

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,320

Tonight, my exclusive access to an ancient Egyptian necropolis continues.

2

00:00:07,320 --> 00:00:12,040

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

3

00:00:12,040 --> 00:00:17,760

Beneath the sands of Sakara, I'm on the hunt to unravel the secrets of Egypt's old kingdom.

4

00:00:17,760 --> 00:00:21,320

Everywhere you dig here, you have no idea what you're going to find.

5

00:00:21,320 --> 00:00:21,960

Muhammad?

6

00:00:21,960 --> 00:00:22,400

Yes.

7

00:00:22,400 --> 00:00:23,760

Hold on, I got something.

8

00:00:23,760 --> 00:00:24,960

I think it's a face.

9

00:00:24,960 --> 00:00:30,040

Can cutting-edge technology help solve a 4,000-year-old mystery?

10

00:00:30,040 --> 00:00:33,960

This mummy we scanned is unbelievably historic.

11

00:00:33,960 --> 00:00:40,200

As we put together the clues of how one of the greatest civilizations of the ancient world fell into chaos.

12

00:00:40,200 --> 00:00:44,160

The entirety of Upper Egypt was dying of hunger.

13

00:00:44,160 --> 00:00:47,960

There's no telling what secrets these tombs hold.

14

00:00:47,960 --> 00:00:51,800

This is the first tomb to be decorated underground.

15

00:00:51,800 --> 00:00:52,640

Ever found in Egypt?

16

00:00:52,640 --> 00:00:54,000

Ever found.

17

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:56,720

It's an exhibition unknown right now.

18

00:00:56,720 --> 00:00:58,320

Look at this beautiful color, Josh!

19

00:00:58,320 --> 00:01:00,680

Amazing, look at it!

20

00:01:00,680 --> 00:01:01,760

Are those bones?

21

00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:02,640

Yes.

22

00:01:02,640 --> 00:01:03,880

Oh, yes.

23

00:01:03,880 --> 00:01:05,320

We got a skull right here.

24

00:01:07,320 --> 00:01:09,320

My name is Josh Gates.

25

00:01:09,320 --> 00:01:10,520

Hello!

26

00:01:10,520 --> 00:01:12,360

Explorer.

27

00:01:12,360 --> 00:01:13,400

Adventurer.

28

00:01:13,400 --> 00:01:14,520

Amazing.

29

00:01:14,520 --> 00:01:15,280

Woo!

30

00:01:15,280 --> 00:01:18,320

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

31

00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:19,200

Oh, s***.

32

00:01:19,200 --> 00:01:20,880

Woo, that was exciting.

33

00:01:20,880 --> 00:01:24,760

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

34

00:01:24,760 --> 00:01:26,600

I travel to the ends of the Earth,

35

00:01:26,600 --> 00:01:29,560

investigating the greatest legends in history.

36

00:01:29,560 --> 00:01:31,120

Okay, let's punch it!

37

00:01:31,120 --> 00:01:33,560

This is Expedition Unknown.

38

00:01:37,560 --> 00:01:41,120

Egypt's Old Kingdom, the Age of Pyramids.

39

00:01:41,120 --> 00:01:46,160

Stretching from about 2700 BCE to 2200 BCE,

40

00:01:46,160 --> 00:01:50,480

it was a flourishing culture where dynasties of all powerful pharaohs,

41

00:01:50,560 --> 00:01:52,400

acting as gods on Earth,

42

00:01:52,400 --> 00:01:55,520

commissioned many of Egypt's grandest monuments.

43

00:01:55,520 --> 00:02:00,000

And then, suddenly, it all came crashing down.

44

00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:02,880

Egypt mysteriously fell into a dark time

45

00:02:02,880 --> 00:02:05,680

known as the First Intermediate Period.

46

00:02:05,680 --> 00:02:07,080

But why?

47

00:02:07,080 --> 00:02:09,200

Now, after 4,000 years,

48

00:02:09,200 --> 00:02:12,200

the Old Kingdom is finally giving up its secrets

49

00:02:12,200 --> 00:02:15,760

in a desert cemetery called Sakara.

50

00:02:15,760 --> 00:02:18,080

In the shadow of the sixth dynasty pharaoh,

51

00:02:18,080 --> 00:02:19,840

Meran-Raz Pyramid,

52

00:02:19,840 --> 00:02:22,720

archaeologists are excavating a necropolis

53

00:02:22,720 --> 00:02:24,840

where nobles of Meran-Raz time

54

00:02:24,840 --> 00:02:28,080

were entombed for their eternal afterlife.

55

00:02:28,080 --> 00:02:31,920

And I have an all-access pass to explore the dead.

56

00:02:31,920 --> 00:02:33,680

In a couple of minutes of working,

57

00:02:33,680 --> 00:02:36,440

we can find the entrance of this tomb.

58

00:02:36,440 --> 00:02:39,080

Dr. Mustafa Waziri is Secretary-General

59

00:02:39,080 --> 00:02:41,840

of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.

60

00:02:41,840 --> 00:02:45,440

He's invited me to help excavate some of the site's burial shafts

61

00:02:45,440 --> 00:02:47,640

for the very first time.

62

00:02:48,200 --> 00:02:50,200

Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, here.

63

00:02:50,200 --> 00:02:51,560

We got an opening!

64

00:02:51,560 --> 00:02:53,960

Our hope is that these tombs can help explain

65

00:02:53,960 --> 00:02:56,280

the fall of the Old Kingdom.

66

00:02:56,280 --> 00:02:59,200

We've already found a perfectly preserved offering

67

00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:01,600

of more than 40 intact vessels

68

00:03:01,600 --> 00:03:04,960

that showed us how rich these elite citizens were.

69

00:03:04,960 --> 00:03:07,760

And the badly damaged mummy of a child

70

00:03:07,760 --> 00:03:09,960

interred here in a simple coffin,

71

00:03:09,960 --> 00:03:12,240

reminding us of the disparity of wealth

72

00:03:12,240 --> 00:03:13,760

in this ancient society.

73

00:03:14,680 --> 00:03:17,200

And there are other mysteries as well.

74

00:03:17,200 --> 00:03:20,760

Because the Old Kingdom descended into chaos and civil war,

75

00:03:20,760 --> 00:03:24,040

all of the great pyramids from this period were looted,

76

00:03:24,040 --> 00:03:26,520

and no mummy of an Old Kingdom pharaoh

77

00:03:26,520 --> 00:03:29,200

has ever been found, or has one.

78

00:03:30,360 --> 00:03:33,880

I climbed into the collapsed pyramid of the pharaoh Meran-Raz,

79

00:03:33,880 --> 00:03:36,480

where, at the end of a long-sealed corridor,

80

00:03:36,480 --> 00:03:39,680

a controversial mummy was found over a century ago.

81

00:03:39,680 --> 00:03:42,240

My scroll found the mummy inside the sarcophagus here.

82

00:03:42,240 --> 00:03:45,040

It may be the remains of the young king.

83

00:03:45,040 --> 00:03:47,840

If it could be proven, it would be historic,

84

00:03:47,840 --> 00:03:51,560

and the oldest royal mummy ever discovered in Egypt.

85

00:03:51,560 --> 00:03:53,360

To help confirm its identity,

86

00:03:53,360 --> 00:03:56,640

we performed the first ever 3D digital scan

87

00:03:56,640 --> 00:03:58,000

of the would-be pharaoh.

88

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:00,120

It's unbelievable. It's perfect.

89

00:04:00,120 --> 00:04:02,360

Now, while the scan is being processed,

90

00:04:02,360 --> 00:04:04,440

I've returned to the Sakara dig site

91

00:04:04,440 --> 00:04:07,560

where we had previously discovered a large burial shaft.

92

00:04:08,680 --> 00:04:10,680

After repairing a collapsing wall

93

00:04:10,680 --> 00:04:13,120

and moving literally tons of sand,

94

00:04:13,120 --> 00:04:15,960

I, along with Dr. Waziri and his colleagues,

95

00:04:15,960 --> 00:04:18,760

Dr. Muhammad Al-Saidi and Muhammad Yusuf,

96

00:04:18,760 --> 00:04:20,680

have descended into the pit,

97

00:04:20,680 --> 00:04:23,320

where we make a remarkable discovery.

98

00:04:23,320 --> 00:04:24,920

We got a vault.

99

00:04:24,920 --> 00:04:27,720

Oh, no, Josh!

100

00:04:27,720 --> 00:04:29,600

Oh, my God!

101

00:04:29,600 --> 00:04:31,240

It's a tomb!

102

00:04:32,440 --> 00:04:34,360

It's fully decorated!

103

00:04:34,360 --> 00:04:36,360

Look at this!

104

00:04:38,080 --> 00:04:40,320

Holy s***!

105

00:04:40,320 --> 00:04:42,320

Oh, my God!

106

00:04:44,040 --> 00:04:46,720

The crew sings in celebration of the find,

107

00:04:46,720 --> 00:04:50,760

and Dr. Waziri wastes zero time in exploring the new chamber.

108

00:04:50,760 --> 00:04:52,080

I can't wait. I can't wait.

109

00:04:52,080 --> 00:04:53,560

It's beautiful colors!

110

00:04:53,560 --> 00:04:55,800

No, my dear! Why?

111

00:04:55,800 --> 00:04:57,800

Dr. Al-Saidi and I follow.

112

00:04:59,240 --> 00:05:01,040

Coming in?

113

00:05:01,040 --> 00:05:02,040

Josh.

114

00:05:03,560 --> 00:05:05,240

Josh! Josh!

115

00:05:05,240 --> 00:05:07,320

Look at this beautiful color, Josh!

116

00:05:07,320 --> 00:05:08,960

Oh, this is insane.

117

00:05:08,960 --> 00:05:12,080

Oh, amazing. Look at it.

118

00:05:12,120 --> 00:05:13,400

Look at this place.

119

00:05:13,400 --> 00:05:17,760

Every inch of every wall is covered in stunning decoration,

120

00:05:17,760 --> 00:05:21,080

scenes of offerings, and hundreds of hieroglyphs,

121

00:05:21,080 --> 00:05:25,760

all painted by hand, and all unseen for thousands of years.

122

00:05:25,760 --> 00:05:28,760

Look at those beautiful, beautiful colors.

123

00:05:28,760 --> 00:05:31,960

We can see red, we can see white, we can see black.

124

00:05:31,960 --> 00:05:33,520

If we start looking at the top here,

125

00:05:33,520 --> 00:05:34,960

we can see hieroglyphic inscriptions.

126

00:05:34,960 --> 00:05:38,760

All of them, they are talking about the titles of the guy himself.

127

00:05:38,760 --> 00:05:40,680

His name is there!

128

00:05:40,680 --> 00:05:42,000

His name is Hino.

129

00:05:42,920 --> 00:05:44,760

Here, he was a mayor.

130

00:05:44,760 --> 00:05:45,760

He's the mayor.

131

00:05:45,760 --> 00:05:46,760

Oh, yes.

132

00:05:46,760 --> 00:05:50,760

And also, he was a soul friend to the king.

133

00:05:50,760 --> 00:05:52,720

This is something typical,

134

00:05:52,720 --> 00:05:56,320

one famous title of those guys of the old kingdom.

135

00:05:56,320 --> 00:05:57,720

Like, I'm your soul friend.

136

00:05:57,720 --> 00:05:59,680

You are, my close friends.

137

00:05:59,680 --> 00:06:00,680

Soul friend.

138

00:06:00,680 --> 00:06:01,680

Okay, soul friend.

139

00:06:01,680 --> 00:06:02,680

Look.

140

00:06:02,680 --> 00:06:06,200

Waziri and I have been so focused on looking up at the walls

141

00:06:06,200 --> 00:06:08,960

that we almost miss something lower down.

142

00:06:08,960 --> 00:06:11,400

Wait, wait, wait! Josh! Josh! Josh! Josh!

143

00:06:11,400 --> 00:06:13,560

Oh, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow.

