

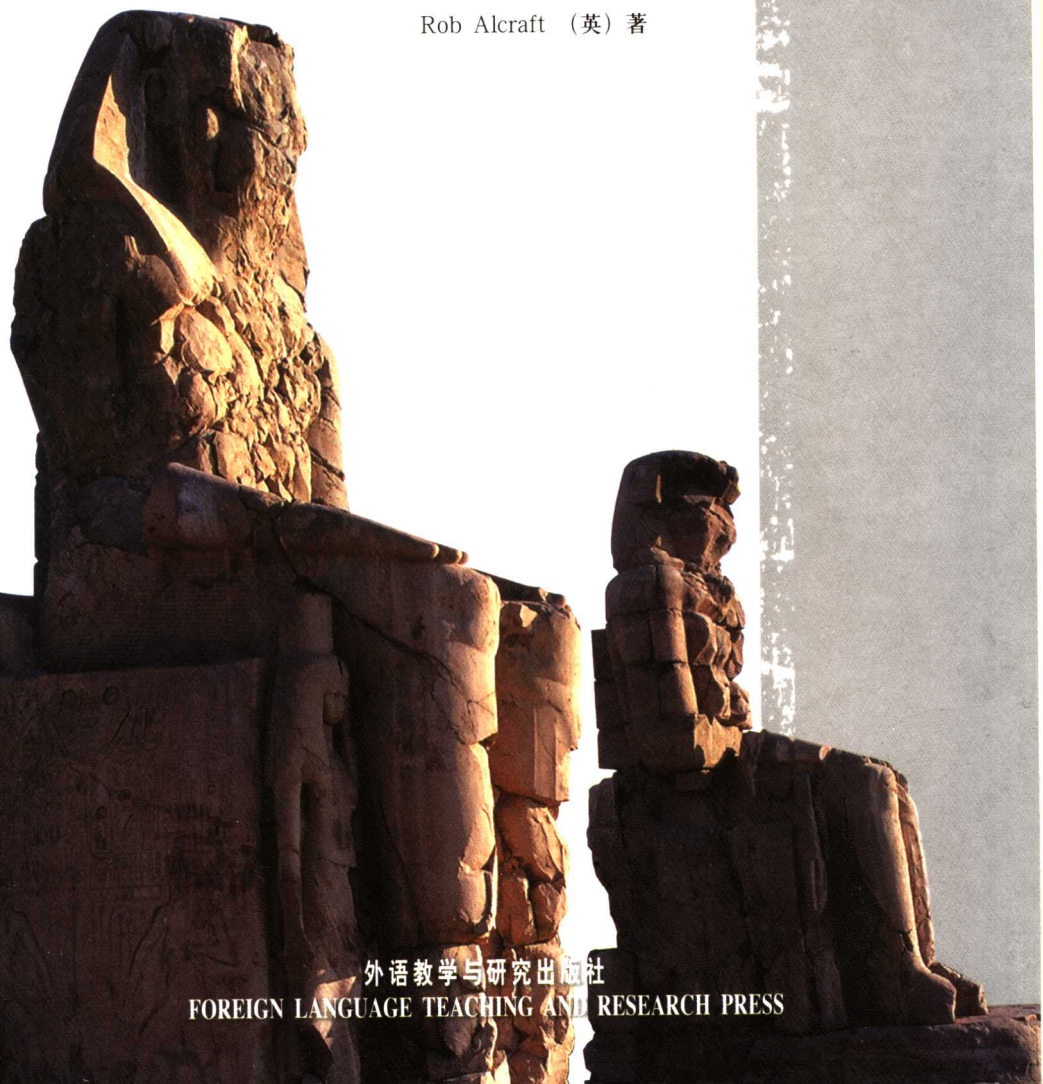
VALLEY OF THE KINGS

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RED LARCH

人文胜迹 6

国王谷

Rob Alcraft (英) 著



外语教学与研究出版社
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VALLEY OF THE KINGS

ALERT

THE GREAT ESCAPE

WALL
TO
WALL



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Valley of the Kings by Rob Alcraft

