147

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:22,000

This is awesome. Nobody's seen this yet.

148

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:26,000

No, no, no, no. We just started working a couple of months ago.

149

00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:27,000

This is a couple of months ago?

150

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:28,000

Yes.

151

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:29,000

You work fast.

152

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:32,000

One of the reasons Dr. Waziri and his team knew to dig in this area

153

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:38,000

is that another Egyptologist left them clues when he came here nearly 150 years earlier.

154

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:40,000

Of course you know Maspero.

155

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:41,000

Maspero.

156

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Legendary Egyptologist.

157

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:43,000

Legendary Egyptologist.

158

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:44,000

Yes.

159

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:52,000

French Egyptologist Gaston Maspero was critical in shaping our understanding of Egypt's enigmatic old kingdom.

160

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:57,000

He explored here in Sakara in the late 1800s on the very ground where we're now standing.

161

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:01,000

And he said that he found a couple of tombs in this area.

162

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:05,000

But he didn't mention anything about it except just the name Iaret.

163

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:06,000

And that's it.

164

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:07,000

laret.

165

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:08,000

Yeah, laret.

166

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:10,000

So that's the name of the gentleman's tomb.

167

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:20,000

Maspero's notes indicate that he found the tomb of a man named laret, a high-ranking Egyptian official whose grave might shed light on the mysteries of the old kingdom.

168

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:24,000

But the exact location of the burial was lost to history.

169

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:29,000

So we decided to find that tomb.

170

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:34,000

And then suddenly while we were working we found shafts.

171

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:35,000

We found tombs.

172

00:09:35,000 --> 00:09:38,000

We found like this one, mastabas.

173

00:09:38,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Mastabas were flat-roofed houses for the dead with a chapel for offerings inside and shafts leading to underground burial chambers for the owner of the tomb and their family.

174

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:52,000

Today the surface structures are long gone.

175

00:09:52,000 --> 00:09:56,000

All that remains are the burial chambers hidden below ground.

176

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:59,000

How many shafts have you found here total?

177

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:01,000

More than 20 shafts.

178

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:02,000

20 burial shafts?

179

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:03,000

Yes.

180

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:04,000

Just in this one site?

181

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:05,000

Yup.

182

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:09,000

So the people buried here they would have been elite people, nobles?

183

00:10:09,000 --> 00:10:11,000

You are absolutely right.

184

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:16,000

I didn't know why he's calling me.

185

00:10:16,000 --> 00:10:18,000

They find something?

186

00:10:18,000 --> 00:10:19,000

I believe so.

187

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:20,000

Shall we go?

188

00:10:20,000 --> 00:10:21,000

Yeah.

189

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:25,000

Welcome to life at a dig site.

190

00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:29,000

The team has found something in one of the pits and they want Dr. Waziri to review it.

191

00:10:29,000 --> 00:10:33,000

Good news, since we're his guests we get to see it too.

192

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:35,000

Come, come, come, come, come.

193

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Watch out.

194

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:38,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

195

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:49,000

Haha!

196

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Look at this, it's inscribed.

197

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:54,000

Oh, come on!

198

00:10:56,000 --> 00:11:00,000

So this, of course it's false door.

199

00:11:00,000 --> 00:11:02,000

This is part of a false door, right?

200

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:09,000

So in the tomb there are sometimes a number of these what are called false doors that lead into the tomb.

201

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:13,000

When it came to tombs in ancient Egypt the figurative was literal.

202

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:20,000

False doors were just that, a representation of a gateway between this life and the afterlife where the soul could pass.

203

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:23,000

Something a bit weird.

204

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:24,000

Okay.

205

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

It should be facing east, but this one is facing north.

206

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:29,000

Right, all of this is facing north.

207

00:11:29,000 --> 00:11:31,000

It's a little bit strange.

208

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:36,000

Maybe they were imitating the king's entrance of the pyramids, for example.

209

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:38,000

This is, this is awesome.

210

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:43,000

But there's much more to this site than the remains of a door in a shallow pit.

211

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:48,000

I will show you something that you would never, ever gonna forget for the rest of your life.

212

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:49,000

What did you find?

213

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:50,000

I'll show you.

214

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Come on, let's go.

215

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:58,000

The Necropolis Dig site has an immense footprint covering well over an acre of desert.

216

00:11:58,000 --> 00:12:02,000

We cross over the excavation to a much larger hole in the ground.

217

00:12:04,000 --> 00:12:05,000

Whoa!

218

00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:07,000

Huge burial shaft.

219

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:08,000

Look at this one.

220

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:11,000

Oh my word, look at the architecture of this.

221

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:12,000

This is awesome.

222

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:17,000

This is the one that Masphidl was talking about.

223

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:18,000

This is it.

224

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:19,000

This is the tomb of Iyadet.

225

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:21,000

Finally, we discovered the tomb.

226

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:30,000

Here, on the ragged edge of the desert, Waziri and his team have just rediscovered the lost tomb of a powerful official from the Old Kingdom.

227

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:34,000

A tomb that may help explain how that kingdom came to fall.

228

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:35,000

Nobody's seen this.

229

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:37,000

Nobody did see it.

230

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:40,000

No TV, no filming, nothing.

231

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:42,000

No visitors.

232

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:43,000

Nobody.

233

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:44,000

Nobody.

234

00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:45,000

Okay.

235

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:46,000

Ready to go there?

236

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:47,000

I'm ready.

237

00:12:47,000 --> 00:12:48,000

Okay.

238

00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:49,000

Everybody there ready?

239

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:51,000

We're all seeing this for the first time.

240

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:52,000

Let's do this.

241

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:53,000

World first.

242

00:12:53,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Here we go.

243

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:55,000

Wow.

244

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:56,000

Into the darkness.

245

00:13:03,000 --> 00:13:04,000

Whoa!

246

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:05,000

Huge burial shaft.

247

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:06,000

Look at this one.

248

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:14,000

Here in the Necropolis of Sakara, newly discovered tombs may help explain the rapid fall of Egypt's Old Kingdom.

249

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:23,000

Now, Dr. Mustafa Waziri has given me and the world exclusive access to one such tomb, first discovered by Egyptologist Gaston Maspero.

250

00:13:25,000 --> 00:13:27,000

Oh my God.

251

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:29,000

Whoa!

252

00:13:29,000 --> 00:13:30,000

This unbelievable.

253

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:32,000

And we have people down here.

254

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:34,000

Oh yes, Muhammad and Muhammad.

255

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:38,000

For a dig this huge, Dr. Waziri has brought Muhammad to the mountain.

256

00:13:38,000 --> 00:13:39,000

Two of them, in fact.

257

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:44,000

Renowned archaeologist Dr. Muhammad Al-Saidi and Dr. Muhammad Yusuf.

258

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:46,000

This is off the charts.

259

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:49,000

Look at the colors of these paints.

260

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:54,000

Can you imagine that this is the color of almost 4,000 years old?

261

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:55,000

No.

262

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:56,000

Look at how bright it is.

263

00:13:57,000 --> 00:14:05,000

This is the tomb of a man named Iyaret, who we know from inscriptions was a high official under one of the kings or pharaohs of the Old Kingdom.

264

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:07,000

What is the story?

265

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:17,000

The story is Iyaret, when he came here, he decided to make a tomb even much better and looks nicer than the king himself.

266

00:14:17,000 --> 00:14:18,000

Right.

267

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:19,000

Look at the ceiling.

268

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,000

It goes little bit down and down and down.

269

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:22,000

Exactly the same like...

270

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:24,000

Like the tunnel in the pyramid.

271

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Like the tunnel of the pyramid.

272

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:26,000

Exactly the same.

273

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:33,000

Pyramids were reserved for the divine pharaohs and featured tunnels which sloped down toward a burial chamber.

274

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:35,000

That seems to be copied here.

275

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:41,000

And even the raw materials show strange features that resemble the inside of a royal tomb.

276

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:43,000

Look at the limestone building.

277

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:44,000

Right.

278

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:45,000

These are all slabs of limestone.

279

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:46,000

Oh yes.

280

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:47,000

Look up here.

281

00:14:47,000 --> 00:14:48,000

The ceiling.

282

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:49,000

Yeah.

283

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:50,000

Look at the ceiling.

284

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:51,000

Pink.

285

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:52,000

It gives you the feeling that you are looking at granite.

286

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:53,000

But in fact it's not granite.

287

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:57,000

Oh so this is all still limestone made to look like granite.

288

00:14:57,000 --> 00:14:58,000

Huh?

289

00:14:58,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Wow.

290

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:03,000

Granite was often used to line the burial chambers of the pharaohs.

291

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:06,000

He had to paint it like granite.

292

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:07,000

Right.

293

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:08,000

He wants to be like the pharaoh.

294

00:15:08,000 --> 00:15:10,000

He wants to imitate the pharaoh.

295

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:11,000

Yeah.

296

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:19,000

This bold decision to design the tomb like a royal offers us a potential clue in our investigation into the fall of the Old Kingdom.

297

00:15:19,000 --> 00:15:24,000

It seems that the upper classes at this time are becoming more and more influential.

298

00:15:24,000 --> 00:15:28,000

If we start looking at the hieroglyphic inscriptions everywhere here.

299

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:30,000

Those are very beautiful scenes.

300

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:33,000

Lots of ceremonial vessels.

301

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:34,000

Yes.

302

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:35,000

And food.

303

00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:36,000

This looks like Thanksgiving dinner.

304

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:37,000

Look at this.

305

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:38,000

He's got a big dinner here.

306

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:39,000

Oh yes.

307

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:40,000

Oh yes.

308

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:43,000

So this is all feasting and offerings and lots of food.

309

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:44,000

And then what is this?

310

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:45,000

Facade of the palace.

311

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:47,000

The facade of the palace.

312

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:49,000

And over here more offering vessels.

313

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:50,000

Yeah.

314

00:15:50,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Golden necklaces.

315

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:52,000

The belt.

316

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:53,000

Wow.

317

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:54,000

And now the hieroglyphs.

318

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:56,000

So what is all this?

319

00:15:56,000 --> 00:15:57,000

This is his title.

320

00:15:57,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Samarwa'it Bir'a.

321

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:03,000

It means the soul friend for the king in his palace.

322

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:05,000

The soul friend of the king in his palace.

323

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:06,000

Okay.

324

00:16:06,000 --> 00:16:07,000

That sounds very important.

325

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:09,000

Imira Kintiche.

326

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:11,000

The author of the work of the king.

327

00:16:11,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Overseer of the work of the king.

328

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:14,000

Okay.

329

00:16:14,000 --> 00:16:15,000

Haris Ishtar.

