

1

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

This place is unreal.

2

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

What was the kingdom of Kush?

3

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

Civilization that lived here for almost 3,000 years.

4

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

We don't understand, I would say, most of it.

5

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

Kush goes from being under the thumb of the Egyptians

6

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

to ruling this entire region.

7

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

What's in the third chamber?

8

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

So it should be the king.

9

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

It's completely flooded.

10

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

We've decided to dive it.

11

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

You interested?

12

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

This is like the most dangerous diving that you could do.

13

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

And I'll make it my way through.

14

00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:45,000

All the dangers of going into an unstable, crumbling room.

15

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

Look at this place.

16

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

Are you kidding me?

17

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

I am nervous. That's not true. I'm scared.

18

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

Dive team is topside. You only got 5 minutes left.

19

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

I think I can see the slabs.

20

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

What is that?

21

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:00,000

Wait, what is this?

22

00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:16,000

Okay, pop quiz.

23

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:18,000

Name a country that was once ruled by pharaohs,

24

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:20,000

has a capital on the Nile,

25

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:22,000

and is home to more pyramids than any other.

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00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:25,000

Well, if you said Egypt, then you are absolutely wrong.

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00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:28,000

The answer is their southern neighborhood.

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:30,000

Modern day Sudan,

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00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:33,000

which was once home to the kingdom of Kush.

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:35,000

A mysterious civilization so powerful,

31

00:01:35,000 --> 00:01:38,000

that it once conquered the ancient Egyptians.

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00:01:38,000 --> 00:01:41,000

For centuries, the pyramids and cities of the Kushites

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:44,000

were buried beneath the sands of the Sahara.

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,000

Once they were rediscovered in the early 20th century,

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:50,000

archaeologists unearthed glittering treasures

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00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:53,000

that rivaled those of King Tut.

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00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,000

But they wrongly attributed the Kushites' accomplishments

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00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:58,000

to the neighboring Egyptians.

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:00,000

And before history could be corrected,

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00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:04,000

many of those early finds were swallowed up by the elements.

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00:02:07,000 --> 00:02:10,000

Now, a new generation of scientists

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:14,000

is attempting to learn the real history of the kingdom of Kush.

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00:02:16,000 --> 00:02:18,000

At a holy site deep in the desert,

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:21,000

explorers are unlocking the secrets of the ancient lands

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00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:23,000

of the Kushites.

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00:02:23,000 --> 00:02:25,000

And at an ancient burial ground,

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00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:28,000

a daring archaeologist is attempting something

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00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:30,000

that many would call insane.

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

Beneath the crumbling ruins of a Kushite pyramid,

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00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:37,000

he's planning to dive into the pitch black flooded tomb of a king,

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00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:40,000

seeking remains of his long lost mummy.

52

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:43,000

And I've been invited to join him.

53

00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:50,000

This is the story of the king of Kushites.

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

This is, by far, the most dangerous expedition

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00:02:53,000 --> 00:02:57,000

I've ever considered, but also the most exciting.

56

00:02:57,000 --> 00:03:01,000

A chance to perhaps discover a Kush king in his pyramid,

57

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

something that has never been documented before.

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00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:08,000

So join me on a quest to a real-world Wakanda,

59

00:03:08,000 --> 00:03:11,000

and the greatest empire that you maybe have never heard of.

60

00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:14,000

It's time to hunt for the treasures and the truth

61

00:03:14,000 --> 00:03:17,000

behind the kingdom of Kush.

62

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:23,000

My name is Josh Gates.

63

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:24,000

Hello!

64

00:03:24,000 --> 00:03:25,000

Explorer.

65

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:26,000

Here goes nothing.

66

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:27,000

Adventurer.

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

Woo-hoo-hoo!

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00:03:28,000 --> 00:03:29,000

Oh, that's a long way down.

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00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:33,000

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

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00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

I'm alive for now.

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00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:39,000

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

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:41,000

I travel to the ends of the earth,

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00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:44,000

investigating the greatest legends in history.

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00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:45,000

Ready to rock and roll.

75

00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:48,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

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00:03:50,000 --> 00:03:58,000

Music

77

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

I begin my investigation into the ancient and mysterious

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00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:07,000

kingdom of Kush in the capital of modern Sudan.

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00:04:07,000 --> 00:04:09,000

Khartoum.

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00:04:09,000 --> 00:04:12,000

To us in the West, the name has an almost mythic quality,

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:14,000

like some fabled African city

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:16,000

or maybe something out of the Arabian Nights.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:19,000

But in reality, this place is not an ancient treasure.

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00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:23,000

In fact, relatively speaking, Khartoum is, well, kind of new.

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00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:29,000

Established only 200 years ago, this is a bustling town.

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

The beating heart of a country which, after years of fierce fighting

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00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:37,000

and political upheaval, seemed to be changing for the better.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:43,000

Hopes were high when a brutal civil war that devastated the country

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:45,000

ended in 2011.

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00:04:46,000 --> 00:04:49,000

And in just the last few years, Sudan has had a revolution,

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00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

tossed out an Islamic dictator,

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00:04:51,000 --> 00:04:55,000

and is no longer designated a U.S. state sponsor of terrorism.

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00:04:55,000 --> 00:04:57,000

So that's a good thing.

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00:04:58,000 --> 00:05:02,000

But sadly, Sudan has once again been rocked by violence,

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00:05:02,000 --> 00:05:06,000

as rival military factions battle for control.

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00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:10,000

The fighting began only weeks after my crew and I left the country.

97

00:05:11,000 --> 00:05:14,000

What you're seeing are some of the last quiet moments

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00:05:14,000 --> 00:05:17,000

Khartoum would have for some time.

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00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:22,000

But while modern Sudan tries to build a peaceful future,

100

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:25,000

I'm here to delve into its past.

101

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:28,000

Right here, smack dab in the middle of Khartoum

102

00:05:28,000 --> 00:05:31,000

is one of the world's great geologic features.

103

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:33,000

On my left is the white Nile,

104

00:05:33,000 --> 00:05:36,000

which has been flowing north all the way from East Africa.

105

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:38,000

On my right, the blue Nile,

106

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:41,000

which flows here from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.

107

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,000

And this is the spot where they meet.

108

00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:45,000

It's called the Confluence,

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00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:48,000

and together they form the Nile.

110

00:05:50,000 --> 00:05:52,000

It's considered the longest river in the world,

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00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:57,000

and it's the life-giving force that made ancient Egypt's success possible.

112

00:05:57,000 --> 00:06:00,000

But they weren't the river's only beneficiary.

113

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

Directly south of modern Egypt,

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

Sudan and South Sudan occupy over a million square miles

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00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:10,000

and take up nearly 10% of the African continent.

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00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:16,000

Thousands of years ago, this was the land referred to as Nubia,

117

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:19,000

a vast area that gave rise to the Kushites,

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00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:23,000

who flourished between here and Egypt's southern border.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:27,000

The earliest references to people in this region

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00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:29,000

are found in Egyptian hieroglyphs,

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00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:31,000

thousands of years old,

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00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:33,000

where they are portrayed as warriors

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00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

and wrestlers.

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00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:40,000

Cartoon Stadium.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:44,000

Within its walls, a crowd has gathered to watch an ancient art,

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00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:46,000

part fight,

127

00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:48,000

part ritual,

128

00:06:49,000 --> 00:06:51,000

part dance,

129

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:53,000

and full contact.

130

00:06:53,000 --> 00:06:55,000

The Nile is now back.

131

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

Weekly matches here draw huge crowds, including my new friend, Biggie.

132

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

This is very old, this tradition, yes?

133

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:12,000

Yes, and it goes back to the ancient Nubian kingdom.

134

00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:14,000

All the way back, and has it changed much?

135

00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:19,000

Yes, back in the days, they used to wrestle naked.

136

00:07:19,000 --> 00:07:20,000

Fully naked?

137

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Fully naked, okay.

138

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:24,000

You want to wrestle?

139

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

Do I want to wrestle?

140

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:26,000

Yes.

141

00:07:26,000 --> 00:07:27,000

You look like a big guy, man.

142

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:28,000

I am a big guy.

143

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:29,000

I know a few people that come.

144

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:30,000

Oh, you can get me a ring?

145

00:07:30,000 --> 00:07:31,000

Yeah.

146

00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:33,000

Unfortunately, I only wrestle naked.

147

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

I'm a traditionalist.

148

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

We get my ways.

149

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:38,000

I like to do it the old way.

150

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:39,000

I like that.

151

00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:40,000

Thank you.

152

00:07:40,000 --> 00:07:41,000

Thank you.

153

00:07:41,000 --> 00:07:54,000

The matches end in the light of the setting sun.

154

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:57,000

This modern tradition echoes the ancient Kushites,

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00:07:57,000 --> 00:07:59,000

who were clearly proud warriors.