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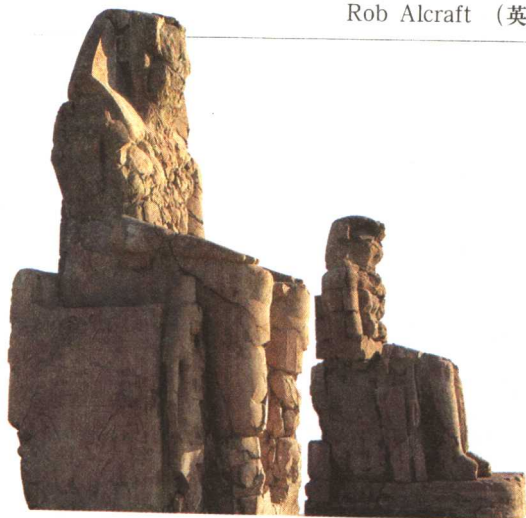
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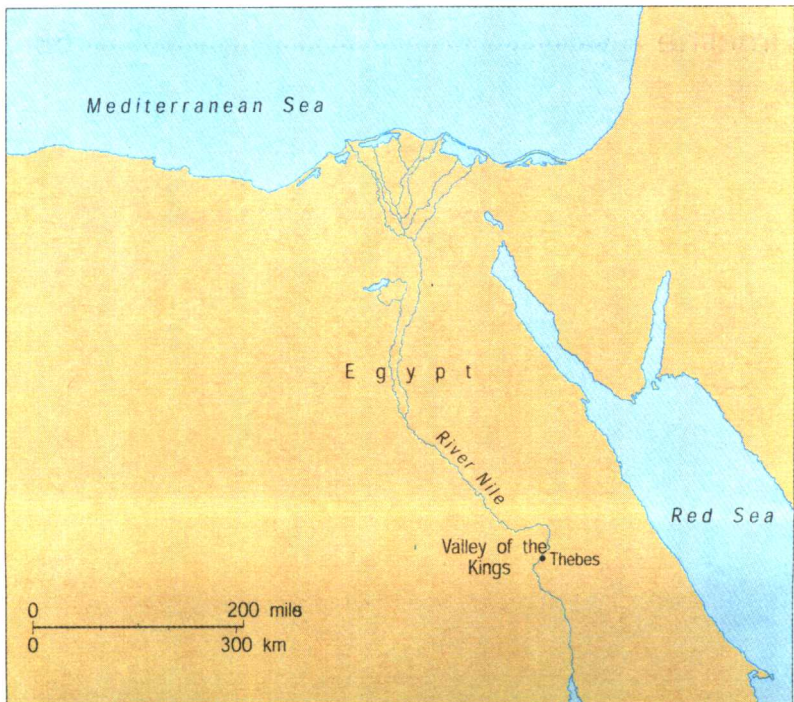
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Egypt and the Valley of the Kings

埃及与国王谷

Egypt is a desert country but it is dominated¹ by one river, the river Nile². Where the Nile cuts through the desert the land is lush³ and green. Water for growing crops trickles⁴ in ditches⁵ and palm⁶ trees grow.

For about 1,700 years, between about 2700 BC and 1000 BC, Egypt was one of the world's great civilizations⁷. Protected from enemies by the natural barrier⁸ of the desert, ancient Egypt grew rich and powerful. Kings—called pharaohs—ruled, and were regarded as living gods.





This is the burial chamber⁹ of the Pharaoh Ramses¹⁰ VI. His is one of 62 tombs carved¹¹ into the rock of the Valley of the Kings.

1. dominate	v.	施加决定影响于……	7. civilization	n.	文明国家
2. Nile		尼罗河	8. barrier	n.	屏障
3. lush	adj.	葱翠的	9. burial chamber		墓室
4. trickle	v.	滴; 淌	10. Ramses		拉美西斯 (埃及国王名)
5. ditch	n.	水道; 渠道	11. carve	v.	雕刻
6. palm	n.	棕榈树			



In the time of the pharaohs, Egypt would have looked very much like this. Archaeologists¹ think that the band² of green fields beside the river Nile may have reached further into the desert. Wild animals, including leopards³ and hyenas⁴, would have roamed⁵ the edges of the desert.

1. archaeologist	<i>n.</i>	考古学家	4. hyena	<i>n.</i>	鬣狗
2. band	<i>n.</i>	范围	5. roam	<i>v.</i>	漫步
3. leopard	<i>n.</i>	豹			



Between 1539 BC and 1075 BC, during a period we call the New Kingdom¹, the pharaohs made their capital at Thebes². They built temples and monuments³. On the west bank of the Nile, a rocky, desert valley was chosen as the burial place of the pharaohs. This is the Valley of the Kings.

The Valley of the Kings

The tombs in the Valley of the Kings tell a story more than 3,000 years old. On the walls of the tombs are pictures and writings that tell of the pharaohs that were buried inside them and the civilization they ruled over.