330

00:16:15,000 --> 00:16:16,000

And Nisoud.

331

00:16:16,000 --> 00:16:19,000

The keeper of the king's secrets.

332

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:21,000

Keeper of the king's secrets.

333

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:22,000

Wow.

334

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:23,000

Okay.

335

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:24,000

It means that he was very trustable man of course.

336

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:26,000

In the place of his king.

337

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:27,000

He can stand in for the king.

338

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:28,000

He's that trustworthy.

339

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:29,000

Yes.

340

00:16:29,000 --> 00:16:32,000

It's very bold though to say that you could stand in the place of the king.

341

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:34,000

I mean, it's big talk.

342

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:39,000

I mean he would have to have been a very important person to be able to talk like that, right?

343

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:40,000

Right.

344

00:16:40,000 --> 00:16:47,000

The king in the Yaret's time, roughly 2,800 BCE, was the old kingdom's sixth dynasty pharaoh,

345

00:16:47,000 --> 00:16:48,000

Meron Ra.

346

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:52,000

These tombs sit in the shadow of his ruined pyramid.

347

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:57,000

The fact that these burials are so near to the pyramid of Epheru, a god incarnate,

348

00:16:57,000 --> 00:17:01,000

is evidence that we are excavating the graves of some powerful people.

349

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:08,000

And the decorations inside this tomb indicate that Yaret here wanted to be seen as very powerful indeed.

350

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:14,000

But there is one thing missing from this tomb that might tell us more about how it relates to the fall of the old kingdom.

351

00:17:14,000 --> 00:17:16,000

Yaret himself.

352

00:17:16,000 --> 00:17:18,000

So he was buried down here.

353

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:20,000

This is his burial chamber.

354

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:21,000

It is.

355

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:26,000

When Gaston Maspero initially discovered this tomb over 100 years ago,

356

00:17:26,000 --> 00:17:32,000

it had, like so many other tombs in Egypt, been looted hundreds or thousands of years earlier.

357

00:17:32,000 --> 00:17:36,000

Did Maspero find the body in a sarcophagus here or we don't know?

358

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:39,000

He didn't mention anything about the body or the skeleton.

359

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:44,000

Now, do you think there are other tombs here like this?

360

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:45,000

Yes.

361

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:50,000

During this period, the nobles, they became very strong.

362

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:52,000

So they made a lot of tombs.

363

00:17:52,000 --> 00:17:59,000

I believe that we can find more tombs in this area and probably that we can find more objects inside their own tombs.

364

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:03,000

Because this is the only tomb that was mentioned by Maspero.

365

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:04,000

Right.

366

00:18:04,000 --> 00:18:06,000

But the rest, he didn't mention anything.

367

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:09,000

So who knows what's here. Anything could be here.

368

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Of course.

369

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:17,000

In fact, there's a burial shaft that Dr. Waziri's team is excavating for the first time right now.

370

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:21,000

And it's even closer to Meranrha's pyramid than Iaret.

371

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:23,000

It's only a short walk across the dig site.

372

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:28,000

When we get there, I find that the excavation is still very much a work in progress.

373

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:31,000

Okay, another big burial shaft, yeah?

374

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:32,000

Yes.

375

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:36,000

A couple of days ago, we started our excavations.

376

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:39,000

We found the top of this shaft.

377

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:40,000

This was all filled with sand?

378

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:45,000

Of course, the grease and then we found the collapse of this wall.

379

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:47,000

Look at this. It's all falling apart.

380

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:52,000

These walls, they look solid, but really it's just this crumbly mud brick.

381

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:54,000

It's literally collapsing through to the next shaft.

382

00:18:54,000 --> 00:18:58,000

So it's very risky to continue our digs down there.

383

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:02,000

If we keep digging, this wall will collapse for sure.

384

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:07,000

We're currently about 15 feet underground surrounded by literally tons of sand.

385

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:13,000

The ancient mud-lined walls of these burial shafts can and do collapse on workers.

386

00:19:13,000 --> 00:19:14,000

Okay, so what do we do?

387

00:19:14,000 --> 00:19:18,000

So we have to support the wall and then we're going to continue our digs down there.

388

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:21,000

How much deeper do you think this goes?

389

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:24,000

At least 15, 16 feet.

390

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:25,000

What do you think is down there?

391

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:31,000

I believe that down there, we're going to find something very important.

392

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:33,000

And I can tell you something.

393

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:38,000

Maspero, he did not mention anything about the shaft.

394

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:41,000

So you think there could be an elite burial down here undisturbed?

395

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:43,000

For sure, I'll give you my word.

396

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:44,000

Well, let's fix the wall.

397

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:45,000

We'll do it.

398

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:46,000

Come on.

399

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:47,000

Okay.

400

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:48,000

Let's go.

401

00:19:48,000 --> 00:19:49,000

Yeah.

402

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:50,000

We head topside to make a plan.

403

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:55,000

Luckily, this is an Egyptian dig, which means there is guaranteed to be an army of highly

404

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:59,000

skilled workers who can do, well, just about anything.

405

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:04,000

Step one, dig out the loose sand.

406

00:20:04,000 --> 00:20:10,000

Step two, mortar goes down.

407

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Step three, new bricks.

408

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:22,000

It would be easy to make the mistake of thinking of the workmen at these sites as just manual

409

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:27,000

labor, but the fact is they are the heart and soul of all excavations in Egypt.

410

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Nothing happens without them.

411

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:33,000

In fact, these workers are some of the only people on earth who understand the building

412

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:35,000

techniques of ancient Egypt.

413

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:41,000

They're able to expertly reproduce identical mud brick to patch the walls in no time.

414

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:43,000

Last brick going in.

415

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:49,000

Meanwhile, I've been waiting six weeks to get a bid on fixing a cracked tile in my

416

00:20:49,000 --> 00:20:50,000

bathroom at home.

417

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:52,000

I need these guys.

418

00:20:52,000 --> 00:20:54,000

They're so good.

419

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:59,000

The day is getting late and the mortar will take time to set before it's safe enough to

420

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:00,000

dig deeper.

421

00:21:00,000 --> 00:21:04,000

While we wait, I'm going to continue my investigation into the mysteries of the Old

422

00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:09,000

Kingdom by exploring the biggest tomb in the area, the one that inspired all these other

423

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:12,000

burials to be put here in the first place.

424

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:15,000

This huge rise next to the dig site is No Hill.

425

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:19,000

This was once a pyramid, tomb of the Pharaoh Merinra.

426

00:21:19,000 --> 00:21:25,000

High up at the top of the ruins, I meet renowned Egyptologist Dr. Muhammad Megahed.

427

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:27,000

Dr. Megahed, I presume.

428

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:28,000

Josh Gates.

429

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:29,000

How are you, man?

430

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:30,000

Nice to see you.

431

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:31,000

Dramatic spot.

432

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:32,000

Absolutely.

433

00:21:32,000 --> 00:21:34,000

Okay, so this was a pyramid.

434

00:21:34,000 --> 00:21:35,000

Can you imagine?

435

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:36,000

Not really.

436

00:21:36,000 --> 00:21:37,000

Yeah.

437

00:21:37,000 --> 00:21:38,000

It looks more like a hill.

438

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:42,000

But you have to imagine 4,200 years ago it was a beautiful pyramid.

439

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:47,000

Originally, it was 170 feet tall, cased with beautiful white limestone.

440

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:48,000

So it would have been gleaming.

441

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:49,000

Exactly.

442

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:50,000

What happened?

443

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Time happens.

444

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:53,000

It affects man and monuments.

445

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:54,000

I know.

446

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:56,000

I feel like this pyramid a little bit.

447

00:21:56,000 --> 00:21:59,000

So this was the pyramid of the Pharaoh Merinra.

448

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:00,000

Merinra.

449

00:22:00,000 --> 00:22:03,000

And this pyramid was rediscovered in modern times when?

450

00:22:03,000 --> 00:22:04,000

1881.

451

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:05,000

Maspero.

452

00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:10,000

When Maspero was entering the pyramid, in fact, every pyramid in Saqqara.

453

00:22:10,000 --> 00:22:12,000

And is this where he came in, this big slumped area?

454

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:13,000

Yeah, from the north.

455

00:22:13,000 --> 00:22:15,000

From the north.

456

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:20,000

Like Iarit's tomb, which I saw earlier, Merinra's pyramid was first explored by the

457

00:22:20,000 --> 00:22:24,000

esteemed 19th century Egyptologist Gaston Maspero.

458

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:27,000

What is important, what Maspero found inside the pyramid?

459

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:28,000

The inside isn't collapsed.

460

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:30,000

It's still complete.

461

00:22:30,000 --> 00:22:31,000

Really?

462

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Yes.

463

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:33,000

And what did he find?

464

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:34,000

A great mystery.

465

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:35,000

And is it open?

466

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:37,000

No one has been inside for 20 years.

467

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:38,000

Uh-huh.

468

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:40,000

You want?

469

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:41,000

Can we?

470

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:42,000

Yes.

471

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Really?

472

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:44,000

You are here?

473

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:45,000

I'm here.

474

00:22:45,000 --> 00:22:46,000

I knew I liked you.

475

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:47,000

Come on, let's go.

476

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:49,000

Let's go.

477

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:51,000

We head to the collapsed edge of the pyramid.

478

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:55,000

There, the front door has been dug out from beneath the sands and is being attended by

479

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:59,000

a member of the Saqqara Archaeological Team.

480

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:00,000

We have a door.

481

00:23:00,000 --> 00:23:02,000

A wooden door.

482

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:06,000

I'm not sure which is more impressive, that this has been closed for 20 years or that the

483

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:09,000

site's administrator hasn't lost the keys.

484

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:11,000

Now we have another door.

485

00:23:11,000 --> 00:23:12,000

Door behind the door.

486

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:14,000

And it has seals on it?

487

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:18,000

Here in Egypt, when a tomb is closed, the inspector of antiquities puts his unique seal on the

488

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:20,000

entrance.

489

00:23:20,000 --> 00:23:25,000

It's a living chain of custody for the site.

490

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:28,000

This is a very special door.

491

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:30,000

On this side, it's 2022.

492

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:34,000

But in there, it's 2800 BCE.

493

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:36,000

Let's do this.

494

00:23:36,000 --> 00:23:37,000

Shall we?

495

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:38,000

Let's go.

496

00:23:38,000 --> 00:23:40,000

Let's go.

497

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:42,000

Look at this.

498

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:44,000

This is outrageous.

499

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:52,000

This is perfectly cut.

500

00:23:52,000 --> 00:23:54,000

This is outrageous.