144

00:06:13,560 --> 00:06:14,560

Look at that.

145

00:06:14,560 --> 00:06:18,080

The seven sacred oils!

146

00:06:18,080 --> 00:06:19,080

Ha-ha!

147

00:06:19,080 --> 00:06:21,680

This is something really, very important.

148

00:06:21,680 --> 00:06:23,880

Known to the Egyptians as merhet,

149

00:06:23,880 --> 00:06:26,200

or sometimes the eye of Horus,

150

00:06:26,200 --> 00:06:28,160

seven different scented oils

151

00:06:28,160 --> 00:06:31,000

were considered the divine breath of the gods,

152

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:34,080

used to anoint the deceased for the afterlife.

153

00:06:34,080 --> 00:06:41,000

If we start counting here, this is one, two, three, four, five, six, and seven.

154

00:06:41,360 --> 00:06:43,400

Used in mummification rituals,

155

00:06:43,400 --> 00:06:48,440

the refinement of these oils is the ancient prototype for modern perfumes.

156

00:06:48,440 --> 00:06:50,920

The oils were offered up in tombs like this

157

00:06:50,920 --> 00:06:54,520

in precious stone and crystal-carved vessels.

158

00:06:54,520 --> 00:06:55,520

Look.

159

00:06:55,520 --> 00:06:56,520

Look at this one.

160

00:06:56,520 --> 00:06:57,520

Absolutely.

161

00:06:57,520 --> 00:06:58,520

Look how beautiful.

162

00:06:58,520 --> 00:06:59,520

Beautiful.

163

00:06:59,520 --> 00:07:00,520

I like it, Josh.

164

00:07:00,520 --> 00:07:01,520

Stunning.

165

00:07:01,520 --> 00:07:02,520

Yes, it is.

166

00:07:02,520 --> 00:07:03,520

It's really stunning.

167

00:07:03,520 --> 00:07:04,520

Wow.

168

00:07:04,520 --> 00:07:06,240

We know that these belong to Henu,

169

00:07:06,240 --> 00:07:09,640

because, well, the receipt is literally on the wall.

170

00:07:09,640 --> 00:07:10,640

Look at that.

171

00:07:10,640 --> 00:07:12,640

Those are the seven sacred oils right there.

172

00:07:12,640 --> 00:07:13,640

Unbelievable.

173

00:07:13,640 --> 00:07:14,640

This is really perfect.

174

00:07:14,640 --> 00:07:18,440

Ah, we can see here is the facade of the palace,

175

00:07:18,440 --> 00:07:19,520

what you call it like this.

176

00:07:19,520 --> 00:07:21,920

So a symbolic representation of the palace.

177

00:07:21,920 --> 00:07:22,920

It's true.

178

00:07:22,920 --> 00:07:26,720

Just like the tomb of the noble named Iarit that we saw earlier,

179

00:07:26,720 --> 00:07:29,720

this is meant to imitate the tomb of a pharaoh,

180

00:07:29,720 --> 00:07:33,240

the symbolic representation of the palace on the walls,

181

00:07:33,240 --> 00:07:35,960

the ceiling painted to resemble granite.

182

00:07:35,960 --> 00:07:37,400

By going to these lengths,

183

00:07:37,400 --> 00:07:40,920

Hennu was taking some of the power that only a pharaoh had,

184

00:07:40,920 --> 00:07:45,400

which even for a mayor took some big stones, literally.

185

00:07:45,400 --> 00:07:47,000

This is Old Kingdom, yes?

186

00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:48,000

No question.

187

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:49,000

This is for sure.

188

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:50,000

No question.

189

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:53,680

It's Old Kingdom, and we believe that it's Six Dynasties.

190

00:07:53,680 --> 00:07:56,640

The Six Dynasties, this is the Pharaoh Meranra,

191

00:07:56,640 --> 00:07:58,880

which the pyramid is right next door to us here.

192

00:07:58,880 --> 00:08:04,160

After our excavations, so we believe that we may find connections

193

00:08:04,160 --> 00:08:07,080

between this guy and the king Lira.

194

00:08:07,280 --> 00:08:09,600

Because if he's a mayor, soul friend of the king,

195

00:08:09,600 --> 00:08:13,520

he would have been someone who was an elite under Meranra.

196

00:08:13,520 --> 00:08:14,520

Right.

197

00:08:14,520 --> 00:08:17,640

Have you ever seen something like this in all of your life,

198

00:08:17,640 --> 00:08:19,280

just a boondiscovery?

199

00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:23,040

What a sensation to come into this tomb

200

00:08:23,040 --> 00:08:24,800

to be the first people in here.

201

00:08:24,800 --> 00:08:26,880

After 4,000 years,

202

00:08:26,880 --> 00:08:28,080

I know.

203

00:08:28,080 --> 00:08:30,760

it's a feeling that you will never, ever

204

00:08:30,760 --> 00:08:31,800

gonna forget for the rest of your life.

205

00:08:31,800 --> 00:08:33,160

I know. I'm trying not to cry.

206

00:08:33,160 --> 00:08:34,360

It's unbelievable.

207

00:08:35,360 --> 00:08:37,800

I'm shaking with excitement here in the tomb,

208

00:08:37,800 --> 00:08:39,880

but there's much more left to do.

209

00:08:39,880 --> 00:08:42,400

We're on top of about five feet of sand

210

00:08:42,400 --> 00:08:44,080

and much of the painted walls

211

00:08:44,080 --> 00:08:47,200

and perhaps Henu himself lie beneath us.

212

00:08:47,200 --> 00:08:49,000

We'll need to vacate the chamber

213

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:51,360

in order for the workers to continue.

214

00:08:51,360 --> 00:08:53,800

Okay. Shall we?

215

00:08:53,800 --> 00:08:55,520

We'll let them start sifting the sand

216

00:08:55,520 --> 00:08:57,200

and we'll investigate the other side of the site, yeah?

217

00:08:57,200 --> 00:08:58,200

Yes.

218

00:08:58,200 --> 00:08:59,280

Okay. We'll be back.

219

00:08:59,280 --> 00:09:00,280

Okay.

220

00:09:00,880 --> 00:09:02,880

This is unbelievable.

221

00:09:04,400 --> 00:09:06,800

Henu's tomb is a major discovery

222

00:09:06,800 --> 00:09:09,280

and we've only begun to dig it out.

223

00:09:09,280 --> 00:09:13,160

I ascend by bucket and head over to the other corner of the site

224

00:09:13,160 --> 00:09:16,040

to explore progress on a smaller burial shaft

225

00:09:16,040 --> 00:09:18,360

being excavated by the team.

226

00:09:18,360 --> 00:09:19,600

Mohammed. Yes.

227

00:09:19,600 --> 00:09:20,800

You fall down there? No.

228

00:09:20,800 --> 00:09:22,280

You okay? Yes, I'm okay.

229

00:09:22,280 --> 00:09:23,280

Okay.

230

00:09:23,920 --> 00:09:26,040

Thank you. Protect that for me, will you?

231

00:09:26,040 --> 00:09:30,000

A few days ago, this area was simply a low hill of sand.

232

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:33,600

Then digging revealed a huge collection of beer vessels

233

00:09:33,720 --> 00:09:35,120

next to a burial shaft.

234

00:09:35,120 --> 00:09:37,320

So I count more than 40 vessels now.

235

00:09:37,320 --> 00:09:38,920

This is huge.

236

00:09:38,920 --> 00:09:42,000

Now, we're ready to see what's at the bottom.

237

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:44,320

Not enough space for both of us.

238

00:09:44,320 --> 00:09:45,720

How much is enough space for one of us?

239

00:09:45,720 --> 00:09:46,720

Yes.

240

00:09:47,280 --> 00:09:48,880

Burial shafts were constructed

241

00:09:48,880 --> 00:09:52,680

with a smaller vaulted upper chamber where we are now.

242

00:09:52,680 --> 00:09:55,720

This space would often house offerings for the deceased

243

00:09:55,720 --> 00:09:58,600

who was interred in a burial chamber below.

244

00:09:59,720 --> 00:10:00,720

Okay.

245

00:10:04,600 --> 00:10:07,600

All right.

246

00:10:07,600 --> 00:10:08,600

Back in my hole.

247

00:10:16,600 --> 00:10:18,600

Mohammed. Yes.

248

00:10:18,600 --> 00:10:19,600

Hold on. I got something.

249

00:10:19,600 --> 00:10:20,600

Oh, good.

250

00:10:20,600 --> 00:10:21,600

Come here.

251

00:10:21,600 --> 00:10:22,600

Here, the edge of something.

252

00:10:22,600 --> 00:10:23,600

Show it to me.

253

00:10:23,600 --> 00:10:24,600

It has paint on it?

254

00:10:24,600 --> 00:10:25,600

Good.

255

00:10:25,600 --> 00:10:26,600

It's ceramic?

256

00:10:26,600 --> 00:10:27,600

I don't think so.

257

00:10:27,600 --> 00:10:29,600

I think it's a face.

258

00:10:30,600 --> 00:10:31,600

Face of what?

259

00:10:31,600 --> 00:10:32,600

A face of a person.

260

00:10:32,600 --> 00:10:33,600

You mean a statue?

261

00:10:33,600 --> 00:10:34,600

Yes. I think it's a statue.

262

00:10:34,600 --> 00:10:35,600

Good.

263

00:10:35,600 --> 00:10:36,600

Yes.

264

00:10:36,600 --> 00:10:37,600

Good one.

265

00:10:37,600 --> 00:10:38,600

There's more here.

266

00:10:38,600 --> 00:10:39,600

Look.

267

00:10:39,600 --> 00:10:40,600

I think there's a leg.

268

00:10:40,600 --> 00:10:41,600

There's a leg?

269

00:10:41,600 --> 00:10:42,600

Leg.

270

00:10:44,600 --> 00:10:45,600

Oh, my word.

271

00:10:45,600 --> 00:10:47,600

This is unbelievable.

272

00:10:47,600 --> 00:10:51,600

We have this wooden offering here.

273

00:10:51,600 --> 00:10:55,600

This does not represent the owner of this tomb, right?

274

00:10:55,600 --> 00:10:56,600

No.

275

00:10:56,600 --> 00:10:57,600

Who is this?

276

00:10:57,600 --> 00:10:58,600

One of his servants.

277

00:10:58,600 --> 00:11:00,600

So that he has someone to serve him in the afterlife?

278

00:11:00,600 --> 00:11:01,600

Yes.

279

00:11:01,600 --> 00:11:08,600

This doll is known as a Shabti and is actually here to serve the God of the dead Osiris in

280

00:11:08,600 --> 00:11:13,600

place of the deceased, releasing him from having to work in the afterlife.

281

00:11:13,600 --> 00:11:18,600

A wooden statue that has survived for four millennia down here.

282

00:11:18,600 --> 00:11:19,600

Still painted.

283

00:11:19,600 --> 00:11:20,600

Look at the detail.

284

00:11:20,600 --> 00:11:22,600

Look at the eyes and the eyebrows and the hair.

285

00:11:22,600 --> 00:11:24,600

Really careful of that arm.

286

00:11:24,600 --> 00:11:25,600

Yeah.

287

00:11:25,600 --> 00:11:26,600

Yeah.

288

00:11:26,600 --> 00:11:27,600

Yeah.

289

00:11:27,600 --> 00:11:28,600

Yeah.

290

00:11:28,600 --> 00:11:29,600

Yeah.

291

00:11:29,600 --> 00:11:30,600

Look at that.

292

00:11:30,600 --> 00:11:31,600

Unbelievable.

293

00:11:31,600 --> 00:11:32,600

Okay.

294

00:11:32,600 --> 00:11:33,600

I'm going to pass him to you.

295

00:11:33,600 --> 00:11:34,600

Yes.

296

00:11:34,600 --> 00:11:35,600

You got it?

297

00:11:35,600 --> 00:11:36,600

Yes.