156

00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:04,000

But how did they take on a force as formidable as ancient Egypt?

157

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:06,000

I grabbed some shut-eye while I can,

158

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:10,000

because tomorrow I'm embarking on a major expedition

159

00:08:10,000 --> 00:08:17,000

to find out.

160

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:18,000

Good morning.

161

00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:19,000

It is dawn here in Khartoum,

162

00:08:19,000 --> 00:08:21,000

and we are getting ready to load out.

163

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:23,000

We've got a fleet of 4x4s, a big equipment truck,

164

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:25,000

and we are going to be heading deep into the desert,

165

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:29,000

going back in time to the ancient kingdom of Kush.

166

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:31,000

All right, boys, how are we doing?

167

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:38,000

We're about to embark on a drive through Saharan Africa's

168

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:43,000

most unforgiving terrain, to the once massive city known as Kerma.

169

00:08:43,000 --> 00:08:53,000

Okay, let's roll.

170

00:08:53,000 --> 00:08:58,000

I pull out ahead of the convoy and out of Khartoum.

171

00:08:58,000 --> 00:09:00,000

Well, out there is the Nubian Desert,

172

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

part of the larger Sahara that stretches nearly 4 million

173

00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:07,000

square miles from Western Africa all the way to the Red Sea.

174

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

It is vast, it is beautiful,

175

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

and it is not the place that you want to run at a gas.

176

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:16,000

I have three-quarters of a tank, though, so we should be fine.

177

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:17,000

Probably.

178

00:09:17,000 --> 00:09:18,000

Most likely.

179

00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:22,000

It takes about eight hours to traverse nearly 400 miles of desert

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00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:31,000

to the mysterious place where the kingdom of Kush got its start.

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00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:33,000

I arrive at Kerma.

182

00:09:33,000 --> 00:09:42,000

At first glance, the landscape looks empty.

183

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:47,000

But from above, a complicated pattern comes into view.

184

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:50,000

Joining me to explain what all of this once was

185

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:55,000

is archaeologist and former director of Sudan's Department of Antiquities,

186

00:09:55,000 --> 00:09:58,000

Abdel Rahman Ali.

187

00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:02,000

Josh, welcome to Kerma, the first great city of the kingdom of Kush.

188

00:10:02,000 --> 00:10:04,000

When is all of this built?

189

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:06,000

2500 BC.

190

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:08,000

Wow, so this is an old city?

191

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:11,000

Yeah, at that time, it was the largest city in Africa.

192

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:13,000

This was the largest city on the continent?

193

00:10:13,000 --> 00:10:14,000

Yes, of course.

194

00:10:14,000 --> 00:10:15,000

Wow.

195

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:19,000

In every direction, a blueprint to the past,

196

00:10:19,000 --> 00:10:22,000

the ghostly foundations of hundreds of structures.

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00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:27,000

5,000 years ago, this was an advanced society.

198

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:30,000

This is like when they're building the pyramids in Egypt, yeah?

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00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:33,000

Yes, at that time, they are building the great pyramids in Egypt.

200

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:36,000

And in Sudan, they are building this.

201

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Wow.

202

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:48,000

At the time, it was the largest structure in the sub-Saharan Africa.

203

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:50,000

Wow, incredible.

204

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:56,000

This mud brick temple, known as the Dufufa, stands 65 feet tall

205

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

and was once honeycombed with an intricate network of chambers and corridors.

206

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:04,000

Wow.

207

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:08,000

And I have to say this building is so impressive.

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00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:13,000

It is so impressive that the famous American archaeologist George Reisner

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

came here in the 19th century.

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00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:20,000

He was convinced that it was built by the Egyptians.

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00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:23,000

Harvard-trained American archaeologist George Reisner

212

00:11:23,000 --> 00:11:27,000

is considered the father of Sudanese archaeology.

213

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:31,000

From 1916 to 1923, Reisner was the first to unearth

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00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:35,000

almost every significant location in Kushite history.

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00:11:35,000 --> 00:11:38,000

His legacy, however, is more than a little complicated.

216

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:41,000

For one thing, he robbed the country blind,

217

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:46,000

shipping all of the best finds out of Sudan to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.

218

00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:49,000

And also, he got a lot wrong.

219

00:11:50,000 --> 00:11:54,000

Reisner thought this is so sophisticated, this temple is so huge,

220

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:57,000

could not have been built by the people of Kush.

221

00:11:57,000 --> 00:11:58,000

Yes, of course.

222

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

Because you came with the colonial perception of the early archaeologists.

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00:12:02,000 --> 00:12:05,000

This is obviously a really successful, powerful civilization.

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00:12:05,000 --> 00:12:08,000

So what's making Kush so wealthy?

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00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:10,000

Mineral resources.

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

When you say mineral resources, what do you mean?

227

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

Gold.

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00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:14,000

Gold.

229

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:17,000

Because most of the Egyptian gold came from Kush.

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00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:21,000

This is incredible because when we think of ancient Egypt,

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00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:22,000

we think of gold.

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00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:25,000

We think about, you know, these glittering death masks.

233

00:12:25,000 --> 00:12:28,000

But you're telling me most of that's not Egyptian.

234

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:32,000

Most of the gold of ancient Egypt came from Kush.

235

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:36,000

And if there's one thing we know about resources like gold,

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00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:38,000

it's that many people want them.

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00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:42,000

Egypt and the Kingdom of Kush view each other as both trading partner

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00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:44,000

and military rival.

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00:12:44,000 --> 00:12:48,000

The relationship officially turns toxic in 1500 BC,

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00:12:48,000 --> 00:12:53,000

when the new Kingdom Egyptian pharaoh, Tuttmose I, invades Kush territory.

241

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

The result?

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00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:58,000

Mighty Kerma is burned to the ground.

243

00:13:01,000 --> 00:13:04,000

Once the Egyptians have a foothold here, how long do they stay?

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00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:07,000

The Egyptians, they stay for about 500 years.

245

00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:09,000

Oh, they really stay?

246

00:13:09,000 --> 00:13:16,000

With Kerma raised, Egypt controls the Kingdom of Kush and all its resources.

247

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:19,000

The Kushites become completely Egyptianized,

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00:13:19,000 --> 00:13:22,000

adopting their neighbor's religion and traditions.

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00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:26,000

But after five centuries, something unexpected happens.

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00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:30,000

The Egyptians dealing with political turmoil at home, withdraw.

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00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:33,000

So what ends up happening?

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00:13:33,000 --> 00:13:37,000

After the Egyptians withdraw, the Kush Kingdom re-established.

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00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:40,000

And became a superpower.

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00:13:40,000 --> 00:13:43,000

It is a remarkable turn of the historical tide,

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00:13:43,000 --> 00:13:49,000

the once subjugated Kushites even the score and successfully invade Egypt.

256

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:53,000

But instead of exacting revenge,

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00:13:53,000 --> 00:13:59,000

five successive Kush kings rule as the pharaohs of the 25th dynasty,

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00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:04,000

bringing about a renaissance in classic Egyptian arts and architecture

259

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:07,000

and rejuvenating Egyptian culture.

260

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:12,000

To find out how they pulled it off,

261

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:16,000

I need to leave Kerma and drive to the second center of Kush power,

262

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:18,000

a place known as Nuri.

263

00:14:18,000 --> 00:14:22,000

The road from Kerma to Nuri will take us further south,

264

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:26,000

following the course of the Nile and deeper into the lands of Kush.

265

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:31,000

The trip takes me southeast into an even emptier expanse of the Sahara,

266

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:33,000

if that's even possible.

267

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:38,000

Finally, from behind the dunes, I see it.

268

00:14:43,000 --> 00:14:47,000

Not a mirage, but almost as unbelievable.

269

00:14:48,000 --> 00:14:50,000

Whoa.

270

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:56,000

This majestic city is Nuri,

271

00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:59,000

the great necropolis of the Mesihara.

272

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

The great necropolis of the mysterious kingdom of Kush.

273

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

Here, in the sands of modern Sudan,

274

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:10,000

rows of grand pyramids loom over a desolate landscape.

275

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

To learn the secrets of the Kushites,

276

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

one archaeologist has been making headlines with his daring first-of-its-kind investigation

277

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:23,000

underneath one of these pyramids.

278

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:27,000

And I'm getting unprecedented access to his site,

279

00:15:27,000 --> 00:15:31,000

which is why I'm so excited to meet Pierce Paul Kreisman.

280

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:33,000

I'm guessing you're Pierce Paul.

281

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

Josh?

282

00:15:34,000 --> 00:15:36,000

You're going to have to give me a minute,

283

00:15:36,000 --> 00:15:38,000

because I actually am kind of in a state of shock.

284

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:42,000

This is just a mind-blowing collection of ancient structures.

285

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:44,000

It's awe-inspiring to be here at Nuri.

286

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:49,000

So here we're at the home of about two dozen kings of the second kingdom of Kush.