501

00:23:54,000 --> 00:23:59,000

In the desert necropolis of Saqqara, Dr. Mohammed Megaheddinay are the first people in

502

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:04,000

decades to explore the interior of the pyramid of one of the pharaohs of the Old Kingdom,

503

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:06,000

Meran Ra.

504

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:08,000

Give me a little geography here.

505

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:12,000

Where are we other than inside a terrifying collapsed pyramid?

506

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:16,000

This is the second most important place in the pyramid after the burial chamber.

507

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:18,000

The blocking system of the pyramid.

508

00:24:18,000 --> 00:24:19,000

The block?

509

00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:20,000

The doors.

510

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:21,000

Yes.

511

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:22,000

And that's why this is loose.

512

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:23,000

They are lifted up.

513

00:24:23,000 --> 00:24:24,000

This is holding this up.

514

00:24:24,000 --> 00:24:25,000

Yes, and there's reals of them.

515

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:26,000

And we're directly underneath it.

516

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:27,000

Exactly.

517

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:28,000

Why are we here?

518

00:24:28,000 --> 00:24:29,000

It's our best.

519

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:30,000

We could have been here.

520

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:31,000

We could have been here.

521

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:34,000

The more I look at this, the more nerve-wracking it is.

522

00:24:34,000 --> 00:24:36,000

There's like bits of wood holding it up.

523

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:39,000

And it's like this is the security system of the pyramid.

524

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:42,000

It is one of the security system of the pyramid.

525

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:47,000

These huge granite slabs were positioned to fall if the corridor was disturbed, sealing

526

00:24:47,000 --> 00:24:51,000

off the pharaoh's tomb and burying whoever was trying to enter.

527

00:24:51,000 --> 00:24:54,000

They were already down when Maspero entered the pyramid.

528

00:24:54,000 --> 00:25:00,000

So Maspero's team had to somehow lever these back up into the ceiling?

529

00:25:00,000 --> 00:25:01,000

By hand.

530

00:25:01,000 --> 00:25:02,000

They had no machines.

531

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:06,000

They had to lift them up to be able to enter the pyramid.

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00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:12,000

And in here Maspero is looking for something very important, the so-called pyramid text.

533

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:16,000

Pyramid texts are the oldest known religious writing of the ancient Egyptians.

534

00:25:16,000 --> 00:25:22,000

Funerary spells inscribed in the Old Kingdom to help a spirit move from this world to the

535

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:23,000

world of the gods.

536

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:27,000

And until the 19th century, no one had ever seen any.

537

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:32,000

Well Maspero was opening all the pyramids in Saqqara searching for these pyramid texts.

538

00:25:32,000 --> 00:25:37,000

Because prior to opening these pyramids, nobody knew if these things existed, right?

539

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:41,000

Before Maspero, nobody knew that the pyramid text exists.

540

00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:44,000

And did Maspero find pyramid text here?

541

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:45,000

I will show you inside.

542

00:25:45,000 --> 00:25:46,000

Into the darkness.

543

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:47,000

Into the darkness.

544

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Okay, come on.

545

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:53,000

We move deeper under the collapsed pyramid through the tiny corridor of almost certain

546

00:25:53,000 --> 00:25:54,000

death.

547

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:55,000

Unbelievable.

548

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:59,000

Until it opens up to this.

549

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:00,000

Ha!

550

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:01,000

Unbelievable.

551

00:26:01,000 --> 00:26:02,000

Wow.

552

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:03,000

Under the stars.

553

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:09,000

This is the sky of Meridr■.

554

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Look at this.

555

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:12,000

Hundreds of hand-painted stars.

556

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:13,000

And text.

557

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:17,000

Oh, so much text.

558

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:20,000

Absolutely beautiful.

559

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:26,000

Here, sprawling out across the upper walls of the tomb are the so-called pyramid texts.

560

00:26:26,000 --> 00:26:28,000

So this is magic.

561

00:26:28,000 --> 00:26:29,000

Yes.

562

00:26:29,000 --> 00:26:30,000

These are spells.

563

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:32,000

These are incantations, right?

564

00:26:32,000 --> 00:26:37,000

Spells helping him to go to the afterlife, to join the gods, to be one of them actually.

565

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:41,000

The famous book of the dead from the New Kingdom, here is where it starts.

566

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:42,000

Unbelievable.

567

00:26:43,000 --> 00:26:47,500

The inscriptions are a combination of offerings and a kind of instruction manual to help the

568

00:26:47,500 --> 00:26:51,000

spirit of the pharaoh move into their new eternal life.

569

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:56,000

So we've come to the end of this horizontal passageway, so we are where now?

570

00:26:56,000 --> 00:26:58,000

We are in the antechamber of Meridr■.

571

00:26:58,000 --> 00:27:00,000

I love that this is just the antechamber.

572

00:27:00,000 --> 00:27:01,000

Yeah.

573

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:02,000

And through here?

574

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:03,000

Perial chamber.

575

00:27:03,000 --> 00:27:04,000

Can we?

576

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:05,000

You sure?

577

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:08,000

Oh, look at this.

578

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:09,000

More stars.

579

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:10,000

Wow.

580

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:13,000

And a huge sarcophagus.

581

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:17,000

Look at this.

582

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:21,000

And again, we have these incredible inscriptions all over this.

583

00:27:21,000 --> 00:27:23,000

This is the sarcophagus of Meridr■.

584

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:28,000

This is the sarcophagus, and we know it because the name wasn't scribed on the chest and the lid.

585

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:29,000

Here, here, here.

586

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:30,000

Over and over again.

587

00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:31,000

Yes.

588

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:32,000

So this is Meridr■.

589

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:33,000

Yes.

590

00:27:33,000 --> 00:27:35,000

And it is, I'm scared to look, it is empty.

591

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:39,000

Well, it is empty today, but when Masbro was here, it was not empty.

592

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:41,000

Masbro found a mummy here.

593

00:27:41,000 --> 00:27:43,000

Masbro found the mummy inside the sarcophagus here.

594

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:46,000

So he discovered the mummy of Meridr■?

595

00:27:46,000 --> 00:27:47,000

Maybe.

596

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:48,000

Maybe?

597

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:49,000

Why maybe?

598

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Because there is still a great debate about the mummy.

599

00:27:51,000 --> 00:27:52,000

What's the debate?

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00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:59,000

We don't know if it is the mummy of Meridr■, or no, because old pyramids, tombs were looted in the first Intamirid period.

601

00:27:59,000 --> 00:28:03,000

This is part of perhaps the most profound and frustrating mystery of ancient Egypt.

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00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:08,000

After the collapse of the Old Kingdom, in the chaos of the first intermediate period,

603

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:11,000

all Old Kingdom pyramids were looted.

604

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:13,000

The steppe pyramid of Zosir, empty.

605

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:17,000

The great pyramid of Giza, tomb of the Pharaoh Khufu, robbed.

606

00:28:17,000 --> 00:28:19,000

The pyramid of Kafr█, nothing.

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00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:23,000

Same with Sneferu, Menkare, and on and on.

608

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:25,000

All of them looted.

609

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:26,000

Their mummies gone.

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00:28:26,000 --> 00:28:29,000

Their precious artifacts stolen.

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00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:34,000

So all of the treasures that Meridr█ would have taken to the afterlife, Masbro found none of that?

612

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:37,000

Except of the sarcophagus and remains of Jars.

613

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:38,000

And a mummy.

614

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:40,000

And their mummy, maybe.

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00:28:40,000 --> 00:28:43,000

So if it wasn't the king, then who was in the sarcophagus?

616

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:45,000

Maybe it's an intrusive burial.

617

00:28:45,000 --> 00:28:46,000

An intrusive burial.

618

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:50,000

This is a practice where people will come and reuse a tomb, right?

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00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:58,000

It's a huge practice, dated from Middle Kingdom, that people will come back to the pyramids, to the Old Kingdom pyramids, and being buried here.

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00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:01,000

And it was seen as appropriate to do this?

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00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:03,000

It was a common practice for ancient Egyptians.

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00:29:03,000 --> 00:29:11,000

So either this is one of the pharaohs of Egypt, or just somebody using his sarcophagus?

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00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:15,000

Well, if it is Meridre, it will be the only royal mummy we have from the Old Kingdom.

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00:29:15,000 --> 00:29:19,000

That's right. None of the other pharaohs from the Old Kingdom, none of their mummies survived.

625

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:22,000

None of them. None of them. Only Meridre.

626

00:29:22,000 --> 00:29:23,000

Maybe.

627

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:24,000

Maybe.

628

00:29:24,000 --> 00:29:26,000

So where is this mummy? Where did it go?

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00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:30,000

Masbro moved it from here, first to Cairo.

630

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:33,000

And later it was moved from Cairo back to Sakara in a museum.

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00:29:33,000 --> 00:29:34,000

Is it possible to see it?

632

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:36,000

It is possible to see it.

633

00:29:36,000 --> 00:29:38,000

I want to see it.

634

00:29:38,000 --> 00:29:44,000

The mystery of whether the mummy discovered in Meridre's tomb is actually Meridre, is historic,

635

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:50,000

and could teach us about the rulers who consolidated so much power before the Old Kingdom collapsed.

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00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:57,000

Did Masbro discover the only Old Kingdom mummy ever found, or just an ambitious squatter?

637

00:29:57,000 --> 00:30:01,000

The answer may be found in Sakara's Imhotep Museum.

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00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:04,000

Imhotep was Ancient Egypt's most celebrated thinker.

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00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:08,000

He was a doctor, sage, and the architect of the First Pyramid.

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00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:12,000

In fact, Imhotep was one of a select few non-pharaohs,

641

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:15,000

granted the status of a divine figure.

642

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:17,000

So what did we Americans do for him?

643

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:20,000

We turned him into the villain from the mummy.

644

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:25,000

Speaking of mummies, I'm here in these galleries to meet a very special one.

645

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:31,000

Dr. Megahead leads me past the impressive collection to meet Masbro's most mysterious discovery.

646

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:37,000

Here is the mummy that was found in the pyramid.

647

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:42,000

I have to say I'm shocked because it's so well preserved.

648

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:43,000

Yes.

649

00:30:43,000 --> 00:30:45,000

I mean, he looks like he's sleeping.

650

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:47,000

This is why there is such a debate.

651

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:49,000

Right, because he's so well preserved.

652

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Yes, because in Old Kingdom, the main goal to preserve the look of the person,

653

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:56,000

everything is about the preservation of the look.

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00:30:56,000 --> 00:31:00,000

In the Old Kingdom, the goal was for mummies to appear lifelike.