298

00:11:36,600 --> 00:11:37,600

You got that arm?

299

00:11:37,600 --> 00:11:38,600

Yes.

300

00:11:38,600 --> 00:11:39,600

Okay.

301

00:11:39,600 --> 00:11:40,600

He's yours?

302

00:11:40,600 --> 00:11:41,600

I have it.

303

00:11:41,600 --> 00:11:42,600

Let's get a look at it in the light.

304

00:11:42,600 --> 00:11:43,600

Woo.

305

00:11:43,600 --> 00:11:44,600

Awesome.

306

00:11:44,600 --> 00:11:45,600

Come on.

307

00:11:45,600 --> 00:11:46,600

Oh, it's beautiful.

308

00:11:46,600 --> 00:11:47,600

Look at the details still.

309

00:11:47,600 --> 00:11:49,600

The details and the color white and the black.

310

00:11:49,600 --> 00:11:51,600

Look at the color still painted.

311

00:11:51,600 --> 00:11:53,600

Look at these wooden nails.

312

00:11:53,600 --> 00:11:55,600

So that the arms actually articulate.

313

00:11:55,600 --> 00:11:56,600

Yes.

314

00:11:56,600 --> 00:11:57,600

Look at that.

315

00:11:57,600 --> 00:11:58,600

The arms.

316

00:11:58,600 --> 00:11:59,600

Okay.

317

00:11:59,600 --> 00:12:00,600

He is ready for serving.

318

00:12:00,600 --> 00:12:01,600

Right.

319

00:12:01,600 --> 00:12:02,600

Yes.

320

00:12:02,600 --> 00:12:03,600

He's ready to serve.

321

00:12:03,600 --> 00:12:04,600

Wow.

322

00:12:04,600 --> 00:12:07,600

This is a 4,000 year old action figure.

323

00:12:07,600 --> 00:12:09,600

It's amazing.

324

00:12:09,600 --> 00:12:13,600

This wooden statue in this condition is an exceedingly rare find.

325

00:12:13,600 --> 00:12:17,600

A true treasure in this archeological gold mine.

326

00:12:17,600 --> 00:12:18,600

Okay.

327

00:12:18,600 --> 00:12:19,600

Let's get him up to safety.

328

00:12:19,600 --> 00:12:20,600

Yes.

329

00:12:20,600 --> 00:12:21,600

You got it?

330

00:12:21,600 --> 00:12:22,600

Sure.

331

00:12:22,600 --> 00:12:23,600

Okay.

332

00:12:23,600 --> 00:12:25,600

Another find and a lot more to dig.

333

00:12:25,600 --> 00:12:26,600

And dig they do.

334

00:12:26,600 --> 00:12:31,600

Moving sand until they expose the main burial chamber below the vault.

335

00:12:31,600 --> 00:12:33,600

After what we found in the last shaft,

336

00:12:33,600 --> 00:12:37,600

Dr. Waziri wants to be here to see firsthand.

337

00:12:37,600 --> 00:12:40,600

This is where we found the wooden statue here.

338

00:12:40,600 --> 00:12:41,600

Yes.

339

00:12:41,600 --> 00:12:43,600

And now it's all been cleaned out.

340

00:12:43,600 --> 00:12:45,600

Nothing else found in this upper vault.

341

00:12:45,600 --> 00:12:48,600

So we're going to try to take this down this layer.

342

00:12:48,600 --> 00:12:49,600

Yes.

343

00:12:57,600 --> 00:13:02,600

We are about to discover something.

344

00:13:04,600 --> 00:13:05,600

Oh.

345

00:13:05,600 --> 00:13:06,600

Yes.

346

00:13:06,600 --> 00:13:07,600

Yes.

347

00:13:07,600 --> 00:13:08,600

Yes.

348

00:13:08,600 --> 00:13:09,600

Yes.

349

00:13:09,600 --> 00:13:10,600

Yes.

350

00:13:10,600 --> 00:13:11,600

We have paint.

351

00:13:11,600 --> 00:13:12,600

There's a cavity behind it.

352

00:13:12,600 --> 00:13:13,600

Oh no.

353

00:13:13,600 --> 00:13:14,600

Oh no.

354

00:13:14,600 --> 00:13:16,600

Oh my word.

355

00:13:16,600 --> 00:13:18,600

Another tomb.

356

00:13:27,600 --> 00:13:28,600

Okay.

357

00:13:28,600 --> 00:13:30,600

Let's see what's going on in here.

358

00:13:30,600 --> 00:13:31,600

Okay.

359

00:13:31,600 --> 00:13:32,600

Coming in.

360

00:13:32,600 --> 00:13:34,600

Oh my word.

361

00:13:34,600 --> 00:13:37,600

Like Henu's tomb, this chamber is ornately painted.

362

00:13:37,600 --> 00:13:41,600

The deceased's biography on the walls like a morbid book jacket.

363

00:13:41,600 --> 00:13:44,600

And here is the name of the guy.

364

00:13:44,600 --> 00:13:45,600

Pippin Nefer.

365

00:13:45,600 --> 00:13:46,600

Pippin Nefer.

366

00:13:46,600 --> 00:13:47,600

Pippin Nefer.

367

00:13:47,600 --> 00:13:49,600

It can be a book jacket.

368

00:13:49,600 --> 00:13:51,600

It can be a book jacket.

369

00:13:51,600 --> 00:13:53,600

It can be a book jacket.

370

00:13:53,600 --> 00:13:54,600

Pippin Nefer.

371

00:13:54,600 --> 00:13:55,600

Pippin Nefer.

372

00:13:55,600 --> 00:13:56,600

Pippin Nefer.

373

00:13:56,600 --> 00:14:00,600

He got the title that he was also a prince of Muhammad and the supervisor.

374

00:14:00,600 --> 00:14:03,600

So, oh, look at this.

375

00:14:08,600 --> 00:14:10,600

Oh, look at this.

376

00:14:10,600 --> 00:14:12,600

His foot is right in front of me.

377

00:14:12,600 --> 00:14:13,600

I didn't even see that.

378

00:14:13,600 --> 00:14:19,600

We are in a newly excavated chamber in the necropolis of Sakara and we're not alone.

379

00:14:19,600 --> 00:14:20,600

Oh my word.

380

00:14:20,600 --> 00:14:21,600

This is his skeleton.

381

00:14:21,600 --> 00:14:24,600

This is a tomb and this is its owner.

382

00:14:24,600 --> 00:14:26,600

Look at the nails on his toes.

383

00:14:26,600 --> 00:14:29,600

So, we've got his foot, his fema, his leg and then where's the other foot?

384

00:14:29,600 --> 00:14:30,600

Here it is.

385

00:14:30,600 --> 00:14:31,600

Oh, look at that.

386

00:14:31,600 --> 00:14:32,600

It's all the way down there.

387

00:14:32,600 --> 00:14:34,600

Yeah, we can see linen.

388

00:14:34,600 --> 00:14:36,600

Unbelievable.

389

00:14:36,600 --> 00:14:42,600

The position of the body suggests that this tomb was likely robbed with the mummy dislocated in the process.

390

00:14:42,600 --> 00:14:45,600

Clearly, this is a disturbed burial.

391

00:14:45,600 --> 00:14:46,600

It is.

392

00:14:46,600 --> 00:14:50,600

It is, but it was disturbed 50 or 100 years after his death.

393

00:14:50,600 --> 00:14:53,600

Maybe robbed, but robbed in ancient times.

394

00:14:53,600 --> 00:15:00,600

This tomb was likely looted in the first intermediate period, the chaotic time that followed the collapse of the Old Kingdom.

395

00:15:00,600 --> 00:15:07,600

It is perhaps a clue that despite the prosperity of the upper class, not everyone at this time was thriving.

396

00:15:07,600 --> 00:15:12,600

And though this mummy's burial was disturbed, it is still a remarkable find.

397

00:15:12,600 --> 00:15:19,600

You know, to read his titles, to hear his name and then to have him here with us, it's...

398

00:15:20,600 --> 00:15:21,600

something.

399

00:15:21,600 --> 00:15:24,600

So, a lot of very careful work to do in here with these remains.

400

00:15:24,600 --> 00:15:25,600

Okay.

401

00:15:25,600 --> 00:15:27,600

Another tomb.

402

00:15:27,600 --> 00:15:40,600

There's far more work to be done here at the site in Sakara, but while the workers continue to dig, I'm off to continue my work on another Old Kingdom mystery, a cold case involving a missing pharaoh.

403

00:15:41,600 --> 00:15:52,600

Earlier, I had joined renowned archaeologist Dr. Muhammad Megahed inside the nearby, partially collapsed pyramid of the Old Kingdom pharaoh, Maran Ra.

404

00:15:52,600 --> 00:15:59,600

The interior was first explored in 1881 and an unusual mummy was found in the tomb's inner chamber.

405

00:15:59,600 --> 00:16:07,600

Unusual because all Old Kingdom royal tombs were looted and no mummies of pharaohs from the Old Kingdom have ever been found.

406

00:16:08,600 --> 00:16:15,600

For this reason, many assumed that the mummy found here was some interloper who poached the tomb much later in history.

407

00:16:15,600 --> 00:16:23,600

The mummy was moved to a nearby museum where we were given unprecedented access to scan it using state-of-the-art equipment.

408

00:16:23,600 --> 00:16:29,600

The scans are now complete and I'm hoping to use them to unravel the mummy's identity.

409

00:16:29,600 --> 00:16:34,600

To do that, I'm headed to a place that isn't just off-site, it's off-road.

410

00:16:34,600 --> 00:16:44,600

A positive idea of the supposed mummy of Maran Ra would be huge, but there's this ongoing debate that an Old Kingdom mummy shouldn't look so sophisticated.

411

00:16:44,600 --> 00:16:56,600

The mummy we scanned in the museum is incredibly lifelike thanks to the application of layers of resin, a substance used by master embalmers in ancient Egypt to preserve the dead.

412

00:16:56,600 --> 00:17:03,600

But scholars long believed that it wasn't used until the New Kingdom, a thousand years after the reign of Maran Ra.

413

00:17:03,600 --> 00:17:08,600

It's the main reason that our mystery mummy was discounted as being from the Old Kingdom.

414

00:17:08,600 --> 00:17:16,600

So what's an Old Kingdom mummy supposed to look like? To find out, I've been granted special access to another tomb in northern Sakara.

415

00:17:34,600 --> 00:17:42,600

So this is the Tomb of Nefer and it is an absolute stunner.

416

00:17:45,600 --> 00:17:54,600

Nefer lived about 4500 years ago during the 5th dynasty, so this is just before the reign of the Pharaoh Maran Ra.

417

00:17:54,600 --> 00:18:03,600

But Nefer here, he wasn't a Pharaoh, but he was a high official. This is him on the wall of the tomb and here's his name. This is Nefer.

418

00:18:03,600 --> 00:18:12,600

His titles over here say that he was a chief of the palace and a supervisor of artisans.

419

00:18:12,600 --> 00:18:21,600

The walls of this tomb are covered in scenes from Nefer's life, drinking, fishing, sacrificing goats, all the good stuff.

420

00:18:21,600 --> 00:18:29,600

The really remarkable thing about this tomb, other than its preservation, is that Nefer himself is still here.

421

00:18:29,600 --> 00:18:32,600

Actually, he's down there. Let's go.

422

00:18:35,600 --> 00:18:36,600

Okay.

423

00:18:41,600 --> 00:18:47,600

And here, underneath this glass, this is the man himself.

424

00:18:47,600 --> 00:18:50,600

Look at this mummy!

425

00:18:52,600 --> 00:18:56,600

This is the mummy of Nefer and he is absolutely incredible.

426

00:18:56,600 --> 00:19:06,600

You can see he has this false beard, this necklace that he's wearing, these beautiful blue green stones, and just remarkably lifelike.

427

00:19:06,600 --> 00:19:13,600

So this is a true old kingdom mummy, something for us to compare to the mummy that was found in the Pyramid of Maran Ra.