287

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:52,000

I think if you blindfolded a lot of people and showed them this,

288

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:54,000

they'd say, oh, I must be in Egypt.

289

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:57,000

So a little known fact, there are more pyramids in Sudan than Egypt.

290

00:15:57,000 --> 00:15:58,000

How many pyramids in Sudan total?

291

00:15:58,000 --> 00:15:59,000

Hundreds.

292

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:01,000

At this site alone, there were probably 80.

293

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:03,000

80 pyramids in one site?

294

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:09,000

For comparison, in all of ancient Egypt, we know of only 118 pyramids.

295

00:16:09,000 --> 00:16:13,000

So in this respect, the Kush beat the Egyptians again.

296

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:19,000

Among the pyramids of Nuri is this one, the first pyramid built at this site.

297

00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:20,000

Big pyramid over there.

298

00:16:20,000 --> 00:16:23,000

So the big pyramid, the largest pyramid in Sudan.

299

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:25,000

This is the pyramid of Teharka.

300

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:31,000

King Teharka is the most celebrated of the five Kushite kings who rule over Egypt.

301

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:37,000

He reigns over a time of great prosperity and controls as much territory, if not more,

302

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:39,000

than of any Egyptian pharaoh ever.

303

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:42,000

He even gets a shout-out in the Old Testament.

304

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:45,000

Teharka is a major player in the story of Kush.

305

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:48,000

Why does he choose to build a pyramid here?

306

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:49,000

We have no idea.

307

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:51,000

And that's part of why we're here.

308

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:56,000

We're trying to start addressing some of these questions because they're really important to understanding the people.

309

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:59,000

They use this place for centuries.

310

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:07,000

After Teharka, and clearly because of his stature, nearly 20 future kings will erect their pyramids here as well.

311

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:10,000

And what are the biggest mysteries about the Kingdom of Kush?

312

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:13,000

We don't understand, I would say, most of it.

313

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:15,000

It's in part because of where it is.

314

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:21,000

It's in a part of the world that has been less accessible to Western scholars at least for a very, very long time.

315

00:17:21,000 --> 00:17:22,000

Yeah.

316

00:17:23,000 --> 00:17:28,000

Like at Kerma, George Reisner was the first Western archaeologist to explore Nuri.

317

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:31,000

And again, he underestimated the Kushites.

318

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:37,000

As he excavated his way through the Necropolis, Reisner credited these pyramids to the Egyptians.

319

00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:39,000

Were there any of these pyramids he didn't get into?

320

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

They didn't get into more than a dozen parts of these pyramids, including one entirely.

321

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

Wow.

322

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

And so we know that at this site, for a variety of reasons, no one's worked at it for 100 years.

323

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:53,000

For us intellectually, that's a gold mine.

324

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:54,000

Yeah.

325

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:56,000

It might also be an actual gold mine.

326

00:17:56,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Since several chambers of these pyramids have never been entered, it's anyone's guess what's inside.

327

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:07,000

So easy peasy, right? You just walk into the pyramids and get a whole bunch of knowledge.

328

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:09,000

I wish it was that easy.

329

00:18:09,000 --> 00:18:10,000

It's not?

330

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:11,000

No, it's not.

331

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

To see exactly how not easy it is, Pierce Paul brings me over to the tomb that he's targeted for exploration.

332

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

Pretty amazing, isn't it?

333

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:22,000

It's pretty intimidating.

334

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:28,000

Welcome to the pyramid and tomb of the King Nostasin.

335

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:33,000

Nostasin was the king of Kush from roughly 335 BC to 310 BC.

336

00:18:33,000 --> 00:18:38,000

During his reign, he was celebrated for having repelled another invasion from Egypt.

337

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:43,000

And when he died, he became the final Kushite king to be buried at Nuri.

338

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:47,000

So from the first king to Harka to the last Nostasin.

339

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:48,000

Yes.

340

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:51,000

I can't help but notice some very murky looking water there.

341

00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:53,000

I'm guessing that wasn't here 2300 years ago.

342

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:54,000

It wasn't.

343

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

So in the ancient era when they built this, they would have walked down, their feet would have been dry,

344

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:01,000

they'd have gone into a door and then it would have led to the first chamber,

345

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:06,000

had another doorway to a second chamber and another doorway to a third chamber.

346

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:08,000

And the third chamber is where you bury the king.

347

00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:12,000

When Reisner got here to excavate, what were the condition of these three chambers?

348

00:19:12,000 --> 00:19:16,000

So 100 years ago, he showed up and there were bricks in front of the front door.

349

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

It was in pretty good shape and then he gets in, excavates the first chamber,

350

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

and then sees that the second chamber is just totally and utterly collapsed.

351

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:24,000

The second chamber is collapsed.

352

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:27,000

There are thousands of pounds of bedrock just crushed down.

353

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:30,000

You can't tell that there is a second chamber anymore.

354

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:34,000

Reisner was understandably wary about trying to clear the rubble.

355

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:37,000

While excavating in another pyramid here at Nuri,

356

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:41,000

a collapse on the outer staircase took the lives of five of his crew.

357

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:46,000

So the fallen ceiling protected Nostasen's tomb in a third chamber from Reisner,

358

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:49,000

leaving it entirely intact.

359

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:56,000

This is a big deal because no mummy of a king of Kush has ever been confirmed to be recovered from his own tomb.

360

00:19:56,000 --> 00:20:03,000

And Nostasen could still be in that pyramid, along with untold treasures and gold.

361

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:09,000

In the past century, though, groundwater from the Nile only a mile away has steadily risen,

362

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:13,000

and now all three chambers of the pyramid are completely flooded.

363

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:19,000

See a lot of people back there with hoses and equipment, so tell me what you've been doing here since then.

364

00:20:19,000 --> 00:20:22,000

Okay, so we've decided to dive it.

365

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:23,000

What's wrong with you?

366

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Lots of things.

367

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:27,000

I'm so afraid to ask this question. What's the visibility in that water?

368

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Zero.

369

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:29,000

Nothing?

370

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Nothing.

371

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:35,000

The instant you go inside, you stir up thousands of years of dust and sediment.

372

00:20:35,000 --> 00:20:38,000

You're literally in the dark, like blindfolded dark down there.

373

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:44,000

On the list of reasons why diving the tomb is a bad idea, the dark is only the beginning.

374

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:51,000

There is also the very real possibility of being trapped underwater in a stone room that could collapse at any moment.

375

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:56,000

And if you're thinking it would be safer to just pump the water out of the tomb, think again.

376

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:59,000

The water in there is the only thing keeping the walls standing.

377

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:03,000

But there is one very good reason for Pierce Paul to risk his life.

378

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:05,000

What's in the third chamber?

379

00:21:05,000 --> 00:21:07,000

So theoretically, it should be the king.

380

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:12,000

In the middle of the room, there is a giant slab, like a pancake flat piece of rock.

381

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:13,000

So it's work stone?

382

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:16,000

It is work stone. There is no question of it.

383

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:24,000

A slab like this could be one of two things, either a burial platform for a Nostocan's body to be laid out upon,

384

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:28,000

or the lid of a sarcophagus, inside of which he would be sealed.

385

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:35,000

But here's the rub. In this time period, kings were known to have been entombed using both methods.

386

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:39,000

So our first order of business is to try to learn the purpose of the slab.

387

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:45,000

And if it turns out to be a coffin lid, we have a chance at finding Nostocan himself.

388

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:49,000

What would it mean to find any piece of this guy?

389

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Intellectually, this would be really powerful.

390

00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:57,000

One of the big issues we run into is that there are very few of these kings who are known from anywhere else outside of this room.

391

00:21:57,000 --> 00:22:02,000

Nostocan is. He's referenced in a couple of other places.

392

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:04,000

For us, he is an historical anchor.

393

00:22:04,000 --> 00:22:11,000

If we can start with him and start getting pieces of him, for example, to do DNA studies,

394

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:15,000

we can start to rebuild some of these major pieces from the history here.

395

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:18,000

Okay. Well, I wish you the best of luck.

396

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:24,000

You interested? This is no joke. I mean, if you don't have hesitations, you can't come.

397

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

Look, believe me, I would love to see what's in there. You think that's possible?

398

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:29,000

I think it's possible. You bring a suit?

399

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:32,000

Always. I have a weird job. You never know.

400

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

Come meet the team.

401

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

Let's do it.

402

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:40,000

One does not simply dive into the sunken pyramid of Nostocan.

403

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:44,000

To learn how I'm going to survive one of the most lethal environments on Earth,

404

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Pierce Paul brings me to meet his ace technical team, Justin Schneider, Fred Fiddler, and David Dunn.

405

00:22:50,000 --> 00:22:51,000

What's going on, guys?

406

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:52,000

Hey there.

407

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:55,000

I see a lot of hoses, but no scuba tanks.