The ancient Egyptians saw the tombs as magical⁴ places. They believed that the tomb protected the dead pharaoh's body for the journey to the Underworld. To help them in the Underworld, the pharaohs were buried with their possessions⁵, clothes and fabulous⁶, golden treasures. Their people also buried books of magic⁷, which could raise the pharaoh from the dead.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------|----------|
| 1. New Kingdom | 新王国 | 4. magical | adj. | 神秘的 |
| 2. Thebes | 底比斯(埃及尼罗河畔
的古城) | 5. possession | n. | [~s]个人财物 |
| 3. monument | n. | 6. fabulous | adj. | 难以置信的 |
| | 纪念碑 | 7. magic | n. | 魔法 |

Archaeologists have found and explored many tombs in the Valley of the Kings and in the hills nearby. They have translated writings, both on papyrus¹ and carved in stone, that were found in the tombs and the great temples built by the pharaohs. Ruins² have even been uncovered³ of the village where the workers who built the tombs once lived. These things tell us the story of life in the time of the pharaohs.



These are hieroglyphs⁴. For a long time, no one knew how to read hieroglyphs. But in AD 1799 a French soldier found what is now called the Rosetta Stone⁵. The stone had an inscription⁶. It was written three times, in three different languages. One of the inscriptions was in ancient Greek, which was still understood. One of the others was in the mysterious hieroglyphs. It made it possible to translate and read hieroglyphs, and to understand much more about the lives of the ancient Egyptians. The stone is now in the British Museum in London.



- | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. papyrus | <i>n.</i> | (<i>pl. papyri</i>) (古代) | 4. hieroglyph | <i>n.</i> | 象形字; 象形符号 |
| | | 纸莎草纸 | 5. Rosetta Stone | | 罗塞塔石碑 |
| 2. ruin | <i>n.</i> | [~s] 废墟; 遗迹 | 6. inscription | <i>n.</i> | 碑文 |
| 3. uncover | <i>v.</i> | 挖开 | | | |






These giant statues¹, called the Colossi of Memnon², are 3,350 years old. They are all that survive of a massive³ temple built by the Pharaoh Amenhotep⁴ III.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. statue | <i>n.</i> | 雕像 | 4. Amenhotep | 阿孟霍特普
(埃及国王名) |
| 2. Colossi of Memnon | | 门农巨大石像 | | |
| 3. massive | <i>adj.</i> | 宏伟的 | | |

Pharaohs, temples and gods

法老、神庙和神明

Near the Valley of the Kings there are ruins of more than fifteen great temples, built on the orders of the New Kingdom pharaohs. These temples show just how powerful the pharaohs were. The buildings would have needed workers, slaves and building materials from all over Egypt. They would have taken years to finish.

 This is Amon-Re¹, the god of the sun. He was thought to have travelled across the sky with the sun, giving life to the world.


1. Amon-Re 阿蒙-瑞神
(古埃及的太阳神)



The temple walls that remain are covered in pictures and hieroglyphs that praise the bravery¹ and skill of the pharaohs. They also show the gods of the ancient Egyptians.

The ancient Egyptians believed in many gods. The most powerful god at the time of the New Kingdom was Amon-Re, the god of the sun. Then there was the goddess Isis², who gave life to the dead. The ancient Egyptians even believed that the pharaoh was a god, living on Earth. He served the other gods. His service guaranteed³ life for Egypt—from the rising of the sun to the yearly flood that watered⁴ the fields and enabled the Egyptian farmers to grow food.

1. bravery	<i>n.</i>	勇敢; 无畏精神	3. guarantee	<i>v.</i>	保障
2. Isis		伊希斯(古埃及司生育和繁殖的女神)	4. water	<i>v.</i>	灌溉
			5. rubble	<i>n.</i>	碎石; 瓦砾

 The ancient temples were painted in bright colours. Where temples have been buried under sand and rubble⁵, the colours have been protected from the sun and wind. We can still see them 3,000 years later.



The temple of Hatshepsut¹

One of the most beautiful temples that survive today is the temple of Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt from about 1479 BC to 1457 BC. It stands on the east bank of the Nile, across the river from the ancient city of Thebes, now called Luxor².

On the walls of Hatshepsut's temple there are many stories. One is of a journey to a land called Punt³—the modern-day African country of Eritrea⁴. The Queen sent boats to trade with the kings of Punt. Hieroglyphs on the walls tell the story: 'The boats were loaded with large quantities of the wonders of Punt, with myrrh⁵ and living myrrh trees, with ebony⁶ wood and pure ivory⁷, with incense⁸, with baboons⁹, monkeys and dogs, with the skins of panthers¹⁰ from the South, with the natives and their sons...'

1. Hatshepsut	哈特谢普苏特 (埃及女王)	6. ebony	<i>n.</i>	乌木
2. Luxor	卢克索	7. ivory	<i>n.</i>	象牙; 象牙制品
3. Punt	蓬特(地区)	8. incense	<i>n.</i>	香
4. Eritrea	厄立特里亚省 (埃塞俄比亚省名)	9. baboon	<i>n.</i>	狒狒
5. myrrh	<i>n.</i> 没药(没药树的 树脂)	10. panther	<i>n.</i>	豹