428

00:19:13,600 --> 00:19:19,600

And we have our scans back from the museum so we can compare them with this confirmed old kingdom mummy.

429

00:19:19,600 --> 00:19:25,600

Time for us and the world to get our first look at a detailed scan of our mummy.

430

00:19:25,600 --> 00:19:28,600

This is unbelievable!

431

00:19:28,600 --> 00:19:34,600

Outrageous detail here. We can see every millimeter of this mummy at the museum.

432

00:19:34,600 --> 00:19:40,600

At face value, no pun intended, they do look really similar in a lot of ways.

433

00:19:40,600 --> 00:19:44,600

We have this appearance of preservation, but it is kind of just an appearance.

434

00:19:44,600 --> 00:19:50,600

It's a bit of an illusion because our mummy in the museum, it actually is really well preserved.

435

00:19:50,600 --> 00:19:57,600

We can see that these features, his nose, his eyes, his bone structure, it's really him.

436

00:19:57,600 --> 00:20:00,600

Here with Nefer, we have something that's more cosmetic.

437

00:20:00,600 --> 00:20:03,600

We can see it almost plastering on him. Look at his chest.

438

00:20:03,600 --> 00:20:06,600

We see this layer and we see it on his face as well.

439

00:20:06,600 --> 00:20:13,600

So what we have here is the appearance of real life and our mummy in the museum is real life.

440

00:20:13,600 --> 00:20:20,600

So I have to say this is kind of a serious knock on the idea that our mummy in the museum is Maren-Rah.

441

00:20:20,600 --> 00:20:26,600

Those that have dismissed this mummy because of this difference in sophistication, well, they have a point.

442

00:20:26,600 --> 00:20:30,600

Which means we have more work to do. Thanks Nefer.

443

00:20:30,600 --> 00:20:36,600

Our suspect in the museum does look more sophisticated than this confirmed old kingdom mummy.

444

00:20:36,600 --> 00:20:40,600

So things aren't looking good for him being the Pharaoh Maren-Rah.

445

00:20:40,600 --> 00:20:44,600

But that may change as I get a call from Dr. Megahed.

446

00:20:46,600 --> 00:20:50,600

Hello, hello, how are you? Good morning. Look at you, hard at work.

447

00:20:50,600 --> 00:20:55,600

Dr. Megahed recently discovered and excavated this old kingdom tomb.

448

00:20:55,600 --> 00:20:59,600

He believes the mummy found inside may help settle our mystery.

449

00:20:59,600 --> 00:21:04,600

Look at this tomb. I mean, this looks like something for a king. This is like the side of a pyramid. Look at this.

450

00:21:04,600 --> 00:21:06,600

Josh, you have a very good eye.

451

00:21:06,600 --> 00:21:10,600

Those stones are made of white limestone which were only preserved for kings and queens.

452

00:21:10,600 --> 00:21:13,600

Right, but this is not a king. No, no, no, this is a high official.

453

00:21:14,600 --> 00:21:24,600

Like the phenomenon we observed at our dig site, high officials in the old kingdom are becoming so powerful they're acting like pharaohs themselves when it comes to their burials.

454

00:21:24,600 --> 00:21:33,600

In this case, the owner of this tomb even tried to emulate a pyramid-like exterior with an entrance door to the north just like a royal tomb.

455

00:21:34,600 --> 00:21:38,600

Josh, I have good news and bad news. Good news, we can enter the tomb.

456

00:21:38,600 --> 00:21:41,600

The bad news, I'm not sure that the air is safe.

457

00:21:41,600 --> 00:21:44,600

Great. What about the snakes and scorpions?

458

00:21:44,600 --> 00:21:47,600

Well, it depends if you are good or bad as a person.

459

00:21:49,600 --> 00:21:51,600

That's what depends on whether I get attacked?

460

00:21:51,600 --> 00:21:55,600

If you are sure you are a good person, it's fine. Are you sure?

461

00:21:55,600 --> 00:21:57,600

I don't think that's how snake safety works.

462

00:21:57,600 --> 00:21:58,600

Are you a good person?

463

00:21:58,600 --> 00:21:59,600

Yes.

464

00:21:59,600 --> 00:22:01,600

No snakes, no scorpions.

465

00:22:01,600 --> 00:22:04,600

Oh boy. Ready? I'm ready.

466

00:22:07,600 --> 00:22:08,600

Oh boy.

467

00:22:08,600 --> 00:22:09,600

Yes.

468

00:22:09,600 --> 00:22:10,600

Here we go.

469

00:22:12,600 --> 00:22:13,600

Who's going first?

470

00:22:14,600 --> 00:22:15,600

I think me.

471

00:22:15,600 --> 00:22:19,600

Yeah. It's a great answer. Feels like that's appropriate.

472

00:22:20,600 --> 00:22:21,600

Hope you're a good person.

473

00:22:22,600 --> 00:22:23,600

I'm a good person.

474

00:22:23,600 --> 00:22:24,600

We'll see.

475

00:22:24,600 --> 00:22:25,600

Yeah.

476

00:22:26,600 --> 00:22:27,600

Alright, here we go.

477

00:22:32,600 --> 00:22:35,600

This passage is known as a descending corridor.

478

00:22:36,600 --> 00:22:37,600

Try and guess why.

479

00:22:38,600 --> 00:22:39,600

How deep is this?

480

00:22:41,600 --> 00:22:44,600

The lower we go, the thinner the air feels.

481

00:22:44,600 --> 00:22:46,600

Turns out there's a reason for that.

482

00:22:47,600 --> 00:22:48,600

Oh, and here we are.

483

00:22:48,600 --> 00:22:49,600

Wow.

484

00:22:50,600 --> 00:22:52,600

So, we got a little room here now.

485

00:22:52,600 --> 00:22:54,600

Yeah, it's like a pyramid exactly.

486

00:22:54,600 --> 00:22:57,600

Through a descending corridor, you come to a vestibule,

487

00:22:57,600 --> 00:22:59,600

but we'll have to check the air.

488

00:22:59,600 --> 00:23:00,600

Yeah.

489

00:23:00,600 --> 00:23:02,600

The tombs often lack sufficient breathable air

490

00:23:02,600 --> 00:23:05,600

and can be filled with ancient toxins.

491

00:23:05,600 --> 00:23:08,600

A portable gas meter like this takes precise measurements

492

00:23:08,600 --> 00:23:11,600

to let us know if it's safe to proceed.

493

00:23:12,600 --> 00:23:15,600

Attention, please. Object low concentration.

494

00:23:16,600 --> 00:23:18,600

That's good. That's a good sign.

495

00:23:18,600 --> 00:23:20,600

19.1%.

496

00:23:21,600 --> 00:23:23,600

19.5%. 19.7%.

497

00:23:23,600 --> 00:23:25,600

So, we're going to live a little under normal,

498

00:23:25,600 --> 00:23:27,600

but I think we'll make it.

499

00:23:27,600 --> 00:23:28,600

What can go?

500

00:23:28,600 --> 00:23:29,600

It doesn't look for snakes though.

501

00:23:29,600 --> 00:23:30,600

Yeah.

502

00:23:30,600 --> 00:23:31,600

Here we go.

503

00:23:31,600 --> 00:23:32,600

Okay.

504

00:23:32,600 --> 00:23:33,600

All right. Nobody breath too much.

505

00:23:36,600 --> 00:23:39,600

Oh, my God.

506

00:23:39,600 --> 00:23:40,600

What are you doing?

507

00:23:41,600 --> 00:23:42,600

Are you kidding me?

508

00:23:47,600 --> 00:23:48,600

Look at this.

509

00:23:49,600 --> 00:23:50,600

Are you kidding me?

510

00:23:51,600 --> 00:23:53,600

To pinpoint the identity of a mystery mummy,

511

00:23:53,600 --> 00:23:56,600

which could be the only old kingdom pharaoh ever found,

512

00:23:56,600 --> 00:24:00,600

Dr. Muhammad Megahed has brought me to a recently discovered tomb

513

00:24:00,600 --> 00:24:03,600

that is unlike any I've ever seen.

514

00:24:03,600 --> 00:24:05,600

I mean, this is insane.

515

00:24:06,600 --> 00:24:08,600

Look at the details.

516

00:24:08,600 --> 00:24:10,600

Different veins, different colors.

517

00:24:10,600 --> 00:24:12,600

It's fantastic.

518

00:24:12,600 --> 00:24:15,600

This is absolutely unbelievable.

519

00:24:15,600 --> 00:24:17,600

Would you like to see a fingerprint of ancient Egyptian

520

00:24:17,600 --> 00:24:20,600

who lived 4,400 years ago?

521

00:24:20,600 --> 00:24:21,600

Like a real fingerprint?

522

00:24:21,600 --> 00:24:22,600

A real fingerprint.

523

00:24:22,600 --> 00:24:23,600

Where? Come here.

524

00:24:23,600 --> 00:24:24,600

Look.

525

00:24:27,600 --> 00:24:29,600

Oh, my word. It's an actual fingerprint.

526

00:24:29,600 --> 00:24:30,600

Yes.

527

00:24:30,600 --> 00:24:34,600

I have chills looking at that because suddenly it's human.

528

00:24:34,600 --> 00:24:38,600

This accidental signature reminds us that an individual,

529

00:24:38,600 --> 00:24:40,600

no different than you or I,

530

00:24:40,600 --> 00:24:44,600

stood here 4 millennia ago to decorate this tomb,

531

00:24:44,600 --> 00:24:47,600

and those decorations are extraordinary.

532

00:24:47,600 --> 00:24:49,600

Delicately painted owls,

533

00:24:49,600 --> 00:24:51,600

finely speckled fish,

534

00:24:51,600 --> 00:24:55,600

and scenes of sacrifice complete with splattering blood.

535

00:24:55,600 --> 00:24:58,600

There's a real artistry here. This is an animal slaughter?

536

00:24:58,600 --> 00:25:01,600

It's an offering scene showing that they are slaughtering animals

537

00:25:01,600 --> 00:25:05,600

and to give the best pieces in the animal to the tomb owner.

538

00:25:05,600 --> 00:25:08,600

Even here, there is a very nice scene showing them

539

00:25:08,600 --> 00:25:11,600

removing the heart of the animal to give it to the tomb owner

540

00:25:11,600 --> 00:25:13,600

who's sitting in front of the offering table.

541

00:25:13,600 --> 00:25:14,600

He's pictured?

542

00:25:14,600 --> 00:25:15,600

Yes.

543

00:25:15,600 --> 00:25:17,600

This is him. This is the owner of the tomb.

544

00:25:17,600 --> 00:25:18,600

And do we know his name?

545

00:25:18,600 --> 00:25:19,600

His name was Huy.

546

00:25:19,600 --> 00:25:21,600

And do we have his titles?

547

00:25:21,600 --> 00:25:24,600

So he was working in the royal palace and he was a judge.

548

00:25:24,600 --> 00:25:26,600

But he's not like the top man.

549

00:25:26,600 --> 00:25:28,600

No, he's not a vizier.

550

00:25:28,600 --> 00:25:31,600

Viziers were the underbosses of the ancient Egyptian pharaohs

551

00:25:31,600 --> 00:25:34,600

right below the king in the social hierarchy.

552

00:25:34,600 --> 00:25:39,600

You'd think a tomb this luxurious would be for someone at least at that level.

553

00:25:39,600 --> 00:25:40,600

It isn't.

554

00:25:40,600 --> 00:25:43,600

So hold on a second, but all of this,

555

00:25:43,600 --> 00:25:45,600

all of this imagery, this decoration,

556

00:25:45,600 --> 00:25:47,600

and even him being depicted here,

557

00:25:47,600 --> 00:25:49,600

like at this time in the Old Kingdom,

558

00:25:49,600 --> 00:25:51,600

you don't see this underground in people's tombs.

559

00:25:51,600 --> 00:25:53,600

Never before him. Never.