408

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

We don't like tanks inside the tomb. If you bang that big steel or aluminum tank against the walls,

409

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:02,000

those walls are fragile and it could possibly cause a collapse.

410

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:04,000

So we like to use the hookah system.

411

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:07,000

Right. So hookah system, we're talking like surface supplied air.

412

00:23:07,000 --> 00:23:08,000

Correct.

413

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:09,000

And that air is being pushed down. How?

414

00:23:09,000 --> 00:23:14,000

Honda power generator over here that's enough to supply air for all four of us at a time.

415

00:23:14,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Okay. So if this goes down, what's the contingency? What's the backup?

416

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:24,000

We have a compressed air canister. That's basically a mini scuba tank with a built on regulator on the top that you're going to breathe from.

417

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:26,000

Got it. You ready?

418

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:27,000

No, but...

419

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

Are you going to do it anyway?

420

00:23:28,000 --> 00:23:29,000

Yeah.

421

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:30,000

Then let's get to it.

422

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:31,000

Let's get to it. Come on.

423

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:40,000

Now that I know how we're going to pull off the dive, I gear up and have to convince myself to actually do it.

424

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:44,000

How you feeling?

425

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Yeah. I am stressed, dude. I mean, this is...

426

00:23:51,000 --> 00:23:54,000

This is like the most dangerous diving that you could do.

427

00:23:54,000 --> 00:24:04,000

I think, I mean, it's all the dangers of cave diving with all the dangers of going into an unstable crumbling ruin with no visibility in the dark.

428

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:08,000

I don't have a scuba tank. All the air is coming from the surface.

429

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

All those lines can get tangled and caught. So I am nervous.

430

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

That's not true. I'm scared. That's more accurate.

431

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:26,000

If I was going to think of an excuse to get out of this gig, that time has passed. This is it.

432

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:33,000

We're about to dive into a flooded pyramid tomb with one mission to meet the Kush King, Nostocin.

433

00:24:43,000 --> 00:24:45,000

Okay, this just got real.

434

00:24:45,000 --> 00:24:48,000

So take your last good look at daylight for a while.

435

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:57,000

In the deserts of Sudan, I'm about to dive into a sunken, partially collapsed pyramid tomb from the ancient Kushite kingdom.

436

00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:06,000

We're going in today to examine the burial slab of the king Nostocin and determine if it's a solid platform or the lid of a royal sarcophagus.

437

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

I'm trying to steady my nerves as I prepare for the single most dangerous dive of my career.

438

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:19,000

Okay, tell me how this is going to work. I'm assuming at the end of this passage here, there's some sort of entrance.

439

00:25:19,000 --> 00:25:26,000

So you get all the way down here, get down to the wall, drop down onto your knees, and then get down onto your arms because you're going to have to army crawl through the chute.

440

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:27,000

The chute.

441

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:42,000

To enter the tomb, we must descend down the now crumbling and flooded staircase and then pass through the chute, a two foot by three foot metal sleeve designed to keep the front door from collapsing while we're inside.

442

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Then it's into the first chamber of the tomb, a large offering room that's easy to get lost in.

443

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:56,000

To prevent that, the team has placed a guide wire to be our lifeline to the second chamber, which has completely collapsed.

444

00:25:56,000 --> 00:26:08,000

Once at the threshold, one needs to let go of the guideline and swim forward to find a cinder block placed by the team, which leads up to a barely breathable air pocket in which to regroup.

445

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:17,000

Back at the bottom of the second chamber, another section of guideline leads over to the submerged door to chamber three, the tomb of Nostocin.

446

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:33,000

In the center is an immense slab of stone that is either Nostocin's burial platform or the lid of his sarcophagus, three rooms that have had as many visitors as the surface of the moon, and each has the potential to be a death trap.

447

00:26:34,000 --> 00:26:36,000

Any words of wisdom for a first timer here?

448

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:38,000

Don't let go of the light. Don't freak out.

449

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:40,000

Yep, don't panic.

450

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:42,000

Let's go dive a tomb.

451

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:51,000

So, Pierce, you're going in first?

452

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:55,000

Indeed. On the way.

453

00:26:58,000 --> 00:26:59,000

Okay.

454

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:09,000

So, as soon as I get in here, my first observation is the visibility is just gone. I can see a shade of light, but that's about it.

455

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:15,000

Yeah, you can probably see your fingers once I get about six inches from the mask, but not much more than that.

456

00:27:15,000 --> 00:27:17,000

Yeah.

457

00:27:17,000 --> 00:27:20,000

Dive team, this is topside. How copy?

458

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:24,000

This is Josh. I've written you loud and clear, topside.

459

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

Pierce, how copy?

460

00:27:26,000 --> 00:27:28,000

In a firearm. Do I hear you?

461

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:30,000

Outstanding. All comms good.

462

00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:32,000

Okay, we're headed in.

463

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:43,000

I'm inches beneath the surface, but already the silt in the water has rendered direction meaningless. My only guide is Pierce Paul's voice.

464

00:27:43,000 --> 00:27:45,000

All right, I'm entering the chute.

465

00:27:45,000 --> 00:27:48,000

I am working for the chute stand by.

466

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

All right.

467

00:27:53,000 --> 00:28:03,000

I'm in the chute now. It is tight. I can feel the sides and the ceiling above me. I'm just slowly pulling myself through.

468

00:28:03,000 --> 00:28:10,000

I edge my way forward. I couldn't change my mind now if I wanted to. It's too narrow in here to turn around.

469

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:16,000

Wow, this is intense. Okay, here we go. Tom, breath.

470

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:19,000

A few more feet and I feel the tube open up.

471

00:28:19,000 --> 00:28:25,000

I'm at the interior opening of chamber one. I can feel sand in front of me at the end of the chute.

472

00:28:25,000 --> 00:28:30,000

As an experiment, I decide to turn off the light on the side of my helmet.

473

00:28:31,000 --> 00:28:34,000

Oh, it is pitch black.

474

00:28:34,000 --> 00:28:46,000

At this point, I kick my light back on, but I also close my eyes, relying on my fingers to explore the open water in front of me, which is its own form of terrifying.

475

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:49,000

Find the nylon cable.

476

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Can we pick up to find the cave line?

477

00:28:53,000 --> 00:28:55,000

Hold on. I'm trying to find it.

478

00:28:55,000 --> 00:29:03,000

Miss this line while entering chamber one and your chance of finding chamber two or your way back out are not great.

479

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:11,000

I have it in my hand. I feel it. I feel the cave guide.

480

00:29:11,000 --> 00:29:18,000

All right, head on in. This chamber is about 15, 20 feet long.

481

00:29:18,000 --> 00:29:30,000

I can reach my arms out on either side of the line, but I'm not feeling anything and nothing above. It's just a big void. It's like I'm floating in space.

482

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:37,000

This large chamber was once used to house offerings and I'm trying desperately to avoid becoming one of them.

483

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:41,000

This rope just goes and goes.

484

00:29:41,000 --> 00:29:43,000

How you doing? You still on the line?

485

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:48,000

Still on the line, but believe me, I'm not letting go of it and I'm making my way through.

486

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:52,000

Make sure to give yourself a little slack. Pull your hair hose in.

487

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:53,000

Yep.

488

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:59,000

I ask my air supply. If the hose gets pulled too tight, it can get yanked from my mask.

489

00:30:01,000 --> 00:30:06,000

The top side, I can feel a little bit of tension on my air supply here. I'll need a little slack.

490

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:08,000

We'll try to get you some more slack.

491

00:30:08,000 --> 00:30:10,000

Thanks, sir.

492

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:20,000

Okay, so this is chamber two I think I'm passing into?

493

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:21,000

Yep.

494

00:30:22,000 --> 00:30:25,000

I cross the threshold into the second chamber.

495

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

My hand has reached the sand here. The guideline is going into the sand, it feels like.

496

00:30:30,000 --> 00:30:36,000

Yep, so go another body length in. You'll feel the majorly different temperature to the water.

497

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:37,000

Got it.

498

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:47,000

Now, the leap of faith. I release the cable and push forward to touch a block in the sand that will mark the entrance to the air pocket above.

499

00:30:47,000 --> 00:30:54,000

Reaching forward, I'm not feeling anything yet. It's just sand and silt.

500

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:57,000

Wait, there's something. I got it.

501

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:02,000

Okay, I'm feeling the cinder block underneath me here.

502

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Once you hit that cinder block, you'll find a little hill.

503

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:11,000

That hill is the collapse of the second chamber.

504

00:31:11,000 --> 00:31:16,000

And I'm going to make my way uphill into the air pocket.

505

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:17,000

Excellent.

506

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:19,000

And I'll meet you in our cathedral here.

507

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:20,000

Okay.

508

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:23,000

Coming up.

509

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:25,000

Alright.

510

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:26,000

A surfacing.

511

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

Oh my word.