655

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:03,000

But like a funeral parlor today, it was purely cosmetic.

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00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:09,000

The actual body wasn't being treated in a sophisticated way to ensure that it would last over time.

657

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:11,000

And in the New Kingdom, we see this.

658

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:13,000

We see preservation that lasts.

659

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:16,000

Yes. One of the things they start to use is the use of the resin.

660

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:18,000

And that's this dark material, right?

661

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:20,000

It is, yes. This dark material is all resin.

662

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:25,000

This resin is made from the sap of trees and actually preserves the body after death.

663

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:31,000

But it has long been considered a technology that wasn't in use as early as the Old Kingdom.

664

00:31:31,000 --> 00:31:35,000

So there's no evidence of that kind of resin use in the Old Kingdom?

665

00:31:35,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Until now, we didn't find it.

666

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Right. So if the techniques are so advanced here, is it a closed case? It's not marin-raw?

667

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:46,000

Well, I think you have to consider the mummy was found inside the pyramid.

668

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:51,000

The techniques is well advanced and it was the only mummy inside the pyramid.

669

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:54,000

Circumstantially, it seems like it should be him.

670

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:55,000

Exactly.

671

00:31:55,000 --> 00:31:56,000

Alright, so what do we do?

672

00:31:56,000 --> 00:32:01,000

One of the ways to identify him is you can do a 3D scan and we can reconstruct his face.

673

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:03,000

Is that possible to scan him?

674

00:32:03,000 --> 00:32:05,000

It is possible and we're going to do it.

675

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:06,000

We are?

676

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:07,000

Yes.

677

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:08,000

Okay.

678

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:15,000

Not only are we gaining unprecedented access to scan this mummy, but we're about to do it face to face.

679

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:22,000

Specialists from the museum come to open the mummy's case and they prepare to lift away the protective glass.

680

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:24,000

They got the full mission impossible.

681

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:26,000

Here, this is how you climb the building.

682

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:27,000

Yeah.

683

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:35,000

We don masks to prevent us from inhaling any particles from the mummy and to protect the mummy from any moisture from us.

684

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:36,000

Incredible.

685

00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:42,000

Nothing now stands between us and what may be a 4,000 year old pharaoh.

686

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:45,000

It is terrifying and exhilarating.

687

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:48,000

Josh, this is Mark and Megan from Highway Technology.

688

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Nice to meet you.

689

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:54,000

Finally, Dr. Megahead calls in his imaging team to perform a scan of the mummy.

690

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:57,000

Okay, let us get out of your way here and you can set up.

691

00:32:57,000 --> 00:33:01,000

To get maximum resolution, they brought two magic bullets.

692

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:11,000

First, a state of the art Arctech Leo laser scanner, which takes millions of individual images that computer software will then stitch together.

693

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:25,000

Then, to pick up every minute detail of his face and feet, they do a pass with this, the Arctech Space Spider, capable of scanning down to five hundredths of a millimeter.

694

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:28,000

Just missing the very bottom of the back of the skull there.

695

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:30,000

This is amazing.

696

00:33:30,000 --> 00:33:35,000

4,000 years ago, the techniques used to create this mummy were cutting edge technology.

697

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:39,000

Now, the new state of the art is being used to scan it.

698

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:41,000

Okay, should we take a look?

699

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:42,000

Yeah, yeah, we can.

700

00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:46,000

Look at this.

701

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:48,000

It's unbelievable.

702

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:49,000

It's perfect.

703

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:58,000

Wow, it's all there.

704

00:33:58,000 --> 00:33:59,000

It's incredible.

705

00:33:59,000 --> 00:34:06,000

In Egypt's Imhotep Museum, I've just helped to scan what may be the oldest Egyptian pharaoh ever discovered.

706

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:12,000

If so, it would be a historic find since no old kingdom mummy has ever been found.

707

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:13,000

It's unbelievable.

708

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:14,000

It's perfect.

709

00:34:15,000 --> 00:34:17,000

We've got all the features here.

710

00:34:18,000 --> 00:34:19,000

We can even see the teeth.

711

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:23,000

And this dark material, this is this resin.

712

00:34:23,000 --> 00:34:24,000

This is resin.

713

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:26,000

This dark material on the face, they are resin.

714

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:28,000

Resin we shouldn't have in the old kingdom.

715

00:34:28,000 --> 00:34:29,000

No.

716

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:30,000

Right?

717

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:31,000

No.

718

00:34:31,000 --> 00:34:36,000

This resin either means the mummy was made later when preservation techniques were more advanced.

719

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:42,000

Or it means the old kingdom possessed mummification technology that was way ahead of its time.

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00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:47,000

We will combine all the data to form one 3D model and we will send it to you.

721

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:48,000

Amazing.

722

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:49,000

You guys are awesome.

723

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:50,000

Thank you.

724

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:51,000

Great job.

725

00:34:51,000 --> 00:34:52,000

Thank you.

726

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:58,000

Our plan is to compare these scans to mummies from different periods to determine the true age of our mummy.

727

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:00,000

Alright, Mr. Mabee in 3D.

728

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Well, very soon he will not be Mabee anymore.

729

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:04,000

That's right, we're going to crack the case.

730

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:05,000

Yeah.

731

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:06,000

Okay.

732

00:35:06,000 --> 00:35:10,000

Imaging experts knit together our digital mummy for continued investigation.

733

00:35:10,000 --> 00:35:12,000

We race back to the dig site.

734

00:35:12,000 --> 00:35:16,000

I've received word that the mortar has set in the large burial shaft.

735

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:23,000

We hope it contains a prominent tomb that might help unlock the secrets of the old kingdom's collapse.

736

00:35:24,000 --> 00:35:26,000

Okay, so what's under our feet here?

737

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:28,000

It is a mystery.

738

00:35:28,000 --> 00:35:30,000

We don't know exactly underneath.

739

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:32,000

The only way to know to move the sand.

740

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:34,000

Okay, well, looks like we have a lot of sand to move.

741

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:35,000

Yes.

742

00:35:35,000 --> 00:35:38,000

In order to dig deeper, this site has its own secret.

743

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:40,000

A secret weapon that is.

744

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Meet Mustafa.

745

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:47,000

Mustafa is the dig foreman and one of the best in the business.

746

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:59,000

He keeps the digging team motivated through a combination of camaraderie, singing, screaming,

747

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:02,000

and whatever else it takes to shift the sand.

748

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:03,000

See what I mean?

749

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:05,000

Okay, so what now?

750

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:07,000

We bring in the tombora.

751

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:09,000

Okay, let's bring in the tombora.

752

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:18,000

To explore deeper into the shaft to see if it contains a tomb, they need to empty tons of sand.

753

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:23,000

To do that, the team assembles a basket and winch system called a tombora.

754

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:27,000

This technology is used to help the team to find the tombora.

755

00:36:27,000 --> 00:36:30,000

This technology is as old as the pharaohs.

756

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:35,000

It's possible that tombras like this were even used in the construction of these tombs.

757

00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:36,000

Tombora.

758

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:39,000

Once it's up and running, they need to test it.

759

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:40,000

Well, somebody does.

760

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:41,000

This is a proof?

761

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:42,000

Rehearsal.

762

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:49,000

Okay, I like that the rehearsal is just sending a human being into it to see what happens.

763

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:50,000

Yeah, it's good.

764

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:51,000

It's a good rehearsal.

765

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:52,000

Yes.

766

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:54,000

We're going to make a rehearsal.

767

00:36:55,000 --> 00:36:57,000

All right.

768

00:36:57,000 --> 00:36:59,000

Okay, you're alive.

769

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:03,000

The tombora seems stable, so they nail the timber in place.

770

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:10,000

Okay, you ready for me?

771

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:11,000

Yes.

772

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:12,000

How many baskets you got there for me?

773

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:13,000

Two baskets.

774

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:14,000

Two baskets?

775

00:37:14,000 --> 00:37:15,000

Yes.

776

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Okay, we ready?

777

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:20,000

Yes.

778

00:37:20,000 --> 00:37:21,000

Okay, here we go guys.

779

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:22,000

You are very good.

780

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:26,000

I step into a basket that's just hooked onto an old rope.

781

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:31,000

Not exactly safety first, but hey, nobody said exploration was going to be dull.

782

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:32,000

I'm alive.

783

00:37:32,000 --> 00:37:33,000

Good.

784

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:34,000

Here we go.

785

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:35,000

Good, good.

786

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:37,000

Okay, let's get to work.

787

00:37:37,000 --> 00:37:40,000

Rule number one is if you're in the shaft, you're working.

788

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:42,000

Time to move some sand.

789

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:48,000

I'm working at what I think is a pretty good pace.

790

00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:50,000

Others appear to disagree.

791

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:52,000

Okay, okay.

792

00:37:52,000 --> 00:37:53,000

Let's go.

793

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:57,000

We dig.

794

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:01,000

And dig.

795

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:02,000

Let's go, guys.

796

00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:03,000

Yeah.

797

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:04,000

Let's go, guys.

798

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:05,000

Let's go.

799

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,000

When do we get a break?

800

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:08,000

No break, Jacques.

801

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:09,000

No break.

802

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:10,000

No break.

803

00:38:10,000 --> 00:38:11,000

No break.

804

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:12,000

No break.

805

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:13,000

Great, okay.

806

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:14,000

Who needs a break?

807

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:15,000

Oh my word.

808

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:19,000

Basket by basket, we get deeper in the shaft.

809

00:38:21,000 --> 00:38:28,000

First I thought it was crazy, this dude's working in socks, but my shoes are entirely filled with sand already.

810

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:30,000

He's the smart one.

811

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:31,000

What?

812

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:32,000

What?

813

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:34,000

Yalla, yalla, it's all you do is yalla, yalla.

814

00:38:34,000 --> 00:38:39,000

My dad always said that if you want to make a task fun, turn it into a game.

815

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:41,000

We didn't say start yet!

816

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:46,000

The other workmen and I decide to have a little race, which I lose.

817

00:38:46,000 --> 00:38:48,000

This is ****.

818

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:50,000

That guy cheated, that was a false start.

819

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:52,000

So I go double or nothing.

820

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:54,000

Okay, wait.

821

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:59,000

You're trying to put stuff in before we start, because you're scared, because you're nervous.

822

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:00,000

Ready?

823

00:39:00,000 --> 00:39:01,000

Go.

824

00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:07,000

Oh my god.

825

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:08,000

No!

826

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:09,000

No!

827

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:11,000

He still beat me!

828

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:13,000

I cheated and he still beat me.

829

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:14,000

I want him out of here.

830

00:39:14,000 --> 00:39:17,000

I want this guy out of here.