560

00:25:53,600 --> 00:25:57,600

This is the fairest tomb to be decorated underground.

561

00:25:57,600 --> 00:25:58,600

Ever found in Egypt?

562

00:25:58,600 --> 00:25:59,600

Ever found.

563

00:25:59,600 --> 00:26:02,600

And so he served under which pharaoh?

564

00:26:02,600 --> 00:26:05,600

He was working under King Jedh-Kara.

565

00:26:05,600 --> 00:26:07,600

Huy, the owner of this tomb,

566

00:26:07,600 --> 00:26:11,600

was a judge during the reign of 5th dynasty pharaoh Jedh-Kara,

567

00:26:11,600 --> 00:26:14,600

who ruled less than a century before Maron Ra.

568

00:26:14,600 --> 00:26:17,600

And in Jedh-Kara's pyramid in his tomb,

569

00:26:17,600 --> 00:26:18,600

is it decorated like this?

570

00:26:18,600 --> 00:26:19,600

No.

571

00:26:19,600 --> 00:26:20,600

So hold on a second.

572

00:26:20,600 --> 00:26:21,600

No.

573

00:26:21,600 --> 00:26:24,600

The pharaoh's tomb isn't decorated, but this is.

574

00:26:24,600 --> 00:26:25,600

Exactly.

575

00:26:25,600 --> 00:26:29,600

So the pharaohs are taking their cues from officials?

576

00:26:29,600 --> 00:26:30,600

It's supposed to work the other way around.

577

00:26:30,600 --> 00:26:34,600

Yes, we used to know that the change comes from the king to the people.

578

00:26:34,600 --> 00:26:37,600

So the pyramid text that we saw in the pyramid of Maron Ra,

579

00:26:37,600 --> 00:26:41,600

that whole idea is starting here.

580

00:26:41,600 --> 00:26:43,600

The seed is here.

581

00:26:43,600 --> 00:26:44,600

Right.

582

00:26:44,600 --> 00:26:47,600

And what's so crazy about this is that this isn't just decoration.

583

00:26:47,600 --> 00:26:49,600

This is religion.

584

00:26:49,600 --> 00:26:51,600

This is your connection to the afterlife,

585

00:26:51,600 --> 00:26:53,600

how you get to the afterlife.

586

00:26:53,600 --> 00:26:57,600

Josh, it's a revolution.

587

00:26:57,600 --> 00:27:00,600

We've already seen that toward the end of the Old Kingdom,

588

00:27:00,600 --> 00:27:03,600

wealthy bureaucrats have been flexing their power in their tombs

589

00:27:03,600 --> 00:27:05,600

by copying the pharaohs.

590

00:27:05,600 --> 00:27:07,600

But this is something else entirely.

591

00:27:07,600 --> 00:27:10,600

It now seems that these high-ranking government officials

592

00:27:10,600 --> 00:27:15,600

are so bold that later pharaohs begin copying them.

593

00:27:15,600 --> 00:27:19,600

So these officials, they're not just getting more power.

594

00:27:19,600 --> 00:27:24,600

They're rewriting the playbook on how to die and transition.

595

00:27:24,600 --> 00:27:27,600

They are changing their afterlife forever.

596

00:27:27,600 --> 00:27:32,600

After Hui, every king starts to decorate his underground.

597

00:27:32,600 --> 00:27:34,600

This is a huge find.

598

00:27:34,600 --> 00:27:35,600

It's fantastic.

599

00:27:35,600 --> 00:27:37,600

And so in terms of our man, Hui here,

600

00:27:37,600 --> 00:27:39,600

is his burial chamber behind us?

601

00:27:39,600 --> 00:27:40,600

Yes.

602

00:27:40,600 --> 00:27:41,600

Let's see.

603

00:27:41,600 --> 00:27:42,600

It's cool.

604

00:27:46,600 --> 00:27:47,600

Wow.

605

00:27:47,600 --> 00:27:48,600

Look at this.

606

00:27:48,600 --> 00:27:51,600

And just all limestone, lined all of it.

607

00:27:51,600 --> 00:27:53,600

So his sarcophagus is where?

608

00:27:53,600 --> 00:27:54,600

Was here?

609

00:27:54,600 --> 00:27:55,600

Was here.

610

00:27:55,600 --> 00:27:56,600

Was right here?

611

00:27:56,600 --> 00:27:57,600

Was right here.

612

00:27:57,600 --> 00:28:00,600

And this is remains of the sarcophagus.

613

00:28:00,600 --> 00:28:02,600

And this tomb had been looted?

614

00:28:02,600 --> 00:28:03,600

It was looted, yes.

615

00:28:03,600 --> 00:28:05,600

And what about Hui himself?

616

00:28:05,600 --> 00:28:09,600

Well, his remains of his human body was found scattered here.

617

00:28:09,600 --> 00:28:11,600

So you did find his remains?

618

00:28:11,600 --> 00:28:12,600

Yes.

619

00:28:12,600 --> 00:28:13,600

And where are they?

620

00:28:13,600 --> 00:28:15,600

Well, our storeroom here on the side.

621

00:28:15,600 --> 00:28:16,600

He's still here?

622

00:28:16,600 --> 00:28:17,600

Yes.

623

00:28:17,600 --> 00:28:18,600

Can we see him?

624

00:28:18,600 --> 00:28:19,600

Absolutely.

625

00:28:19,600 --> 00:28:20,600

Come on, let's go.

626

00:28:20,600 --> 00:28:22,600

I gotta meet this guy.

627

00:28:22,600 --> 00:28:26,600

In my continuing search for whether the mummy in the museum

628

00:28:26,600 --> 00:28:29,600

could be the old kingdom pharaoh, Meron Ra,

629

00:28:29,600 --> 00:28:31,600

I now have a chance to view another mummy

630

00:28:31,600 --> 00:28:33,600

that's even older than his.

631

00:28:33,600 --> 00:28:37,600

We go to the nearby storeroom where artifacts from Dr. Mega-Head's dig

632

00:28:37,600 --> 00:28:38,600

are being preserved.

633

00:28:38,600 --> 00:28:39,600

Oh.

634

00:28:39,600 --> 00:28:42,600

You got the Ark of the Covenant in here?

635

00:28:42,600 --> 00:28:43,600

Yes.

636

00:28:43,600 --> 00:28:45,600

This is amazing.

637

00:28:45,600 --> 00:28:48,600

It's where we keep all our materials to study them

638

00:28:48,600 --> 00:28:51,600

and to go on with our work.

639

00:28:51,600 --> 00:28:53,600

And Hui.

640

00:28:53,600 --> 00:28:54,600

What's left of Hui?

641

00:28:54,600 --> 00:28:55,600

What's left of Hui?

642

00:28:55,600 --> 00:28:56,600

You are right.

643

00:28:56,600 --> 00:28:57,600

Yeah?

644

00:28:57,600 --> 00:28:58,600

Yes, but...

645

00:28:58,600 --> 00:28:59,600

Close.

646

00:29:06,600 --> 00:29:08,600

Oh, wow.

647

00:29:08,600 --> 00:29:10,600

There he is.

648

00:29:10,600 --> 00:29:13,600

This is what we collect from his burial chamber.

649

00:29:13,600 --> 00:29:15,600

Wow, so I mean really quite destroyed.

650

00:29:15,600 --> 00:29:17,600

So we've got bits of the spine here.

651

00:29:17,600 --> 00:29:18,600

Breaks, yeah.

652

00:29:18,600 --> 00:29:19,600

The chest cavity here, ribs.

653

00:29:19,600 --> 00:29:21,600

The spine part of the leg.

654

00:29:21,600 --> 00:29:22,600

Part of the leg.

655

00:29:22,600 --> 00:29:24,600

He really was scattered around the tomb.

656

00:29:24,600 --> 00:29:26,600

But we collected it, we brought it here,

657

00:29:26,600 --> 00:29:28,600

and we found out that he was mummified.

658

00:29:28,600 --> 00:29:29,600

He was mummified.

659

00:29:29,600 --> 00:29:31,600

He was mummified.

660

00:29:31,600 --> 00:29:34,600

Carbon-14 dating has confirmed that Hui's mummy

661

00:29:34,600 --> 00:29:37,600

is one of the oldest ever discovered,

662

00:29:37,600 --> 00:29:39,600

older than our friend from Meron Ra's tomb.

663

00:29:39,600 --> 00:29:41,600

The supposed mummy of Meron Ra would be

664

00:29:41,600 --> 00:29:43,600

a hundred years later than this.

665

00:29:43,600 --> 00:29:44,600

Absolutely, yes.

666

00:29:44,600 --> 00:29:45,600

Right?

667

00:29:45,600 --> 00:29:46,600

So, okay, what do we see?

668

00:29:46,600 --> 00:29:49,600

We have our scans of the mummy from the Meron Ra pyramid.

669

00:29:50,600 --> 00:29:52,600

So the first thing we see here is linen,

670

00:29:52,600 --> 00:29:55,600

and actually it looks like quite a few layers of linen.

671

00:29:55,600 --> 00:29:59,600

It's more than one layer, and it's a very fine linen.

672

00:29:59,600 --> 00:30:00,600

Mm-hmm.

673

00:30:00,600 --> 00:30:02,600

Similarly wrapped as the mummy in Meron Ra?

674

00:30:02,600 --> 00:30:03,600

Yes, yes, similar.

675

00:30:03,600 --> 00:30:06,600

Another big similarity is the use of resin.

676

00:30:06,600 --> 00:30:07,600

Resin.

677

00:30:07,600 --> 00:30:09,600

This resin on the mummy from Meron Ra's pyramid,

678

00:30:09,600 --> 00:30:11,600

this is one of the big points of contention, right?

679

00:30:11,600 --> 00:30:12,600

Yes.

680

00:30:12,600 --> 00:30:14,600

Because the idea was we shouldn't be seeing this resin

681

00:30:14,600 --> 00:30:15,600

in the Old Kingdom.

682

00:30:15,600 --> 00:30:16,600

They weren't using it back then.

683

00:30:16,600 --> 00:30:18,600

We see it a thousand years later.

684

00:30:18,600 --> 00:30:19,600

Right, but it's here.

685

00:30:19,600 --> 00:30:20,600

It's here.

686

00:30:20,600 --> 00:30:22,600

So this dark material.

687

00:30:22,600 --> 00:30:25,600

This dark material everywhere, it's resin.

688

00:30:25,600 --> 00:30:28,600

All in here, like we see on our scan.

689

00:30:29,600 --> 00:30:32,600

So that's kind of a smoking gun in and of itself.

690

00:30:32,600 --> 00:30:35,600

Ancient Egyptians knew the technique of mummification.

691

00:30:35,600 --> 00:30:39,600

At least a thousand years earlier than what we thought.

692

00:30:39,600 --> 00:30:41,600

Detractors of the mummy in Meron Ra's pyramid

693

00:30:41,600 --> 00:30:45,600

argue that the mummification techniques were far too modern

694

00:30:45,600 --> 00:30:47,600

to be from the Old Kingdom.

695

00:30:47,600 --> 00:30:50,600

But I'm looking at an Old Kingdom mummy that says otherwise.

696

00:30:50,600 --> 00:30:52,600

Dramatically so.

697

00:30:52,600 --> 00:30:56,600

So let's bring this back around to the mystery mummy of Meron Ra.

698

00:30:56,600 --> 00:31:01,600

Doesn't this put a lot of heat on the fire that in fact it is Meron Ra?

699

00:31:01,600 --> 00:31:05,600

Josh, I'm confident that this scan belongs to King Meron Ra.

700

00:31:05,600 --> 00:31:08,600

That would mean that this is the only complete pharaoh

701

00:31:08,600 --> 00:31:10,600

that we have from the Old Kingdom.

702

00:31:10,600 --> 00:31:11,600

Yes.

703

00:31:11,600 --> 00:31:16,600

It also means that this mummy we scanned is unbelievably historic.