512

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:34,000

Look at this place.

513

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Are you kidding me?

514

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:41,000

It's pretty intense, right?

515

00:31:41,000 --> 00:31:45,000

Welcome to the collapsed second chamber of Nistassan's tomb.

516

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:57,000

Inside the flooded pyramid tomb of the Kush King Nistassan is a precious pocket of air, which archaeologist Pierce Paul Kreisman and I are visiting on our way to excavate Nistassan's burial chamber.

517

00:31:57,000 --> 00:31:59,000

Is the air breathable in here?

518

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:00,000

Yes.

519

00:32:00,000 --> 00:32:01,000

Okay.

520

00:32:01,000 --> 00:32:02,000

Taking this mask off?

521

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:07,000

Oh my word.

522

00:32:07,000 --> 00:32:09,000

This is absolutely unbelievable.

523

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:10,000

This is insane.

524

00:32:10,000 --> 00:32:13,000

First of all, this room shouldn't be here, right?

525

00:32:13,000 --> 00:32:14,000

This is not a room.

526

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:15,000

This is an accident.

527

00:32:15,000 --> 00:32:18,000

We are standing in an air pocket that should not be here.

528

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:19,000

This is a room.

529

00:32:19,000 --> 00:32:20,000

This is a room.

530

00:32:20,000 --> 00:32:21,000

This is a room.

531

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:22,000

This is a room.

532

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:23,000

This is a room.

533

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:24,000

This is a room.

534

00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:25,000

This is a room.

535

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:28,000

We are standing in an air pocket that should not exist.

536

00:32:28,000 --> 00:32:29,000

So I'm standing on...

537

00:32:29,000 --> 00:32:30,000

Rubble.

538

00:32:30,000 --> 00:32:31,000

Rubble.

539

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

Yes.

540

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

And directly above us?

541

00:32:33,000 --> 00:32:34,000

Pyramid.

542

00:32:34,000 --> 00:32:35,000

We're under it?

543

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:36,000

Yes.

544

00:32:36,000 --> 00:32:37,000

Okay.

545

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:39,000

Now, it doesn't look overly brittle.

546

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:41,000

Looks completely deceiving.

547

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:46,000

Okay, it's totally brittle.

548

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:50,000

Now, it's this third chamber where this slab is.

549

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:51,000

That's where from here.

550

00:32:51,000 --> 00:32:53,000

Yeah, so the third chamber is that way.

551

00:32:53,000 --> 00:32:55,000

So we have to answer one big question first.

552

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:59,000

Is this slab actually sitting on top of some space?

553

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:03,000

Is this a lid or is it just a big block in the middle of a room?

554

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:05,000

So it could be either.

555

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:10,000

If it is hollow, then there's a chance that some part of him might still be here.

556

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:14,000

Well, anything in there that can tell us who he was about the world he lived in, his family.

557

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:17,000

That's, I mean, that's adding that knowledge that we need.

558

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:18,000

Should we go deeper?

559

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:19,000

I think we should.

560

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:20,000

Let's do it.

561

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Are you ready?

562

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:22,000

I'm ready.

563

00:33:22,000 --> 00:33:24,000

I'm going to come this far and I'm going to keep going.

564

00:33:24,000 --> 00:33:25,000

All right.

565

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:27,000

The Tomb of Nastasin awaits.

566

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

Now, it's time to inspect the stone structure in the chamber and see if he's still here.

567

00:33:33,000 --> 00:33:37,000

All right, top side, we're headed down and we are going into chamber three.

568

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:40,000

Roger, you all are heading into chamber three.

569

00:33:40,000 --> 00:33:41,000

You ready?

570

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:42,000

Pierce Paul, right behind you.

571

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:53,000

I plunge back into darkness and find the guideline to follow Pierce Paul down another six feet.

572

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:58,000

Okay, I'm making my way toward chamber three.

573

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:04,000

When the cable runs out, put your hands to the left and the right, and you can touch the edges of the doorway.

574

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:06,000

Just touch them delicately.

575

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:08,000

Why is that?

576

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:13,000

The walls in this tomb are not firm and as secure as one would hope.

577

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:14,000

Got it.

578

00:34:14,000 --> 00:34:16,000

Careful what you grab onto down here.

579

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:21,000

I've reached the end of the line.

580

00:34:21,000 --> 00:34:24,000

All right, so come towards the light.

581

00:34:24,000 --> 00:34:26,000

Maybe use a different expression.

582

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:29,000

Okay, coming towards you.

583

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:38,000

In moments, I'm laying inside the doorway to the tomb of King Nastasin.

584

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:45,000

I think I can see the slab.

585

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:50,000

But this view of it will be our last.

586

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:54,000

That silt just kicks off as soon as we come in.

587

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:57,000

God, I can't see anything now.

588

00:34:57,000 --> 00:35:00,000

Can't see my hand in front of my face.

589

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:07,000

What I want you to do is I want you to come around this corner where I am.

590

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:09,000

Over to the clockwise around it.

591

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:11,000

Yeah, clockwise around it.

592

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:16,000

Let me get your left hand and put it down here on the bottom left corner of this slab.

593

00:35:16,000 --> 00:35:18,000

Oh my God.

594

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:21,000

It just feels smooth as can be.

595

00:35:22,000 --> 00:35:30,000

But as we run our hands over the slab, Pierce Paul notices something has changed since his last visit to the tomb.

596

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:32,000

Hold on a second.

597

00:35:32,000 --> 00:35:34,000

Give me your hand and feel this.

598

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:37,000

Is this a crack?

599

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:39,000

I just don't understand.

600

00:35:39,000 --> 00:35:44,000

It's not just a crack, it feels like the corner itself isn't here.

601

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:49,000

So if you're a part of this cave in and crack the top of this slab.

602

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:51,000

That's really what it feels like.

603

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:53,000

This is disconcerting.

604

00:35:53,000 --> 00:36:01,000

Sometime recently a piece of the ceiling likely collapsed onto the slab with enough force to crack

a large section of it off.

605

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:05,000

On the other hand, we now have an unforeseen opportunity.

606

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:10,000

Is it possible for you to get your hand under that slab in that cracked area?

607

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

Let me check.

608

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:15,000

Josh, give me your hand. Put your hand under here and feel this.

609

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:18,000

Hold on. Okay, I'm at the corner of the crack.

610

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:22,000

Oh my, this goes down. You can go inside of it.

611

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:30,000

This is a hundred percent hollow. This is not just a platform on the floor. There is open space under this.

612

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:35,000

Stop the presses. This slab is not a burial platform at all.

613

00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:40,000

It is the lid of a sarcophagus that has remained unopened for thousands of years.

614

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:42,000

Until now.

615

00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:48,000

The downside? Well, at any moment, this entire tomb is in danger of collapse.

616

00:36:51,000 --> 00:36:57,000

We decide to resurface in the air pocket of chamber two to plan our next steps.

617

00:36:57,000 --> 00:36:59,000

So, that thing's definitely hollow in there.

618

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:04,000

This is huge. We now know that the slab is the top of a container of some kind.

619

00:37:04,000 --> 00:37:09,000

Yes, you can get your arm in there away. This is definitely material. So, what's the move now?

620

00:37:09,000 --> 00:37:12,000

So, now we need to actually get some of it out of here.

621

00:37:12,000 --> 00:37:17,000

Having reached into what appears to be a sarcophagus, Pierce Paul doesn't want to waste any time.

622

00:37:17,000 --> 00:37:22,000

Excited at the possibilities, he intends to begin excavating immediately.

623

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:25,000

Fred just went in the water. He's got an empty bucket in hand.

624

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:34,000

The topside team sends down plastic buckets, which Pierce Paul will fill by hand with silt from inside the sarcophagus.

625

00:37:34,000 --> 00:37:36,000

So, I'm going to fill a bucket?

626

00:37:36,000 --> 00:37:39,000

And how are those buckets getting from here out to daylight?

627

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:41,000

This is why we need you in the tomb.

628

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:42,000

We're doing a daisy chain?

629

00:37:42,000 --> 00:37:44,000

We're doing a daisy chain.

630

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:47,000

We're running an old-fashioned bucket brigade.

631

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:50,000

You know, just like when you were a kid and you're sunken pyramid back home.

632

00:37:51,000 --> 00:37:54,000

But now I'm in the third chamber.

633

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Okay, I'm on the line. I am in the doorway.

634

00:37:59,000 --> 00:38:03,000

Pierce Paul fills a bucket with silt from the third chamber,

635

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:07,000

then passes it to me at the threshold of the second chamber.

636

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:08,000

I'm holding onto the bucket.

637

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Take it away.

638

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:10,000

Oh, this is heavy.

639

00:38:11,000 --> 00:38:14,000

I ferry it across chamber two to team member Justin,

640

00:38:14,000 --> 00:38:18,000

who carries it to Fred at the entrance to the first chamber.

