

LESSON 1.1

ANCIENT FUNERAL CUSTOMS: EGYPTIANS

I. FUNERAL CUSTOMS OLDER THAN ORGANIZED GOVERNMENTS -- SINCE THE FIRST DEATH

In the past, burials provided sanitation; society needed to dispose of dead bodies. Today, we believe that everyone has the right to a decent burial. Although some may argue that we do injustice to the deceased and family and prefer reverting back to getting rid of the body as the primary motive for disposition.

II. ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BURIAL CUSTOMS

A. EGYPTIANS LEFT RECORDS WRITTEN IN HIEROGLYPHICS

Writing is the memory of civilization. Because Ancient Egypt kept written records, modernity "remembers" a lot about it. The two primary sources of information about the Ancient Egyptians are:

1. **Herodotus**, known as the Father of History, lived in 400 BC and authored a book called "History", containing much information about early civilizations
2. The **Rosetta Stone** found in 1799, which contained Egyptian hieroglyphics with demotic and Greek translations. Hisopians used the Greek to decipher the hieroglyphics

B. REASON FOR SUCCESS AS EMBALMERS

The hot, dry climate in ancient Egypt provided the perfect environment for great preservation.

C. CONCERN FOR PERFECTION IN PRESERVATION

The Ancient Egyptians spent a great deal of money and time insuring bodies were properly preserved. They insisted on perfection for every detail because they believed that the body had to be completely restored to enjoy the afterlife. If improperly preserved or missing parts, the person would endure a harsher afterlife.