704

00:31:16,600 --> 00:31:18,600

We are rewriting history.

705

00:31:18,600 --> 00:31:22,600

Dr. Megahead is convinced that the mummy in the Imhotep Museum

706

00:31:22,600 --> 00:31:24,600

belongs to Meron Ra.

707

00:31:24,600 --> 00:31:27,600

It seems all but certain now that we met an Egyptian pharaoh

708

00:31:27,600 --> 00:31:30,600

more than 4,000 years old.

709

00:31:30,600 --> 00:31:34,600

A king who led Egypt during the Age of Pyramids.

710

00:31:34,600 --> 00:31:38,600

Josh, I think you met the oldest royal mummy ever found in Egypt.

711

00:31:38,600 --> 00:31:39,600

You met the king?

712

00:31:39,600 --> 00:31:40,600

I met the king.

713

00:31:40,600 --> 00:31:41,600

This is awesome.

714

00:31:41,600 --> 00:31:42,600

All right.

715

00:31:42,600 --> 00:31:43,600

Should we let Huy rest here?

716

00:31:43,600 --> 00:31:46,600

I think we should let him in peace as he always wanted.

717

00:31:46,600 --> 00:31:47,600

That's right.

718

00:31:47,600 --> 00:31:48,600

All right.

719

00:31:48,600 --> 00:31:49,600

Thank you, Huy.

720

00:31:49,600 --> 00:31:51,600

Nice to meet you.

721

00:31:51,600 --> 00:31:54,600

The case of the mystery mummy seems all but solved.

722

00:31:54,600 --> 00:31:57,600

It was the recently discovered tomb of Huy

723

00:31:57,600 --> 00:31:59,600

that gave us the final puzzle piece.

724

00:31:59,600 --> 00:32:02,600

It also showed us that high ranking officials like him

725

00:32:02,600 --> 00:32:07,600

were becoming incredibly bold in the decoration of their tombs.

726

00:32:07,600 --> 00:32:11,600

As the Old Kingdom expanded and as the population grew,

727

00:32:11,600 --> 00:32:14,600

so did the power of these high officials.

728

00:32:14,600 --> 00:32:18,600

But it turns out there may be other reasons why the Old Kingdom collapsed.

729

00:32:18,600 --> 00:32:23,600

To see just how the Old Kingdom descended into a century of discord,

730

00:32:23,600 --> 00:32:27,600

I'm headed south to another of Egypt's great cities.

731

00:32:27,600 --> 00:32:31,600

I travel 400 miles south to the city on the banks of the Nile

732

00:32:31,600 --> 00:32:34,600

that's synonymous with ancient Egypt.

733

00:32:44,600 --> 00:32:46,600

All of this was once part of Thebes,

734

00:32:46,600 --> 00:32:50,600

one of the most powerful and richest cities in ancient Egypt.

735

00:32:50,600 --> 00:32:53,600

On the west bank of the Nile, the world of the dead,

736

00:32:53,600 --> 00:32:54,600

and the valley of the kings,

737

00:32:54,600 --> 00:32:57,600

the final resting place for some of Egypt's greatest pharaohs.

738

00:32:57,600 --> 00:33:00,600

And here on the east bank, the world of the living,

739

00:33:00,600 --> 00:33:04,600

and massive temples like Luxor and Karnak.

740

00:33:04,600 --> 00:33:07,600

Back at the end of the Old Kingdom, this was a trade-out post

741

00:33:07,600 --> 00:33:11,600

ruled for a time by a regional governor named Anctifi.

742

00:33:11,600 --> 00:33:14,600

I head south of the ruins to see his tomb

743

00:33:14,600 --> 00:33:17,600

and to meet with Egyptologist Dr. Inez Torres.

744

00:33:17,600 --> 00:33:19,600

This is the tomb of Anctifi.

745

00:33:19,600 --> 00:33:21,600

Yes, it is.

746

00:33:21,600 --> 00:33:24,600

Anctifi lived in the period right after the Old Kingdom,

747

00:33:24,600 --> 00:33:27,600

and by that time we see that these regional rulers

748

00:33:27,600 --> 00:33:29,600

become more and more powerful.

749

00:33:29,600 --> 00:33:32,600

Right, so this is the first intermediate period?

750

00:33:32,600 --> 00:33:33,600

Exactly.

751

00:33:33,600 --> 00:33:36,600

Historically, this has been thought of as a time of some chaos

752

00:33:36,600 --> 00:33:38,600

and strife and change.

753

00:33:38,600 --> 00:33:41,600

There is a major shift in the centers of power,

754

00:33:41,600 --> 00:33:44,600

and there are some really interesting examples of this in this tomb

755

00:33:44,600 --> 00:33:45,600

if you'd like to have a look.

756

00:33:45,600 --> 00:33:46,600

Yes.

757

00:33:52,600 --> 00:33:54,600

So, Josh.

758

00:33:54,600 --> 00:33:57,600

Welcome to the tomb of Anctifi.

759

00:33:57,600 --> 00:33:59,600

This is awesome. Look at this place.

760

00:33:59,600 --> 00:34:00,600

Isn't it amazing?

761

00:34:00,600 --> 00:34:03,600

First of all, I can't believe this is not a royal tomb.

762

00:34:03,600 --> 00:34:04,600

I know, it's massive.

763

00:34:04,600 --> 00:34:06,600

Right, this is bigger than where I live.

764

00:34:06,600 --> 00:34:09,600

And let's talk about all of this beautiful imagery.

765

00:34:09,600 --> 00:34:10,600

Is this our guy?

766

00:34:10,600 --> 00:34:12,600

That's him. That's our guy, Anctifi.

767

00:34:12,600 --> 00:34:13,600

Wow.

768

00:34:13,600 --> 00:34:16,600

And what about all these inscriptions we see on the columns?

769

00:34:16,600 --> 00:34:20,600

So Anctifi inscribed is so-called autobiography.

770

00:34:20,600 --> 00:34:22,600

In every single one of these columns,

771

00:34:22,600 --> 00:34:24,600

and if you want to learn more about him,

772

00:34:24,600 --> 00:34:26,600

we can let him tell us.

773

00:34:26,600 --> 00:34:29,600

The walls of this tomb are filled with clues,

774

00:34:29,600 --> 00:34:32,600

and Anctifi himself may be able to tell us

775

00:34:32,600 --> 00:34:34,600

why the Old Kingdom fell apart.

776

00:34:34,600 --> 00:34:35,600

I love this.

777

00:34:35,600 --> 00:34:37,600

Okay, what does he have to say?

778

00:34:44,600 --> 00:34:47,600

Let's start here, because in here he lists all of his titles.

779

00:34:47,600 --> 00:34:48,600

This is his resume?

780

00:34:48,600 --> 00:34:49,600

Yes, absolutely.

781

00:34:49,600 --> 00:34:50,600

Okay.

782

00:34:50,600 --> 00:34:51,600

At a tomb near Luxor,

783

00:34:51,600 --> 00:34:54,600

dated from Egypt's chaotic first intermediate period,

784

00:34:54,600 --> 00:34:57,600

Dr. Inez Torres is helping me understand

785

00:34:57,600 --> 00:35:01,600

how the ancient Old Kingdom descended into a dark age.

786

00:35:01,600 --> 00:35:02,600

Okay, who is he?

787

00:35:02,600 --> 00:35:04,600

So he tells us that he is a dignitary.

788

00:35:04,600 --> 00:35:05,600

Sure.

789

00:35:05,600 --> 00:35:06,600

A governor.

790

00:35:06,600 --> 00:35:07,600

Okay.

791

00:35:07,600 --> 00:35:08,600

A royal seal-bearer.

792

00:35:08,600 --> 00:35:09,600

And that's important.

793

00:35:09,600 --> 00:35:13,600

And he also tells us he is the regional ruler.

794

00:35:13,600 --> 00:35:14,600

And a bit of a braggart.

795

00:35:14,600 --> 00:35:17,600

He is, and in fact, next to his titles,

796

00:35:17,600 --> 00:35:20,600

he tells us that he is the beginning of man

797

00:35:20,600 --> 00:35:22,600

and the end of man,

798

00:35:22,600 --> 00:35:25,600

and that no one like him was ever born,

799

00:35:25,600 --> 00:35:26,600

nor will he be.

800

00:35:26,600 --> 00:35:28,600

I say that, though, sometimes.

801

00:35:28,600 --> 00:35:30,600

That's on my business card, actually.

802

00:35:30,600 --> 00:35:31,600

Is that inappropriate?

803

00:35:31,600 --> 00:35:33,600

Do I not have that on her?

804

00:35:33,600 --> 00:35:35,600

It's incredible to think that we go from this,

805

00:35:35,600 --> 00:35:37,600

like, iron grip on power

806

00:35:37,600 --> 00:35:40,600

that the pharaohs seem to have in the Old Kingdom

807

00:35:40,600 --> 00:35:44,600

to people building these, like, lavish tombs for themselves.

808

00:35:44,600 --> 00:35:46,600

It's a huge shift.

809

00:35:46,600 --> 00:35:47,600

Absolutely.

810

00:35:47,600 --> 00:35:50,600

But the decline in the pharaoh's absolute authority

811

00:35:50,600 --> 00:35:52,600

is only part of the story.

812

00:35:52,600 --> 00:35:55,600

The walls of Ankhtifi's tomb reveal another reason

813

00:35:55,600 --> 00:35:57,600

the Old Kingdom fell apart.

814

00:35:57,600 --> 00:36:00,600

So when we get to this column,

815

00:36:00,600 --> 00:36:03,600

we see Ankhtifi telling us a little bit

816

00:36:03,600 --> 00:36:05,600

about possible historical events.

817

00:36:05,600 --> 00:36:07,600

He's highlighting a period of crisis.

818

00:36:07,600 --> 00:36:10,600

He tells us that the entirety of Upper Egypt

819

00:36:10,600 --> 00:36:13,600

was dying of hunger,

820

00:36:13,600 --> 00:36:16,600

and every man was eating his child.

821

00:36:16,600 --> 00:36:19,600

And probably saying that metaphorically,

822

00:36:19,600 --> 00:36:20,600

like they have no food.

823

00:36:20,600 --> 00:36:21,600

Absolutely.

824

00:36:21,600 --> 00:36:23,600

References to this famine

825

00:36:23,600 --> 00:36:25,600

appear in multiple tombs from this period.

826

00:36:25,600 --> 00:36:29,600

In addition, scientists have conducted sediment tests,

827

00:36:29,600 --> 00:36:31,600

showing that around 2200 BCE,

828

00:36:31,600 --> 00:36:34,600

at the time of the collapse of the Old Kingdom,

829

00:36:34,600 --> 00:36:37,600

certain lands around the Nile were bone dry,

830

00:36:37,600 --> 00:36:40,600

the start of a decades-long drought.

831

00:36:40,600 --> 00:36:42,600

Add to that, governors like Ankhtifi

832

00:36:42,600 --> 00:36:45,600

with growing power and a need to feed people

833

00:36:45,600 --> 00:36:48,600

in their own region, and things get dangerous.

834

00:36:48,600 --> 00:36:50,600

So this kind of feels like a powder keg,

835

00:36:50,600 --> 00:36:53,600

because now you've got power in the hands

836

00:36:53,600 --> 00:36:55,600

of lots of different people,

837

00:36:55,600 --> 00:36:57,600

you've got a scarcity of food,

838

00:36:57,600 --> 00:36:58,600

you've got a drought,

839

00:36:58,600 --> 00:37:02,600

and these regional rulers are controlling resources.

840

00:37:02,600 --> 00:37:03,600

Yes, absolutely.

841

00:37:03,600 --> 00:37:07,600

Those are typically historically the conditions for war.