641

00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:21,000

Then Fred brings the bucket out through the chute,

642

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:27,000

where it's handed off and rushed to a sifting tent nearby.

643

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:32,000

There, a team of researchers runs the silt through a screen

644

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:35,000

to see what archaeological treasures might be inside.

645

00:38:36,000 --> 00:38:37,000

So, there's another bucket?

646

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

I have it.

647

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

Take away.

648

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:40,000

Okay.

649

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:42,000

And then, we do it all over again.

650

00:38:42,000 --> 00:38:47,000

For hours, intense work in the dark with no idea if we're finding anything.

651

00:38:47,000 --> 00:38:50,000

Well, actually, that's not quite true.

652

00:38:50,000 --> 00:38:51,000

Ooh.

653

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:52,000

Can you find something?

654

00:38:52,000 --> 00:38:53,000

Give me your hand.

655

00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:54,000

I'm holding.

656

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:55,000

Is that pottery?

657

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:56,000

That is most of a pot.

658

00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:57,000

Wow.

659

00:38:57,000 --> 00:38:59,000

A 2,500-year-old piece of pottery.

660

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:00,000

That's amazing.

661

00:39:00,000 --> 00:39:02,000

So, I'm going to put this in the bucket.

662

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:03,000

Okay.

663

00:39:03,000 --> 00:39:05,000

All right, making my way back to him now.

664

00:39:05,000 --> 00:39:06,000

Okay.

665

00:39:06,000 --> 00:39:07,000

Hand it off.

666

00:39:09,000 --> 00:39:10,000

Special bucket?

667

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:13,000

The bucket would be the first chamber to be filled.

668

00:39:13,000 --> 00:39:15,000

I'm going to put it in the bucket.

669

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:16,000

Hand it off.

670

00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:19,000

Special bucket?

671

00:39:19,000 --> 00:39:21,000

The bucket with the pottery heads to the tent.

672

00:39:21,000 --> 00:39:26,000

When we get a reminder that the generator pumping our air has a finite amount of fuel.

673

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:28,000

Dive team, this is topside.

674

00:39:28,000 --> 00:39:29,000

You only got five minutes left.

675

00:39:29,000 --> 00:39:30,000

All right.

676

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:31,000

Copy that.

677

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:32,000

Turn it around.

678

00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:34,000

Heading back out through the chambers.

679

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Okay.

680

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:39,000

I'm at the end of the line.

681

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

I'm getting into the chute.

682

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:41,000

All right.

683

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:43,000

Just imagine a way forward.

684

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:45,000

Okay.

685

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:47,000

I'm coming out of the chute.

686

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:51,000

We got bubbles.

687

00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:57,000

All right.

688

00:39:57,000 --> 00:39:58,000

First pulse for the river.

689

00:39:58,000 --> 00:39:59,000

Are we?

690

00:39:59,000 --> 00:40:00,000

I'm in the chute now.

691

00:40:09,000 --> 00:40:10,000

All divers out.

692

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:11,000

All divers out.

693

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:15,000

Dude.

694

00:40:15,000 --> 00:40:16,000

Nice.

695

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:17,000

Unbelievable.

696

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:18,000

Unbelievable.

697

00:40:18,000 --> 00:40:19,000

That was insane.

698

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:21,000

Man, seriously, that was crazy.

699

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:25,000

What an experience to be inside a pyramid.

700

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:26,000

Under water.

701

00:40:26,000 --> 00:40:28,000

Rinse and repeat a couple hundred times.

702

00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:29,000

You got an excavation.

703

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:31,000

Let's go see our reward on the other end.

704

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:33,000

Yeah, see we got those buckets.

705

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:36,000

Woo.

706

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:37,000

Crazy.

707

00:40:38,000 --> 00:40:45,000

Pierce, Paul and I immediately head to the sifting tent to see what, if anything, we pulled up in all those buckets.

708

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:47,000

Okay.

709

00:40:47,000 --> 00:40:48,000

Hello, hello.

710

00:40:48,000 --> 00:40:49,000

Hello, hello.

711

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:51,000

So this is everything I couldn't see down there.

712

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:53,000

This is what you could not see.

713

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:54,000

Okay.

714

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:56,000

So let's see what it all adds up to.

715

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:57,000

Look what we got coming out here.

716

00:40:57,000 --> 00:40:58,000

Right away.

717

00:40:58,000 --> 00:40:59,000

Gold.

718

00:40:59,000 --> 00:41:00,000

Look at that.

719

00:41:00,000 --> 00:41:01,000

And here.

720

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:02,000

That's gold.

721

00:41:02,000 --> 00:41:03,000

Man.

722

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:05,000

Are you kidding me?

723

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:06,000

That's astounding.

724

00:41:06,000 --> 00:41:07,000

Look at that.

725

00:41:14,000 --> 00:41:15,000

Oh, oh.

726

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:16,000

Man.

727

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:18,000

So what you can see here is it's all wrapped over itself.

728

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:19,000

That's astounding.

729

00:41:19,000 --> 00:41:21,000

Look at that.

730

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:32,000

My first dive into the flooded tomb of King Nostasen revealed a cracked sarcophagus lid that could lead to the first remains of a Kush king ever found in his own tomb.

731

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:38,000

But as we learn in the dig sifting tent, it also revealed gold.

732

00:41:38,000 --> 00:41:46,000

This may be commonplace for you, but just the fact that we've gone into this tomb once and we're coming out and there's gold in this too.

733

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:51,000

I just, and it shines as gold does just like it did thousands of years ago.

734

00:41:51,000 --> 00:41:57,000

At one time, this thin gold foil likely covered everything in these chambers.

735

00:41:57,000 --> 00:42:01,000

Pottery, offerings, even the huge slab in the tomb.

736

00:42:01,000 --> 00:42:06,000

In fact, the entire room may have been literally covered in gold.

737

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:10,000

Pounds of it that will be recovered one flake at a time.

738

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:11,000

Okay.

739

00:42:11,000 --> 00:42:12,000

Very carefully bringing this back to you.

740

00:42:12,000 --> 00:42:14,000

Look what we got coming out here.

741

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:17,000

I felt you hand this to me and I was like, what is this?

742

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:18,000

Incredible.

743

00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:20,000

This kind of thing makes Tracy's day.

744

00:42:20,000 --> 00:42:21,000

It does.

745

00:42:21,000 --> 00:42:23,000

This is my version of gold.

746

00:42:23,000 --> 00:42:24,000

Yes.

747

00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:28,000

This is more than 2000 year old pottery from Nostasen's tomb.

748

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:35,000

It likely held an offering that Nostasen would have used in his afterlife, making it literally fit for a king.

749

00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:40,000

And just to think that's been sitting down there in complete darkness for thousands of years.

750

00:42:40,000 --> 00:42:41,000

Beautiful.

751

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

Absolutely.

752

00:42:42,000 --> 00:42:45,000

This is the part of archaeology you don't see.

753

00:42:45,000 --> 00:42:49,000

The real work, the hard, meticulous, slow work.

754

00:42:49,000 --> 00:42:54,000

The sifting team will spend hours working through the buckets from our first dive.

755

00:42:54,000 --> 00:43:02,000

But the most important takeaway from today is the confirmation that the large stone slab inside the tomb is a sarcophagus lid.

756

00:43:03,000 --> 00:43:13,000

To help figure out how we're going to attack this new development and see if we can maybe even move the slab, I need to actually see the chamber.

757

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:20,000

So my first dive into Nostasen's tomb was thrilling.

758

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:21,000

It was terrifying.

759

00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:23,000

And frankly, it was confusing.

760

00:43:23,000 --> 00:43:28,000

That's because with no visibility, my mental picture of this place is jumbled.

761

00:43:28,000 --> 00:43:32,000

It's less of an architectural blueprint and more of a Picasso.

762

00:43:32,000 --> 00:43:36,000

So to fix that, I'm going to seek out a tomb that has a similar layout.

763

00:43:36,000 --> 00:43:45,000

And to find one, we're traveling about 250 miles south to a place known as Meroway, which was the third and final of the great cities of Kush.

764

00:43:50,000 --> 00:43:55,000

Near the entrance to the city, I meet the site's lead archaeologist, Mahmood Bashir.

765

00:43:55,000 --> 00:43:56,000

Mahmood.

766

00:43:56,000 --> 00:43:57,000

Hello.

767

00:43:57,000 --> 00:43:58,000

Hello.

768

00:43:58,000 --> 00:43:59,000

I'm Josh. Nice to meet you.

769

00:43:59,000 --> 00:44:00,000

Nice to meet you.

770

00:44:00,000 --> 00:44:01,000

Welcome to Meroway.

771

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:02,000

Thank you very much.

772

00:44:02,000 --> 00:44:03,000

Where is Meroway?

773

00:44:03,000 --> 00:44:04,000

I see a lot of dunes.