831

00:39:17,000 --> 00:39:20,000

The work continues less competitively than before.

832

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:25,000

The shaft gets deeper and deeper and deeper.

833

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:31,000

Until at long last, we strike gold.

834

00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Oh, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, here.

835

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:38,000

Hold on, we might have something.

836

00:39:39,000 --> 00:39:40,000

Yeah!

837

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:42,000

It goes back!

838

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:44,000

Yes, we got an opening!

839

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:50,000

It goes back!

840

00:39:50,000 --> 00:39:52,000

We got an opening!

841

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:54,000

Muhammad El Sayedi!

842

00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:55,000

I will come.

843

00:39:55,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Come down!

844

00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:07,000

In the shadow of Meranrha's pyramid, 25 feet down a burial shaft, archaeologist Muhammad El Sayedi and I have discovered what appears to be a burial vault from the time of Egypt's Old Kingdom.

845

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:09,000

Look at this.

846

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:10,000

Can you see back?

847

00:40:11,000 --> 00:40:13,000

It's the beginning of the vault.

848

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:16,000

The vault is in a good condition.

849

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:18,000

The ceiling looks intact.

850

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Yes, it seems intact.

851

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:21,000

And it's pretty deep.

852

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:22,000

Yes.

853

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:23,000

Look how far back that goes.

854

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:26,000

Do you think this is like Eonet's tomb, where this is just an upper chamber?

855

00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:27,000

Upper chamber.

856

00:40:27,000 --> 00:40:28,000

It's the same model of this.

857

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:31,000

So, upper chamber and there should be limestone blocks at the bottom of this?

858

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:32,000

Yes.

859

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:33,000

And then the burial vault?

860

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Then the burial chamber started.

861

00:40:34,000 --> 00:40:36,000

But this one seems intact.

862

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:37,000

You think this is intact?

863

00:40:37,000 --> 00:40:38,000

Yes.

864

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:40,000

See how soft the fill?

865

00:40:40,000 --> 00:40:42,000

Yes, it's undisturbed, right?

866

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Yes, it's a good indication.

867

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:45,000

It's still intact.

868

00:40:45,000 --> 00:40:46,000

Great starting.

869

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Great start.

870

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:48,000

Great start.

871

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:50,000

I've been digging for f*****g hours.

872

00:40:50,000 --> 00:40:51,000

Start.

873

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:54,000

We need to dig deeper.

874

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:56,000

Yes, yes, we need to dig deeper.

875

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:57,000

Come on, let's go.

876

00:41:00,000 --> 00:41:06,000

Muhammad ascends to observe from above and make room for the workers to continue clearing the shaft.

877

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:10,000

After finding the vault, however, the work feels a lot easier.

878

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Oh, hey, hey, hey, ho, ho!

879

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:18,000

Look at this.

880

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:21,000

So here we have what might be part of a false door.

881

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:26,000

We have decoration here that's painted and you can see hieroglyphs right here.

882

00:41:26,000 --> 00:41:28,000

Look at this.

883

00:41:28,000 --> 00:41:31,000

Oh, hey, hey, hey, down here.

884

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:32,000

This is amazing.

885

00:41:32,000 --> 00:41:35,000

I can't breathe my eyes.

886

00:41:35,000 --> 00:41:37,000

Hey, can we get a brush down here?

887

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:38,000

Brush?

888

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:40,000

Here we have another one of these offering tables.

889

00:41:40,000 --> 00:41:52,000

So this would have sat usually in a chapel outside of a tomb and family could come and bring oil or water and fill these small channels here as an offering to the deceased.

890

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:57,000

It shows you also that these tombs, they're not just about the dead, they're also about the living, right?

891

00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:04,000

We have people coming to these tombs making offerings, connecting the world of the living to the world of the dead.

892

00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:05,000

Amazing.

893

00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:10,000

This is all so exciting. Time seems to just fly by, which apparently it has.

894

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:12,000

I've missed a union break.

895

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:17,000

Wait a minute, where the hell did you guys get hot tea from?

896

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:19,000

How did I miss tea time?

897

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:21,000

Unbelievable.

898

00:42:21,000 --> 00:42:22,000

Are there scones?

899

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:23,000

Yes.

900

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:24,000

Is there anything nice?

901

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:26,000

It's too late now.

902

00:42:26,000 --> 00:42:28,000

All right.

903

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:30,000

Look at that.

904

00:42:31,000 --> 00:42:35,000

Dozens of buckets of sand still need to be lifted out of the shaft.

905

00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:44,000

While the work continues, the archaeologist tells me that across the dig site, a new section of the ancient cemetery has just yielded up another clue from the Old Kingdom.

906

00:42:44,000 --> 00:42:49,000

I ascend to the surface and then head over to see what the workers have found.

907

00:42:50,000 --> 00:42:52,000

We have some buzzer here.

908

00:42:52,000 --> 00:42:54,000

Wow.

909

00:42:54,000 --> 00:42:56,000

Look at that.

910

00:42:56,000 --> 00:42:58,000

It's quite close to the surface.

911

00:42:58,000 --> 00:42:59,000

Yes.

912

00:42:59,000 --> 00:43:01,000

Look at that.

913

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:04,000

Will you give me that trowel?

914

00:43:04,000 --> 00:43:06,000

Yeah.

915

00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:10,000

We delicately sift through the sand and are quickly rewarded.

916

00:43:10,000 --> 00:43:12,000

Another vessel right here.

917

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:17,000

I heard another voice here.

918

00:43:17,000 --> 00:43:18,000

Oh, another one.

919

00:43:18,000 --> 00:43:19,000

Yes.

920

00:43:19,000 --> 00:43:20,000

Ah!

921

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:23,000

So it looks like another piece of ceramic right here.

922

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:24,000

Yes.

923

00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:29,000

As the finds pile up, Dr. Mohamed Yusuf joins us to examine the pottery.

924

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:30,000

Another vessel.

925

00:43:30,000 --> 00:43:31,000

Another one.

926

00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:32,000

Another one.

927

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:33,000

Another one.

928

00:43:33,000 --> 00:43:34,000

Yes.

929

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:35,000

More?

930

00:43:35,000 --> 00:43:36,000

Oh, another one here.

931

00:43:36,000 --> 00:43:37,000

Right there.

932

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:38,000

Yes.

933

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:39,000

Right underneath you.

934

00:43:39,000 --> 00:43:40,000

Another one here.

935

00:43:40,000 --> 00:43:41,000

And here.

936

00:43:41,000 --> 00:43:42,000

Ah!

937

00:43:42,000 --> 00:43:43,000

Come on.

938

00:43:43,000 --> 00:43:45,000

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

939

00:43:45,000 --> 00:43:47,000

Eight vessels here.

940

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:48,000

Until now.

941

00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:49,000

Nine.

942

00:43:49,000 --> 00:43:54,000

This is a remarkable amount of ceramic vessels concentrated in such a small space.

943

00:43:54,000 --> 00:44:00,000

So like we saw on the walls of Iret's tomb, we have these ceremonial vessels, these offerings.

944

00:44:00,000 --> 00:44:03,000

So these could have had all sorts of things in them, right?

945

00:44:03,000 --> 00:44:05,000

This shape just only for beer.

946

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:06,000

For beer?

947

00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:07,000

Yes.

948

00:44:07,000 --> 00:44:09,000

We found the beer reserves.

949

00:44:09,000 --> 00:44:11,000

The ancient Egyptians didn't invent beer.

950

00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:13,000

That was the Sumerians.

951

00:44:13,000 --> 00:44:14,000

But they may have perfected it.

952

00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:17,000

In fact, it was often cleaner than local water.

953

00:44:17,000 --> 00:44:22,000

It was also considered a gift from the gods, specifically Osiris.

954

00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:26,000

Because of this, it was a preferred offering to the dead.

955

00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:27,000

Another one here.

956

00:44:27,000 --> 00:44:30,000

More and more and more.

957

00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:31,000

Another one.

958

00:44:31,000 --> 00:44:33,000

So I count more than 40 vessels now.

959

00:44:33,000 --> 00:44:35,000

Also, I think we still had more.

960

00:44:35,000 --> 00:44:36,000

Underneath?

961

00:44:36,000 --> 00:44:37,000

Yes.

962

00:44:37,000 --> 00:44:38,000

Wow.

963

00:44:38,000 --> 00:44:42,000

Okay, so this is an offering, but this is no simple offering.

964

00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:43,000

This is huge.

965

00:44:43,000 --> 00:44:44,000

Big offering.

966

00:44:44,000 --> 00:44:47,000

An offering of this size is almost ostentatious.

967

00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:53,000

It shows that the elite officials buried here wanted to be seen by the gods as extremely wealthy,

968

00:44:53,000 --> 00:44:56,000

and therefore extremely powerful.

969

00:44:56,000 --> 00:45:00,000

So whoever's tomb this is for, this is someone who really liked beer.

970

00:45:00,000 --> 00:45:01,000

Yes.

971

00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:02,000

He's stocking up.

972

00:45:02,000 --> 00:45:03,000

Yes.

973

00:45:03,000 --> 00:45:04,000

It's amazing.

974

00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:05,000

Yes.

975

00:45:05,000 --> 00:45:07,000

The real question though is whether any of these are still cold.

976

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:09,000

I'm so thirsty.

977

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:15,000

The beer offering is a sensational find, and in a beautiful state of preservation.

978

00:45:15,000 --> 00:45:19,000

The team continues excavating around it as the sun begins to set.

979

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:32,000

By the time it rises once again, I return only to be amazed by how the site has changed overnight.

980

00:45:37,000 --> 00:45:38,000

Wow, look at this.

981

00:45:38,000 --> 00:45:39,000

Yes.

982

00:45:39,000 --> 00:45:40,000

It's changed here.

983

00:45:40,000 --> 00:45:41,000

Sure.

984

00:45:41,000 --> 00:45:42,000

Is this a shaft?

985

00:45:42,000 --> 00:45:43,000

Here.

986

00:45:43,000 --> 00:45:44,000

Yes.

987

00:45:44,000 --> 00:45:45,000

And here.

988

00:45:45,000 --> 00:45:46,000

Yes.

989

00:45:46,000 --> 00:45:47,000

Okay, so hold on.

990

00:45:47,000 --> 00:45:50,000

Let's talk about this for a second, because when we started talking, we were standing up here.

991

00:45:50,000 --> 00:45:51,000

Yes.

992

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:52,000

Right?

993

00:45:52,000 --> 00:45:53,000

It's a progress of the work.

994

00:45:53,000 --> 00:45:55,000

And so we have our big beer offering we found here.