842

00:37:07,600 --> 00:37:10,600

Yes, and in fact elsewhere in this tomb,

843

00:37:10,600 --> 00:37:13,600

Ankhtifi tells us how he's been at war

844

00:37:13,600 --> 00:37:16,600

against enemy coalitions of different regions,

845

00:37:16,600 --> 00:37:19,600

and it shows that there were fights for power

846

00:37:19,600 --> 00:37:23,600

within Egypt among these regional leaders.

847

00:37:23,600 --> 00:37:24,600

Right.

848

00:37:24,600 --> 00:37:27,600

The tombs we've explored in Sakara,

849

00:37:27,600 --> 00:37:30,600

those belonging to Iaret, Hrui, and Henu,

850

00:37:30,600 --> 00:37:33,600

show the road to Ankhtifi's time,

851

00:37:33,600 --> 00:37:37,600

a time when the pharaoh is no longer in control of his kingdom,

852

00:37:37,600 --> 00:37:40,600

and a kingdom in dire need of food, water,

853

00:37:40,600 --> 00:37:42,600

and security for its people.

854

00:37:42,600 --> 00:37:45,600

To see how those puzzle pieces fit into the tombs

855

00:37:45,600 --> 00:37:47,600

we're continuing to explore,

856

00:37:47,600 --> 00:37:49,600

I head from Luxor back to Sakara

857

00:37:49,600 --> 00:37:51,600

for one last trip to our dig site

858

00:37:51,600 --> 00:37:55,600

to excavate the final layers of this mystery.

859

00:37:55,600 --> 00:37:58,600

I descend down into the impressively painted tomb

860

00:37:58,600 --> 00:38:00,600

that belonged to Henu,

861

00:38:00,600 --> 00:38:03,600

a mayor in the time of the pharaoh Meranrha.

862

00:38:03,600 --> 00:38:05,600

The excavations have progressed further down,

863

00:38:05,600 --> 00:38:08,600

so that the finer archaeological work can continue.

864

00:38:08,600 --> 00:38:09,600

Okay.

865

00:38:09,600 --> 00:38:11,600

I'm alive.

866

00:38:11,600 --> 00:38:12,600

I'm alive.

867

00:38:12,600 --> 00:38:14,600

Okay, so some real progress here.

868

00:38:14,600 --> 00:38:16,600

This is not what I expected to see here.

869

00:38:16,600 --> 00:38:19,600

Blocking half the tomb here, we have this mud brick wall.

870

00:38:19,600 --> 00:38:22,600

And have any of the tombs here had this?

871

00:38:22,600 --> 00:38:23,600

No, in this side.

872

00:38:23,600 --> 00:38:24,600

It's a very rare feature here.

873

00:38:24,600 --> 00:38:26,600

It's not common to find something like this.

874

00:38:26,600 --> 00:38:29,600

Is this feature part of the original tomb, do we think,

875

00:38:29,600 --> 00:38:30,600

or is it later?

876

00:38:30,600 --> 00:38:32,600

I think it's later, but not much later.

877

00:38:32,600 --> 00:38:33,600

So still in antiquity?

878

00:38:33,600 --> 00:38:34,600

Yes.

879

00:38:34,600 --> 00:38:36,600

So it's added to shortly after the tomb?

880

00:38:36,600 --> 00:38:37,600

Yes.

881

00:38:37,600 --> 00:38:39,600

So does that mean this tomb has been reused?

882

00:38:39,600 --> 00:38:40,600

Maybe.

883

00:38:40,600 --> 00:38:41,600

All right, the mystery continues.

884

00:38:41,600 --> 00:38:42,600

More digging?

885

00:38:42,600 --> 00:38:43,600

Yes.

886

00:38:43,600 --> 00:38:46,600

For this kind of excavation in tight, dusty spaces,

887

00:38:46,600 --> 00:38:50,600

we need to use respirator masks to protect our lungs.

888

00:38:50,600 --> 00:38:53,600

So this is kind of the tedious part of the process.

889

00:38:53,600 --> 00:38:56,600

We're literally going to scrape sand from the back of the vault

890

00:38:56,600 --> 00:39:00,600

toward the front and just take it down like an inch at a time.

891

00:39:00,600 --> 00:39:02,600

Oh.

892

00:39:02,600 --> 00:39:03,600

Josh.

893

00:39:03,600 --> 00:39:04,600

Got something?

894

00:39:04,600 --> 00:39:07,600

Yes.

895

00:39:07,600 --> 00:39:11,600

Hold on, he's got something here.

896

00:39:11,600 --> 00:39:12,600

Something painted?

897

00:39:12,600 --> 00:39:15,600

Yes.

898

00:39:15,600 --> 00:39:16,600

It's an offering.

899

00:39:16,600 --> 00:39:17,600

An offering?

900

00:39:17,600 --> 00:39:18,600

Yes, it's a goose.

901

00:39:18,600 --> 00:39:19,600

It's a goose?

902

00:39:19,600 --> 00:39:20,600

Yes, look at the wing.

903

00:39:20,600 --> 00:39:21,600

And this is the neck.

904

00:39:21,600 --> 00:39:22,600

Yes.

905

00:39:22,600 --> 00:39:23,600

Kind of offering.

906

00:39:23,600 --> 00:39:24,600

It's a kind of offering.

907

00:39:24,600 --> 00:39:25,600

Yes.

908

00:39:25,600 --> 00:39:27,600

So this would have been a small carved limestone statue,

909

00:39:27,600 --> 00:39:29,600

carved into the shape of a goose.

910

00:39:29,600 --> 00:39:30,600

Yes.

911

00:39:30,600 --> 00:39:31,600

And left as an offering.

912

00:39:31,600 --> 00:39:33,600

Wow.

913

00:39:33,600 --> 00:39:36,600

And you can imagine he tried to imitate the unicolor

914

00:39:36,600 --> 00:39:38,600

with the skin of the goose.

915

00:39:38,600 --> 00:39:39,600

Right.

916

00:39:39,600 --> 00:39:41,600

And so this is the neck and the head of the goose,

917

00:39:41,600 --> 00:39:42,600

bent backwards.

918

00:39:42,600 --> 00:39:43,600

Yes.

919

00:39:43,600 --> 00:39:44,600

This offering brings for Hinoop.

920

00:39:44,600 --> 00:39:45,600

Right.

921

00:39:45,600 --> 00:39:48,600

So this is matching with the original tomb.

922

00:39:48,600 --> 00:39:49,600

Right.

923

00:39:49,600 --> 00:39:50,600

OK.

924

00:39:50,600 --> 00:39:53,600

Let's start again.

925

00:39:53,600 --> 00:39:56,600

Remember when you were a kid and used to play in the sand

926

00:39:56,600 --> 00:39:57,600

at the beach?

927

00:39:57,600 --> 00:40:00,600

It's just like that, except there might be a human.

928

00:40:00,600 --> 00:40:04,600

A human corpse under here.

929

00:40:04,600 --> 00:40:08,600

It's a lot of sand.

930

00:40:08,600 --> 00:40:11,600

I could almost sit up, which is an improvement.

931

00:40:11,600 --> 00:40:12,600

Yes.

932

00:40:12,600 --> 00:40:15,600

And then I find something that makes me sit up.

933

00:40:15,600 --> 00:40:16,600

Here, here, here, here.

934

00:40:16,600 --> 00:40:20,600

Is it wood or a bone?

935

00:40:20,600 --> 00:40:21,600

Bone.

936

00:40:21,600 --> 00:40:22,600

Piece of bone.

937

00:40:22,600 --> 00:40:23,600

Piece of bone.

938

00:40:23,600 --> 00:40:24,600

Long bone, yeah?

939

00:40:24,600 --> 00:40:25,600

Long bone.

940

00:40:25,600 --> 00:40:26,600

OK.

941

00:40:26,600 --> 00:40:29,600

Human remains here.

942

00:40:29,600 --> 00:40:31,600

I think we've got another long bone here.

943

00:40:31,600 --> 00:40:32,600

Another long bone here.

944

00:40:32,600 --> 00:40:35,600

So we've got a burial up against this wall here.

945

00:40:35,600 --> 00:40:37,600

This is a foot.

946

00:40:37,600 --> 00:40:38,600

Is that a foot?

947

00:40:38,600 --> 00:40:39,600

Foot.

948

00:40:39,600 --> 00:40:40,600

We've got part of the foot here.

949

00:40:40,600 --> 00:40:42,600

It looks like both feet.

950

00:40:42,600 --> 00:40:43,600

Both feet.

951

00:40:43,600 --> 00:40:44,600

Oh, my word.

952

00:40:44,600 --> 00:40:45,600

Oh, man.

953

00:40:45,600 --> 00:40:46,600

Look at this.

954

00:40:46,600 --> 00:40:49,600

So we've got a body that's laid out this way along the edge

955

00:40:49,600 --> 00:40:50,600

of the tomb.

956

00:40:50,600 --> 00:40:53,600

So this is definitely an intrusive burial, yeah?

957

00:40:53,600 --> 00:40:54,600

Yes.

958

00:40:54,600 --> 00:40:58,600

Intrusive burials were a common practice in ancient Egypt.

959

00:40:58,600 --> 00:41:02,600

The people would break into tombs, discard the original resident,

960

00:41:02,600 --> 00:41:05,600

and reuse the space for their loved ones.

961

00:41:05,600 --> 00:41:08,600

By surrounding them with offerings and spells,

962

00:41:08,600 --> 00:41:11,600

even from someone else's tomb, the belief was that this might

963

00:41:11,600 --> 00:41:14,600

have ensured a journey to the afterlife.

964

00:41:14,600 --> 00:41:17,600

We've got somebody that was laid here in the tomb after the

965

00:41:17,600 --> 00:41:20,600

owner and no sign of a coffin, yeah?

966

00:41:20,600 --> 00:41:21,600

Yes.

967

00:41:21,600 --> 00:41:23,600

This skeleton looks like it's going to a down angle.

968

00:41:23,600 --> 00:41:27,600

So it may be that the rest of him is laid out right under here.

969

00:41:27,600 --> 00:41:30,600

We can see traces of linen on the leg bones.

970

00:41:30,600 --> 00:41:36,600

So this is a mummy, obviously, in a really, really bad state of preservation.

971

00:41:36,600 --> 00:41:41,600

He was mummified and placed here, but definitely after the owner of our tomb.

972

00:41:41,600 --> 00:41:43,600

This is one of the ribs.

973

00:41:43,600 --> 00:41:44,600

Uh-huh.

974

00:41:44,600 --> 00:41:45,600

Uh-huh.

975

00:41:45,600 --> 00:41:48,600

Got a whole body here except for a head.

976

00:41:48,600 --> 00:41:50,600

Where's his head?

977

00:41:50,600 --> 00:41:53,600

Hold on.

978

00:41:53,600 --> 00:41:54,600

Oh, yes.

979

00:41:54,600 --> 00:41:56,600

We got a skull right here.

980

00:41:57,600 --> 00:42:03,600

It may seem obvious, but it's also easy to forget.

981

00:42:03,600 --> 00:42:06,600

If you can see me, it means I'm not alone.

982

00:42:06,600 --> 00:42:08,600

Mack, you coming to work today or what?

983

00:42:08,600 --> 00:42:11,600

My crew is with me every step of the way,

984

00:42:11,600 --> 00:42:14,600

even when that step is a long way down.

985

00:42:14,600 --> 00:42:15,600

All right, guys.

986

00:42:15,600 --> 00:42:16,600

Hi.

987

00:42:16,600 --> 00:42:17,600

Perfect.

988

00:42:17,600 --> 00:42:18,600

Welcome to the office.

989

00:42:18,600 --> 00:42:21,600

But there are times when I have to toughen these guys up.

990

00:42:21,600 --> 00:42:22,600

Mack, this guy's working.

991

00:42:22,600 --> 00:42:23,600

You're not working.

992

00:42:23,600 --> 00:42:24,600

Okay?

993

00:42:24,600 --> 00:42:25,600

This is not work.

994

00:42:25,600 --> 00:42:26,600

It's easy.

995

00:42:26,600 --> 00:42:28,600

This is easy, what's happening.