774

00:44:04,000 --> 00:44:06,000

It's such a big site behind the mountains.

775

00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:07,000

We drive?

776

00:44:07,000 --> 00:44:09,000

No, vehicles are not allowed inside.

777

00:44:09,000 --> 00:44:10,000

I know another way.

778

00:44:10,000 --> 00:44:11,000

Another way?

779

00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:12,000

Yeah.

780

00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:13,000

Okay.

781

00:44:13,000 --> 00:44:14,000

That's for you.

782

00:44:14,000 --> 00:44:15,000

Another way.

783

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:21,000

Camels.

784

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:23,000

Why did it have to be camels?

785

00:44:23,000 --> 00:44:29,000

Long time viewers of Expedition Unknown will remember how little I enjoy the company of camels.

786

00:44:29,000 --> 00:44:33,000

In fairness, he hasn't bit, spit, or thrown me yet.

787

00:44:33,000 --> 00:44:36,000

Yet, I'm watching you.

788

00:44:38,000 --> 00:44:41,000

Our caravan crosses an empty expanse of desert.

789

00:44:41,000 --> 00:44:45,000

But then, I notice something ahead on the horizon.

790

00:44:49,000 --> 00:44:50,000

Josh, this is Meroway.

791

00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:51,000

Incredible.

792

00:44:53,000 --> 00:44:55,000

It's a beautiful place.

793

00:44:55,000 --> 00:44:57,000

It's a beautiful place.

794

00:44:57,000 --> 00:44:59,000

It's a beautiful place.

795

00:44:59,000 --> 00:45:01,000

It's a beautiful place.

796

00:45:01,000 --> 00:45:03,000

It's a beautiful place.

797

00:45:03,000 --> 00:45:06,000

Meroway is pure, uncut, pharmaceutical grade.

798

00:45:06,000 --> 00:45:07,000

Wow.

799

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:13,000

I savor the ride through one of the most stunning sites I have ever beheld.

800

00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:18,000

It is the biggest collection of pyramids in the world.

801

00:45:18,000 --> 00:45:19,000

Okay, Josh.

802

00:45:19,000 --> 00:45:20,000

We are here.

803

00:45:20,000 --> 00:45:21,000

Okay, Josh.

804

00:45:21,000 --> 00:45:22,000

We are here.

805

00:45:29,000 --> 00:45:31,000

This place is unreal.

806

00:45:31,000 --> 00:45:32,000

You know, it's like a fantasy.

807

00:45:32,000 --> 00:45:37,000

You've got pyramids trapped in the dunes and like no tourists anywhere.

808

00:45:37,000 --> 00:45:39,000

Yes, you feel very alone here.

809

00:45:39,000 --> 00:45:44,000

But this place should be crawling with visitors because this is as impressive as the pyramids at Giza.

810

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

Yes, or more.

811

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

You're right.

812

00:45:46,000 --> 00:45:48,000

We're not completely alone.

813

00:45:48,000 --> 00:45:49,000

Who are these guys?

814

00:45:49,000 --> 00:45:50,000

Those are my team.

815

00:45:50,000 --> 00:45:53,000

They are reopening one of the pyramids.

816

00:45:53,000 --> 00:45:54,000

Oh, wow.

817

00:45:54,000 --> 00:46:01,000

The tomb being reopened is that of the Kush king, Ar-Khalamani, who ruled 100 years or so after Nistasen.

818

00:46:01,000 --> 00:46:02,000

Can we have a look?

819

00:46:02,000 --> 00:46:03,000

Yes.

820

00:46:03,000 --> 00:46:13,000

This tomb shares a common layout with Nistasens, which means what I learned here should help me navigate my next dive beneath the pyramid.

821

00:46:14,000 --> 00:46:19,000

So we would be underwater here, and at Nuri, this door is not this big.

822

00:46:19,000 --> 00:46:22,000

So we swim through a very small opening right here.

823

00:46:22,000 --> 00:46:27,000

So we come through the chute and we come into chamber one.

824

00:46:27,000 --> 00:46:28,000

It's huge.

825

00:46:28,000 --> 00:46:36,000

In Nistasen's tomb, this room is completely flooded, and there's a guide wire, a cave wire that goes all the way to the door to chamber two.

826

00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:42,000

And when you hold on to that line and you reach out, you don't feel anything.

827

00:46:42,000 --> 00:46:44,000

You let go of this cave line.

828

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

You're just lost in this room.

829

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

This gives me a real spatial awareness of that room.

830

00:46:49,000 --> 00:46:51,000

So it's good that we don't have this wire here.

831

00:46:51,000 --> 00:46:52,000

Yes.

832

00:46:52,000 --> 00:46:55,000

Here we don't need it because we're thankfully not underwater.

833

00:46:55,000 --> 00:46:59,000

I follow an imaginary guide wire into the second chamber.

834

00:46:59,000 --> 00:47:04,000

One notable improvement over its Nuri counterpart, we're not standing on the ceiling.

835

00:47:04,000 --> 00:47:09,000

Several posts have been constructed to keep it over our heads where it belongs.

836

00:47:09,000 --> 00:47:14,000

Without the benefit of structural supports like these, Nistasen's second chamber collapsed,

837

00:47:14,000 --> 00:47:17,000

which is kind of interesting considering how many support poles we see here.

838

00:47:17,000 --> 00:47:18,000

Exactly.

839

00:47:18,000 --> 00:47:19,000

You were worried about the same thing.

840

00:47:19,000 --> 00:47:20,000

Exactly.

841

00:47:20,000 --> 00:47:21,000

Yeah.

842

00:47:21,000 --> 00:47:28,000

But then Mahmood brings me back into the pyramid's third chamber and the tomb of King Arhalamani.

843

00:47:28,000 --> 00:47:30,000

Welcome to chamber three.

844

00:47:30,000 --> 00:47:33,000

Wow, this is beautiful.

845

00:47:33,000 --> 00:47:35,000

Look at this.

846

00:47:35,000 --> 00:47:40,000

So we have this incredibly ornate platform here.

847

00:47:40,000 --> 00:47:41,000

And the kink.

848

00:47:41,000 --> 00:47:42,000

This is our king who's very here.

849

00:47:42,000 --> 00:47:43,000

This is our king, yes.

850

00:47:43,000 --> 00:47:49,000

I don't know if this makes sense, but this room looks like chamber three feels over at Nuri, if that makes sense.

851

00:47:49,000 --> 00:47:50,000

Yes.

852

00:47:50,000 --> 00:47:54,000

So in this type of a burial, the body would be placed on the bench.

853

00:47:54,000 --> 00:47:55,000

On the bench, yes.

854

00:47:55,000 --> 00:48:01,000

One of the things that's really interesting is that this is effectively a solid piece.

855

00:48:01,000 --> 00:48:06,000

This design feels very much like what's in the third chamber in Nistasen's burial,

856

00:48:06,000 --> 00:48:09,000

but we've determined there that in fact it's two pieces.

857

00:48:09,000 --> 00:48:13,000

It's a lid sitting on top of some sort of container.

858

00:48:13,000 --> 00:48:19,000

But seeing how big this is in person, I don't think there's going to be any way we can move this thing.

859

00:48:19,000 --> 00:48:23,000

There is a crack in it, so we may have to just go under it.

860

00:48:23,000 --> 00:48:24,000

This is so helpful.

861

00:48:24,000 --> 00:48:27,000

This really is like X-ray vision.

862

00:48:27,000 --> 00:48:30,000

Should we get out of here before chamber two collapses?

863

00:48:30,000 --> 00:48:32,000

Seriously though, let's go.

864

00:48:42,000 --> 00:48:46,000

The next morning, I hop into my four by four for the journey back to Nuri.

865

00:48:49,000 --> 00:48:55,000

Now that I have a clear mental picture of the sunken tomb, I'm ready to dive back in.

866

00:48:56,000 --> 00:49:01,000

At the site, I find Pierce Paul already preparing for today's mission.

867

00:49:02,000 --> 00:49:04,000

How do we want this setting? Breatheable or not?

868

00:49:04,000 --> 00:49:05,000

I think breathable.

869

00:49:05,000 --> 00:49:06,000

Okay.

870

00:49:06,000 --> 00:49:07,000

Breatheable?

871

00:49:07,000 --> 00:49:08,000

Breatheable.

872

00:49:08,000 --> 00:49:10,000

Yeah, exactly. Just work on that. It's good.

873

00:49:13,000 --> 00:49:15,000

What's with the convoy?

874

00:49:19,000 --> 00:49:20,000

That's the ambassador.

875

00:49:21,000 --> 00:49:22,000

The what?

876

00:49:22,000 --> 00:49:24,000

The US ambassador to Sudan.

877

00:49:24,000 --> 00:49:25,000

Wait, what?

878

00:49:25,000 --> 00:49:26,000

Yeah.