995

00:45:55,000 --> 00:45:57,000

That's right up against this shaft.

996

00:45:57,000 --> 00:46:00,000

Do we think this offering is for this person?

997

00:46:00,000 --> 00:46:02,000

Yes, because it's very near to him.

998

00:46:02,000 --> 00:46:03,000

Right.

999

00:46:03,000 --> 00:46:07,000

But it also could be for both of them, because they should be buried for both of the family.

1000

00:46:07,000 --> 00:46:08,000

So this could be a family.

1001

00:46:08,000 --> 00:46:09,000

Yes.

1002

00:46:09,000 --> 00:46:10,000

They could be connected.

1003

00:46:10,000 --> 00:46:11,000

Yes.

1004

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:12,000

Sort of like a family plot here.

1005

00:46:12,000 --> 00:46:13,000

Yes.

1006

00:46:13,000 --> 00:46:17,000

This whole corner of the site would likely have been beneath a single family's mastaba,

1007

00:46:17,000 --> 00:46:19,000

a mud brick structure above the tomb.

1008

00:46:19,000 --> 00:46:24,000

The beer vessels we uncovered yesterday would have been left as an offering sitting above

1009

00:46:24,000 --> 00:46:26,000

the burial shafts.

1010

00:46:26,000 --> 00:46:30,000

Based on what we've already found here, the family who built this tomb was definitely

1011

00:46:30,000 --> 00:46:31,000

well off.

1012

00:46:31,000 --> 00:46:34,000

This is prime real estate, right next to Marin Rospyramid.

1013

00:46:34,000 --> 00:46:35,000

Yes.

1014

00:46:35,000 --> 00:46:36,000

Okay.

1015

00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:38,000

We're going to show you something here.

1016

00:46:38,000 --> 00:46:39,000

Okay.

1017

00:46:39,000 --> 00:46:46,000

Here we keep these part without digging, because one of our workers called us and a small

1018

00:46:46,000 --> 00:46:50,000

part of a piece of wood started to appear here.

1019

00:46:50,000 --> 00:46:51,000

So there's something wooden here.

1020

00:46:51,000 --> 00:46:52,000

Yes.

1021

00:46:52,000 --> 00:46:54,000

Also against the burial shaft like the beer.

1022

00:46:54,000 --> 00:46:55,000

Yes.

1023

00:46:55,000 --> 00:46:57,000

Okay, interesting.

1024

00:46:57,000 --> 00:47:02,000

Interesting doesn't begin to cover it as we learn once we clear away the sand.

1025

00:47:02,000 --> 00:47:03,000

Yes.

1026

00:47:03,000 --> 00:47:05,000

Something there.

1027

00:47:05,000 --> 00:47:06,000

Is that wood right there?

1028

00:47:06,000 --> 00:47:07,000

Yes.

1029

00:47:07,000 --> 00:47:08,000

Yes.

1030

00:47:08,000 --> 00:47:09,000

That's wood.

1031

00:47:09,000 --> 00:47:10,000

Starting the food.

1032

00:47:10,000 --> 00:47:11,000

What is it?

1033

00:47:11,000 --> 00:47:17,000

It's against the wall.

1034

00:47:17,000 --> 00:47:18,000

It's up against the wall.

1035

00:47:18,000 --> 00:47:19,000

Yes.

1036

00:47:19,000 --> 00:47:20,000

Yeah.

1037

00:47:20,000 --> 00:47:23,000

Is it a container?

1038

00:47:23,000 --> 00:47:24,000

Yes.

1039

00:47:24,000 --> 00:47:25,000

A coffin.

1040

00:47:25,000 --> 00:47:26,000

Box or coffin.

1041

00:47:26,000 --> 00:47:27,000

Coffin.

1042

00:47:27,000 --> 00:47:32,000

Could be a baby one.

1043

00:47:32,000 --> 00:47:33,000

Look at that.

1044

00:47:33,000 --> 00:47:35,000

Look, Josh, it's had a V-shaped roof.

1045

00:47:35,000 --> 00:47:36,000

Oh, it does?

1046

00:47:36,000 --> 00:47:37,000

Yes.

1047

00:47:37,000 --> 00:47:38,000

I think that is a coffin.

1048

00:47:38,000 --> 00:47:39,000

Yes.

1049

00:47:39,000 --> 00:47:49,000

This is insane.

1050

00:47:49,000 --> 00:47:51,000

Look at this.

1051

00:47:51,000 --> 00:47:55,500

Exploring near the surface of a newly discovered burial shaft, we may have just found a coffin

1052

00:47:55,500 --> 00:47:57,000

that's thousands of years old.

1053

00:47:57,000 --> 00:48:00,000

I think this is in the front of another side.

1054

00:48:00,000 --> 00:48:01,000

Here.

1055

00:48:01,000 --> 00:48:02,000

You got the other edge?

1056

00:48:02,000 --> 00:48:05,000

And here's the back here?

1057

00:48:05,000 --> 00:48:06,000

Yes.

1058

00:48:06,000 --> 00:48:08,000

Josh, see, it's sealed.

1059

00:48:08,000 --> 00:48:09,000

Yes, it is.

1060

00:48:09,000 --> 00:48:10,000

Yes.

1061

00:48:10,000 --> 00:48:12,000

It means the human remains.

1062

00:48:12,000 --> 00:48:14,000

It's well preserved.

1063

00:48:14,000 --> 00:48:15,000

It's small.

1064

00:48:15,000 --> 00:48:17,000

Is it a, you think it's a baby coffin?

1065

00:48:17,000 --> 00:48:18,000

Yes.

1066

00:48:18,000 --> 00:48:20,000

The measurement could be a baby coffin.

1067

00:48:20,000 --> 00:48:23,000

Later period than the burial shaft here?

1068

00:48:23,000 --> 00:48:24,000

Someone added this, you think?

1069

00:48:24,000 --> 00:48:25,000

Yes.

1070

00:48:25,000 --> 00:48:26,000

Yes.

1071

00:48:27,000 --> 00:48:31,400

Considering this coffin is pushed up against the outside of the rich old kingdom burial

1072

00:48:31,400 --> 00:48:37,000

shaft and beer offering, this was likely added after the mysterious collapse of the old kingdom.

1073

00:48:37,000 --> 00:48:42,000

This child's family would have wanted to have an afterlife for their offspring though.

1074

00:48:42,000 --> 00:48:46,000

So if they couldn't build a tomb, they'd use the edge of someone else's.

1075

00:48:46,000 --> 00:48:49,000

Do you want to take this all the way down?

1076

00:48:49,000 --> 00:48:50,000

Yes.

1077

00:48:50,000 --> 00:48:51,000

Okay.

1078

00:48:52,000 --> 00:48:55,000

Be careful.

1079

00:48:55,000 --> 00:48:56,000

Yeah.

1080

00:48:59,000 --> 00:49:02,000

The desert winds begin kicking up.

1081

00:49:02,000 --> 00:49:06,000

So the workers start to move their operation into a nearby tent.

1082

00:49:06,000 --> 00:49:10,000

The rest of us though, find good reasons to stay outside.

1083

00:49:10,000 --> 00:49:11,000

Look.

1084

00:49:11,000 --> 00:49:12,000

Look Josh.

1085

00:49:12,000 --> 00:49:14,000

Oh my God.

1086

00:49:14,000 --> 00:49:15,000

It's gold.

1087

00:49:15,000 --> 00:49:16,000

Yes.

1088

00:49:16,000 --> 00:49:18,000

Part of a necklace?

1089

00:49:18,000 --> 00:49:19,000

Yeah.

1090

00:49:19,000 --> 00:49:20,000

Yes.

1091

00:49:20,000 --> 00:49:22,000

Inlaid with something.

1092

00:49:22,000 --> 00:49:23,000

Interesting.

1093

00:49:28,000 --> 00:49:29,000

What is that?

1094

00:49:29,000 --> 00:49:30,000

Yes.

1095

00:49:30,000 --> 00:49:31,000

What's...

1096

00:49:33,000 --> 00:49:34,000

Something here?

1097

00:49:38,000 --> 00:49:39,000

Okay.

1098

00:49:39,000 --> 00:49:40,000

Hold on.

1099

00:49:42,000 --> 00:49:43,000

Got it?

1100

00:49:43,000 --> 00:49:44,000

Tomovius.

1101

00:49:44,000 --> 00:49:45,000

Ready?

1102

00:49:45,000 --> 00:49:46,000

Yes.

1103

00:49:46,000 --> 00:49:47,000

It's yours.

1104

00:49:47,000 --> 00:49:48,000

You got it?

1105

00:49:48,000 --> 00:49:49,000

Yes.

1106

00:49:49,000 --> 00:49:50,000

Okay.

1107

00:49:52,000 --> 00:49:53,000

Good, good, good.

1108

00:49:53,000 --> 00:49:54,000

Good, good, good.

1109

00:49:54,000 --> 00:49:55,000

Good.

1110

00:49:55,000 --> 00:49:56,000

Dad, look at the lines on it.

1111

00:49:56,000 --> 00:49:57,000

Tainted.

1112

00:49:57,000 --> 00:49:58,000

Yes.

1113

00:49:58,000 --> 00:49:59,000

See that?

1114

00:49:59,000 --> 00:50:00,000

Yes.

1115

00:50:00,000 --> 00:50:01,000

Wow.

1116

00:50:01,000 --> 00:50:04,000

We try to keep it in the tent because it's...

1117

00:50:04,000 --> 00:50:06,000

This wind, it's not good for it.

1118

00:50:06,000 --> 00:50:07,000

Unbelievable.

1119

00:50:07,000 --> 00:50:09,000

Look at these painted lines on the side.

1120

00:50:09,000 --> 00:50:10,000

It's absolutely beautiful.

1121

00:50:10,000 --> 00:50:12,000

Yes, this is what the new kingdom.

1122

00:50:12,000 --> 00:50:17,000

So this vase, hundreds of years newer than the burial shaft, was probably meant to accompany

1123

00:50:17,000 --> 00:50:20,000

the child's coffin into the afterlife.

1124

00:50:22,000 --> 00:50:23,000

Something else.

1125

00:50:23,000 --> 00:50:24,000

Basket, basket.

1126

00:50:24,000 --> 00:50:25,000

Yeah.

1127

00:50:25,000 --> 00:50:26,000

Is it woven?

1128

00:50:26,000 --> 00:50:27,000

Yeah.

1129

00:50:27,000 --> 00:50:28,000

Oh, yes.

1130

00:50:28,000 --> 00:50:29,000

A basket.

1131

00:50:29,000 --> 00:50:30,000

Basket.