996

00:42:28,600 --> 00:42:30,600

So I engineer a little trade.

997

00:42:30,600 --> 00:42:31,600

Here we go.

998

00:42:31,600 --> 00:42:34,600

This is more like it.

999

00:42:34,600 --> 00:42:36,600

That's right, Mack.

1000

00:42:36,600 --> 00:42:39,600

Not so easy now, is it?

1001

00:42:39,600 --> 00:42:40,600

That's good.

1002

00:42:40,600 --> 00:42:41,600

That's good.

1003

00:42:41,600 --> 00:42:42,600

I'm done.

1004

00:42:42,600 --> 00:42:43,600

I'm done.

1005

00:42:43,600 --> 00:42:44,600

I'm done.

1006

00:42:44,600 --> 00:42:45,600

I'm done.

1007

00:42:45,600 --> 00:42:46,600

I'm done.

1008

00:42:46,600 --> 00:42:47,600

I'm done.

1009

00:42:47,600 --> 00:42:48,600

I'm done.

1010

00:42:48,600 --> 00:42:49,600

I'm done.

1011

00:42:49,600 --> 00:42:50,600

I'm done.

1012

00:42:50,600 --> 00:42:51,600

I'm done.

1013

00:42:51,600 --> 00:42:52,600

I'm done.

1014

00:42:52,600 --> 00:42:53,600

I'm done.

1015

00:42:53,600 --> 00:42:54,600

I'm done.

1016

00:42:54,600 --> 00:42:55,600

I'm done.

1017

00:42:55,600 --> 00:42:57,600

This is an old LOL.

1018

00:42:57,600 --> 00:43:00,600

In the burial shaft of a 6th dynasty Egyptian noble named Henu.

1019

00:43:00,600 --> 00:43:02,600

We've discovered an uninvited guest.

1020

00:43:02,600 --> 00:43:06,600

An intrusive burial laid to rest after the tomb's owner.

1021

00:43:06,600 --> 00:43:08,600

Top of the skull here.

1022

00:43:08,600 --> 00:43:09,600

Coming into view.

1023

00:43:09,600 --> 00:43:10,600

Look at his mouth.

1024

00:43:10,600 --> 00:43:11,600

Look at the preservation.

1025

00:43:11,600 --> 00:43:17,600

Nose is coming into view here.

1026

00:43:17,600 --> 00:43:19,600

This body shows the mummification techniques that were the norm for the old kingdom.

1027

00:43:19,600 --> 00:43:20,600

This really is an old kingdom mummy here.

1028

00:43:20,600 --> 00:43:21,600

We have a life-like appearance.

1029

00:43:21,600 --> 00:43:22,600

But it's not a real wreck.

1030

00:43:22,600 --> 00:43:23,600

So they're like, look at that.

1031

00:43:23,600 --> 00:43:24,600

It's in the video.

1032

00:43:24,600 --> 00:43:26,300

but it's almost molded on.

1033

00:43:26,400 --> 00:43:28,900

You can see the way his lips are,

1034

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:30,800

the way his nose is preserved.

1035

00:43:30,900 --> 00:43:32,700

We don't see any of those resins,

1036

00:43:32,800 --> 00:43:34,600

any of those advanced techniques we would see later.

1037

00:43:34,700 --> 00:43:37,800

So very much like the mummy of Nefer that we saw.

1038

00:43:40,600 --> 00:43:43,900

There's something just overwhelming

1039

00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:47,300

about digging down through this sand and just coming,

1040

00:43:47,400 --> 00:43:51,100

literally coming face to face with a person.

1041

00:43:51,200 --> 00:43:54,000

It's meeting someone from the past.

1042

00:43:54,500 --> 00:43:58,800

So we'll dig this out a bit more and then photograph it.

1043

00:43:58,900 --> 00:43:59,300

Yeah?

1044

00:43:59,400 --> 00:44:00,000

Yes.

1045

00:44:00,100 --> 00:44:03,000

The remains are quickly and carefully removed

1046

00:44:03,100 --> 00:44:07,000

so we can continue digging down toward Hennu's burial layer.

1047

00:44:18,100 --> 00:44:20,000

Oh, hold on.

1048

00:44:20,100 --> 00:44:22,000

Got some wood here.

1049

00:44:23,000 --> 00:44:24,500

Could this be from the coffin?

1050

00:44:24,600 --> 00:44:26,500

From the original coffin of Henu.

1051

00:44:26,600 --> 00:44:27,200

You think so?

1052

00:44:27,300 --> 00:44:29,000

Yes.

1053

00:44:29,100 --> 00:44:31,800

Now we are in the layer down the burial.

1054

00:44:31,900 --> 00:44:32,400

Right.

1055

00:44:32,500 --> 00:44:33,700

So we're at the burial layer now.

1056

00:44:33,800 --> 00:44:36,400

So his burial is definitely disturbed then.

1057

00:44:36,500 --> 00:44:37,400

Yes.

1058

00:44:37,500 --> 00:44:41,400

You see, that man who came after Henu, his poor man,

1059

00:44:41,500 --> 00:44:44,400

he just put his body above the sand.

1060

00:44:44,500 --> 00:44:45,400

Right.

1061

00:44:45,500 --> 00:44:47,600

So if we have a wooden coffin,

1062

00:44:47,700 --> 00:44:49,600

we must find something around his mummy.

1063

00:44:49,700 --> 00:44:50,100

Right.

1064

00:44:50,200 --> 00:44:51,000

But we have nothing.

1065

00:44:51,000 --> 00:44:54,000

So the mummy we found earlier, the later mummy,

1066

00:44:54,100 --> 00:44:56,900

he came in here and what, destroyed this coffin?

1067

00:44:57,000 --> 00:44:57,700

Yes.

1068

00:44:57,800 --> 00:45:00,900

We think of these tombs as such sacred places

1069

00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:04,700

as the ancient Egyptians clearly had such respect

1070

00:45:04,800 --> 00:45:07,500

for the afterlife, for their religion, for their gods,

1071

00:45:07,600 --> 00:45:10,900

yet they were willing to come in and desecrate a tomb

1072

00:45:11,000 --> 00:45:13,800

like this for themselves.

1073

00:45:13,900 --> 00:45:16,600

This is the end of the old kingdom in a nutshell.

1074

00:45:16,700 --> 00:45:20,600

Traditions thrown aside as chaos reigns.

1075

00:45:20,700 --> 00:45:23,400

But you can imagine if this man was desperate.

1076

00:45:23,500 --> 00:45:24,000

Right.

1077

00:45:24,100 --> 00:45:24,700

He's desperate.

1078

00:45:24,800 --> 00:45:27,300

He comes here, destroys the original burial

1079

00:45:27,400 --> 00:45:29,000

to make an afterlife for himself.

1080

00:45:29,100 --> 00:45:30,200

Yes.

1081

00:45:30,300 --> 00:45:31,200

The great Henu.

1082

00:45:31,300 --> 00:45:31,900

Yes.

1083

00:45:32,000 --> 00:45:32,700

He was the mayor.

1084

00:45:32,800 --> 00:45:34,000

He was the sole friend of the king.

1085

00:45:34,100 --> 00:45:36,800

He was this powerful guy in the palace.

1086

00:45:36,900 --> 00:45:38,300

And it all comes to this.

1087

00:45:41,500 --> 00:45:44,100

We step out as the very last layers of sand

1088

00:45:44,200 --> 00:45:46,000

are swept out of the tomb.

1089

00:45:46,100 --> 00:45:50,300

This is likely as clean as it was on the day Henu first occupied it.

1090

00:45:51,300 --> 00:45:52,600

All done.

1091

00:45:52,700 --> 00:45:53,400

Nice work.

1092

00:45:53,500 --> 00:45:54,200

Thank you.

1093

00:45:54,300 --> 00:45:54,700

All right.

1094

00:45:54,800 --> 00:45:55,400

Look at this place.

1095

00:45:55,500 --> 00:45:56,200

It's beautiful.

1096

00:45:56,300 --> 00:45:57,000

Yes.

1097

00:45:57,100 --> 00:46:01,200

A tomb fit for not a king, a mayor,

1098

00:46:01,300 --> 00:46:03,200

and for someone else who came after.

1099

00:46:03,300 --> 00:46:03,700

Yes.

1100

00:46:03,800 --> 00:46:04,400

Yes.

1101

00:46:04,500 --> 00:46:05,200

All right.

1102

00:46:05,300 --> 00:46:05,700

Come on.

1103

00:46:05,800 --> 00:46:06,200

Let's walk out.

1104

00:46:06,300 --> 00:46:07,200

Here we go.

1105

00:46:10,300 --> 00:46:11,900

Look how far we've come.

1106

00:46:12,000 --> 00:46:13,900

This is maybe 25 feet deep.

1107

00:46:14,000 --> 00:46:16,200

And in the beginning, it was just sand all the way to the top.

1108

00:46:16,300 --> 00:46:19,200

So how much sand do you figure removed out of here?

1109

00:46:19,200 --> 00:46:21,100

2,000 cubic feet of sand.

1110

00:46:21,200 --> 00:46:25,100

You can imagine its weight, 200,000 pounds.

1111

00:46:25,200 --> 00:46:27,600

We moved 200,000 pounds of sand.

1112

00:46:27,700 --> 00:46:28,600

And look at that.

1113

00:46:28,700 --> 00:46:32,100

At the bottom of all this, there are incredible things to find.

1114

00:46:32,200 --> 00:46:33,100

Yes.

1115

00:46:33,200 --> 00:46:33,600

All right.

1116

00:46:33,700 --> 00:46:34,600

Can we get out of this shaft now?

1117

00:46:34,700 --> 00:46:35,100

Yes.

1118

00:46:35,200 --> 00:46:37,600

Just say for them, Reha.

1119

00:46:37,700 --> 00:46:40,100

Reha!

1120

00:46:40,200 --> 00:46:42,600

The mystery and allure of ancient Egypt

1121

00:46:42,700 --> 00:46:46,800

has kept archaeologists digging through its sands for centuries.

1122

00:46:46,900 --> 00:46:48,600

Well, in my brief time here,

1123

00:46:48,600 --> 00:46:51,000

I've helped move my share of that sand.

1124

00:46:51,100 --> 00:46:53,500

And I can tell you that the necropolis at Sakara

1125

00:46:53,600 --> 00:46:57,500

is worth all of that effort and more.

1126

00:46:57,600 --> 00:47:00,500

I've never been at a dig site where so much history

1127

00:47:00,600 --> 00:47:04,500

felt so immediate and urgent, asking to be unearthed.

1128

00:47:04,600 --> 00:47:07,500

Got a burial up against this wall here.

1129

00:47:07,600 --> 00:47:10,500

The discoveries here show that powerful officials

1130

00:47:10,600 --> 00:47:14,000

undermined the absolute authority of the pharaoh.

1131

00:47:14,100 --> 00:47:16,500

That, combined with famine, drought,

1132

00:47:16,500 --> 00:47:22,400

and rising regional governments, all conspired to bring the Old Kingdom to its knees.

1133

00:47:22,500 --> 00:47:26,400

At the same time, we may well have put a face on one of its rulers,

1134

00:47:26,500 --> 00:47:31,400

scanning and identifying the only Old Kingdom pharaoh ever found.

1135

00:47:31,500 --> 00:47:34,400

I know the discoveries will only continue

1136

00:47:34,500 --> 00:47:38,400

as intrepid archaeologists across Sakara and beyond,

1137

00:47:38,500 --> 00:47:43,400

along with their tireless teams, continue to dig.

1138

00:47:43,400 --> 00:47:47,800

After all, the sands of Egypt have many more stories to tell

1139

00:47:47,900 --> 00:47:50,300

and many more mysteries to reveal.

1140

00:47:50,400 --> 00:47:53,300

Listen carefully, because the past calls out

1141

00:47:53,400 --> 00:47:57,300

from just below our feet, waiting patiently to be heard.