879

00:49:30,000 --> 00:49:36,000

If you've ever wondered what it would be like if every item on Amazon was available in one physical place,

880

00:49:36,000 --> 00:49:38,000

may I recommend an African market?

881

00:49:40,000 --> 00:49:43,000

If you can't find it here, odds are you don't need it.

882

00:49:43,000 --> 00:49:44,000

What do we use this for?

883

00:49:44,000 --> 00:49:45,000

This is for cigarettes.

884

00:49:45,000 --> 00:49:46,000

Oh, this is an ashtray.

885

00:49:46,000 --> 00:49:47,000

Right. Beautiful.

886

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

I am trying to scale back on smoking.

887

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

Is this what happens when you die Easter eggs?

888

00:49:54,000 --> 00:49:56,000

Are they feeding them skittles?

889

00:49:56,000 --> 00:49:58,000

Peeps are real.

890

00:49:58,000 --> 00:50:01,000

Peeps are made out of real chickens.

891

00:50:01,000 --> 00:50:03,000

Taste the rainbow.

892

00:50:09,000 --> 00:50:15,000

I'm preparing to make my second dive under the burial pyramid of the Kush King, Nostocin.

893

00:50:15,000 --> 00:50:21,000

And it turns out archaeologist Pierce Paul Kreisman has invited a special guest to the dig today.

894

00:50:21,000 --> 00:50:22,000

That's the ambassador.

895

00:50:22,000 --> 00:50:23,000

Wait, what?

896

00:50:23,000 --> 00:50:24,000

Yeah.

897

00:50:24,000 --> 00:50:29,000

The United States ambassador to the Republic of Sudan, John T. Godfrey.

898

00:50:29,000 --> 00:50:30,000

Good morning.

899

00:50:30,000 --> 00:50:31,000

Good morning.

900

00:50:31,000 --> 00:50:32,000

How are you?

901

00:50:32,000 --> 00:50:39,000

Mr. Godfrey is a hardcore foreign service vet who has been stationed in Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and now Sudan.

902

00:50:39,000 --> 00:50:44,000

He also happens to be the State Department's acting coordinator of counterterrorism.

903

00:50:44,000 --> 00:50:49,000

Accompanying the ambassador is his regional security officer, Ryan Renewart.

904

00:50:49,000 --> 00:50:51,000

Well, this place is full of surprises.

905

00:50:51,000 --> 00:50:54,000

I was not expecting to meet a U.S. ambassador today.

906

00:50:54,000 --> 00:50:56,000

What are you doing up this way?

907

00:50:56,000 --> 00:51:01,000

I'm here to check in on a \$500,000 grant for community engagement conservation.

908

00:51:01,000 --> 00:51:07,000

And it is designed to help support efforts to preserve culture and history and places around the world.

909

00:51:07,000 --> 00:51:13,000

And here in Sudan, we're particularly focused on trying to help efforts to preserve remnants of the Kush civilization,

910

00:51:13,000 --> 00:51:16,000

which you all are here working on as well.

911

00:51:16,000 --> 00:51:20,000

And so we're really delighted to have a chance to come and spend a little bit of time with you here today.

912

00:51:20,000 --> 00:51:21,000

Thank you.

913

00:51:21,000 --> 00:51:26,000

Yeah, and I should warn you that I've learned firsthand that Pierce Paul will put you to work if you stay too long.

914

00:51:26,000 --> 00:51:28,000

So you've been given fair warning.

915

00:51:28,000 --> 00:51:30,000

We're happy to serve.

916

00:51:30,000 --> 00:51:31,000

Ambassador after you.

917

00:51:31,000 --> 00:51:32,000

Thank you.

918

00:51:32,000 --> 00:51:35,000

Something I never thought I'd say.

919

00:51:35,000 --> 00:51:40,000

Security officer Ryan is an experienced diver, so he'll be joining us in the tomb.

920

00:51:40,000 --> 00:51:44,000

The ambassador, ever the public servant, is eager to help as well,

921

00:51:44,000 --> 00:51:49,000

gamely volunteering to haul heavy, waterlogged buckets up to the sifting tent.

922

00:51:49,000 --> 00:51:52,000

Our mission on day two is simple.

923

00:51:52,000 --> 00:51:56,000

Excavate Nostasen's burial chamber, collect samples from his sarcophagus,

924

00:51:56,000 --> 00:52:00,000

and hopefully find some remains of a king.

925

00:52:00,000 --> 00:52:03,000

All right, gents, are we ready?

926

00:52:03,000 --> 00:52:05,000

Ready as we're going to be.

927

00:52:10,000 --> 00:52:12,000

Good hunting down there.

928

00:52:18,000 --> 00:52:24,000

Now that I've been to Maroway, my mental picture of the tomb is strong enough for me to orient myself.

929

00:52:24,000 --> 00:52:29,000

Still, in zero visibility, it's hard to stay that way.

930

00:52:29,000 --> 00:52:33,000

I feel metal, so this is the edge of the chute.

931

00:52:33,000 --> 00:52:38,000

I can feel that I'm in the chute now, and I'll make it my way through.

932

00:52:40,000 --> 00:52:43,000

Dive team, this is Dave. How's the water?

933

00:52:43,000 --> 00:52:48,000

I don't know, I'm just a murky, zero visibility, but it's a nice day at the beach.

934

00:52:48,000 --> 00:52:51,000

Yeah, pretty much black out in here.

935

00:52:51,000 --> 00:52:56,000

Okay, I am into the first chamber, looking for the guide wire now.

936

00:52:59,000 --> 00:53:03,000

Okay, going through, making my way to the second chamber.

937

00:53:04,000 --> 00:53:10,000

I carefully enter the collapsed second chamber of Nistasen's tomb.

938

00:53:10,000 --> 00:53:14,000

Somewhere ahead of me is a partially submerged block,

939

00:53:14,000 --> 00:53:19,000

marking the area I'll need to swim to reach the safety of an air pocket.

940

00:53:19,000 --> 00:53:24,000

To find it, I'm going to have to release the guide cable and take that leap of faith.

941

00:53:26,000 --> 00:53:29,000

Okay, I'm letting go.

942

00:53:29,000 --> 00:53:32,000

Moving forward.

943

00:53:34,000 --> 00:53:38,000

I am not feeling that block this time.

944

00:53:41,000 --> 00:53:46,000

That block is gone. I'm going to turn around and try to re-acquire the line.

945

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

I'm off the line. I'm on the way out here in chamber two.

946

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

Alright, Josh, can you repeat that you're off the line?

947

00:53:56,000 --> 00:53:59,000

I'm off the line in chamber two.

948

00:53:59,000 --> 00:54:02,000

I should be in front of you, but I cannot feel it.

949

00:54:02,000 --> 00:54:04,000

Josh is off the line. Repeat.

950

00:54:04,000 --> 00:54:08,000

I can't get my bearings. Okay, just don't panic.

951

00:54:08,000 --> 00:54:10,000

Start looking for the line. You've got to find the line.

952

00:54:10,000 --> 00:54:12,000

He's off the line.

953

00:54:12,000 --> 00:54:17,000

So he doesn't have any kind of tactile reference, so he has no idea where he is in the tomb.

954

00:54:17,000 --> 00:54:21,000

I can't see a f***ing thing. Guys, I need some help here.

955

00:54:21,000 --> 00:54:36,000

Get ready for adventure because expedition unknown is back.

956

00:54:36,000 --> 00:54:41,000

And this season, we're not just investigating the world's greatest mysteries.

957

00:54:41,000 --> 00:54:43,000

This is an endless game.

958

00:54:43,000 --> 00:54:45,000

We're solving them.

959

00:54:45,000 --> 00:54:47,000

Unbelievable.

960

00:54:47,000 --> 00:54:51,000

From a treacherous hunt for a pirate that ends in treasure

961

00:54:51,000 --> 00:54:53,000

Wow, right there. That's a coin.

962

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

That's a beauty.

963

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

to a historic quest across the Holy Land that unearfs a biblical bombshell.

964

00:54:59,000 --> 00:55:03,000

This is the first time the world has seen this in 1400 years.

965

00:55:03,000 --> 00:55:07,000

We're diving deep to find sunken relics from World War II

966

00:55:07,000 --> 00:55:10,000

What is it? Amazing.

967

00:55:10,000 --> 00:55:12,000

and braving the wilderness.

968

00:55:12,000 --> 00:55:14,000

Back up, back up, back up.

969

00:55:14,000 --> 00:55:17,000

A long lost temple will be found.

970

00:55:17,000 --> 00:55:19,000

We have an inscription.

971

00:55:19,000 --> 00:55:24,000

And inside a collapsing pyramid, a headline making fine.

972

00:55:24,000 --> 00:55:26,000

Wait, what is this?

973

00:55:26,000 --> 00:55:30,000

It's all part of an all new season of Expedition Unknown.