1132

00:50:30,000 --> 00:50:31,000

Oh, my God.

1133

00:50:34,000 --> 00:50:35,000

Oh.

1134

00:50:35,000 --> 00:50:36,000

Wow.

1135

00:50:41,000 --> 00:50:42,000

Incredible.

1136

00:50:42,000 --> 00:50:49,000

Something this delicate, handmade, you can just see the craftsmanship of it.

1137

00:50:49,000 --> 00:50:50,000

I think this is a top.

1138

00:50:50,000 --> 00:50:51,000

It's still preserved.

1139

00:50:51,000 --> 00:50:52,000

This is a base and this is a lid.

1140

00:50:52,000 --> 00:50:53,000

Yes.

1141

00:50:53,000 --> 00:50:54,000

Should we get it inside?

1142

00:50:54,000 --> 00:50:55,000

Yes.

1143

00:50:55,000 --> 00:50:56,000

Let's get it inside out of the wind.

1144

00:50:56,000 --> 00:50:57,000

Mm.

1145

00:50:59,000 --> 00:51:02,000

As you can hear, the wind is just howling now.

1146

00:51:02,000 --> 00:51:07,000

So it's a bit of a race to remove these objects and get them out of the wind into the tent.

1147

00:51:08,000 --> 00:51:13,000

The team brings in straps and a stretcher to quickly and carefully raise the coffin

1148

00:51:13,000 --> 00:51:15,000

and carry it to the safety of the tent.

1149

00:51:17,000 --> 00:51:18,000

You're going to do a third strap?

1150

00:51:18,000 --> 00:51:19,000

Yes.

1151

00:51:20,000 --> 00:51:22,000

Up, up, up, up.

1152

00:51:24,000 --> 00:51:25,000

Down.

1153

00:51:25,000 --> 00:51:26,000

Good.

1154

00:51:26,000 --> 00:51:27,000

Good.

1155

00:51:27,000 --> 00:51:28,000

Good.

1156

00:51:28,000 --> 00:51:30,000

Mesh, mesh.

1157

00:51:30,000 --> 00:51:33,000

Josh, you can be one of the holders.

1158

00:51:33,000 --> 00:51:34,000

Here, I'll take this.

1159

00:51:34,000 --> 00:51:35,000

Here you go.

1160

00:51:36,000 --> 00:51:37,000

Huh.

1161

00:51:46,000 --> 00:51:48,000

Watch out, watch out, come on.

1162

00:51:48,000 --> 00:51:53,000

It's a bizarre feeling to be Paul Bearer for a child who died thousands of years earlier.

1163

00:51:54,000 --> 00:51:56,000

Now he is in the safe place.

1164

00:52:00,000 --> 00:52:01,000

All right.

1165

00:52:01,000 --> 00:52:03,000

Out of the wind.

1166

00:52:03,000 --> 00:52:04,000

Yes.

1167

00:52:04,000 --> 00:52:08,000

In the storm, we have a safe facility to examine the coffin.

1168

00:52:08,000 --> 00:52:13,000

We don masks to protect against inhaling ancient spores or dust.

1169

00:52:13,000 --> 00:52:15,000

Up, up, up.

1170

00:52:15,000 --> 00:52:16,000

Up.

1171

00:52:17,000 --> 00:52:18,000

Oh.

1172

00:52:18,000 --> 00:52:19,000

Oh.

1173

00:52:19,000 --> 00:52:20,000

My word.

1174

00:52:20,000 --> 00:52:21,000

Careful.

1175

00:52:24,000 --> 00:52:27,000

So here we have an individual.

1176

00:52:27,000 --> 00:52:31,000

Looks like a really bad state of preservation, yeah?

1177

00:52:31,000 --> 00:52:32,000

The moisture, yes.

1178

00:52:32,000 --> 00:52:34,000

Yeah, water got in here, it looks like.

1179

00:52:34,000 --> 00:52:36,000

Look at the sign on the wall of the coffin.

1180

00:52:36,000 --> 00:52:37,000

Yes.

1181

00:52:38,000 --> 00:52:40,000

It's laying in his side.

1182

00:52:40,000 --> 00:52:42,000

Look at the...

1183

00:52:43,000 --> 00:52:47,000

Also in some cases like this, we try to have some of a small amulet.

1184

00:52:47,000 --> 00:52:48,000

It's...

1185

00:52:48,000 --> 00:52:49,000

What's that?

1186

00:52:50,000 --> 00:52:51,000

Oh.

1187

00:52:51,000 --> 00:52:52,000

What is that?

1188

00:52:52,000 --> 00:52:53,000

It's something.

1189

00:52:53,000 --> 00:52:54,000

Is it a bee?

1190

00:52:54,000 --> 00:52:55,000

Look at it.

1191

00:52:55,000 --> 00:52:56,000

A ring.

1192

00:52:56,000 --> 00:52:57,000

An earring?

1193

00:52:57,000 --> 00:52:58,000

An earring.

1194

00:52:58,000 --> 00:52:59,000

Yes.

1195

00:52:59,000 --> 00:53:00,000

Should be another one and another sign.

1196

00:53:00,000 --> 00:53:01,000

What kind of?

1197

00:53:01,000 --> 00:53:02,000

A bridge.

1198

00:53:02,000 --> 00:53:03,000

Usually, ivory.

1199

00:53:03,000 --> 00:53:04,000

Ivory.

1200

00:53:04,000 --> 00:53:05,000

Ivory.

1201

00:53:07,000 --> 00:53:10,000

So now, we think we have a girl.

1202

00:53:10,000 --> 00:53:12,000

We have a girl here.

1203

00:53:12,000 --> 00:53:15,000

The earrings suggest that the mummy is that of a young girl.

1204

00:53:15,000 --> 00:53:21,000

If I were superstitious, I'd say the wind raging outside suggests she's feeling restless.

1205

00:53:24,000 --> 00:53:28,000

I mean, right as we open this, it's like a storm is kicking up.

1206

00:53:28,000 --> 00:53:29,000

Yes.

1207

00:53:29,000 --> 00:53:30,000

Should I be worried?

1208

00:53:30,000 --> 00:53:31,000

No, none of them might.

1209

00:53:31,000 --> 00:53:33,000

I've seen this movie before.

1210

00:53:33,000 --> 00:53:35,000

I know how this ends.

1211

00:53:36,000 --> 00:53:38,000

Fortunately, the tent seems to be holding.

1212

00:53:41,000 --> 00:53:42,000

Look at this.

1213

00:53:42,000 --> 00:53:43,000

Look at this.

1214

00:53:43,000 --> 00:53:44,000

Scrub or necklace.

1215

00:53:44,000 --> 00:53:45,000

Oh, all these are beads.

1216

00:53:45,000 --> 00:53:46,000

Yes.

1217

00:53:46,000 --> 00:53:47,000

This is a whole necklace right there.

1218

00:53:47,000 --> 00:53:48,000

Yes.

1219

00:53:48,000 --> 00:53:51,000

You can see all these individual beads.

1220

00:53:51,000 --> 00:53:53,000

Here are these discs.

1221

00:53:53,000 --> 00:53:54,000

All of this is a necklace.

1222

00:53:54,000 --> 00:53:56,000

It's all the way around.

1223

00:53:56,000 --> 00:54:03,000

So here we have a big part of this necklace and you have these beautiful fiance, this

1224

00:54:03,000 --> 00:54:06,000

kind of shiny ceramic.

1225

00:54:06,000 --> 00:54:10,000

The beads are made from ceramic and quartz and then glazed.

1226

00:54:10,000 --> 00:54:15,000

Even now, millennia later, the color shines like it was made yesterday.

1227

00:54:15,000 --> 00:54:20,000

We carefully gather the loose beads so the archaeologists can conserve and perhaps one

1228

00:54:20,000 --> 00:54:22,000

day reconstruct the necklace.

1229

00:54:22,000 --> 00:54:24,000

This is all linen, right?

1230

00:54:24,000 --> 00:54:25,000

Yes.

1231

00:54:25,000 --> 00:54:27,000

So she would have been mummified.

1232

00:54:27,000 --> 00:54:28,000

Mummified, yes.

1233

00:54:28,000 --> 00:54:29,000

Yes.

1234

00:54:29,000 --> 00:54:34,000

So the condition here is really poor, but this is a mummy.

1235

00:54:34,000 --> 00:54:37,000

You can see this brown material.

1236

00:54:37,000 --> 00:54:44,000

This is linen here and she would have been completely wrapped in this.

1237

00:54:44,000 --> 00:54:47,000

So what do you think we can say about this girl?

1238

00:54:47,000 --> 00:54:53,000

She looks a little bit important as she has earring from ivory and she has a fancy necklace

1239

00:54:53,000 --> 00:54:57,000

that they care with this girl.

1240

00:54:57,000 --> 00:54:58,000

For sure.

1241

00:54:58,000 --> 00:55:06,000

This is definitely someone who was loved and buried with care.

1242

00:55:06,000 --> 00:55:09,000

This is really humbling, you know.

1243

00:55:09,000 --> 00:55:17,000

Here we have a girl, a young girl, who lived and died and was buried in this cemetery during

1244

00:55:17,000 --> 00:55:23,000

the New Kingdom, which is still over 3,000 years ago.

1245

00:55:23,000 --> 00:55:27,000

This is an archaeological specimen, but it's also a person.

1246

00:55:27,000 --> 00:55:28,000

Yes.

1247

00:55:28,000 --> 00:55:30,000

She had a name, she had a family.

1248

00:55:30,000 --> 00:55:32,000

She has a story.

1249

00:55:32,000 --> 00:55:36,000

And although they think the first life is a very short life, so they try to have the

1250

00:55:36,000 --> 00:55:38,000

eternity life after this.

1251

00:55:38,000 --> 00:55:43,000

Right, for the earrings and the necklace and probably she was beautifully mummified and

1252

00:55:43,000 --> 00:55:46,000

she would have looked proper for her next life.

1253

00:55:46,000 --> 00:55:47,000

For next life.

1254

00:55:47,000 --> 00:55:48,000

Yes.

1255

00:55:48,000 --> 00:55:51,000

Now we will put the lid on the coffin.

1256

00:55:51,000 --> 00:55:52,000

Yes.

1257

00:55:52,000 --> 00:55:53,000

Let her rest.

1258

00:55:53,000 --> 00:55:54,000

Okay.

1259

00:55:59,000 --> 00:56:03,000

With the wind dying down, we hear there's news at the large burial shaft we've been

1260

00:56:03,000 --> 00:56:08,000

excavating that we hope will help us understand the fall of the Old Kingdom.

1261

00:56:08,000 --> 00:56:13,000

We had previously found the top of the upper chamber and now, a short time later, the workers

1262

00:56:13,000 --> 00:56:15,000

have widened the opening.

1263

00:56:15,000 --> 00:56:19,000

So we're taking out another couple feet of sand and then we're going to explore the inside

1264

00:56:19,000 --> 00:56:21,000

of this upper vault.

1265

00:56:26,000 --> 00:56:28,000

Oh, what is this?

1266

00:56:35,000 --> 00:56:41,000

In the maze-like markets of Old Cairo, I decide that maybe it's time for me to upgrade my

1267

00:56:41,000 --> 00:56:42,000

adventure hat.

1268

00:56:42,000 --> 00:56:44,000

I need a new hat.

1269

00:56:44,000 --> 00:56:47,000

We can make a beautiful tarbouche.

1270

00:56:47,000 --> 00:56:48,000

Tarbouche.

1271

00:56:48,000 --> 00:56:49,000

What we would call a fez.

1272

00:56:49,000 --> 00:56:50,000

Fez.

1273

00:56:50,000 --> 00:56:51,000

Let's do it.

1274

00:56:51,000 --> 00:56:54,000

The first step toward my custom fez is to measure my head.

1275

00:56:54,000 --> 00:56:55,000

Your size big head.

1276

00:56:55,000 --> 00:56:56,000

That's right, big head.

1277

00:56:56,000 --> 00:56:57,000

That's my official size.

1278

00:56:57,000 --> 00:57:00,000

A sartorial go-to for Egypt's elite.

1279

00:57:00,000 --> 00:57:03,000

Today, this is Cairo's last fez shop.

1280

00:57:03,000 --> 00:57:08,000

A ninth generation business and they're going to teach me the art of making a tarbouche.

1281

00:57:08,000 --> 00:57:10,000

Press very hard.

1282

00:57:10,000 --> 00:57:12,000

First, we press it.

1283

00:57:13,000 --> 00:57:21,000

Measure it, cut it, sew it, form it, glue it, stick it, set it, seal it, and tassle it.

1284

00:57:21,000 --> 00:57:24,000

Oh, then it's time to strut.

1285

00:57:24,000 --> 00:57:25,000

Yeah, what's that?

1286

00:57:25,000 --> 00:57:27,000

Thank you.

1287

00:57:27,000 --> 00:57:29,000

Wow, nice tarbouche.

1288

00:57:29,000 --> 00:57:30,000

Thank you.

1289

00:57:30,000 --> 00:57:32,000

I'm the tarbouche king.

1290

00:57:35,000 --> 00:57:37,000

We got a vessel here.

1291

00:57:37,000 --> 00:57:42,000

We're excavating a large burial shaft in Sakara that we hope will give us insights into the

1292

00:57:42,000 --> 00:57:44,000

collapse of Egypt's old kingdom.

1293

00:57:44,000 --> 00:57:46,000

Okay, so we have this vessel here.

1294

00:57:46,000 --> 00:57:48,000

Do we think it was placed here or maybe fell out of the vault?

1295

00:57:48,000 --> 00:57:49,000

Maybe full out.

1296

00:57:49,000 --> 00:57:51,000

Okay, got it.

1297

00:57:51,000 --> 00:57:54,000

We continue carefully removing sand from the chamber.

1298

00:57:54,000 --> 00:57:58,000

A tedious process but one which quickly becomes rewarding.

1299

00:57:59,000 --> 00:58:01,000

Oh, what is this?

1300

00:58:01,000 --> 00:58:02,000

Another vessel.

1301

00:58:02,000 --> 00:58:03,000

Veselius.

1302

00:58:03,000 --> 00:58:08,000

Got another ceramic vessel here that might have fallen out or might have been placed there.

1303

00:58:08,000 --> 00:58:09,000

I don't know.

1304

00:58:09,000 --> 00:58:10,000

Yes.

1305

00:58:10,000 --> 00:58:11,000

Very nice.

1306

00:58:11,000 --> 00:58:12,000

Can't fall.

1307

00:58:12,000 --> 00:58:14,000

Very nice, beautiful.

1308

00:58:14,000 --> 00:58:15,000

Look at that.

1309

00:58:15,000 --> 00:58:17,000

Complete vessel.

1310

00:58:17,000 --> 00:58:18,000

Yes.

1311

00:58:20,000 --> 00:58:25,000

So this upper vault sits above the main burial chamber below.

1312

00:58:25,000 --> 00:58:27,000

You know, anything could be up here.

1313

00:58:27,000 --> 00:58:30,000

Offerings, anything could be tucked into this upper chamber or nothing at all.

1314

00:58:33,000 --> 00:58:35,000

Do you think this is undisturbed?

1315

00:58:35,000 --> 00:58:36,000

Yes, it's undisturbed.

1316

00:58:36,000 --> 00:58:37,000

For sure?

1317

00:58:37,000 --> 00:58:38,000

Sure.

1318

00:58:38,000 --> 00:58:39,000

Okay.

1319

00:58:39,000 --> 00:58:42,000

The main burial should be in a vault just below us.

1320

00:58:42,000 --> 00:58:45,000

But first we have to continue exploring the upper chamber.

1321

00:58:46,000 --> 00:58:48,000

Bone here in the corner.

1322

00:58:49,000 --> 00:58:50,000

Linen.

1323

00:58:50,000 --> 00:58:51,000

Linen.

1324

00:58:51,000 --> 00:58:52,000

Hey, bye.

1325

00:58:52,000 --> 00:58:54,000

So some linen here as well.

1326

00:58:56,000 --> 00:59:00,000

This is mummy wrap right here in the corner.

1327

00:59:00,000 --> 00:59:03,000

Just outside of this upper vault.

1328

00:59:03,000 --> 00:59:05,000

Why would that bone and linen be out here?

1329

00:59:05,000 --> 00:59:08,000

It's a debris, just fill up the shaft.

1330

00:59:08,000 --> 00:59:09,000

It's disturbing.

1331

00:59:09,000 --> 00:59:11,000

You are in a symmetry, in a tomb's place.

1332

00:59:11,000 --> 00:59:13,000

Right, so it's just a tool.

1333

00:59:13,000 --> 00:59:14,000

It's just a tool.

1334

00:59:20,000 --> 00:59:22,000

Oh, hold on.

1335

00:59:23,000 --> 00:59:24,000

Part of a basket?

1336

00:59:26,000 --> 00:59:27,000

Yes.

1337

00:59:27,000 --> 00:59:31,000

So far we've found intact pottery and a fine woven basket,

1338

00:59:31,000 --> 00:59:35,000

suggesting that the burial chamber below may be undisturbed.

1339

00:59:35,000 --> 00:59:42,000

Dr. Mustafa Waziri, head of this excavation and secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities,

1340

00:59:42,000 --> 00:59:46,000

is taking the elevator down to assess our next steps.

1341

00:59:46,000 --> 00:59:50,000

These guys have cleared a lot of sand out of here, but still a lot left, yeah?

1342

00:59:50,000 --> 00:59:54,000

At least 15 cubic meters of debris.

1343

00:59:54,000 --> 00:59:55,000

A lot.

1344

00:59:55,000 --> 00:59:56,000

So it's a lot?

1345

00:59:56,000 --> 00:59:57,000

Yeah.

1346

00:59:57,000 --> 00:59:58,000

So what are we planning to do right now?

1347

00:59:58,000 --> 01:00:03,000

We're going to start digging here, because we believe in a couple of minutes of working,

1348

01:00:03,000 --> 01:00:05,000

we can find the entrance of this tomb.

1349

01:00:05,000 --> 01:00:06,000

To the main vault.

1350

01:00:06,000 --> 01:00:07,000

To the main one.

1351

01:00:07,000 --> 01:00:08,000

Yeah.

1352

01:00:08,000 --> 01:00:09,000

Ready, guys?

1353

01:00:17,000 --> 01:00:24,000

We work furiously to move further down through the sand, hoping to find the burial that we assume must be very near.

1354

01:00:27,000 --> 01:00:33,000

So we've got a layer of mud brick here, and some limestone pieces, bones there.

1355

01:00:33,000 --> 01:00:34,000

Long bone.

1356

01:00:39,000 --> 01:00:40,000

Opening.

1357

01:00:40,000 --> 01:00:41,000

We've got a vault.

1358

01:00:41,000 --> 01:00:43,000

Oh no, gosh!

1359

01:00:43,000 --> 01:00:45,000

Oh my God!

1360

01:00:45,000 --> 01:00:47,000

Look at it!

1361

01:00:47,000 --> 01:00:48,000

It's all decorated.

1362

01:00:48,000 --> 01:00:50,000

A lot of tomb.

1363

01:00:50,000 --> 01:00:53,000

Oh my word, it's all painted.

1364

01:00:53,000 --> 01:00:55,000

Holy sh**.

1365

01:00:56,000 --> 01:00:59,000

It's a tomb!

1366

01:00:59,000 --> 01:01:09,000

On the next episode of Expedition Unknown, my exclusive access to the dig-cited Sakara continues.

1367

01:01:09,000 --> 01:01:12,000

Oh, look at this!

1368

01:01:12,000 --> 01:01:14,000

His foot is right in front of me.

1369

01:01:14,000 --> 01:01:19,000

And a lost tomb reveals answers about how Egypt's Old Kingdom collapsed.

1370

01:01:19,000 --> 01:01:23,000

This is the first tomb to be decorated underground.

1371

01:01:23,000 --> 01:01:24,000

Ever found in Egypt?

1372

01:01:24,000 --> 01:01:25,000

Ever found.

1373

01:01:25,000 --> 01:01:32,000

My journey takes me to long forgotten sites with clues as to how the reign of the pharaohs fell into chaos.

1374

01:01:32,000 --> 01:01:40,000

We think of these tombs as such sacred places, yet they were willing to come in and desecrate a tomb like this.

1375

01:01:40,000 --> 01:01:47,000

And we'll head up the Nile to the ruins of Luxor and a tomb that holds a shocking secret.

1376

01:01:47,000 --> 01:01:54,000

The entirety of Upper Egypt was dying of hunger, and every man was eating his child.

1377

01:01:56,000 --> 01:02:04,000

Finally, our high-tech hunt for the identity of what might be the only Old Kingdom pharaoh ever

found leads us deep underground.

1378

01:02:04,000 --> 01:02:09,000

Where we come face to face with the answers we've been hunting for.

1379

01:02:09,000 --> 01:02:10,000

I'm gonna eat this glass.

1380

01:02:10,000 --> 01:02:14,000

Does the man himself look at this mummy?